



Volume 29, Number 2, Summer 2009

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COUNCIL, INC.

Important Dates:

NYSWRC Board Meetings-open to all
E-mail Kelly (kmartink@midtel.net) for information about how to join us.

NYSWRC Annual Seminar
Fort William Henry Conference Ctr. in Lake George, NY, November 13-15, 2009

D34, An Injured Eaglet Returns to the Wild
By Kathy Michell

The story of D34 began in early April when she hatched as one of three siblings to Narrowsburg's resident pair. Two winters ago her parents built their nest in the river valley hamlet opposite the viewing

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deck, making them probably the most watched bald eagles in the state. The Town even purchased an observation scope to enable visitors to see them better. D34 and her siblings were the result of the second successful nesting of this new eagle couple.

Story continues on p. 2

Editor's note:

I welcome your articles, poems, information, questions and artwork. We are pleased to print articles from our members, but caution each reader that NYSWRC is not responsible for the accuracy of the content or information provided, and does not necessarily endorse the policies proposed. Submissions should be sent to: nisseq@aol.com or to PO Box 62, Newcomb, NY 12852.

D34, AN INJURED EAGLET RETURNS TO THE WILD, *continued*

Everything was going well, the eaglets were growing rapidly. Within only eight weeks they were nearly adult size, but not yet capable of flight. In spite of the fact that the Narrowsburg pair built a very solid nest and were excellent parents, something went wrong on June 7th. A sudden storm came through the valley, and the accompanying winds swept the youngest of the eaglets from the nest. Frightened and stunned she remained at the base of the nest tree until she was discovered by Linda Peters. Linda and her husband, Colin, have been very protective of the pair nesting on their property. Colin called me immediately to assess the situation.

Normally an eaglet of her size would be cared for on the ground by the parents and no intervention would be required. However, in this case, although the eaglet appeared to be uninjured, the residential location would have made it difficult for the adults to tend to her. I called Peter Nye, the leader of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Endangered Species Unit. After some deliberation, the decision was made to climb the tree and put her back in the nest. Pete would drive from Albany the next morning and meet my son Tom and me.

The eaglet had survived the night and was easily cornered and captured by the team. I held her while Pete fitted her with a bright blue leg band, D34; she now had a name. He also attached a small VHF transmitter backpack so that her movements could be followed after she fledged. Tom worked on repairing the utility line normally left in the nest tree for pulling up climbing equipment. It had frayed and broken. Then Pete had to free climb the 120' tree and replace the rigging so that D34 could be hoisted up to him at the nest in a bright orange sack, readily visible as we maneuvered it through the branches. The mission was accomplished. D34 would continue growing and exercising her wings in the safety of the nest.

That is until July 5th, less than a month later, when D34, apparently frightened by the noise, crashed into something the night of the Narrowsburg fireworks. On Sunday morning, July 6th, Joan and Don Holbert informed me that there was an eagle on the ground near their home on the Narrowsburg Flats, less than ¼ mile from the nest tree. I called John Brennan, the DEC technician with the Delaware River Eagle Study to assist in the capture. As we approached her, the backpack was visible and we realized that it was D34 on the ground. Now a partially fledged bird, she took off flying 100 yards before resting. Her left leg hung limply, indicating that it was broken. Unless captured, she would die a slow death of starvation. John sprinted after her several times while I observed each landing. She was tiring and we would have her soon.

After three short flights we finally cornered her in a driveway with a thick overstory, and I grabbed her in front of an ever growing audience.

The next stop was the Delaware Valley Raptor Center. I took D34 to Milford, PA where Bill Streeter took x-rays and assessed her condition. D34 was very cooperative, and we managed to get some clear films showing a mid-shaft oblique femur fracture with no damage to the joints. She could be repaired, but only with surgery. Bill had no vet immediately available to perform such a surgery. When I informed Pete, he suggested his vet, Ed Becker, in Albany saying he would contact him. We left her in the comfort of one of the raptor center buildings for the night to minimize the chance of any additional damage to the leg, since the circulation and nerve functions were intact. Although he was on vacation in Lake George, Dr. Becker agreed the surgery should be done right away, and he returned to Albany to perform it. D34 was placed in an eagle crate and transported to him by John Brennan and Glenn Hewitt on Monday morning. Surgery went well and she received both internal and external pins. After five weeks she was well-healed and ready to go. External pins were removed and she was released at the island near the nest on August 13th.

But the struggle was still not over. Much to our dismay, her parents no longer recognized D34 as their own, nor would she call to them. Without the parental assistance, her chance of surviving the first critical year would be diminished. So John and I "assisted" D34 with handouts of fish and roadkill with the cooperation of many riverfront residents. She remained close to Narrowsburg through the fall. As she grew stronger she traveled back and forth to the Ten Mile River, approximately five miles away where there is a known roost. This socialization with other eagles led her to travel to the Mongaup Falls overwintering eagle sanctuary where she has been observed feeding and flying strongly in the company of other eagles. Through most of the winter she has remained at the Mongaup Falls sanctuary with an occasional trip back up to Narrowsburg. I see her several times each week while monitoring the area, and when I hear her signal coming from the Mongaup roost, it feels good to know that she is there with another 30 birds. Thanks to a lot of caring people, D34 is back in the sky.

Kathy Michell (New York Center for Turtle Rehabilitation and Conservation, Inc.) has been a licensed turtle and snake rehabilitator for 17 years and has worked the past 10 winters as an eagle specialist for the NYSDEC.

LONG ISLAND OR BUST

By Beverly Jones, SPCA of Erie Co. wildlife department and NYSWRC board member

On a cold December day the SPCA wildlife department received a phone call concerning a Great Blue Heron in need of help. SPCA rescue agents immediately went to the heron's aid. The Great Blue Heron, a long necked, long legged wading bird arrived at the SPCA wildlife department very weak and emaciated. Dr. Karen Moran and wildlife volunteer staff administered a physical examination, x-rays and blood work. Test results concluded that the bird was ailing from winter starvation. The bird's plumage indicated that the bird was born the previous season, making the bird close to seven months in age. Most herons migrate to warmer climates for the winter but this bird chose to remain in our frigid Buffalo climate. Those that do remain and survive the winter are usually experienced adults. The treatment for the heron involved vitamins and a rich diet of fish and mice. The heron had a voracious appetite from the very beginning. A special indoor room with a sand floor was set up for his recovery. Herons can be difficult to keep in captivity, and the sand floor ensured that his feet remained healthy. Once the heron was strong and in good weight, he was moved to an outdoor flight cage so he could acclimate once again to the cold temperatures and get lots of exercise.

One month after admission, the heron was in perfect condition and was ready for release back into the wild. The question was, where should the heron be released? Winter was now in full swing, and Buffalo was experiencing exceptionally freezing temperatures. All waterways were frozen and there was concern that the heron would not be able to find enough food. We did not want the heron to end up in the same situation we found him in a month earlier. After placing several phone calls to wildlife rehabilitators who had experience working with Great Blue Herons, it was decided that the bird should be released along the East Coast where the weather is milder and herons go to winter. We contacted Ginnie Frati, Executive director of The Wildlife Rescue Center of the Hamptons on Long Island and she told us that the center would be delighted to help us relocate the heron.

Jean Alden offered to drive and Cheryl Hoople and I accompanied her. We modified a kennel so the heron would be safe and comfortable during the ride. Jean designed a sign that read "Long Island or Bust" and proudly posted it in the back window of her red Honda Fit. Jean's husband, Bill, even equipped the car with his newly invented "heron-odometer." This instrument's job was to indicate that the heron remained in an upright standing position whenever the car made turns. We left Buffalo early in the morning and arrived safe and secure at the center that evening.



Ginnie, Jean, Bev and Cheryl at the beach.

The heron traveled beautifully during the ride. An enclosure and a water pan of fish awaited the bird's arrival, and he wasted no time eating his evening meal. We all decided it would be best for the heron to spend a few days at the Rescue Center to recuperate from his drive and then be released by the Rescue Center staff. The heron and the three of us were treated like royalty. We had a wonderful tour of the facility and enjoyed meeting the staff from the Center. Ginnie and her husband Auggie opened their lovely home to us for the night. We shared a wonderful dinner and breakfast with them and the Rescue Center Board President, Jim Hunter. Before returning to Buffalo, Ginnie and Auggie drove us to the location where the heron would be released. It was a beautiful spot and we knew he would do very well in his new home.

A few days after our return to Buffalo, Ginnie notified us that the heron had been released. The South Hampton Press accompanied the Rescue Center staff for the release and covered the story of the Great Blue Heron from Buffalo. The news article and release photos can be viewed at: www.27east.com/story_detail.cfm?id=191400 By sharing the heron's story with the community, we are all able to celebrate the great work done so well by so many.

SEARCHING FOR A HOME

"I am a wildlife rehabilitator in Rochester, NY specializing in waterfowl. Last September I took in a group of domestic ducklings as they were hatching. Mom was killed by a car. I now have six boys who need loving, permanent homes. I really love them and don't want to give them up, but I will need their space for the mallard orphans I will take in this season. These are a beautiful mallard, black, or rouen/domestic mix. Their size is larger than mallard but smaller than pekin. Colours range from pure white, black and white, grey and white with some additionally showing the typical mallard green head and brown/black feathers. They need to go to homes where they are brought inside at night. I would like to place them in at least groups of two so they have company. If anyone would like further information, I'd be happy to send pictures." Sue K. Rochester NY 585-872-2545 or qwakrpr@yahoo.com

BLACK MARKET ANIMAL TRADE BUSTED DEC's In-Depth Undercover Investigation Nets 18 Arrests

Press Release

An extensive undercover investigation into the poaching, smuggling and illegal sale of protected reptiles and amphibians by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has led to charges against 18 individuals for 14 felonies, 11 misdemeanors and dozens of violations, DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis announced today.

The investigation, dubbed "Operation Shellshock," uncovered a lucrative, international black market for poaching and selling native, protected New York species – turtles, rattlesnakes and salamanders – through the Internet and at herpetological shows, Commissioner Grannis said. Investigators found thousands of New York turtles being laundered through "middlemen" in other states, then getting shipped overseas for meat and other uses. More than 2,400 individual turtles, snakes and salamanders were involved in the documented crimes, with DEC currently holding nearly 400 live animals in evidence.

The undercover investigation began in 2007, coordinated through DEC's Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI). Investigators spent hundreds of hours afield and at shows with reptile poachers and illegal collectors. They built cases from the ground up through initial contact with violators online, at shows, and in the field.

Through the investigation, New York DEC investigators worked closely with officials from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Service, the New York State Attorney General's Office, Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Some of these agencies have filed separate but related charges (details below).

"Our investigators began this operation with a simple question: Is there a commercial threat to our critical wildlife species? What they found was alarming," Commissioner Pete Grannis said. "A very lucrative illegal market for these creatures does exist, fostered by a strong, clandestine culture of people who want to exploit wildlife for illegal profit. I'm proud of the success of our officers. Their work sends a strong message that the buying and selling of New York's native species will not be tolerated."

"Operation Shellshock is one of the largest, most extensive undercover operations DEC has ever undertaken," said Henry Hamilton, DEC Assistant Commissioner for Public Protection. "It stands out for its magnitude and impact, and it hopefully will be a springboard for positive change on all fronts involving ecologically significant species."

"Illegal trafficking of turtles, snakes and other animals is a serious matter precisely because such activities can produce long-term, detrimental effects to the ecosystem. No one wants to see populations of vital species put at risk for short-term profits," said Kathleen M. Mehlretter, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York. "Operation Shellshock should serve not only as a deterrent but also should raise public awareness about the need to protect wildlife."

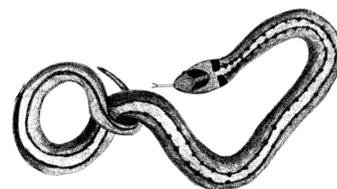
"Environment Canada believes in ensuring that companies and individuals comply with the conservation goals of environmental and wildlife protection acts and regulations," said Albin Tremblay, Chief Enforcement Officer with Environment Canada. "The department carries out its enforcement work in cooperation with other federal, provincial and territorial governments and with international organizations. Operation Shellshock is a good example of how working together can produce positive results."

"Reptiles and amphibians are important environmental indicators that tell us much about the health of the planet. As such, they must be protected — not exploited," said David Critchlow, Provincial Enforcement Specialist of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. "Through the cooperative work of Canadian and American agencies, we hopefully have not only put a dent in the black market for these animals but also sent a strong message to legitimate collectors and the general public."

The Investigation

Investigators found New York's timber rattlesnakes and wood turtles being shipped out of state and out of the country to support high-end collectors. They found thousands of snapping turtles laundered through a Louisiana turtle farm, then shipped illegally to China. They found poachers stealing turtle eggs as soon as they were laid. And they successfully traded with a smuggler from Canada to recover a population of endangered Massasauga rattlesnakes – nabbing him in a Niagara Falls parking lot with a van stuffed with 33 rattlesnakes in hidden compartments.

Other snakes confiscated during the operation were timber rattlesnakes, copperheads and eastern hognose snakes. The types of turtles confiscated included snapping turtles, Blandings turtles, box turtles, North American wood turtles and two Yellow Spotted Amazon River turtles, which are federally protected as an endangered species.



Story continues on p.5

BLACK MARKET ANIMAL TRADE BUSTED,*continued*

Charges Beyond New York In addition, as a result of Operation Shellshock, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York are pursuing Federal Lacey Act charges against a Maryland meat processor for the knowing purchase of illegally trapped New York State snapping turtles, and against a Louisiana turtle farm operator for the knowing purchase of illegally taken New York State snapping turtle hatchlings and the export of such hatchlings to China.

Pennsylvania authorities have charged six individuals and are continuing their investigation. Canadian officials so far have charged one individual.

New York prohibits the illegal commercialization of wildlife; a law enacted in 2006 gives protection to all reptiles and amphibians. The state also bans unlawful possession of protected species. A list of individuals cited and the charges filed by New York officials is available.

Commissioner Grannis re-constituted BECI in 2007. The investigation was led by Capt. Michael Van Durme, Lt. Richard Thomas and Investigator Daniel Sullivan. DEC reptile and amphibian specialist Alvin Breisch and wildlife educator Tom Hudak of Livingston County provided valuable support in numerous phases of the operation, as did DEC Environmental Conservation Officers throughout the state.

FLEA & TICK PRODUCTS – A Cautionary Notice from the EPA

Over 44,000 potential incidents associated with registered spot-on products were reported to EPA in 2008. Adverse reactions reported from the spot-on products range from mild effects such as skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures, and in some cases death.

Incidents with flea and tick products can involve the use of spot-on treatments, sprays, collars and shampoos. However, the majority of the potential incidents reported to EPA are related to flea and tick treatments with EPA-registered spot-on products. Spot-on products are generally sold in tubes or vials and are applied to one or more localized areas on the body of the pet, such as in between the shoulders or in a stripe along the back. Be sure to only use products recommended by your veterinarian!

Pesticide registrants are required by law to submit information to EPA on adverse effects resulting from the use of any registered pesticide. Visit the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/flea-tick-control.html> to view a list of those products which are harmful.

WNS BAT UPDATES:**The Bad News:** Excerpted from PROMED

The utter decimation of bats continued this past winter. Jenny Dickson, the Connecticut DEP wildlife biologist supervising the detection and control of white-nose syndrome in the state, said Tuesday March 17, 2009 that visits to 2 sample caves in Litchfield County in the past 2 weeks revealed veritable bat catacombs. Dickson's team of wildlife experts found thousands of dead bats floating like dead fish in standing water, or stacked on top of each other along the flat ledges of the cave walls.

"It was grim, and you don't have to be a scientist to realize the implications for the environment inside those caves," said Dickson. "This is a massive, unprecedented die-off, with significant potential impacts on nature, especially insect control."

Findings by Dickson's counterparts in nearby states paint an even more dire picture for Connecticut. Bats are migratory, and most of Connecticut's bats fly there in the spring from hibernation caves containing hundreds of thousands of bats in the southern Adirondacks, the lower Hudson Valley, Vermont and the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. Scientists entering those caves since February 2009 have found 90 percent to 95 percent mortality rates, with some caves in New York having death rates approaching 100 percent. All told, scientists following white-nose syndrome have calculated that up to a million bats have already died in the Northeast states, and the spread of WNS continues unabated.

The Good News:

The Dept. of the Interior announced that they will be awarding funding to the PA Game Commission to investigate white nose syndrome. This project will support a region-wide coordinated approach to the spread of White Nose Syndrome. The project will investigate the causative agent(s), transmission, and control; detect new occurrences and manage the threat to adjoining regions; and implement response and control strategies. Eleven states (CT, DE, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, VA, VT, WI, WV) are participating as active partners. Federal funds awarded: \$940,870; non-federal match: \$431,940

NYSWRC Congratulates Chris Ray

Chris, our previous Albany permits contact, left DEC to return to graduate school at Northern Arizona University. He was recently awarded the prestigious Doris Duke Charitable Foundation 2009 Conservation Fellowship. This award is given to provide national recognition of leaders in environmental science and policy. Way to go, Chris!

Editor's Note:

As rehabilitators we must be aware of the risks of zoonosis. These sad postings may help to remind those of us who work with raccoons that we must remain vigilant and careful.

RACCOON ROUNDWORM INFECTION

IDENTIFIED in New York City, Excerpts from ProMed. ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases<<http://www.isid.org>>

On 30 Mar 2009, 2 cases of baylisascariasis among children from Brooklyn were reported to the Health Department. The 1st case was identified in a previously healthy infant who presented with an acute onset of developmental regression, irritability, postural deficits and seizures in October 2008 resulting in a diagnosis of eosinophilic meningoencephalitis. The patient had a history of geophagia (eating soil) and travel to upstate New York. Serologic testing for *B. procyonis* was positive and anthelmintic and steroid therapy were initiated but did not result in improvement. The child remains hospitalized with permanent brain damage.

The 2nd child, a teenager, developed an acute onset of blindness of the right eye in January 2009. This patient had not traveled outside NYC during the incubation period. Visual inspection of the eye revealed a larva and lesions consistent with ocular larva migrans (OLM). The large dimensions and morphological characteristics of the larva were consistent with *B. procyonis* rather than *Toxocara canis*, the more common cause of OLM in the United States. Serologic testing is pending. Laser photocoagulation was conducted to successfully destroy the larva, along with steroidal therapy, but the child remains blind in the right eye. The Health Department is conducting an investigation to attempt to determine when and how these children became infected and to assess any risk to others.

Baylisascariasis is an uncommon disease caused by the raccoon roundworm *B. procyonis*. Fewer than 30 cases have been reported in the medical literature, although unpublished cases are known. While most were infants or young children, adult cases have also been reported. Infection occurs following ingestion of *B. procyonis* eggs which are shed in the feces of infected raccoons. Upon ingestion the eggs hatch and the larvae migrate through the body. The larvae cause particular damage to the eyes and central nervous system due to OLM or neural larva migrans (NLM), although viscera and various somatic tissues are commonly affected. The incubation period is not well defined but estimated to be 2 to 4 weeks for NLM and 1 to 2 weeks for OLM. Asymptomatic, mild and covert infections have been reported. Onset and severity of illness is often associated with the number of eggs ingested, the extent of larval migration, and the degree of inflammation and necrosis. Young children, persons with pica and/or developmental disabilities and those who have an exposure to raccoon habitats are at greatest risk for severe, overwhelming, irreversible neurologic disease or death.

Of 14 cases of NLM summarized recently, 10 were under 20 months of age and 3 had a history of developmental delay. Outcomes included death (5), severe/persistent residual deficits (9) along with visual impairment, blindness and epilepsy.

Studies suggest that the parasite is very common among raccoons, with carriage rate estimates as high as 90 percent among juvenile and 60-70 percent of adult raccoons sampled. The eggs are extremely resilient, can overwinter and persist in the environment for months to years. Raccoons are the definitive host and humans are not capable of shedding eggs. This alert asks providers to consider baylisascariasis in the differential diagnosis for patients presenting with encephalopathy and peripheral or CSF eosinophilia, diffuse unilateral subacute neuroretinitis (DUSN) or eosinophilic pseudotumor, especially if there is a history of exposure to raccoons or raccoon habitat.

Diagnosis and treatment in humans with baylisascariasis is discussed in the complete article. Time is of the essence in the treatment of this infection. Albendazole is the treatment of choice because of its CNS penetration, minimal toxicity and larvacidal activity. In addition, systemic corticosteroids should be administered to reduce the damage associated with the inflammatory response. Laser photocoagulation along with the administration of systemic corticosteroids is the treatment of choice for patients with OLM and diffuse unilateral subacute neuroretinitis (DUSN).

RESOURCES: For more information on baylisascariasis visit <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/baylisascaris/default.htm>> or <<http://www.avma.org/reference/zoonosis/znbaylis.asp>>.

RACCOONS WITH BIRD FLU:

Wildlife Disease News Digest (Apr.7, 2009)

UTSUNOMIYA--Ten wild raccoons have been found with signs of previous H5N1 bird flu infections, according to a joint study by Tokyo University and Yamaguchi University. This is the first time mammals in this country have been found with bird flu virus antibodies, which develop as a result of infection. Before the discovery, only birds have been found with bird flu antibodies.

It is believed that the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus is highly likely to mutate into a new type of influenza. In Japan, there have previously been reports of domestic chickens, wild whooper swans, jungle crows and mountain hawk-eagles infected with the virus.

The researchers think the 10 raccoons were not likely infected by other raccoons, but by eating the carcasses of infected birds or inheriting the antibodies from a parent at birth.

HUDSON RIVER SNOWY OWL RESCUE

Thanks to the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club for permission to reprint this article. <http://www.hmbc.net/>

Snowy Owl Rescue, by *Richard Guthrie*
November 18, 2008 at 11:07 AM

Mid-Sunday morning, I received a call from Will Raup that a SNOWY OWL had been seen swimming in the Hudson River by the volunteers aboard the USS Slater. Will went through the usual routine questions to be sure they weren't watching a gull, goose, or even a swan. Will was able to confirm that indeed it was really an owl swimming in the river! He went down to the Snow Dock to confirm all this and gave me a call. I followed up with a few calls to licensed wildlife rehabilitators, who might have been able to respond. No luck there. One was too far away. Another's voice mail box was full and another was otherwise unavailable.

So I went up to Albany to see what I might be able to do. Will was there and was able to point me to the owl crouched down on rocks over on the Rensselaer side. An Animal Control Officer, who had also been contacted in the meantime, was driving back and forth in his attempts to locate the owl as well. So over the River I went. Through our cell-phones, Will was able to direct me to both the owl and the officer -- both on the river's edge, below the dense riverside brush and out of sight to me on the shore. He then directed us to the owl, still out of sight.

Long story short - the officer was able to drive the owl up to where I was waiting. I picked up the owl, being very careful not to get within reach of its huge, sharp talons. The owl was very light in weight, despite being pretty wet from its dunking. I also felt the sternum bone which was very sharp and lacking any fat content indicating that the bird was thoroughly emaciated.

So the owl went over to proper care -- first to a veterinarian then to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

So what happened to this owl anyway? I suspect that the owl was just passing through when it was attracted to the pigeons that frequent downtown Albany. This sort of thing has happened in the past without incident. But now we have a few Peregrine Falcons residing there. Peregrines and owls just don't get along. I suspect that the Peregrines dive-bombed the owl to the point where it flopped into the water. Although owls are not known for their swimming ability, they are pretty light and can float. By flapping along, the owl made it across the river to the rocks on the other side. Thanks to the crew of the Slater for bringing this to our attention and to Will for taking charge. *Richard*



THE FOLLOW-UP STORY

by Elayne Ryba

The afternoon of Sunday March 8th was sunny and nearly fifty degrees, but a biting cold wind chilled the small gathering of birdwatchers that came to observe the release of the infamous "Hudson River" Snowy Owl at the Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve. NYS Licensed wildlife rehabilitator Kelly Martin was successful in nursing the injured owl back to a healthy weight, and it was ready to be released back to the wild. Rich Guthrie placed a metal federal ID band on the bird's leg, so that we might learn where this bird will travel in the future. The owl didn't seem to mind being worshipped by the small crowd while many pictures were taken just prior to the release. Kelly decided to feed the bird one last meal in captivity, and with the assistance of fellow rehabilitator Michele Segerberg, a three-course mouse dinner was devoured with great relish. Once the moment of truth had arrived, the bird's flight was powerful and flawless, a relief considering it had not been outside a cage in several months. Many thanks to Kelly, Michele and Rich for sharing this happy ending with adoring fans!





NYSWRC
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Our NYSWRC Mission:
NYSWRC, Inc. is a not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to the education of wildlife rehabilitators, improvement of the field of wildlife rehabilitation, and the protection and preservation of the environment.

NYSWRC MEMBERS

Please check the address label on this issue of *RELEASE* to determine your current membership type and the date that you joined the Council. Your membership in the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (NYSWRC) expires one year from this date. To guarantee uninterrupted membership services please utilize the application below to renew your membership. We encourage you to share your issue of *RELEASE* with new rehabilitators and other interested persons.

RELEASE is the quarterly newsletter of the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, Inc. and is included with membership. Papers, photographs, illustrations and materials relating to wildlife rehabilitation are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials to:

RELEASE, PO Box 62, Newcomb, NY 12852, Attention: Editor.
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NEW YORK STATE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COUNCIL, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

____ **NEW**

____ **RENEWAL**

Complete all information below and make checks payable to: NYS Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, Inc. *Please print clearly.*

____ **GENERAL:** \$25.00 ____ **HOUSEHOLD:** \$40.00 ____ **ORGANIZATION:** \$50.00

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