

# Wild Things

The newsletter of Carolina Wildlife Care

VOLUME 22, Issue I

WINTER 2011



CAROLINA WILDLIFE CARE

*Establishing harmony between humans and wildlife*

## 2010 Marks Record Year for Wildlife Center

In 2010, Carolina Wildlife Care's dedicated staff and volunteers treated the second largest number of admissions in its 22-year history — 3,476 sick, injured and orphaned animals— only 190 animals shy of the center's highest intake back in 2004.

Last year, Carolina Wildlife Care provided care to:

### 1,814 Birds.

The Northern Mockingbird took the lead as CWC's most admitted bird, with a total of 213 birds presented for care. Mourning Dove (189), Carolina Wren (181), American Robin (139) and House Finch (134) are among the top five bird admissions.

Other avian species taken in included Canada Goose (29), Wood Duck (23), Great Blue Heron (14), Whip-poor-will (4), and Belted Kingfisher (2) along with seventy-eight other species of birds. CWC remains one of the only facilities in South Carolina dedicated to the rehabilitation of migratory birds.

### 1,547 Mammals.

As expected, Eastern Gray Squirrel (651) topped the list for mammal admissions with Virginia Opossum (402), Eastern Cottontail (256), Raccoon (53), and White-tailed Fawns (33) rounding out the top five most admitted mammals.

Among the other eighteen species of mammals that were treated included five species of bats, southern fox and flying

squirrels, a mole and a beaver.

### 115 Reptiles & Amphibians.

Yellow-bellied Slider (31) inched out the Eastern Box Turtle (30) for the top spot in reptile admissions with the River Cooter (13), Common Snapping Turtle (7), and Black Rat Snake (6) following behind them. A total of 23 different species of reptiles and amphibians, including a Green Tree Frog and an American Toad, were presented for care

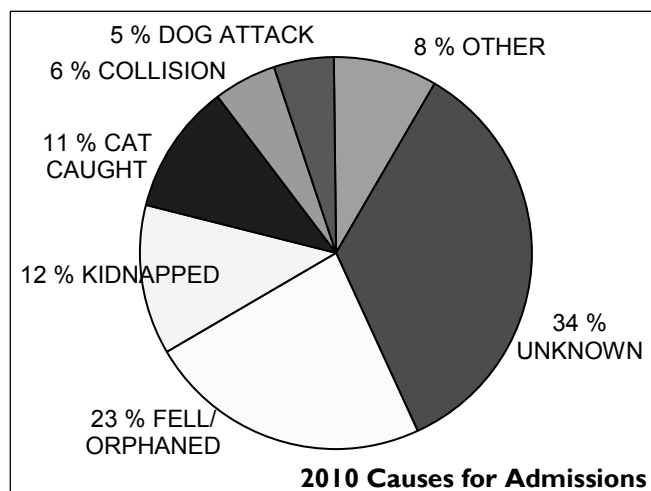
In total, 119 species entered the doors of the wildlife center in 2010.

While one-third of intakes came to CWC for unknown reasons, more than 400 patients last year were "kidnapped" or relocated. These animals did not need human help as they were being cared for by parents or old enough to be on their own. Kidnaps take away valuable resources from patients truly needing them. The greatest chance for a young animal's survival remains with parents.

Some of the most memorable cases included:

- ◆ In November, CWC 50,000th wildlife patient - a ring-billed gull struck by a vehicle in Irmo, SC
- ◆ Three bobcat kittens admitted after their home was demolished
- ◆ A nest of injured eastern cottontails run over with a lawnmower
- ◆ CWC's first skunks, six newborns removed from a barn in Leesville
- ◆ A 30-pound snapping turtle struck by a boat's propeller on Lake Murray.
- ◆ An adult beaver found roadside in Lexington wounded from collision with a car.
- ◆ A young gray squirrel caught by a hawk and dropped onto a deck as the hawk flew away.

Thanks to the volunteers and supporters who give time and resources to ensure that SC's wildlife gets a helping hand when it's needed most!



Let's Finally Welcome Spring!

## CWC WILDLIFE BABY SHOWER & OPEN HOUSE



Saturday, April 2nd  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, April 3rd  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Join us for this annual tradition that celebrates the arrival of spring babies and helps CWC stock up for the busy nesting season.



**Wildlife ~ Education Programs ~ Crafts ~ Behind-the-Scenes Peek Into A Wildlife Hospital**

Admission is an in-kind baby shower gift from the CWC wish list or other generous donation

[www.carolinawildlife.org](http://www.carolinawildlife.org)



Joanna Weitzel  
Executive Director

## From the Executive Director

The common theme spoken by so many during the last several weeks is "I've had enough." It's was an especially hard winter for many around the country. And while a lot of us dodged Mother Nature's punch and retreated to the warmth of our homes, our wild neighbors had little choice but to grin and bear it. Most animals fared pretty well. But some, like inexperienced herons and raptors, struggled with the adverse conditions and landed in the hands of rehabilitators throughout the area.

Winter and cooler temperatures usually bring a much-needed time of normalcy and rest to the animal care providers at CWC. Months working in a fast-paced, overflowing wildlife center can take its toll on even the most devoted care givers, so the break is not only well-deserved, but most welcomed.

With fewer animals in care during the winter offseason, our work focuses on administrative tasks, projects and event planning that time or space doesn't allow for during the busy nesting season. The slight lull in activity, allows for a mental and physical break, preparing us once again for the steady stream of sick, injured and orphaned animals certain to arrive with the changing of seasons.

But after the last few months of unbearable weather and indoor projects, it seems as if both people and wildlife alike are getting cabin fever and growing anxious for spring. Thankfully, the ground hog appears to have gotten it right in forecasting an early season. The morning melodies of returning songbirds and the evening chorus of emerging frogs and toads is music to my ears!

Spring brings a sense of renewal, and I can't think of a better place to exemplify that than Carolina Wildlife Care. Much is in the works the next few months, including our annual baby shower, a brand new tennis tournament, a full calendar of educational events, and our fabulous black tie gala! Of course, we can't leave out the imminent arrival of spring babies nurtured by CWC's caring staff and volunteers.

I hope that you will join us in celebrating spring's arrival with Carolina Wildlife Care!

Warm wishes,

P.S. And don't forget us when doing your spring cleaning, as we can always use towels, sheets and blankets!

## 2011 Board of Directors

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Animal Care  
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## Mark Your Calendars for the 3rd Annual Black Tie & Tails Gala!

This year's gala takes guests on an amazing journey to celebrate the "Spirit of the Wild" amid the spectacular views of the Columbia skyline.\*

Dine on fabulous food provided by **Blue Marlin Signature Catering**, enjoy specialty cocktails and a martini bar, and dance the night away to the incredible sounds of the **Root Doctors!**

A silent auction featuring unique treasures, exciting travel, and one-of-a kind experiences complete the night. Black Tie & Tails is an unforgettable evening of dining, dancing, and a true celebration of the wild!

**Tickets are \$100 per guest or \$175 per couple.** Tickets are available online at [www.carolinawildlife.org](http://www.carolinawildlife.org), by calling 803-772-3994, or Carolina Wildlife Care.

\*Proceeds for the gala benefit injured and orphaned wildlife at Carolina Wildlife Care.



Ladies, play tennis to help wildlife!

**Peace, Love & Wildlife  
Tennis Tournament**  
Topspin Racquet & Swim Club  
Lexington, SC  
**Saturday, April 9th, 2011**

**8:00 am - 9:00 pm**  
Mimosas and check in  
**9:00 am -12:00 pm**  
Tennis, tennis & tennis  
**12:00 pm -1:30 pm**  
Lunch & silent auction

For those ladies new to tennis, limited spaces are available to get personal instruction in clinics with the pros!

Registration is **\$50 per person**, which includes tennis, t-shirt, mimosas & lunch. Registration forms and more information can be found at [www.carolinawildlife.org](http://www.carolinawildlife.org) or the wildlife center.

For questions, contact Patty Foy at 803-960-5800 or Celeste Springer at 803-429-2071 .

**Coffee Is For the Birds, Literally!**

Many songbird populations are facing declines at an alarming rate, including frequent backyard visitors like Warblers, Catbirds, Tanagers, Thrushes, Orioles, Nuthatches, Hummingbirds, and Cuckoos. Can buying shade-grown coffee verses sun-grown coffee really make a difference in the survival of such neo-tropical migratory songbirds? You bet it can!

Up until only a few decades ago, most coffee was what we now refer to as “shade-grown”, coffee grown in shaded conditions on farms between Central and South America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Hawaii and parts of Asia and Africa. New full-sun varieties of coffee were developed, allowing farmers to produce larger yields to satisfy our growing thirst for coffee. Meeting this demand, however, has come at expense to the environment and the populations of neo-tropical migratory birds that it sustains.

Shade coffee farms provide ideal bird habitat, comparable only to the rich ecosystem of a rainforest, as most are organic and sustainable. A variety of plants, insects and wildlife have long made such shade grown farms their home. But with the emergence of sun-grown farms, shade-grown coffee farms have disappeared along with the songbirds using them as a winter refuge.

Studies have shown that hundreds of bird species can be found living within the canopies of shade coffee farms with only a handful of species discovered on treeless sun-grown farms. By supporting shade-grown farmers, you offer a promising alternative for songbird habitat and can sip your morning coffee knowing you’re making a true difference in their survival!



Organic, truly “bird friendly” coffee certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Ensures shade-grown coffee preventing habitat destruction for migratory birds.



Grown without pesticides/ fertilizers using environmentally friendly solutions. When certified organic, meets standards defined by the USDA. Coffee mostly shade-grown.



Economic, social and environmental criteria met in production and trade of product. Empowers farmers to invest in farms and communities, protect the environment, and develop skills to compete globally.



Grown on farms with protected forests protected, rivers, soils and wildlife, but not always shade-grown. Workers treated with respect. Farms on path to true sustainability.

**Carolina Wildlife Care Wild Wonders Programs**



Invite a Carolina Wildlife Care educator to your school, library or organization for a closer look at the natural world! Wild Wonders outreach programs address the importance of conservation, encourage respect towards wildlife and bring attention to how everyday decisions impact the environment and all that inhabits it.

Programs are designed to make the most of the Wild Wonders experience using wild animal encounters with CWC’s live wildlife ambassadors, including snakes, turtles, raptors, birds, opossums or other wild animals. Programs may further incorporate stories, games, artifacts and other interactive experiences designed to excite children to the wonders of the wild!

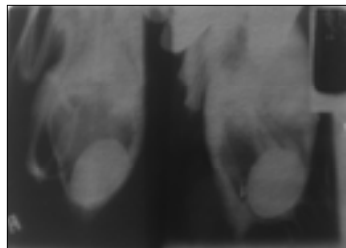
For a complete list of programs or to reserve a program for your group, visit [www.carolinawildlife.org/education.htm](http://www.carolinawildlife.org/education.htm)

## Hear Their Stories



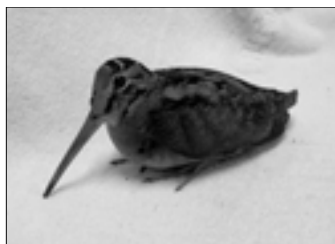
A female duck was admitted in mid-January unstable and lethargic. X-rays revealed the duck's underlying problem, a condition known as egg binding.

Egg-binding occurs when an egg becomes stuck and the duck is not able to push it out. The impassable egg will cause the duck to become very ill and eventually die, if not removed.



Thanks to **Dr. John Marlow**, the egg was surgically removed. After a round of antibiotics and a couple of weeks recovery time, the duck was well enough to be reunited with her friends!

A strange bird was found in the shrubbery at Carolina Coliseum, weak and non-flighted. The bird was identified as an American woodcock and an exam revealed the bird to be very thin with serious trauma to one eye.



The first few days were tough and go for the woodcock. It was started on a critical care diet and medicines to treat the injured eye, but whether vision remained

in the eye was an uncertainty. As days passed, the woodcock grew stronger and began to self-feed. It has since moved to a larger cage for exercise and seems on its way to recovery.



A male opossum was found lying in a yard, too weak and injured to move. Thanks to volunteers, **Avis Reinhart** and **Theresa Bartley**, he arrived at CWC. Very ill and close to death, the opossum had a nasty respiratory infection and a debilitating leg injury. He continues to receive medical care in hopes of his eventual recovery, but nerve damage in the leg may leave him non-releasable.

### Did you know

that the American Woodcock is actually a shorebird that lives in forests?

It has a highly sensitive beak that can detect earthworm movement below the soil and typically eats its body weight in worms every day.

Some of the other names a woodcock might be called include a timberdoodle, mudsnipe, and bogsucker.

## News and Events

### Columbia Scout Soars Like An Eagle for CWC

Charlie Queen of Boy Scout Troop 737 at Pontiac Baptist Church completed his service project at CWC for the highest rank of a boy scout, that of Eagle Scout. Two enclosures at the wildlife center were missing a double door entries, a modification that often prevents accidental escape of an animal.

Charlie took on the task of designing new entries for both existing cages. He raised funds



Charlie Queen directs other scouts and volunteers in the construction of new doors

and community donations to secure building materials for the project. With the help of fellow Scouts, family and friends, construction of the new double door entries became reality. The animals in those cages now live safer, thanks to Charlie who put the Boy Scout slogan "do a good turn daily" into action!

### CWC Introduces Bat Program As White-Nose Syndrome Discovered in NC

CWC has introduced a new bat program aimed at adults that dispels many of the misperceptions about bats and educates the public about their plight. Helping people understand the unique benefits that bats bring to an ecosystem is a first step in saving these animals from extinction.

White-Nose Syndrome, a disease killing over a million bats so far in the Eastern US was confirmed in NC in January, bringing the

threat closer to SC's bats. Never has there been such a threat, resulting in total population loss, to N. American wildlife. To learn more about reserving this program, contact Joanna Weitzel at CWC.



Big brown bats are among the bat species WNS is devastating

### New Phone System In the Works for CWC

Thanks to a grant from the **Mary Seibert Community Trust**, CWC will have a new IVR phone system in place just in time for spring. The system will facilitate a faster response and better address incoming calls and questions. Stay tuned!

Carolina Wildlife Care presents

# KIDS DAY



*The Wildest Spring Break Activity Around!*



Wednesday, April 20th 11:00 am—1:00 pm  
at Wingard's Nursery & Garden Center

1403 North Lake Drive, Lexington ■ 803-359-9091 ■ [www.wingardsnursery.com](http://www.wingardsnursery.com)



Learn really cool facts about wildlife!  
Design your very own birdhouse and plant a Better Boy tomato plant!  
Enter the Tomatomania contest to win cash prizes!  
Paint a wall mural with Karen Petta from The Studio!  
Visit different animal stations to see birds, mammals and reptiles up-close!  
Enjoy hot dogs, chips, drinks and MORE SURPRISES!  
Cost is \$5 per child (parents are free)  
Call or email ([wingardsnursery@windstream.net](mailto:wingardsnursery@windstream.net)) for reservations. Space is limited.

**Is your child wild about wildlife? Passionate about opossums? Totally taken with turtles?  
Camp WILD Things is the place for them! Registration begins April 1st.**



Camp is an exploration of the wonders of the wild and the creeping, crawling and flying creatures that call it home. Campers meet some of the amazing animals in our care, and make a few new friends that love nature just like they do. Camp WILD Things includes...

- Amazing wildlife encounters
- Exciting "hands-on" activities
- Creative games and crafts
- Behind-the-scenes look at wildlife clinic
- Small camp sizes make the most of your child's experience!

Carolina Wildlife Care offers (2) different camps each summer to provide a new experience for returning students. **Each week of camp is limited to an enrollment of 12 campers.** For more information or registration forms, visit <http://www.carolinawildlife.org/2011CampWildThings.htm>.



## CAROLINA WILDLIFE CARE

555 I Bush River Road  
Columbia, S.C. 29212  
803-772-3994  
[www.carolinawildlife.org](http://www.carolinawildlife.org)

Carolina Wildlife Care is a 501(c)(3) non-profit wildlife center establishing harmony between humans and wildlife.

### Wildlife Center Hours

9:00 am—6:00 pm/7 days a week  
Except Thanksgiving and Christmas



*Mark Your Calendars for Black Tie & Tails May 7th,*

“Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action” ~ Benjamin Disraeli

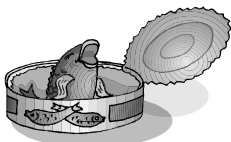
## Wish List Highlights

### Immediate Needs

Canned Vegetables/Fruits  
Canned Pasta  
Purina Indoor Cat Chow  
Tuna Fish  
Pedialyte  
Paper Towels  
FREE Laundry Detergent  
Fresh Produce

### Special Needs

HP 60 Ink Cartridges  
Libman Brooms  
Industrial Can Opener  
Pet Smart Gift Cards  
Acorns & Pecans  
Feather dusters (new)



## CWC Volunteers NEEDED

*Can you give the wildlife center 3 hours a week 12 times? That's all we're asking to save lives.*

Today, as our wildlife hospital serves almost 3,500 patients a year, the need for dedicated volunteers has never been greater. CWC volunteers provide helping hands that make a true difference in the number of wild lives that can be saved. Please visit the CWC Volunteer page at [www.carolinawildlife.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.carolinawildlife.org/volunteer.htm) to learn more about how you can help.

**\*\*TRANSPORTERS TO/FROM GREENVILLE & TO/FROM CHARLOTTE ARE NEEDED! PLEASE CALL 803-772-3994 TO HELP\*\***