



“...responsible stewardship of wildlife and habitat.”

Winter 2016/17

Dear Friends:

Pacific Loon Patient, A Rare Find!

Pacific Loons typically breed in Alaska and Northern Canada and may stop in Utah during their migrations between



these breeding grounds and the Pacific coastline. This young Loon quickly became a star as word got out to excited Utah birders of his location. Sadly, this visitor became entangled in fishing line, unable to free himself.



When rescuers approached, the loon would dive out of reach. They tried a net with no luck, but finally a fisherman cast his line out over the bird and was able to carefully snag the line that bound the bird's

head and body and the loon was reeled in. The tangled line had cut all the way to the bone of the lower jaw requiring sutures. X-rays were taken to determine if the bird had swallowed anything harmful (lead sinkers, hooks, etc.). The radiographs showed a swallowed hook that required “exploratory surgery” to locate and remove.

The Pacific Loon is currently doing well and being administered daily doses of antibiotics and pain meds as it heals.

Newest Education Ambassador: After 4-1/2 years, our Golden Eagle Phoenix becomes our ninth raptor Education Ambassador. In 2012, Phoenix rose from the ashes on Independence Day. At only 86 days old he was rescued from certain death after his nest was consumed by a human-caused wildfire. Phoenix fought hard over the course of many months to regain his health. Early in 2015, WRCNU determined Phoenix “non-releasable” due to a beak deformity



Anthony Woerner and Phoenix;
PT session, Sept 2016

caused by the intense heat of the fire, so in March 2015 WRCNU applied for their first *Live Eagle Exhibition Permit*—an excruciatingly long process. September 2015, while waiting on approval of his permit, we found Phoenix fighting again for his life; found face down in the dirt on 9/11 (Patriot Day). A mosquito carrying the West Nile Virus had bitten Phoenix transmitting a deadly infection which strikes the nervous system—now one year later our federal and state permits are approved and Phoenix's health continues to improve. He can fly, but continues physical therapy (PT) for partial paralysis of his left leg. WRCNU gives a “*Big Shout Out*” to Anthony Woerner (Human Rehab Specialist) for donating his time and expertise every week for the past year to help Phoenix through the PT process—we've seen marked

improvement in Phoenix's health and abilities thanks to Anthony! Phoenix still goes through light PT twice each day as well as a more vigorous session weekly and he continues to show slow but consistent progress—he's the same fighter we've all come to admire and love; he never gives up. Phoenix the Miracle Eagle!

Upcoming Calendar Events

January 2017: prior year (2016) donation tax receipts are mailed out each January. This saves us precious time and money over mailing individual receipts throughout the year. If you have tax receipt questions please email us at info@wrcnu.org.

April 28, 29, 30 (Fri/Sat/Sun) 2017: Mark your calendars for our 7th Annual Wildlife Baby Shower and Open House; each year it gets bigger and better, so don't miss out. Fun for the entire family: kids craft tables, adult silent auction items & baskets, WRCNU's Animal Ambassadors on display and much more...

Another Busy and Successful Year for Wildlife and WRCNU!

WRCNU has treated over 16,000 wildlife patients in our short 7-1/2 years. As of this printing, we have seen 2,400 wild animals this year and it's still not over.



American White Pelican Released onto the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Pictured are some of the success stories that keep us energized to continue our work; more than 90% are reminders of the human impact wildlife is confronted with each and every day as we continue to encroach on or take away valuable habitat.



Bald Eagle "Aquila" (#30) released after mending a broken wing from a vehicle collision.



Orphaned Long-tailed Weasel kit in its new forever home at Oregon's Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center (WIREC)



Orphaned Badger "cub" during a walk-about at its new forever home also at Oregon's WIREC



Storm Victim, this Long-billed Dowitcher is released just days later



Orphaned and emaciated baby Beaver kit is healthy and projected for release once she is 2 yrs old



Left: a Great Blue Heron lands after a short but successful release flight



Juvenile Dark Morph Ferruginous Hawk released after a severe storm brought it down

Our final success story starts with a fence and an owl, a tragedy we see repeated every year. Here a young fledgling Short-eared Owl is learning to fly and hunt with its parents when ... *along comes a barbed wire fence*. Fence and electrical/phone lines cause great pain and suffering, from broken legs and wings, to permanent feather follicle damage, to torn tendons. These injuries often lead to death from exposure and damage, but the lucky ones are returned to the wild after rehabilitation or, as in this case, they may become amazing education ambassadors. This fortunate young lady was spotted by two wildlife photographers and saved from certain death. After several months with WRCNU it was determined that she should not be released, but she is expected to be staying in the local area with SLC's HawkWatch International; she'll no doubt be a big hit for their education program.



Above: Young Short-eared Owl entangled in barbed wire fence. Photo taken by rescuer and wildlife photographer Ron Dudley



Left: the inset photo shows the same juvenile after a couple months of rehab—you might notice the left wing does not sit quite right due to tendon damage from the fence.