

Winter 2015/16



"...responsible stewardship of wildlife and habitat."

Dear Friends:

What Powers WRCNU?

We have said it before and we will say it again, "WRCNU is powered by an amazing community of supporters". It is only with your help that we are able to provide outstanding care to wildlife in need.

Every year we receive 2,400—2,500 animals and we push through the summer "Baby Season" often with 350-550 animals in the facility at any given time. Our staff works 14+ hour days including weekends and holidays. Animals must eat, receive medical care, have their enclosures cleaned and then, they must also be returned safely to the wild from where they came— with this dedication we are able to provide the best care possible. WRCNU's staff could NEVER do this alone and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our hundreds of volunteers, community service members and their thousands of selfless volunteer hours (over 16,000 so far in 2015). Our amazing volunteers take precious time away from their personal lives, families, and friends to help us right the wrongs of animals who are sick, injured or orphaned (typically) by human impact. If you have what it takes to be a Wildlife Warrior and want to make a difference, call us at **801-814-7888** or email us at **volunteer@wrcnu.org**



WRCNU's Education Center is now certified by the *Utah Division of Arts & Museums* as a small natural history museum. We opened the doors to the public over Memorial Day weekend; we have a long way to go to see our dreams all the way through, but we are extremely excited for the future. We intend to grow "The Biggest Little Museum" in Utah, so come take a quick look now and see how we grow over the coming years.

PHOENIX the "Miracle Eagle": yes, it's been a long time since we've posted anything about Phoenix and almost weekly we receive inquiries as to his status and condition. As of this printing, all we can say is Phoenix is still with us and we determined late last year that he would not be releasable. This determination changed our approach and so we decided to apply for our first *Live Eagle Exhibition Permit*. Unlike other birds, eagles are far more difficult to acquire and so we are still patiently waiting for the answer to our request. Once we receive this answer (either way), we promise to post his current status, photos and news update on our website and Facebook page (we anticipate that the full story will come soon; we have some crazy new info to add to his life story, so stay tuned!).



Phoenix playing with one of his toys, April 2015

Upcoming Calendar Events

January 2016: prior year (2015) donation tax receipts are mailed out each January. This saves us precious time and money over mailing individual receipts throughout the year. If you have tax receipt questions please email us at info@wrcnu.org.

April 22, 23, 24 (Fri/Sat/Sun) 2016: Mark your calendars for our 6th Annual Wildlife Baby Shower and Open House; each year it gets bigger and better, so don't miss out. Fun for the entire family: kids craft tables, adult silent auction items & baskets, WRCNU's Animal Ambassadors on display and much more...

Why Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitation—Why can't anyone pick up an animal, care for it, and release it?

Many people do not understand the complexity of treating, caring for and then preparing injured wildlife for return to the wild. Licensed wildlife rehabilitation facilities are necessary for several reasons:

- First and foremost, licensed facilities provide trained care for injured, sick and orphaned animals, taking into consideration each individual's unique needs, treatments and diets. It is illegal to keep a wild animal, for any reason, without the proper licensing and permits.

- Wildlife rehabilitators provide the public a place to take injured wildlife and the peace of mind that it will be taken care of by trained professionals; alleviating the stress of having found an animal in need and not knowing the best course of action to save it.

- We receive animals with severe injuries that have been held for several days by well-meaning people that did not realize that the animal was in pain because it didn't cry out. Broken bones and other injuries cause pain even when the animal is silent (in the wild a noisy injured animal will be eaten, so they remain silent, but suffering)—rehabbers know how to treat for pain, infection, and disease; all items that are time sensitive issues.

- Rehabilitators are trained to raise orphaned wildlife in a manner where they are able to be safely returned to the wild. There is a critical period of time in an infant animal's life where they learn what species they will identify with for the rest of their lives. Once this period is over and the identity is learned, it can never be reversed. This process is called imprinting. We receive many animals each year that have been imprinted on humans by untrained but well-meaning people. It is illegal and inhumane to release these animals back into the wild. The only option for imprinted

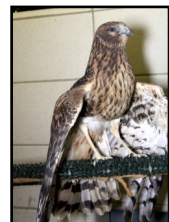


Orphaned Tree Squirrel

animals is to live their entire lives in captivity. Many Rehabbers like WRCNU depend on you, the Public, to bring sick, injured and orphaned animals to us, but please never provide food or water of any kind unless the Rehabber has provided you with specific advice.

Anytime you hear a friend, neighbor or even a stranger talk about caring for a wild (non-domestic) animal please speak up and suggest a local rehabber to them and then follow up with the rehabber to see if they took your advice—there's a reason it's illegal to care for wildlife, the most important being the animal's health and welfare.

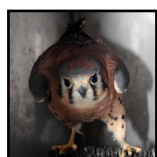
State and Federal Laws: we are often asked what we do with the animals placed in our care. By our mission and by state and federal law our primary goal is to treat and reintroduce every viable animal back into their native habitat. We also are allowed by law to place non-releasable wildlife into legal education facilities (Nature Centers, zoos, aviaries, etc.) as long as it is determined they can have a quality of life in such a setting. We are proud to have found licensed facilities for thirteen non-releasable animal ambassadors this year with several more in work—this has been our biggest transfer year ever!



Northern Harrier
for Center for
Birds of Prey



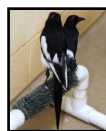
Peregrine Falcon to
HawkWatch Int'l, SLC



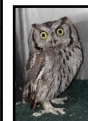
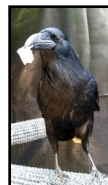
American Kestrel to
Anne Mathis
Conservation Educator



Great Blue Heron pending for
Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo's
flight program



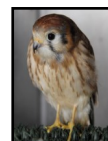
Magpie, Raven & Amer. Crow for
the Carolina Raptor Center



Three owls for the Bronx Zoo



Sharp-shinned Hawk to
Raptor Ed Foundation



American Kestrel to
Lehigh Valley Zoo



Swainson's Hawk to
River Trail Nature Center



Cooper's Hawk Release

Please "Open Your Hearts"

There is no state or federal funding for our program, we depend on donations from supporters like you. Wildlife rehabilitation is not cheap; our animal food expenses alone cost in excess of \$65,000/year. We feel the need for our services, to both the community (you) and the injured animals, is HUGE and therefore our service must remain—please open your hearts and give a gift that will keep you warm all winter long knowing you are benefitting thousands of animals by giving them the second chance they deserve.

SO, JOIN US! We are able to do what we do, because people like you do what you can. Whether it's your financial support, volunteerism, or both, we could not continue to be here, for the 10,500+ individuals, families and organizations who brought us over 2,400 wild patients in need or benefited from our educational outreach programs. We at WRCNU, salute each and every one of you and hope to encourage more caring people like you to support us again in 2016 and beyond...

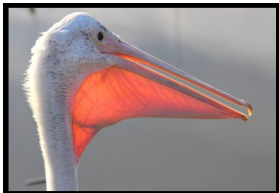
...you are our strength and hope.

What Will Your Pennies & Dollars Buy?

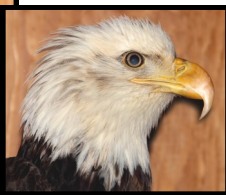
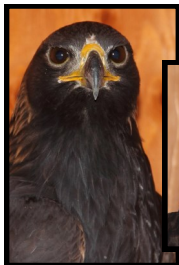
Most of us spend money on things that mean less than giving a gift from the heart. Do you know where your pennies go? Would you like to know and in return receive that amazing "warm fuzzy" knowing you are part of something bigger than yourself? Look below at what your small daily expenses (your lost pennies) can do for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife ... for far less than a donut, soda, or latte a day.



\$5 a month (17¢/day) will feed a hummingbird a life-sustaining nutritional diet for 3 months ... they don't survive long on "sugar water".



\$15 a month (49¢/day) will purchase 8-9 boxes of fish to feed an adult pelican for 2 months.



\$25 a month (82¢/day) will feed an eagle for 2 months while in our care.



\$50 a month (\$1.64/day) will provide a lifesaving surgery and follow-up care for 1 large raptor (Eagle, Hawk, Falcon or Owl).



\$100 a month (\$3.29/day) will provide essential food or medical care for many different animals who deserve a 2nd chance.

As a team, if everyone gives a little, we can do A LOT! As a team we will make *miracles* happen!

Thank You for being part of a group that believes education and raising awareness about habitat, environment, conservation and human impact is important.

With Warm Seasonal Wishes From All of Us at WRCNU!



@ Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah



Charity Code: **74219**