

The Wild Life

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF COLORADO

APRIL 2006



INSIDE...

**A Note from
CCWR President** p. 1

**Avian Flu and
Wild Birds,** p. 2

**Member
Spotlight,** p. 4

**Division of
Wildlife
Q & A,** p. 5

**CCWR
Committees** p. 6

**Strategies to
Reduce Incoming
Wildlife** p. 6

**2006-2007
Membership
Application** p. 6

And More!

**It's time
to renew your
membership!
Fill out the
renewal form
on p. 6
and mail it
today!**

A Note From the President

Dear Friend of Wildlife,

Welcome to this first edition of *The Wild Life* — a newsletter of the Colorado Council for Wildlife Rehabilitation. In February 2006, CCWR saw many changes. First of all, we bid a fond goodbye to our founding Board members — Sigrid Noll Ueblacker and Trish Phillips. We promise to work hard and strive for excellence in pursuing their vision. From a personal perspective, taking over from Sigrid as President of the Board of Directors, presents a challenge. No one can really fill Sigrid's shoes — she was an excellent leader and mentor.

Secondly, we have a number of new faces on the Board. We welcome Beth Bridges, Erin Grabowski and Raegan Morgan. Change is good — new ideas, fresh perspectives, new skills and talents all to the benefit of our common cause — the wildlife in Colorado.

As a new Board of Directors, one of our first tasks was to review the goals of this organization. Established by our founders back in 1991 we wanted to see if, after fifteen years, our goals were still applicable. The verdict was unanimous! Our goals hold true and we are determined to use them as our guiding principles: improvement of wildlife rehabilitation knowledge, skills and techniques; establishing a communication network amongst wildlife rehabilitators; educating the Public about the needs of wildlife and promoting cooperation and professionalism amongst the wildlife rehabilitation community.

To achieve all of the above we need YOUR help, advice, ideas, feedback and most importantly, your active participation and

involvement with CCWR. To this end, we will be embarking on a major outreach campaign — some of which has already started with informational e-mail alerts on news pertinent to the rehab community. We will also be sending out a survey to all licensed wildlife rehabilitators and current CCWR members asking for input on advanced training needs, development of business skills, issues of concern such as capacity management and more.

We really do want to hear what YOU have to say. This truly is a genuine call for your input and guidance — please do take this opportunity for your voice to be heard. The job of wildlife rehabilitation is tremendous in every respect. CCWR exists to serve the wildlife rehabilitation community — please help us to serve you in a meaningful fashion by telling us what you need.

Besides the upcoming survey, you can send us your comments by e-mail to ccwr_4_members@msn.com. Alternatively, please feel free to contact me, Deirdre Butler, directly via deirdre@cogico.com or 303-823-8649.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Deirdre Butler
President, CCWR



Deirdre Butler



**Colorado Council for
Wildlife Rehabilitation
Board of Directors**

Chairman of the Board

Jack Murphy
Jack@urbanwildliferescue.org

President

Deirdre Butler
(303) 823-8649
Deirdre@cogico.com

Vice President

Ellen Salem
ellensalem@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Diana Miller
dmiller@gncp.org

Outreach Chairperson

(Membership & Newsletter Editor)
Raegan Morgan
CCWR_4_Members@msn.com

Directors

Beth Bridges
Heidi Bucknam
Erin Grabowski
Lisa Oakleaf
Kris Wagner

© 2006 CCWR.
All rights reserved.
Articles may not be reprinted
without permission.

Avian Influenza, (Maybe) Coming To a Bird Near You

Wildlife and health officials alike predict the Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1) will reach the U.S. in the near future. What does this mean for rehabilitators? The jury is still out, but here are some common questions —and answers — about avian flu viruses.* According to John Pape, epidemiologist with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, "...this information is changing daily, particularly in regards to the distribution of the virus. Since this information was last updated, the virus has spread throughout Europe and has been found in Africa. As basic information, this is good, but please understand this information is rapidly changing."

What are Avian Influenza Viruses (AIV)?

AIV are Type A Influenza viruses that are associated with avian species. They have been isolated from more than 100 species of free-living birds worldwide. Classification of these viruses is based on their hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) subtypes. There are currently 16 H and 9 N recognized subtypes, and all of these subtypes are represented in viruses isolated from wild birds. Wild birds represent the historic source for Type A flu viruses affecting both domestic birds and mammalian species. The host adaptation that occurs after the movement of these viruses from wild birds to domestic animals to humans often results in the evolution of "new" viruses, which can become adapted to the new host population. These "new" viruses, which include human Type A flu viruses, differ from the origi-

nal viruses detected in wild birds and are no longer associated with wild avian populations. The movement and adaptation of Type A flu viruses from wild birds to new host species is not a common event.

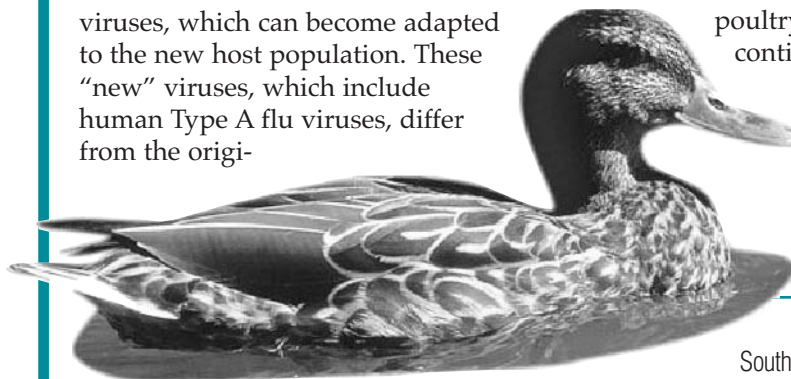
What is a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Virus?

HPAI viruses are flu viruses that cause high mortality in domestic poultry. These are associated with the H5 and H7 subtypes. Not all H5 and H7 subtypes are highly pathogenic. In fact, there are H5N1 subtypes that are not highly pathogenic.

What is "bird flu" and what is "HPAI H5N1"?

"Bird flu" is a non-scientific term that was coined to describe the HPAI H5N1 viruses that have been present in Asia since 1997. This term has caused a great deal of confusion because it is often used as a synonym for avian Influenza. HPAI H5N1 is a highly pathogenic H5N1 virus that has persisted in Asia since at least 1997 and is established in domestic poultry populations there. Since 1997, there have been over 100 human cases reported with approximately 60 fatalities. All human cases have occurred in Asia, and almost all of these cases have been linked to direct contact with infected poultry. Wild bird mortality has continued through 2005, and the current distribution suggests movement of this virus via migratory birds.

Continued on p. 3



*Excerpts taken from the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia.

Avian flu, continued...

What do we know about Avian Influenza Viruses in wild birds?

Our knowledge regarding the epidemiology of avian Influenza in wild birds is extensive but not complete. Most AIVs have been isolated from birds that are associated with water, with most isolations originating from species in the Anseriformes (ducks, geese and swans) and Charadriiformes (gulls, terns and shorebirds). In ducks, the prevalence of AIV peaks in the late summer and early fall. Outside of this period, infection rates often are lower than 1%. In gulls and shorebirds, peak infection rates are associated with spring migration, but these rates differ greatly between species and are generally low. These temporal patterns result in consistent spatial patterns. For example, avian flu viruses can be isolated from ducks on wintering grounds but the prevalence of infection is very low. In North America, viruses representing the H5 and H7 subtypes are present but these are not HPAI viruses and they are not common. *None of these naturally occurring North American AIVs from wild birds have been associated with mortality or morbidity in any wild bird species.*

Is HPAI H5N1 present in North America?

Thousands of Influenza isolates have been made from ducks and other birds in North America during the last 40 years. Despite this ongoing surveillance, there is no indication that any HPAI viruses exist in North American wild bird populations at this time.

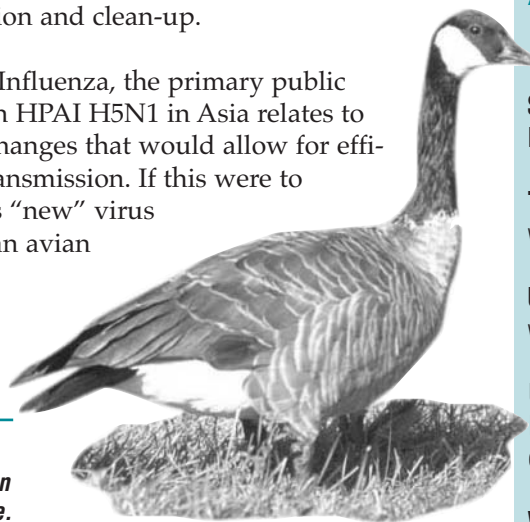
Is there currently a public health risk associated with HPAI H5N1 in wild birds?

Human cases in Asia have occurred in connection with extensive infections in domestic poultry. There has never been a single documented case of avian Influenza virus transmission directly from wild birds to humans. Basic hygiene is always recommended when handling any wild animals or carcasses. Practices should include hand washing, proper food preparation and clean-up.

With regard to pandemic Influenza, the primary public health risk associated with HPAI H5N1 in Asia relates to the potential for genetic changes that would allow for efficient human-to-human transmission. If this were to occur, transmission of this "new" virus would no longer require an avian source.

Will HPAI H5N1 enter North America via

There is no indication that any HPAI viruses exist in N. American wild bird populations at this time.



migratory wild birds?

Some migratory bird species move between North America, Asia and Europe, however, genetic studies of avian flu viruses suggest that there is a very limited exchange of AIVs between continents, even with common flu viruses. It is not possible to discount the possibility of an HPAI H5N1 introduction, but such an event based on the known epidemiology of other avian influenza viruses would likely be a very low probability event.



Though rare, infected raptors have been found outside of the U.S.

What is the possibility of this virus being maintained in wild bird populations?

There is limited information on which to evaluate this possibility. Experimental studies have demonstrated bird-to-bird transmission of HPAI H5N1 in mallards, but these studies were completed under confinement conditions that are not representative of natural conditions. Studies have consistently demonstrated higher respiratory rather than cloacal shedding of the virus. In wild birds, low pathology avian flu viruses generally are associated with cloacal shedding, and transmission occurs via a fecal/oral route through contaminated water. It is not clear if the extent of fecal shedding with HPAI H5N1 is consistent with the naturally occurring AIVs that are maintained in wild bird populations. While it is known that other AIVs can persist for extended periods of time in water, information on environmental persistence of HPAI H5N1 in water is lacking. It is unclear if wild birds can be infected with this virus and remain healthy. ❖

Additional information can be found on these websites:

Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study
<http://www.uga.edu/scwds/avianinfluenzainformation.html>

The Centers for Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/flu/avian

USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services
www.aphis.usda.gov (search "avian influenza")

USGS National Wildlife Health Center
http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/index.jsp

World Health Organization www.who.int

JACK AND PENNY MURPHY entered the world of wildlife rehabilitation in 1989 after visiting a rehab facility that was being run by a woman they had met. Previous to that, the Murphys had been involved with prairie dog relocations, and for over a decade had been active in animal and environmental issues, more from a political and policy standpoint than from a hands-on approach.

Member Spotlight

Urban Wildlife Rescue, Inc.

Wildlife rehabilitation soon became a lifestyle for the Murphys and they quickly realized that rehabilitation can be hard financially. In November 1991, Urban Wildlife Rescue Inc. was established as a 501c3

non-profit corporation. UWR has been licensed by the CDOW ever since for the rehabilitation of small mammals, including bats and spotted and hog-nosed skunks. Up until about 2002, UWR would treat between 200 and 300 animals per year. But due to Penny's severe health problems, UWR has had to drastically reduce the number of patients. So UWR has taken a serious turn into the world of pro-active wildlife rehabilitation.

Soon after UWR was incorporated, Jack and Penny began to realize that not all the calls received were regarding orphaned or injured wildlife. People were calling and complaining about animals in chimneys, roofs, under porches or just in the neighborhood. The Murphys began doing a lot of research to find ways to help people deal with nuisance wildlife issues, hence protecting the animals from being trapped and killed or relocated. This information was eventually compiled into a pamphlet entitled "Humane Solutions to Wildlife Problems." This information is available on the UWR website and has been and still is used by city, state and federal agencies—not only in Colorado but nationwide—and, thanks to the internet, now worldwide.

Jack tries to solve as many problems over the phone as possible. But for when he can't, he has developed his own methods of eviction, exclusion and animal-proofing that



Jack's 1-way squirrel excluder— they can leave but cannot return!

have proven to be very effective, more biologically sound and definitely more humane than trapping. UWR has kept a phone log since 1991.

Using the phone logs for data, UWR has helped 10,000 to 15,000 animals per year using the methods that are now being called pro-active wildlife rehabilitation.



This 1-way door fits under a deck to let raccoons, skunks or cats out and can easily be made on the spot.

Jack has lectured in Colorado and around the country regarding his methods and philosophies. Visit UWR's website www.urbanwildliferescue.org for more information about the organization.

Jack is currently looking for an employee/apprentice to help (see details below) with this work that keeps increasing every year, plus he's just getting too darn old to keep climbing on roofs and squeezing into attics and crawl spaces every day! ❖

Is there a CCWR member you'd like to see spotlighted? Please send your nomination to CCWR_4_Members@msn.com.

HELP WANTED AT UWR, INC.

- Do you have a deep love for wildlife?
- Do you like working hard and getting dirty and dusty?
- Do you have a truck?
- Do you have some basic tools like a cordless drill and sheet-metal cutters?
- Do you have a working knowledge of how a house is built?
- Are you highly ethical with a tendency to err on the side of the customer?
- Do you want to do the best job possible at the lowest cost?

If your answer to all of the above is a resounding "YES" then contact Jack at (303) 340-4911 or

Jack@urbanwildliferescue.org

to arrange a "Ride Along" for a day to check out the business and see if you like it! Pay is negotiable.





Questions & Answers

With the Colorado Division of Wildlife

Q: Can volunteers for Rehabilitation facilities take wildlife to their own home to care for it?

A: Volunteers cannot take wildlife home, not even for overnight care. Here are the applicable regs from the Wildlife Commission Regulations, Chapter 14 1401-A-5. Pay special attention to the facilities requirements.

If such assistance is needed, volunteers are encouraged to get a provisional wildlife rehabilitator license under the supervision of a licensed rehabilitator (these regs are also found below).

Chapter 14, Wildlife Rehabilitation

ARTICLE II - POSSESSION AND REHABILITATION OF SICK, INJURED, OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE #1401 - LICENSE TYPES AND REQUIREMENTS

A. The Colorado Division of Wildlife may issue an annual Wildlife Rehabilitator License or annual Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitator License to any individual for the purpose of rehabilitating wildlife that is or appears to be sick, injured, or imprinted on humans; or that has been orphaned; or that has been otherwise approved by the Division. Only wildlife listed on the license may be rehabilitated, and all rehabilitation authorized by the license is for the primary purpose of returning the wildlife to the wild. The license is a renewable annual license which expires on January 31, annually.

1. TYPES OF LICENSES

a. Wildlife Rehabilitator

1) Authorizes licensee to receive, rehabilitate, transfer, and release all wildlife listed on the license under the conditions specified on the license.

b. Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitator

1) Authorizes licensee to receive, rehabilitate, transfer, and release all wildlife listed on the license under the conditions specified on the license.

2) Must be sponsored by a Wildlife Rehabilitator(s) licensed for the same wildlife.

3) Must consult with sponsor immediately after receiving any wildlife. If sponsor is not available, a licensed Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitator must consult with a licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, DVM, or the Division within 24 hours.

4) Must immediately return any wildlife to the sponsor upon request.

2. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to the issuance of any license, the Division shall determine that the applicant has met the following requirements:

- a. Certification that the applicant is at least 18 years of age.
- b. Submission of a completed written application form provided by the Division.
- c. Submission of a letter from a DVM agreeing to examine and treat

injured wildlife. The Division will not be responsible for reimbursing the DVM for services rendered.

d. Effective February 1, 1997, completion of a basic wildlife rehabilitation curriculum approved by the Division which includes basic animal care concepts, zoonotic disease information, preferred euthanasia practices, wildlife rehabilitation law and ethics, and other general rehabilitation information; except that Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitators must complete the course prior to their second license renewal.

e. Submission of the applicant's USFWS special purpose rehabilitation permit where required, or a copy of the federal application. Federally regulated species cannot be authorized on any license until the USFWS permit has been received.

f. Certification by the applicant that the proposed possession and treatment of wildlife is not in violation of any city or county ordinance and submission of any required local permits.

g. Certification by the applicant that the proposed wildlife rehabilitation activities will be in compliance with Colorado Department of Health statutes 25-4-602 through 604 and Colorado Department of Health regulation 6CCR-1009-1 (regulation 7).

h. Certification by another licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator or a Division employee who has completed the basic wildlife rehabilitator course that the person possesses the necessary skills and abilities to be a licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator.

i. Possession of an on-site holding facility which meets the criteria established under regulation #1404. A Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitator may meet this requirement with facilities available from the sponsor.

j. Certification by the applicant that he/she has read and understands the "Zoonoses Information and Prevention" packet provided by the Division containing general zoonoses information and procedures to minimize potential exposure to such diseases.

k. Certification by the applicant that he/she has been provided with information by the Division of Wildlife about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

3. If at any time a Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitator loses sponsorship, all wildlife shall be transferred to the sponsor or other Wildlife Rehabilitator licensed for that wildlife as soon as possible but not to exceed 48 hours. If the licensee has not obtained a new sponsor within 30 days, the license shall expire. Anytime sponsorship is revoked, the sponsor shall notify the Division within 48 hours.

4. Upon receipt of an application, the Division will review the application and inspect the facilities.

Approval or disapproval will be based on compliance with the licensing and facilities criteria in this chapter. Written notification of the approval or disapproval (including reason for disapproval) will be made within 60 days of Division receipt of the application.

5. Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators may use unlicensed volunteers under their supervision, at their facilities, provided that they maintain current records including name, address, phone number, and dates worked for all volunteers. ❖



CCWR Committees & Reports

Get involved! CCWR has several committees that are looking for member assistance and input. Contact the committee chair listed to get started.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for collecting, reviewing, and writing information for *The Wild Life*, published quarterly. If you have writing and interviewing skills and would like to help, please contact Raegan Morgan, Outreach Chair, 970-532-1153 or e-mail ccwr_4_members@msn.com.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE (this is a biggie!)

Each year, CCWR sponsors a 2-day wildlife rehabilitation symposium. In order to have a professional and well-run symposium, we need member help. Contact Deirdre Butler, Symposium Chair, at (303) 823-8649 or e-mail: Deirdre@cogico.com.



This precious porcupine is being treated for head trauma by Peggy Wrabetz of Angels for Wildlife, Inc.

Please share your photos, stories, tips, and anecdotes! E-mail them to The Wild Life today!

Strategies to Reduce Incoming Wildlife

The spring and summer busy season will soon arrive for rehabilitators — along with heavy workloads! By reducing the number of incoming wild animals, rehabilitators can provide care for those that need it and leave the rest in the wild, and even reduce time, money, and work spent on rehab. Check out some tips in an article that was previously published by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association at http://www.ewildagain.org/pubs/strategies_to_reduce_incoming.htm

Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Sanctuary also offers advice at <http://www.greenwoodwildlife.org/solutions-for-wildlife-conflicts.htm>

Time to Renew Your Membership!

CCWR 2006-07 Membership Application/Renewal

(Memberships run from April 1 through March 31).

Check one: New Member \$10 Renewal \$10

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone (best place to reach you): _____

E-mail: _____

In an effort to save resources, e-mail is CCWR's primary method of communicating. We promise not to share your e-mail address outside the organization. Thank you.

Are you a licensed rehabilitator? Y N If Yes, how long? _____

Areas of expertise: _____

Other areas of interest: _____

- I would like to be nominated to the Board.
- I wish to help with the following sub-committee(s):
 - Newsletter Education/Seminars/Symposium
 - Grants/Awards Outreach
 - Nominating Video/Library Maintenance
- Other ways I can help: _____

Please send with check (payable to CCWR) to: CCWR Membership, c/o Raegan Morgan, 1913 Glenview Drive, Berthoud, CO 80513.

About *The Wild Life*

The Wild Life is a quarterly newsletter for members of CCWR and is published in April, July, October, and January. We encourage you to share this newsletter with volunteers, staff, and colleagues.

We strive to publish well-researched information that is up-to-date, interesting and helpful. However, information in *The Wild Life* is provided only as a service to our members and is not intended to be directive, nor applicable in all circumstances. Members are always advised to seek counsel from their veterinarian and DOW officials on matters applicable to their locale.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. To submit an article or other contribution for consideration, please e-mail it to: CCWR_4_Members@msn.com, or send it to Raegan Morgan, CCWR Outreach Chair, 1913 Glenview Drive, Berthoud, CO 80513. We hope you enjoy the publication.