



## CONTACTS:

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- **Vice President**  
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  - Carla Johnson
  - Gail Dawson

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*Wildlife Rehab Inc. of Winston Salem is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and care of wildlife.*

## Sponsor a Bird

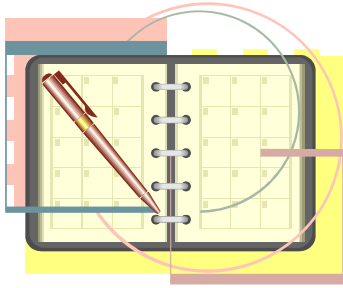
A teacher at Old Richmond Elementary divided the students in her class into several groups. Each group researched one of our education birds. They then presented their findings to the entire school asking all of them to vote on their favorite. Money was collected from the students to sponsor the winning education bird. They raised more than \$500 and voted to sponsor Tears, our peregrine falcon. In return for all their hard work, WRI did a program at the school and took photos of the class with Tears to place in their classroom.

Tears came to us from Hanging Rock State Park. He was found the day after the battle between two males during breeding season three years ago. He has a luxated wrist joint (similar to dislocated) that could not be fixed and is now frozen in position. He cannot retract the wing, which means he can glide down from a perch but not fly up.

*Jean Chamberlain with Tears and the group of students who championed to sponsor him.*



For more information on sponsoring one of our Education Animals please call our hotline (336) 785-0912.



*Please call Gail Dawson  
if you're interested in  
helping with any of  
these events!*

### **WRI Classes**

The next WRI classes begin Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Call Forsyth Technical Community College to register. Cost is \$50 for the 11-week course.

## Calendar of Events

Here is the list of upcoming events that WRI plans to attend. We can always use additional volunteers to help man the booths, answer questions, sell merchandise and talk to people about what we do. If you can help us out with any of these events or would like to be contacted for other future events, please contact Gail Dawson our Events Coordinator (336) 946-2981.

### **JULY**

7<sup>th</sup> – Hanging Rock Campground (7pm – 8pm)

9<sup>th</sup> – Kritter Camp (9am-10am)

15<sup>th</sup> – Pilot Mtn (1pm – 4pm)

16<sup>th</sup> – Kritter Camp (9am – 10am)

20<sup>th</sup> – Winston Salem Children's Museum (7pm)

23<sup>rd</sup> – Kritter Camp (1pm – 4pm)

28<sup>th</sup> – High Point City Lake Park (1:30pm)

29<sup>th</sup> – Hanging Rock lakeside (1pm – 4pm)

31<sup>st</sup> – Big Brothers-Big Sisters (1pm)

### **SEPTEMBER**

16<sup>th</sup> – Pilot Mtn (1pm – 4pm)

22<sup>nd</sup> – Bethabara's Apple Festival

### **OCTOBER**

6<sup>th</sup> – Pilot Mtn (11am – 2pm)

## WRI Annual Yard Sale



It's time to go through your attic, basement, closet, storage shed and anywhere else you store that old stuff that you don't need anymore and donate it to a good cause. WRI is planning it's second yard sale this year, scheduled to take place **Saturday, August 25**. WRI's first annual yard sale raised about \$200 for the organization.

All you need to do is call our hotline 785-0912, leave a message and someone will call you back to make arrangements to get the items into our donated storage shed.

## Teenage Intern Program

There is a new teenage wildlife educator intern program being offered thru Wildlife Rehab, Inc. Are you a teenager who loves wildlife and who would like to learn to teach others about native NC wildlife and the environmental factors that are affecting these animals? WRI is starting up a brand new program where teenagers ages 13-18 are offered the chance to learn all about the natural history, proper husbandry techniques

and the presentation of some of WRI's education animals. If you are a teenager who is willing to learn all about these animals, including how to properly clean and disinfect their cages, feed them and handle them, then WRI wants you in our new program. After learning the natural history, students will be taught the proper cleaning techniques for each animal and then students will be shown how to present different animals in public programs. If

the student shows that they are truly interested in our education animals and their care, the student will then be taught how to properly handle some of the education animals and will be allowed to travel with WRI's education team to present environmental education programs.

If you are interested please call Carla Johnson at 336-765-0858.



*Proper technique for holding an eastern cottontail*

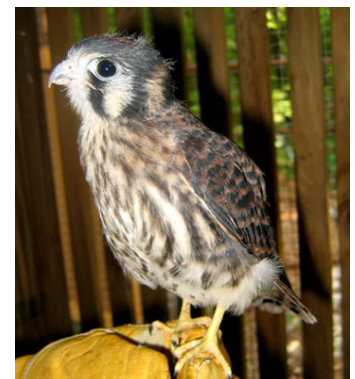
## "Kira" the Kestrel

As soon as the USF&W approves our permit application and some training is completed, WRI will have a new education bird, "Kira" the Kestrel. Kira came in to rehab with an acutely infected right eye. This was the result of something hitting the eye. Antibiotics have resolved the infection, but she is now blind in that eye, therefore unreleasable.

Kira is a female

American Kestrel (*Falco Spavierius*). Kestrels are the smallest and most common North American falcon. Unlike most raptors, males and females have different coloration. Males have bluish-grey upper wings while females have rufous upper wings. Kestrels have the ability to hover in midair. During the summer, their main diet is crickets and grasshoppers. In

addition to insects, they eat rodents, small mammals and occasionally small birds. When full grown, a female American Kestrel will be approximately 9"-11" long, have a wingspan of 21"-24" and weigh between 100g and 150g.



*Wildlife Rehabs Inc.'s  
Newest Education Bird,  
Kira the Kestrel*

## What effects do domestic cats have on wildlife?



*“The two most common causes of death for rural cats are disease and being struck by automobiles.”*

### **NC LEASH LAWS:**

Most counties within the state of NC have leash laws that require you to restrain your animal (dog or cat) on your property. The fees and penalties vary from county to county but could be excessive. Cost depending factors are: Has your pet been spayed or neutered; micro-chipped; have you paid the appropriate county pet taxes; and last but not least is your pet rabies vaccinations current.

Although rural free-ranging cats have greater access to wild animals and undoubtedly take the greatest toll, even urban house pets take live prey when allowed outside.

Extensive studies of the feeding habits of free-ranging domestic cats over 50 years and four continents indicate that small mammals make up approximately 70% of these cats' prey while birds make up about 20%. The remaining 10% is a variety of other animals.

Observation of free-ranging domestic cats shows that some individuals can kill over 1000 wild animals per year, although smaller numbers are more typical. Some of the data on kills suggest that free-ranging cats living in small towns kill an average of 14 wild animals each per year. Rural cats kill many more wild animals than do urban, or suburban cats. Nationwide, rural cats probably kill over a billion small mammals and hundreds of millions of birds each year.

Urban and suburban cats add to this toll. Some of these kills are house mice, rats and other species considered pests, but many are native songbirds and mammals whose populations are already stressed by other factors, such as habitat destruction and pesticide pollution.

Cats are known to have serious impacts on small mammals and birds. Worldwide, cats may have been involved in the extinction of more bird species than any other cause, except habitat destruction. Cats are contributing to the endangerment of populations of birds such as Least Terns, Piping Plovers and Loggerhead Shrikes.

Not only do cats prey on many small mammals and birds, but they can outnumber and compete with native predators. Domestic cats eat many of the same animals that native predators do. When present in large numbers, cats can reduce the availability of prey for native

predators, such as hawks and weasels.

Free-ranging domestic cats may also transmit new diseases to wild animals. Domestic cats have spread feline leukemia virus to mountain lions and may have recently infected the endangered Florida Panther with feline panleukopenia (feline distemper) and an immune deficiency disease. These diseases may pose a serious threat to this rare species. Some free-ranging domestic cats also carry several diseases that are easily transmitted to humans, including rabies and toxoplasmosis.

Although cats make affectionate pets, many domestic cats hunt as effectively as wild predators. However, they differ from wild predators in three important ways: First, people protect cats from disease, predation and competition, factors that can control numbers of wild predators, such as bobcats, foxes, or coyotes.

## Cont... What effects do domestic cats have on wildlife?

Second, they often have a dependable supply of supplemental food provided by humans and are, therefore, not influenced by changes in populations of prey. Whereas populations of native predators will decline when prey becomes scarce, cats receiving food subsidies from people remain abundant and continue to hunt even rare species. Third, unlike many native predators, cat densities are either poorly limited or not limited by territoriality. These three factors allow domestic cats to exist at much higher densities than native predators. Unlike some predators, a cat's desire to hunt is not suppressed by adequate supplemental food. Even when fed regularly by people, a cat's motivation to hunt remains strong, so it continues hunting.

### In summary

Free-ranging cats are abundant and widespread predators. They often exist at much higher densities than native predators.

They prey on large numbers of wild animals, some of which are rare or endangered. They compete with native predators, and they harbor a variety of diseases. Yet, cats are popular pets. In order to have and care for our pets--and still protect our native wildlife--we must make an effort to limit in a humane manner the adverse effects free-ranging cats can have on wildlife.

### What you can do?

Keep only as many pet cats as you can feed and care for. Controlling reproduction will keep cat populations from growing beyond the size that can be adequately cared for. On farms, keep only the minimum number of free-ranging cats needed to control rodents. Well-fed, neutered females will stay closest to farm buildings and do most of their killing where rodent control is needed most. Traps, as well as rodent-proof storage and construction, will usually contribute more to effective

rodent control than cats.

If at all possible, for the sake of your cat and local wildlife, keep your cat indoors. Confinement will eliminate unwanted reproduction, predation on wild animals, and the spread of disease. Bells are mostly ineffective in preventing predation because, even if the bell rings, it's usually too late for the prey being stalked. Declawing may reduce hunting success, but many declawed cats are still effective predators. Keeping your cats indoors helps protect the wildlife around your yard and prevents your cat from picking up diseases from strays or getting injured. The two most common causes of death for rural cats are disease and being struck by automobiles.




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*"Studies show that free-ranging domestic cats can kill over 1000 wild animals per year."*



*This article was re-printed with permission from ThePetCenter.com. Original article can be viewed in its entirety at:*

*<http://www.thepetcenter.com/imtop/speaker3.html>*

WILDLIFE  
REHAB  
INC



## Wildlife Rehab Inc.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[WWW.WILDLIFEREHABINC.ORG](http://WWW.WILDLIFEREHABINC.ORG)

## 2007 On – Call Counts

January  
36 Calls  
11 Taken In

February  
45 Calls  
8 Taken In

March  
82 Calls  
33 Taken In

April  
167 Calls  
71 Taken In

May  
166 Calls  
47 Taken In

June/July  
Counts still  
coming in

WRI would like to thank Andrew Cox for providing us with these counts.

Rehabbers, remember to call or email your on call counts into Andrew Cox.

[acox100@yahoo.com](mailto:acox100@yahoo.com)

Phone: 336-692-3344

### *About Our Organization...*

Wildlife Rehab, Inc. is a nonprofit organization located in the Winston-Salem, NC area and dedicated to the preservation and care of wildlife. Established in 1985 to address the concerns of orphaned and injured wildlife, WRI has grown into an organization of well trained and dedicated volunteers. In addition to rehabilitating wildlife, we

offer a series of public educational programs to public libraries, churches, schools, scout groups and State Parks.

Wildlife conservation remains a major concern in today's society. With more and more natural areas depleted, wildlife must adapt to an ever changing society and environment. WRI's personal mission statement

is: "Public education and commitment to the preservation of wildlife."

The Rehabbers in our group feed and care for these animals in their own homes and many pay for the food and medicine these animals require out of their own pockets.

Donations from you....

*Help Us ... Help Them!!*