

Summer
2021



Number of Wildlife Patients
Treated since 2009: > 30,300

2021, HERE WE COME!

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

The Summer Heat is More Than Many (human or beast) Can Take

At the end of June, we have taken in more patients than ever and many of the young coming in are suffering from heat stroke-like symptoms, extreme dehydration and of course with that comes starvation and emaciation.

Therefore, yeah, IT'S HOT!

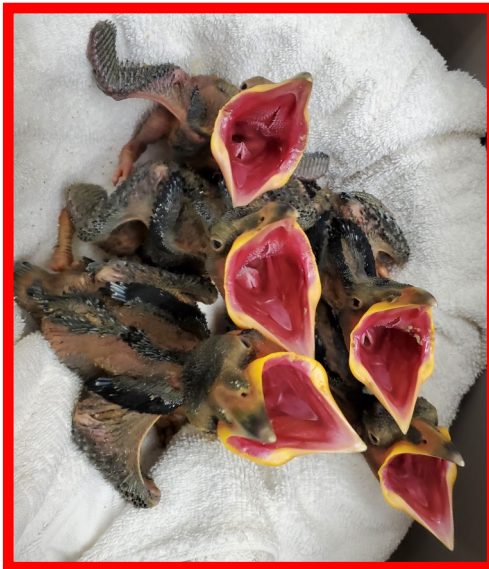
If you can keep a clean shallow dish of water out in your yard in a safe place, the wildlife will thank you for it. All we ask is that you keep it clean and replenish it every day or two.

Even as dry as it has been, mosquitoes are an even bigger problem this year and the West Nile Virus was detected much earlier than typical in Utah, so clean fresh water will help to ensure we aren't doing "one Good Deed" only to create another potential problem.

Dishes/Bird Baths should be shallow and have a good area for avian feet (of all sizes) to comfortably grasp. Sometimes it is nice to place a flat rock or something into the center of the bath to allow the little ones to get close for a drink without the fear of falling in.

Placing the dish in the shade of a large tree is also a great idea. If you do not have any large trees, it's fine to place it out in the open, just keep in mind, that placing it too close to shrubs and other "hiding places" may bring danger to thirsty birds should a feline be hiding nearby—give them room to see danger and escape!

As for all you "Human types" out there, stay hydrated, take it easy during the heat of the day, use hats, long sleeves and SUNSCREEN. Even our "invincible young people" turn old and when that happens you will be thankful for taking safety steps now.

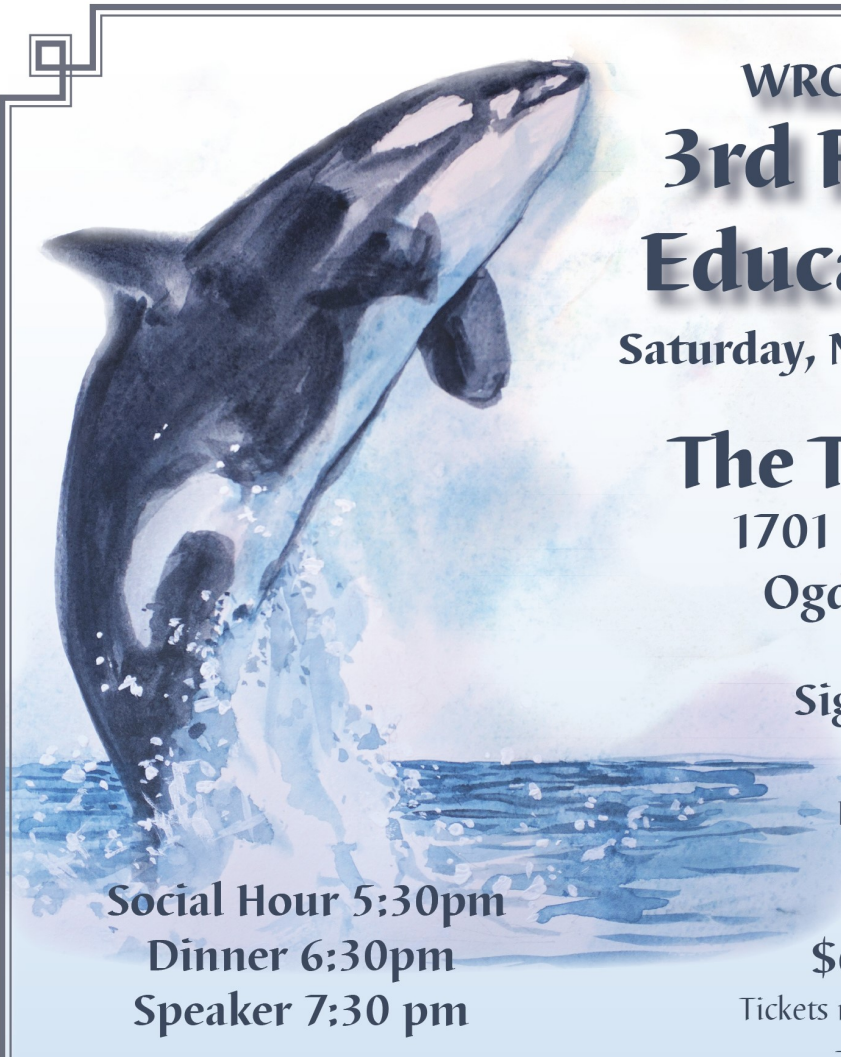


Above Left, five Raven nestlings arrive mid-May; **Above Right**, four of the same Ravens are now self-feeding. One arrived with "splay-leg" and is in a cast in a separate enclosure for the next several weeks as his/her legs heal up.



@ Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern





WRCNU Presents Our 3rd Fall Speaker Education Dinner

Saturday, November 6th, 2021 at

The Timbermine

1701 Park Boulevard
Ogden, UT 84401

Sign up on our Events Page at
WWW.WRCNU.ORG

Beginning on September 30th, 2021

Social Hour 5:30pm
Dinner 6:30pm
Speaker 7:30 pm

\$60 per person
\$650 Table Sponsorship

Tickets must be purchased by October 29, 2021
- no tickets available at the door -



Jeff Foster -Site Search, Animal Transfer & Rehab Coordinator
for The Whale Sanctuary Project



Jeff has worked in all facets of the marine mammal field including capture, animal husbandry, training, rehabilitation, research and reintroduction. Some of his noteworthy projects include; overseeing the sea otter rescue during the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, working as the Director of Research & Field Operations for the Keiko Project, and overseeing the capture, rehabilitation and successful reintroduction of “Springer,” an out of habitat orphan Killer Whale in the Pacific Northwest. Jeff has received numerous accolades and awards, including NOAA’s “Environmental Hero of the Year” in 2006, for his dolphin rescue work during Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami in Southeast Asia. His work has been featured in National Geographic, CNN, 60 Minutes, Dateline, the BBC and the New York Times.

Thank you to our sponsors:



For questions regarding this event
please email Alison@wrcnu.org



Thank you to Amber Hansen (WRCNU Cofounder) for the beautiful Event Poster above!

Whose Responsibility Is It?

In the story of the Good Samaritan, two passersby ignore an injured man, but the third stops to assist, provides transport, and even picks up the bill. We all want to be the Good Samaritan, but emergencies never happen at a convenient time. In the case of humans, help is a 3-digit phone call away, but what if the injured party is an animal? A quick Google search will correctly advise you to contact your local licensed wildlife rehabilitator. WRCNU relies on the public to bring injured animals to the center, and time is of the essence, just as if a human needed emergency medical attention. Commonly, the finder asks, "Isn't there somewhere else I can take it?" or "Can't someone pick it up?" The simple answer is, "No."

WRCNU survives off donations and countless hours put in by a small staff and selfless volunteers from the community. Wildlife rehabilitation is expensive, laborious, time consuming, and difficult; there are not many people willing or able to make the necessary sacrifices to operate such a facility. Some people assume that anyone with animal experience can help injured wildlife; however, this is not the case. Zoos, aquariums, aviaries, and veterinarians do not have the state or federal permits required to treat wildlife. Even though they may have knowledge and training in treating exotic animals and domestic pets, medical care for wildlife, with the goal of release, requires different experience. City and County Animal Control facilities are not licensed to manage wildlife. Private pest control companies may remove wildlife, for a fee, and the animal is often euthanized. The Division of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manage interactions and resources between humans and wildlife, but they do not specialize in wildlife rehabilitation. The occasional organizations that accept wildlife without being permitted, therefore operating illegally, are unlikely to meet even the minimum standards of care set forth by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association.

Unexpectedly discovering an injured or orphaned animal can be a confusing and emotional experience. It is human nature to want to *do* something. However, the best of intentions can sometimes lead to harm. It is of the utmost importance to act *only* on the advice of a *licensed* wildlife rehabilitator. If instructed to bring an animal in, there is a Good Samaritan clause, which allows a person to have the animal in possession, *to transport it to a licensed facility*. Similar to a human in a medical emergency, trying to give food and water to an injured animal can be detrimental, or even result in death. Animals view us as predators, handling and staring at them will place them in a constant state of panic and desperate search for escape, likely resulting in injury. A closed cardboard box, with a towel laid across the bottom, is ideal to help the animal feel hidden. Providing a heat source, such as heating pad set on low, is also beneficial.

Having the opportunity to assist in the rescue of a wild animal is an amazing experience. If we act with the humility of a Good Samaritan, we will do what is best for the animal in need and be a positive force for good. ~ Elizabeth La Madeleine

2021 Wildlife Patients



Left, a nestling Western Screech Owl being examined for injuries.

Screech Owls will often play "Possum" with eyes closed to try and "hide" from you while you are holding them. Rescuers often misunderstand this and think the owl likes to be held and petted.

This could not be farther from the truth—the stress from being overstimulated in this manner often leads to their eventual death.

ALWAYS place wildlife patients in a DARK, CLOSED box with towels on the bottom to keep them from slipping around and get them to a licensed rehabber QUICKLY.



Above, A female Merlin (small falcon, slightly larger than an American Kestrel) in her outdoor enclosure just prior to release back in March.

WHOOOO KNEW???

The canyon winds that we experience along the Wasatch Front put on quite the show this Spring! After one of these wild wind events in April we received nine nestling Great Horned Owls that had been popped out of their nest trees - from three different communities in Northern Utah.

Most were at the "branching" stage where at around 5 weeks of age the babies begin exploring/hopping/climbing around on the branches near their nest. Once they got blown out of their trees; as they could not fly, they were on the ground and couldn't get back up to their nests. As the nests were 20' - 60' up they couldn't be accessed (one rescuer checked with their local Fire Department and their ladders wouldn't reach the nest!). Their observant rescuers saw that they were in danger from loose pets, inquisitive children, traffic and other predators and brought them to the "WRCNU B & B."



SLC Cemetery Fledgling; sadly we were unable to save this youngster.



Two single branchers WRCNU placed together and are expected to be released later this summer.



N Ogden branchers; These three will be released later this summer

Here are some Fun Facts about our Great Horned Owl Friends:

- ◆ The feather tufts at the top of their head can be raised or flattened and give them their name as they appear like horns.
- ◆ You can often find out where a Great Horned Owl is roosting during the day by following the crows that mob them.
- ◆ Great Horned Owls are some of the first nesters in the late winter and will usually adopt a nest that is vacant – they do not build their own nests. They are also known to nest in tree cavities and on cliff ledges.
- ◆ Their diet is the most diverse of all North American raptors consisting mainly of mammals and birds, but they may also supplement their diet with insects, fish, reptiles and amphibians.
- ◆ The oldest recorded Great Horned Owl lived to be 29 years old, typically in the wild they will live from 5 – 15 years.
- ◆ Great Horned Owls can be 18" – 25" tall, weigh 2 – 5.5# and have a wingspan of 35" – 60". The gripping strength of their talons can be up to 500 psi, roughly 5 times stronger than a human!



Left & Right:

WRCNU's Education Great Horned Owl Ambassador
"Rambo".

Rambo has been with WRCNU from the beginning, but since he arrived as an adult we do not know his true age.



How Fast do birds grow?

FAST! Birds tend to grow exceptionally fast ... faster than most people realize.

Think about it, mom and dad must have their children out and on their own BEFORE winter. Winter is a difficult time of year for any wild animal and so looking out for “number one” is tough enough without having many other mouths to feed. So, their young must be fully self-sufficient; able to fend for themselves (finding food, strong flight, and evading danger), BEFORE fall comes around.

Most nesting birds hatch out and require copious amounts of food provided by (typically) both parents. They will consume upwards of 3-6 times what a typical adult requires each day. Wildlife parents are literally run ragged feeding and caring for their young.

Baby birds must be fed high quality protein and calcium rich foods that will allow their quickly maturing bones and bodies to keep up.

Did you know that most baby birds are the same size as their parents by the time they leave the nest—exceptions are birds like ducks, geese, quail, and others that begin their lives walking away from their nests soon after hatching to follow their parent(s) in search of food, water and shelter. Yes, that Eagle chick hatching out of a 3-1/2” egg is FULL SIZE (5’ - 6-1/2’ wingspan) at about 80-95 days; a Robin chick is full sized at ~16-21 days

Pictured below are WRCNU’s first 2021 House Finch nestlings. House Finches hatch after about 2 weeks of incubation, and then from those tiny “bug-like” hatchlings they quickly grow to “adult-size” and are ready to attempt their first flights after only 11-19 days.

At this initial fledgling stage, the young are on the ground and unable to fly, but will awkwardly hop around while their parents watch from a safe location. At this stage, both parents will feed and encourage their young to keep under cover. This is the most vulnerable stage of life for these naive youngsters as they learn to fly and navigate this dangerous world. This is the stage when people think they need to step in to “save the babies!”—**saving them is normally NOT what is needed. Unless you see blood, broken bones or a cat or dog brings it to you, call a licensed rehabber BEFORE you pick it up and in so doing, remove it from its home and parents.**

Some young will be up and into the safer environment of the low tree/bush branches in just a few days; others may take a little longer. Do not disturb them, keep pets and children away and watch from a window as the parents bring food to their babies’ open mouths. Even though they are about the size of their parents, you can usually tell them apart by their “attention getting behaviors” where they will flap their wings to compete with their siblings and gain the attention of their parents who have a beak full of nutritious yumminess.



House Finch chicks progressing from hatchlings to fledglings in just a matter of days: 1 &2) At just a couple days old, with eyes closed, it’s all “Eat and Sleep” while the bodies grow and grow! **3)** Two days later, eyes are open and feathers are coming in fast. **4)** Another two days and “ALMOST ready” to leave the nest. **5)** At 2+ weeks only their ravenous appetites tell you they are still babies. This is where their “parental schooling” begins and it’s a LOT easier if we let Mom and Dad do the teaching.



More 2021 Wildlife Patients



Left to Right, Top to Bottom:

1 & 2) a beaver kit at about 2 weeks old, “she” will be on beaver formula for many weeks, but is beginning to sample cottonwood bark and leaves just like a “Grown up Beaver!”

3) A Horned Lark Chick says, “*FEED ME!*”

4) a Western Screech Owl in outdoor enclosure just prior to its release in March;

-- 2021 is “*The Year of the Owl!*” here at WRCNU.

5) Pied-billed Grebe, released in April, is “*CELEBRATING!*” its REBIRTH into the wild!



Join our GROWING group of WRCNU Sustainers

In uncertain times, you can be part of the growing number of supporters who help remove the uncertainty. YOU can become a WRCNU Sustainer. Here's how it works:

- 1) **Monthly donations.** Starting as low as \$8/month to *"The sky is the limit!"* Make these donations by check, credit/debit card or through your PayPal account.
- 2) **Annual Donations.** Donate a total of \$100 (or more)/annually in consecutive years. Your second annual minimum Sustainer donation will make you a *"WRCNU Sustainer"*!

The Easiest Way? ... is Through Automatic Recurring Payments! You'll never miss it!

We are happy to help you setup Automatic Recurring credit/debit card donations . OR ... you may setup recurring donations through your bank's "Bill Pay" account. Once set up, your bank will send us a check each month. Yet another way, is to setup recurring payments through your PayPal account.

Annual Sustainer Donations: Annual Donations may be in small amounts or all at once.

- Example—to meet the minimum annual donation of \$100 you might wish to make ONE donation, or smaller donations of \$10, \$15, etc. throughout the year.

- The important part is that your support meets the "Sustainer minimum" for at least two consecutive years and then for each year you wish to remain a WRCNU Sustainer.

For more Info go to www.wrcnu.org/become-a-sustainer or email us at info@wrcnu.org

Mailing address (mail ONLY): 3127 N Pelican Drive, Farr West, UT 84404

- Correspondence or Donation checks by mail should be addressed to *Pelican Drive* please

Physical address: 1490 Park Blvd, Ogden, UT 84401

- Injured wildlife deliveries; In Person Cash, Check or Credit Donations must come to *Park BLVD*

Website (Credit/PayPal) Donations at: WRCNU.ORG

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Ways to support WRCNU without additional cost to you!

Smith's
INSPIRING DONATIONS

Our website (www.wrcnu.org) is a perfect place for one-stop shopping. Go to our "Donate" page for many ideas, including links to our *Amazon Wish List, Smith's Rewards Card, Needs List, vehicle donations, etc.*

Increase your support without additional costs: If you shop on Amazon it's EASY. If you have a Smith's Market Rewards card, it's EASY. Go to wrcnu.org/donate and drop down to the *"While Shopping ..."* section. Click on the *AmazonSmile* and *Smith's Inspiring Donations* logos to link your accounts to WRCNU. When you spend, Amazon and Smith's donate to WRCNU at no cost to you!

“Tan Is The New Green”



WRCNU is taking its water consumption seriously.

Treating and caring for thousands of wildlife patients uses a “boat load” of water, but with huge changes to the outdoor watering schedule the Center is on track to cut about 150,000 gals of water a month during June, July, August and September (our highest consumption months of the year due to lawn watering) for a total savings of approximately 600,000 gals.

Utah is the second driest state in the U.S. and we must not take our water for granted, but instead become serious about conservation of this very precious resource.

Bullock's Oriole Patent Released—May 2021



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