

Born to be wild!

SEPTEMBER 2013

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 80127 Lincoln, NE 68501

Hotline Phone: (402) 473-1951

Website: www.wildliferescueteamincne.org

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Nominations for Officers' positions for 2013-2014 are closed.

The following members are running for office:

President – Nancy Schuster

Vice President – Joy Kokes

Treasurer – Mary Beth Lienemann

Corresponding & Recording Secretary – Vikki Henry

BALLOTS

The election will be held at the September 10th meeting. **In order to vote your membership must be current.** Family memberships are eligible for two absentee ballots. If you would like an **absentee ballot**, please contact Mary Beth at mb@dalcpapc.com or Vikki at dougvikki@cox.net. We will mail or email you a ballot and request that you include your name & address for membership verification. The ballots must be mailed or emailed by midnight on September 4th in order to be counted the night of the meeting.

ANIMAL NEWS

Have you ever wondered why all the ducks in the late summertime look like females? It's because they go through a molt and end up losing their primary and secondary feathers all at once. This makes them unable to fly, so in order to blend in while they wait for their feathers to come in, they grow a set of feathers called Eclipse Plumage. Otherwise, to pardon the pun, the males would be sitting ducks! After their wing feathers grow back in, their brilliant green color comes back too.

LOCAL WILDLIFE NEWS

From the North Platte Telegraph - Have you heard that the Cope's Gray Treefrog has expanded its territory to Lincoln County? Typically, these frogs are in the eastern part of the state, but have been showing up along the Platte River corridor near North Platte. WRT does rescue everything and we rescued a Cope's Gray Tree frog last year that was found on the south side of Bellevue in Sarpy County.

THINGS TO CHECK OUT IN YOUR SPARE TIME...

Book - Moonbird A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95 - by Phillip Hoose. Interesting story about a Red Knot. He was first banded during a study in 1995 and was most recently seen in November of 2011, which makes him almost 20 years old, based on his age at banding.

Website – www.whatbird.com. My favorite part is how you can search for a bird by color, body type, field marks, etc. If you see a bird and you're just not quite sure what it is, this can help you narrow it down and hopefully identify what you saw. Vikki has been seeing a Red Bellied Woodpecker in her yard and it has young in the neighbor's tree.

OUTREACH EVENTS

Shelly Bruntz staffed a table at the National Night Out in Hastings on Tuesday, August 6th. Thank you Shelly for spreading the word about WRT!

WRT will have a table at the World O! Water Festival in Omaha, on Saturday, September 7, 2013. Join us at Wehrspann Lake (Chalco) at 8901 South 154th St. Rain or shine – Noon to 4 p.m.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

We are trying to save postage and the Board has decided to send out newsletters via email to as many members as we can. We understand that not everyone is able to receive them this way, so for those people who do not have emails, they will receive a hard copy. For those of you receiving a hard copy, if you do have an email address that we can use, please let us know.

AUGUST MEETING NEWS

We discussed that we are **NOT** to have animals in public places – we cannot take them around town and show them off and we cannot have friends come over to see them, especially young children, due to the risk of being bitten.

MEMBER AWARDS

It's been a busy year, and we couldn't do all that we do without your dedication! Please nominate for the Outstanding Member, Outstanding Rehabber, Rookie Rehabber, etc. We need the person's name and why you are nominating them.

LATEST RESCUE

In July, Vikki received two phone calls in regard to Common Nighthawks. One was found at Offutt Air Force Base and two were found near an office by Eppley Airfield in Omaha. Vikki and her family have been caring for these babies since July. Soon they will be able to be released. These are commonly mistaken for a raptor because of their name, but they are not in the raptor family. They look very similar to whip-poor-wills and are in the Nightjar family. They are insectivorous and fly at night, thus the huge eyes! Their beaks are very small but their mouths open wide like a Muppet! These birds will migrate all the way to Argentina during the winter. Since they nest on the ground, people think they need rescued, so most of the time, it is best to leave them alone, but these birds had been watched by the rescuer and the people noticed that Mom bird had not returned.



Baby picture



Nighthawk ready to be released!

BIRD HEALTH NEWS

Finch Mycoplasmal Conjunctivitis has been found in House Finches since at least 1994 and has spread from the east coast to Nebraska. We have been seeing it in Omaha and Lincoln birds and many of you may be seeing it in your area also. Unfortunately, many of the birds do not survive the disease, which is basically Pink Eye. Their eyes swell and crust over and they are no longer able to find food and water. The reason it spreads so fast through the bird population is that finches tend to flock together and eat at the tube-like bird feeders. These feeders cause the birds to continually stick their heads in and out and infect the next one that feeds. If you have these feeders, be sure to disinfect with bleach periodically or consider using a flat surface feeder of some kind to prevent the spread of this disease. If you get calls on these birds, you can try to catch them and there are treatments for the eyes. You can use Terramycin eye ointment and also Veterycin, which is a spray. Terramycin can be found at some vet supply companies and Veterycin is available at Tractor Supply. When we discuss ordering supplies for next season, we will probably have these items on our shopping list. If you would like some, please contact Vikki.

REMINDERS

America Recycles Day is Nov. 15. Celebrate by collecting Terracycle products for us! See the list of things to collect on our website.

When working with the wildlife, please keep **sanitation** in mind. Remember to wear gloves and to bleach/clean out all caging and housing areas in between animals so there is no spread of disease or parasites.

Remember to keep track of wildlife that you receive by filling out **acquisition forms**. These should be provided by your Team Leader and are used every year to prepare reports that are completed by our Animal Records Committee and given to Nebraska Game and Parks.

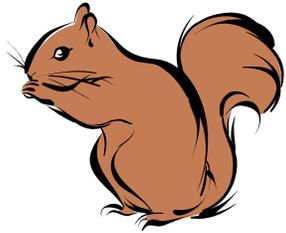
Inventory Forms should be completed and turned in to Team Leaders by September 30th. This will help us budget for next year. We really need to know where our supplies are, as they are spread throughout the state. If you are no longer caring for animals, please contact us so we can get those supplies from you. We especially need cages!

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please join us for our September meeting on the 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 2225 Washington Street in Lincoln. All meetings take place the second Tuesday of each month.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW HOW WRT WORKS?

If you are interested in a speaker or presentation please contact
Lincoln – Hotline Phone (402) 473-1951



If you have newsletter items, if you need acquisition forms, if you want to nominate someone for an award or if you would like to volunteer to coordinate Best Choice and Always Save UPCs, please contact Vikki Henry at dougvikki@cox.net or 402-398-3031. If you have UPCs to turn in, please bring them to a meeting or contact Vikki.

ACROSS THE STATE

If you've ever wondered if we really do get animals from all over Nebraska, check out Shari Barnes' raccoons – Fred & Wilma! They enjoy fishing for minnows and crawfish that she puts in their wading pool. Shari lives in Ogallala and has helped our Scottsbluff rehabber many times!

IN YOUR SPARE TIME...

We are looking for someone in the Lincoln area to be the Coordinator for saving the Always Save and Best Choice UPC symbols that are found in stores in Lincoln, Hastings, Grand Island, etc.

FRED & WILMA!

