

March 2006

Edition



NEBRASKA WILDLIFE REHAB, INC.

The Critter Chronicle

NWRI's 2005 Animal Statistics

Our animal statistics have been compiled and reported to Nebraska Game and Parks and U.S. Fish and Wildlife for the year 2005. Last year we once again handled over 1,000 animals and fielded thousands of inquiries. Although this was a huge number of animals, we did take in fewer than in preceding years.

There are many reasons for this: The first is that our rabbit team leader resigned. In losing her, we lost the capacity to organize the volunteers to care for almost 1,000 eastern cottontail rabbits each year.

Additionally, we continue to take in only a limited number of songbirds due to volunteer limitations for this kind of animal. If we admitted every songbird in need into care each year, we would care for at least 1,000 birds each year.

A third reason for our reduced numbers is that, in conjunction with

the Nebraska Humane Society, we have launched an educational campaign to limit the number of trapped animals, and to encourage the public to search for humane solutions to their wildlife problems, rather than trap and relocate animals needlessly. When we relocate fewer animals, our numbers decrease.

How can we ensure that we care for as many animals as possible each year? From a permanent facility, we will be able to care for bunnies and songbirds in-house, and we will have a permanent director to organize the volunteers needed. Once the center is opened, we will be able to accept a much larger number of animals into care. We will also be able to educate the public further to ensure that only animals that are truly in need are admitted for rehabilitation.

To see our complete 2005 statistics, please turn to page 3!



Our Annual Membership Drive is Underway!

Our annual membership drive kicked-off in February. A number of you have already sent your membership donations to NWRI, but many of you haven't. Our goal this year is ambitious—We would like to renew our existing membership and sign-up at least 50 new members. Members receive our newsletter, invitations to our general meetings with special guest speakers, our gratitude, and perhaps most importantly, the satisfaction of knowing that each donation truly makes a difference.

NWRI is a not-for-profit organization that operates solely on donations and membership dues. We cannot do the work we do without you!

As "baby season" approaches, your memberships and donations are needed more than ever to help us help the wildlife of Nebraska through our care and public education programs. We generally spend \$10,000 annually on basic animal care alone. As we strive to open a facility and reach more people, this number will grow as the number of animals that are brought to us grows.

We are asking you to make the work that we do every day possible. Please renew your membership today! And while you're at it, please tell your friends about us as well! We need all of the help we can get to protect the wildlife of Nebraska!

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.As you can see from our statistics, NWRI cared for over 1,000 animals last year. In years past, this number has been over 2,000 and sometimes over 3,000 animals per year. When we analyze our hotline call data, and the numbers of wild animals handled by the Nebraska Humane Society, we find that the actual number of wild animals in need of care every year in the Omaha metro area alone is probably *greater than 5,000*. How do we help all of these animals?

- **We need to reach more people.** Tell your friends about us. Schedule a speaker for your school, scout or civic group. Many people in this area still do not know that we are here to help them.
- **We need a wildlife center.** Our volunteers become overwhelmed with the sheer number of calls and animals they handle each year. A center will remove the burden from these people, and allow them to do what they do best—care for the animals. It will also allow those who cannot care for animals to donate their time in other ways—with the hotline, with clerical duties, or with transportation.
- **We need volunteers.**
- **We need money.** Doesn't everyone? Many of our volunteers incur out-of-pocket costs. Your generosity is appreciated.
- **We need to educate the public.** The more people know about living in harmony with wildlife, the less conflicts there will be, and the less animals being admitted for care.

We cannot do this without you. As you can see, the task is a great one. With your help, we can admit all of the animals in need, and educate the public in the process. Please tell your friends about us. Your support is appreciated!



Special Thanks to Our Friends and Donors



- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Kuba Travnicek | Rae Christenson |
| Greg Kluck | Robert and Kim Baque |
| Alexandra Penny | Dr. Kenneth Barjenbruch |
| Theresa Andrews | Bob & Joy Hilliard |
| Mary Lou Chapek | James and Nancy Armitage |
| Colleen Haley | Fred and Teresa Hunzeker |
| Beverley Mead | <i>And our thanks to Lynne and Jack Baldwin and Staff and Baldwin, Hackett and Meeks, Inc. for their creation of, and continued support on, our new Web site:</i> |
| Cella Quinn | <i>http://www.nebraskawildliferehab.org</i> |
| Sally and Jerrold McKenzie | |
| Lynne and Jack Baldwin | |
| Tom and Suzanne Moore | |
| Marlys Christensen | |

NWRI Animal Statistics—2005

Bats:

Big Brown Bat	241
Evening Bat	1
Hoary Bat	3
Northern Long Eared Bat	1
Eastern Red Bat	6
Eastern Pipistrelle	1

Beaver:

2



Carnivores:

Badger	1
Coyote	1
Long-Tailed Weasel	1
Mink	1

Opossum:

297

Rabbits:

Eastern Cottontail	21
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Raccoon:

73

Reptiles and Amphibians:

Bullfrog	1
DeKay's Brown Snake	1
Bullsnake	1
Garter Snake	1
Ringneck Snake	1
Painted Turtle	8
Ornate Box Turtle	1
Red-Eared Slider	3
Yellow-Bellied Slider	1

Woodchucks:

11

Squirrels:

13-Lined Ground Squirrel	6
Fox Squirrel	152

Songbirds:

American Robin	2
Barn Swallow	1
Blue Jay	2
Black-Capped Chickadee	1
Common Nighthawk	4
Mourning Dove	15
Turtle Dove	8
Rock Dove	40
Eastern Bluebird	1
Grackle	4
Grosbeak	1
House Sparrow	2
Northern Cardinal	2
Starling	1
Towhee	1



Waterfowl:

American Coot	1
Blue-Wing Teal	1
Canada Goose	6
Domestic Goose	1
Great Blue Heron	1
Belted Kingfisher	1
Common Loon	1
Mallard	23
Domestic Duck	20
Pied-Bill Grebe	1
Snow Goose	2
Wood Duck	28
Yellow-Crown Night Heron	1



SAVE THE DATE! Our Spring 2006 Membership Meeting is Coming Up!!!

On Saturday April 8, 2006 at 1:00 PM, NWRI will be holding a spring membership meeting at Chalco Hills in Omaha.



Come join us for our special guest speaker, Denise Lewis of Raptor Recovery Nebraska. She will bring some of her raptors along for a fun-filled and educational presentation about the raptors of Nebraska and her group's efforts to save them.

Our board and team leaders will also be on hand and give everyone an update about NWRI animal operations and our current fundraising efforts.

Refreshments will be provided. Don't miss this great event!!!

(Chalco Hills is located at 8901 S. 154th St. in Omaha – We will be in the lower level conference room.)



Other Events To Note:

Earth Day Omaha at Elmwood Park

Saturday, April 22, 2006 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Volunteers from NWRI will be on hand with some of our animals at our informational booth. Stop by and talk to us about wildlife or getting involved in our group!

NWRI will be at Nebraska Furniture Mart!

Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4, 2006

10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Stop by to do some shopping, and visit us at our booth. Volunteers will be available to discuss our organization, urban wildlife, our future educational offerings, our fundraising drives and more. We will be handing out literature, displaying our photos and videos, and enjoying the crowds both Saturday and Sunday!

(Nebraska Furniture Mart is located at 700 S. 72nd St. in Omaha)

Membership Drive

Our annual membership drive is underway. If you have not sent in your renewal membership, please do so. Not already a member? Please complete the form on the back of this newsletter.

Capital Campaign

NWRI is currently in the middle of a capital campaign to move our home-based operations into a permanent facility. Budget proposals are available upon request. To donate, please use the form on the back of this newsletter. For further questions, please call Laura Stastny at 402-960-4366.

Do You Have Time To Spare?

NWRI is currently in need of two or three people who would like to volunteer to help our board secretary and treasurer maintain the membership and donation rolls, serve as a back-up for our correspondence secretary, and assist with mailings. We also need volunteers willing to contribute to, and edit the quarterly newsletter. Microsoft Word and Excel experience, and Internet access a must. You must be organized and reliable, with good communication skills. If you would like to get involved, but feel that you can't assist hands-on with the animals at this time, this volunteer position is for you! The more volunteers that are willing the help with administrative duties, the more our seasoned wildlife rehabilitators will be able to work with the animals.

Your time and commitment to helping NWRI with our administrative duties will be greatly appreciated!

Saturday September 9, 2006

NWRI is hosting a wine tasting fundraiser for our valued members, donors and the public. Location and time to be announced. Pencil us in on your calendars, and watch our Web site, and your mailbox, for more information!

October 2006

IWRC 1AB Wildlife Rehabilitators Training
NWRI is hosting basic wildlife rehabilitation class taught by the staff of the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. The registration fee for this class is \$150, which covers books, teaching and facility fees, and laboratory materials. For more information, contact Laura Stastny at 402-960-4366. Space is limited, so call soon!

Wildlife in the News

Bobcat Is One Fortunate Feline

Reprinted from the Ventura County Star, March 2, 2006

Lucky shot has taken on a new meaning for one young bobcat who has found her way to a Camarillo treatment facility. An 8- to 10-month-old female picked up by wildlife officials in Carpinteria last month is now recovering from being shot through the head with an arrow. The projectile, lodged between the animal's eyes, managed to miss the brain and every other vital structure that would have meant certain doom for most creatures. "If you're going to get an arrow through the head, that is probably the best place to have it," said Nicky Thole, director of Camarillo Wildlife Rehabilitation.

The fortunate feline, who had the arrow removed by a Moorpark veterinarian, suffered some sinus and bone damage, leaving Thole and the others involved in its capture and treatment optimistic about it eventually returning to the wild. The cat is believed to have wandered for more than a week with the wound before Wardens Grant Oggel and Jason Kraus with the state Department of Fish and Game received a call and managed to capture her with a large bird net Feb. 19.



The bobcat was alert, although emaciated and weak from not eating -- which helped them net the normally quick-footed animal, Oggel said. Despite her dramatic wound, the cat showed signs of normal neurologic function, he said. They transferred the cat to Thole's facility; the director arranged for surgery the next day.

It was veterinarian Peregrine Wolff's first attempt at such a surgery. Wolff, like the others, was amazed to see the bobcat come out of such trauma in good form. "I think we were lucky," she said. "I mean, it was lucky." The bobcat weighed 7.8 pounds when brought in; 15 pounds is normal for a cat her age. She is now eating normally, has good coordination, and is up and about, Thole said. She will need a few weeks to gain weight, after which doctors can assess whether reconstructive surgery to repair the bone is necessary, Thole said. They also will need to determine whether she can resume hunting, essential to her surviving in the wild. It could be two months before they can consider releasing her, less if she doesn't need more surgery.

The arrow was likely shot by a hunter, given its camouflage coloring, Oggel said. Bobcat hunting season ended Tuesday. "Either somebody had a very bad shot or a very good shot," he said. "It was a one-in-a-million shot." Officials haven't ruled out an intentional act of cruelty, which could be a misdemeanor, although they have no active investigation into the matter, Oggel added.

Legislative Watch

As lovers of wildlife, many of us are interested in federal legislation that affects the treatment of wild animals in our country. Here are some legislative measures that are currently pending that affect wildlife in the United States. (Compliments of the Humane Society of United States)

Protecting Horses from Slaughter: Last year, more than 90,000 American horses were either killed at one of three U.S. slaughterhouses for export or shipped to Canada or Mexico for slaughter. Congress approved an amendment to stop horse slaughter during 2006. Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is moving forward with a plan that ignores this Congressional mandate. The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, S. 1915 and H.R. 503, will permanently prohibit the transport, possession, purchase, or sale of horses to be slaughtered for human consumption. Two bills, S. 576 and H.R. 297, will reinstate protection from slaughter for wild horses which was stripped at the end of 2004.



Outlawing the Keeping of Primates as Pets: The Captive Primate Safety Act, S. 1509 and H.R. 1329, prohibits interstate and foreign commerce in nonhuman primates for the pet trade. Some 15,000 primates are in private hands, and recent high-profile attacks, as well as disease threats, underscore the need for this legislation.

Putting the Lid on Canned Hunts and Internet Hunting: The Sportsmanship in Hunting Act, S. 304 and H.R. 1688, seeks to halt the interstate transport of exotic animals for use in canned hunts. There is also legislation, H.R. 1558, that will put an end to an associated activity, Internet hunting, in which a hunter can click a computer mouse to bag a trophy at a canned hunt facility.

If you find an injured or orphaned animal, please call NWRI's hotline at **341-8619**.

NEBRASKA WILDLIFE REHAB, INC.

P. O. Box 24122
Omaha, NE 68124-0122

Phone: (402) 341-8619

Tiny lives leaving paw prints on our hearts.

Check out our new Web site at
www.nebraskawildliferehab.org

SAVE THE DATE!!

NWRI Membership Meeting

**Saturday April 8, 2006
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

Come join us for our special guest speaker, Denise Lewis of Raptor Recovery Nebraska. She will bring some of her raptors along for an educational presentation about the raptors of Nebraska and her group's efforts to save them. We will also give you an update about NWRI. Refreshments will be provided. Don't miss this great event!!!

(Chalco Hills is located at 8901 S. 154th St. in Omaha – We will be in the lower level conference room.)

Become a NWRI donor!

Please help give our wild friends a second chance.
All contributions are tax deductible .

Yes, I want to help. Enclosed is my check for:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

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City

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