

Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc.

Newsletter - April 2022

Helping injured, orphaned and abandoned wildlife in the state of
Nebraska since 1979.



NOTICE ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

You have probably been seeing and hearing news items about the Avian Influenza in Nebraska. This can impact both wild and domestic birds. For the time being, WRT is not rescuing or rehabbing any birds, including songbirds and waterfowl. If you have questions, feel free to call the hotline (402-471-1951). See the information at the end of this newsletter that we received from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

ACQUISITION SHEETS!

THANK YOU to all of you who turned in your acquisition sheets!

Our totals for 2021 are the following:

Total animals: **2,382.**

1 amphibian

536 birds (songbirds & waterfowl)

1,834 mammals

11 turtles

The average date that we got babies:

Bunnies March 4

Squirrels March 5

Groundhogs May 8

Bats June 27

Raccoons March 18

Foxes March 28

Opossums May 2

Turtles May 22

Most songbirds and waterfowl were rescued between mid-April and the end of May.

We need these reports by the end of the year. If you have them completed ahead of time because the animal died or was released, please send them in so we can do them periodically instead of all at once. You can bring them to a meeting or mail them to the PO Box in Lincoln.

NOTICE FOR APRIL MEETING

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 12th. Join us at 7 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 2225 Washington St. in Lincoln. Please join us virtually if you can't be with us in person. We will send out the Zoom meeting link a couple days ahead of time via a Mailchimp email. Keep your eyes open!

MEMBERSHIP DUES!

Beginning this March, we are changing when dues are due. **All dues will be due by the end of March so ALL members are due at the same time.**

**THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING!
Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd!
Look for activities in your neck of the woods!**

Celebrate Arbor Day's 150th birthday! 1872-2022. April 29 to May 1 in Nebraska City - parade, fun run, tree plantings, shopping, craft fair, etc. Take a day trip and celebrate a holiday created in Nebraska!

RECENT DONATIONS

A HUGE Thank you to **Bennet elementary school and Sinclair Gas Station in Geneva** for their recent donations! Close to 400 students & the staff at Bennet Elementary raised money for us and collected donations that will come in very handy this year! Sinclair Gas Station has a donation jar set up for WRT so when you are thinking of us gassing up in the Geneva area, pop in and support us!

RECENT RESCUES!

These bunnies were saved from a yard with three dogs. Fortunately, they had a couple weeks with mom before they were removed for safety purposes. They will be ready to be released in just a couple weeks!



2022 GIVE DAYS

We will be participating in several Give Days again this year!

Give Hastings Day and **Go Big GIVE** (Grand Island area) days are both on Thurs. May 5. Early giving for Give Hastings Day starts on Monday, April 18th and for Go Big GIVE on Monday, April 25th.

Fremont Area Big Give is on Tues. May 10.

Share Omaha's Do Good Days are May 17 - May 19. That's Tuesday - Thursday. May 17th will be "Give on Tuesday" where donors can donate money online. May 18th will be "Wishlist Wednesday" where donors can donate items or cash. May 19th will be "Volun-Thursday" where we can encourage volunteer participation and engagement. **Did you know the value of a volunteer hour is \$28.54?**

We will also be participating in **Give to Lincoln Day** on Thursday, May 26th! These days help us raise more funds for WRT to keep helping the wildlife in our care!

2022 GIVE DAYS

For those of you who haven't heard of Give Days here's a quick synopsis:

- This is a 24 hour fundraising opportunity for us in various locations across the state of Nebraska.
- You can go online to these sites a few days before the event to donate but we encourage people to donate on that day.
- Every donation is eligible to help us win prizes, which is usually an extra donation amount.
- It runs from midnight that day to midnight that night.
- If you don't want to donate using a credit card, you can take a check or cash to a local site that day in order for us to get "credit" for it.
- Remember NOT to use internet Explorer - the Give sites like Mozilla or Chrome.
- You can donate or "check out" as a Guest, but you can also make an account and access that later to get a list of all your donations for that Give event.
- The minimum donation is \$10.00.
- **You don't have to live in that town to donate! We get donations from across the U.S.!**
- You can search for our organization using "wildlife" or "rescue" or by category like "animal".
- At the end of the Give days, we get a cut of the pie of the total generic donations, so the more we raise as a group, the more we are eligible for at the end.

If you have questions, ask us at:

contact@wildliferescueteamincne.org.

To donate, go to:

Givehastings.org

Gobiggive.org

fremontareabiggive.org

Lcf.org and/or shareomaha.org

REMINDERS

- **VET VISITS** If you have an animal that needs a visit to a vet, contact your Team Leader first! If you have vets that will work with us, let us know that too. We are always looking for more partners for WRT and veterinarians that are able to help with injured wildlife.
- **NEWSLETTER INFO** If you have photos or stories to share, send them to contact@wildliferescueteamincne.org. If you currently receive the newsletter via snail mail, and you have an email address to share, please send that to us and we can save postage. We use Mailchimp to send the newsletter to over 800 people each month! Newsletters come out in February, April, July, August, September and November.
- **WILDLIFE CRIME STOPPERS** When it comes to wildlife abuse, like someone removing or destroying nests or eggs, remember that WRT members are not the police. You can contact your local Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Conservation Officer or the Crime Stoppers hotline at: 1-800-742-7627.
- **NON-PROFIT STATUS** We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and when someone donates items to WRT, we send them a thank you for tax purposes. Any items, including money, that are donated to you as a member, need to be reported to our Treasurer and the monies turned in so that we can keep complete records.

JOIN THE TEAM - If you want to become a member, complete this form.

Please consider coming to a meeting so we can meet in person! There will be paperwork to fill out and membership dues to pay and we can get you started!

If you need help with anything - a rescue, supplies, advice, etc. - call our hotline!

Mail this form to: Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc., P.O. Box 80127, Lincoln NE 68501

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone Number: _____

Hotline Phone: (402) 473-1951

Website: www.wildliferescueteamincne.org

Email contact@wildliferescueteamincne.org

Find us on **Facebook** at Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc. and Instagram [wildlife_rescue_team_inc_ne](https://www.instagram.com/wildlife_rescue_team_inc_ne)

What is Avian Influenza?

Avian influenza (AI) is a viral disease that mainly infects birds. Some migratory birds, waterfowl, and shore birds are natural carriers. AI affects chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, waterfowl, swans, peafowl and guinea fowl.

USDA, Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS)
402-434-2300

Aphis.usda.gov

USDA, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Biosecurity for Birds
Healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov

USDA Hotline: Biosecurity for the Birds
866-536-7593

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>

Nebraska Department of Ag

PO Box 94787, Lincoln NE 68509 Phone: 402-471-2351 Website: nda.nebraska.gov

There are two forms of AI: low path (LPAI) and high path (HPAI). While LPAI rarely, if ever, causes disease in birds, HPAI can cause severe infection. Under some circumstances, LPAI can mutate into a HPAI form. Although disease experts say human cases are rare, individuals who are in direct contact with infected birds or their droppings may be susceptible to the disease in human form. A single case of AI in Nebraska could affect the livelihood of all Nebraska poultry producers. Testing sick birds for AI will help identify if the disease is present and will allow an immediate response that will minimize the impact to human health and the economy.

Signs and Symptoms of HPAI:

- Decrease in water consumption
- Decrease in egg production
- Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, combs, and wattles
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Respiratory signs: coughing, sneezing and respiratory distress
- Unstable coordination
- Sudden death

What is Backyard Biosecurity?

The three-step process called “Backyard Biosecurity” means doing everything you can to keep disease out of your flock.

Step 1: Protect your birds. Keep everything that comes in contact with your birds clean.

Prevent disease from reaching your property. Keep avian and human visitors away from your flock as exposure to wild birds or pet birds can introduce diseases. Keep equipment, tools, cars, shoes and hands disinfected.

Showing birds can also introduce diseases, so keep them separate from the flock for two weeks after you bring them home.

New birds should be kept separate from the flock for 30 days. These routine precautions will help reduce the risk to your flock.

Step 2: Know the warning signs and symptoms of infections and bird disease.

Step 3: Report sick birds by calling: NDA at 402-471-2351; the USDA at 866-536-7593 or your vet.