

# Answering Wildlife Phone Calls

Glenda Combs, Owls Roost Education

# **ANIMAL DEFENSE MECHANISMS**

**Raccoons**

**Skunks**

**Opossums**

**Birds of Prey**

**Wading Birds, Herons and Egrets**

**Deer**

**WHAT DO PEOPLE  
DO WHEN THEY  
FIND WILDLIFE?**

**EYE TO EYE**

**VOICE**

**TEETH**



# Baby Mammals



**My cat brought in a baby squirrel. It didn't hurt it.**

# Baby Mammals



**I found a baby squirrel on the ground under a tree.**

# Baby Mammals



**I found an abandoned fawn**

# Baby Mammals



**There is a nest of bunnies in my yard. I'm afraid something has happened to the mother.**

# Baby Mammals

**My husband ran over a rabbit's nest with the lawnmower**



# Baby Mammals



**There is an abandoned bunny  
running around in my  
backyard.**

# Baby Mammals



**There are “kittens” living  
under my shed**



# Adult Mammals



**The Beavers are cutting down  
my trees**

# Baby Mammals



# Adult Mammals



# Baby Mammals



**I found a baby opossum walking alone in my yard.**

**SHOW YOU ALL 50 TEETH, HISS, PEE &  
POOP ON THEMSELVES - PLAY DEAD**



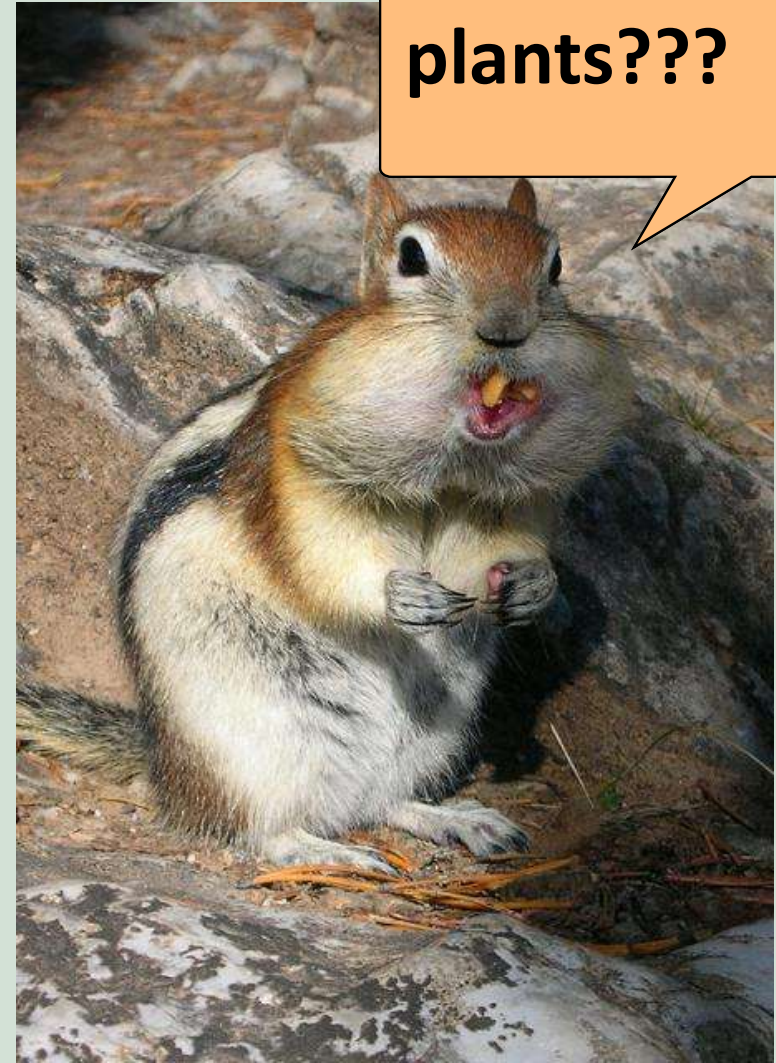
# Adult Mammals



**I found an opossum dead  
along side the road.**

# Adult Mammals

What plants???



**Chipmunks are eating my plants**

# Adult Mammals



**There are skunks living  
under my shed**

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# Adult Mammals



**The Raccoons raid my  
garbage can every night**

# Adult Mammals



**How do I get the raccoon  
out of my dumpster?**



# Adult Mammals



**Something is living in my attic**



# Deer "Rescue"



# Birds



**A cardinal keeps attacking  
my windows**

# Birds



MALE PILEATED WOODPECKER



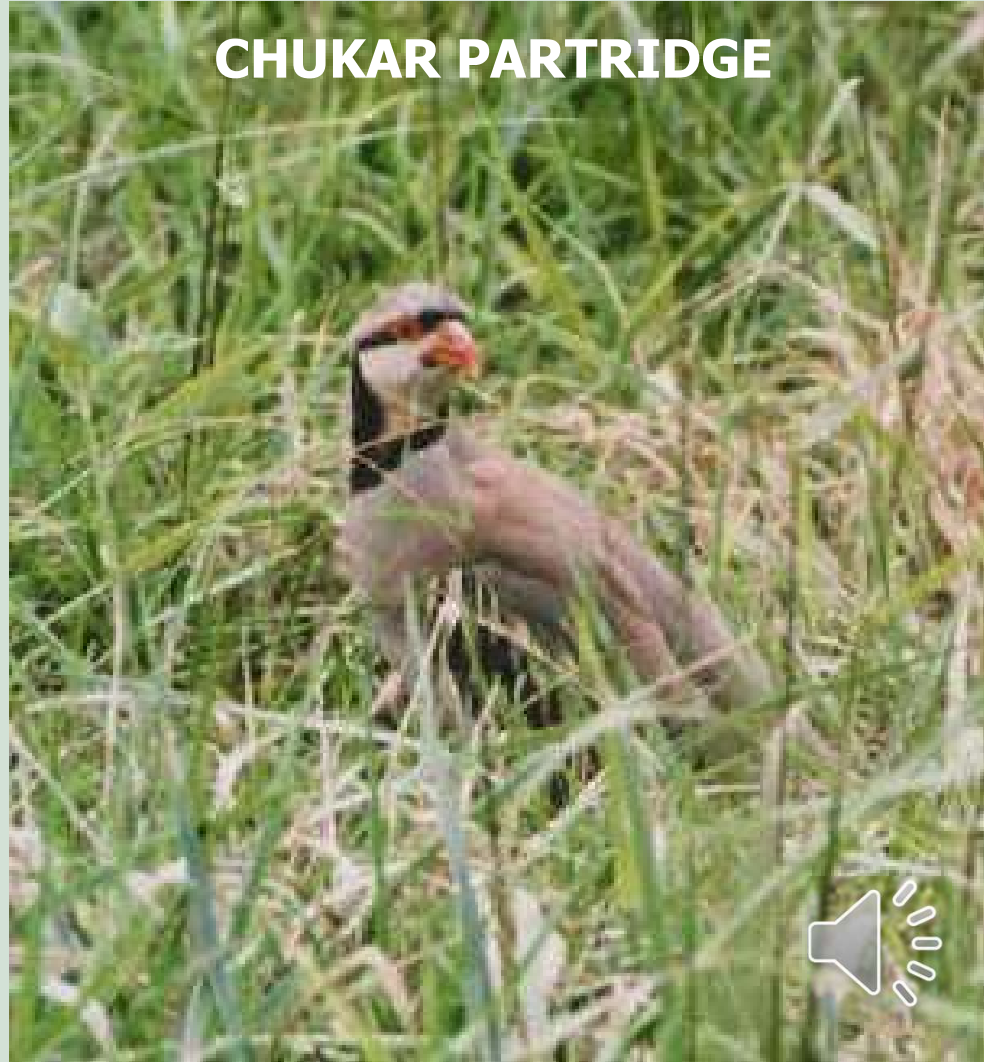
YELLOW-SHAFTER FLICKER

**A Woodpecker is drilling holes  
in the side of my house...**

# Birds

**There's a large masked bird  
running around in my back  
yard.....**

## CHUKAR PARTRIDGE



# Birds



**I found a banded  
pigeon**

# Banded Pigeons

**American Racing Pigeon Union Band Lists:**

**<https://www.pigeon.org/bandlist.php?year=2018&f=A>**

**Reading the band:**

**Example of band #: AU 99 ABC 1234**

**AU is national organization that registered the bird**

**99 is year the bird was hatched and banded/registered**

**ABC is letters representing club that band is registered to**

**1234 is one-up # unique to each pigeon based on club letters**

# Birds

**I found a baby hawk. Yes, it has a curved beak and sharp toenails.....**





# **Songbirds**

**There's a bird with a  
broken wing in my yard...**



# **Songbirds**

**There's a bird on the  
playground with a broken  
wing.....**



# Songbirds



**A bird hit my window**

# Birds

**There's a baby eagle in my  
yard**





© A. Walther/VIREO

# **Waterfowl**

**I have a bird that was in a  
ditch, I think it was hit by a  
car.....**



© Marie Read



# Birds

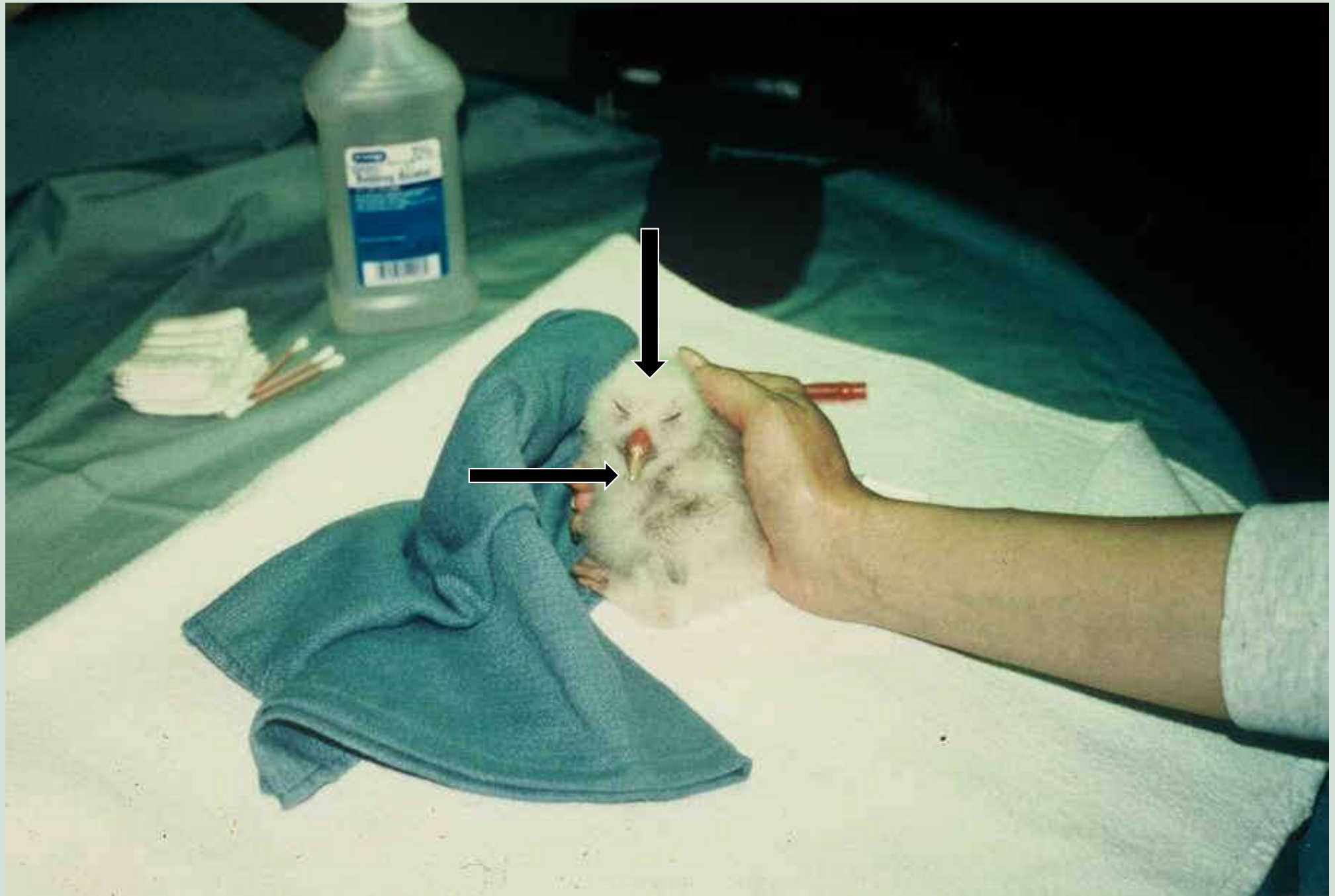
**There's a large hawk  
in my yard...**



# Raptors

**I found a baby owl in my  
yard...**





# Barred Owl Adult



# Birds

**I have bats in my chimney...**



# Birds



**A chimney **sweep** fell out of  
my chimney into my fireplace**



# Birds

**I run a landscaping business,  
and I found a nest of baby  
birds in a mulch pile. The  
mother is no where to be  
found.**



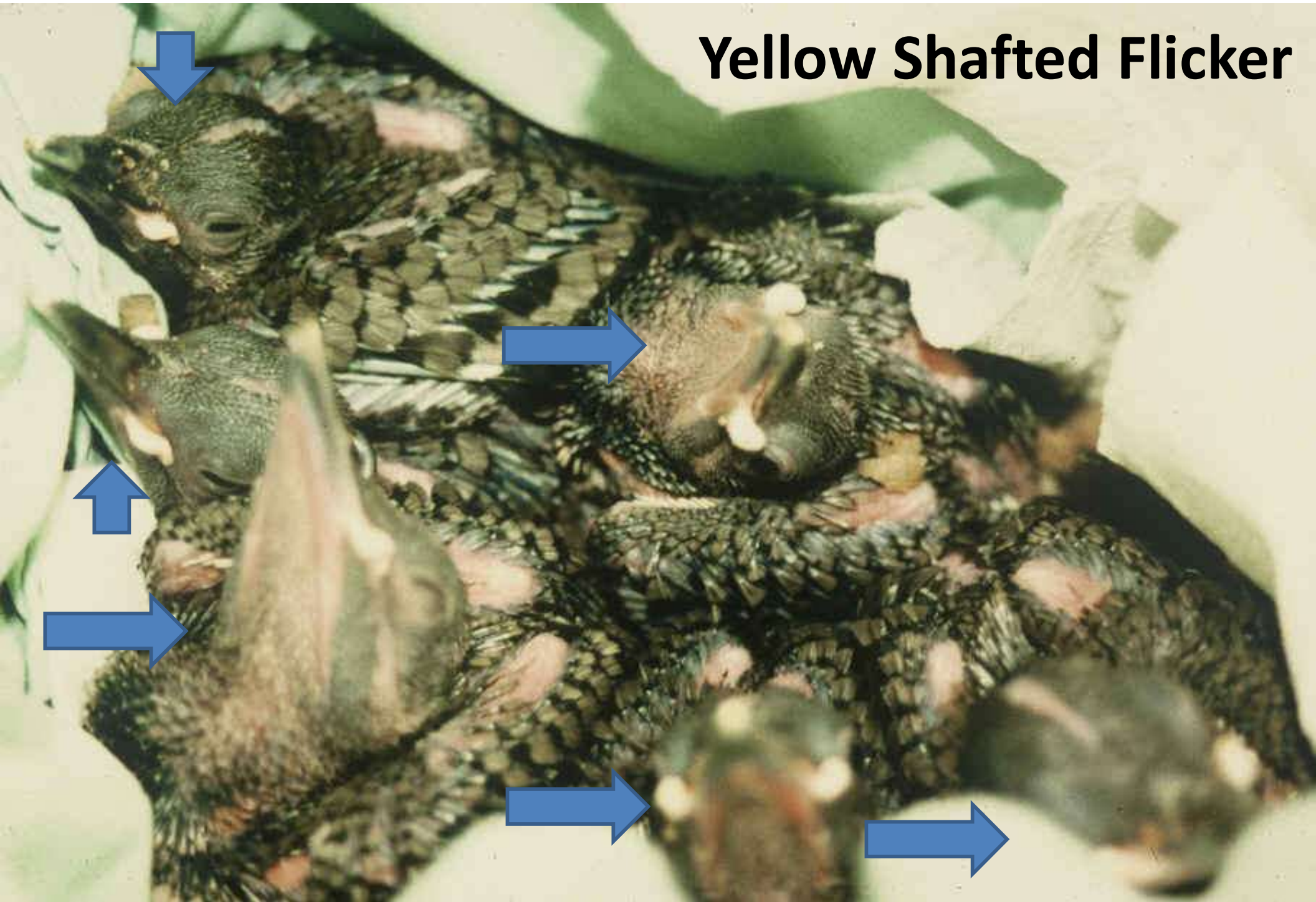




# **BIRDS**

**I had trees cut down in my  
yard and some kind of  
creatures fell out.....**

# Yellow Shafted Flicker



# Waterfowl

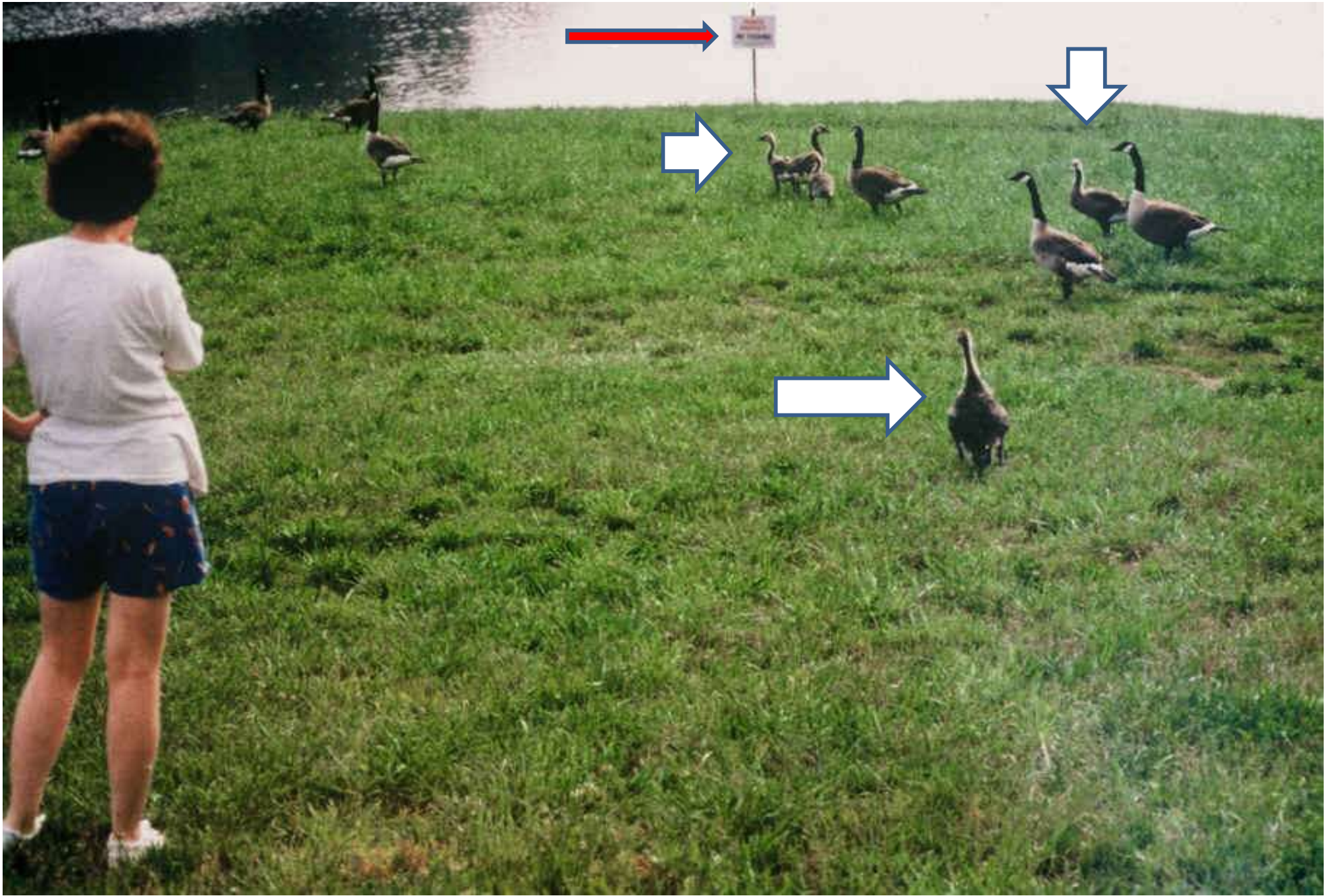


**Geese keep pooping all over  
my yard.....**

# Waterfowl



**A goose is nesting outside my door and attacks me when I come out**



# Herons



**A heron eats all the Koi  
in my pond...**

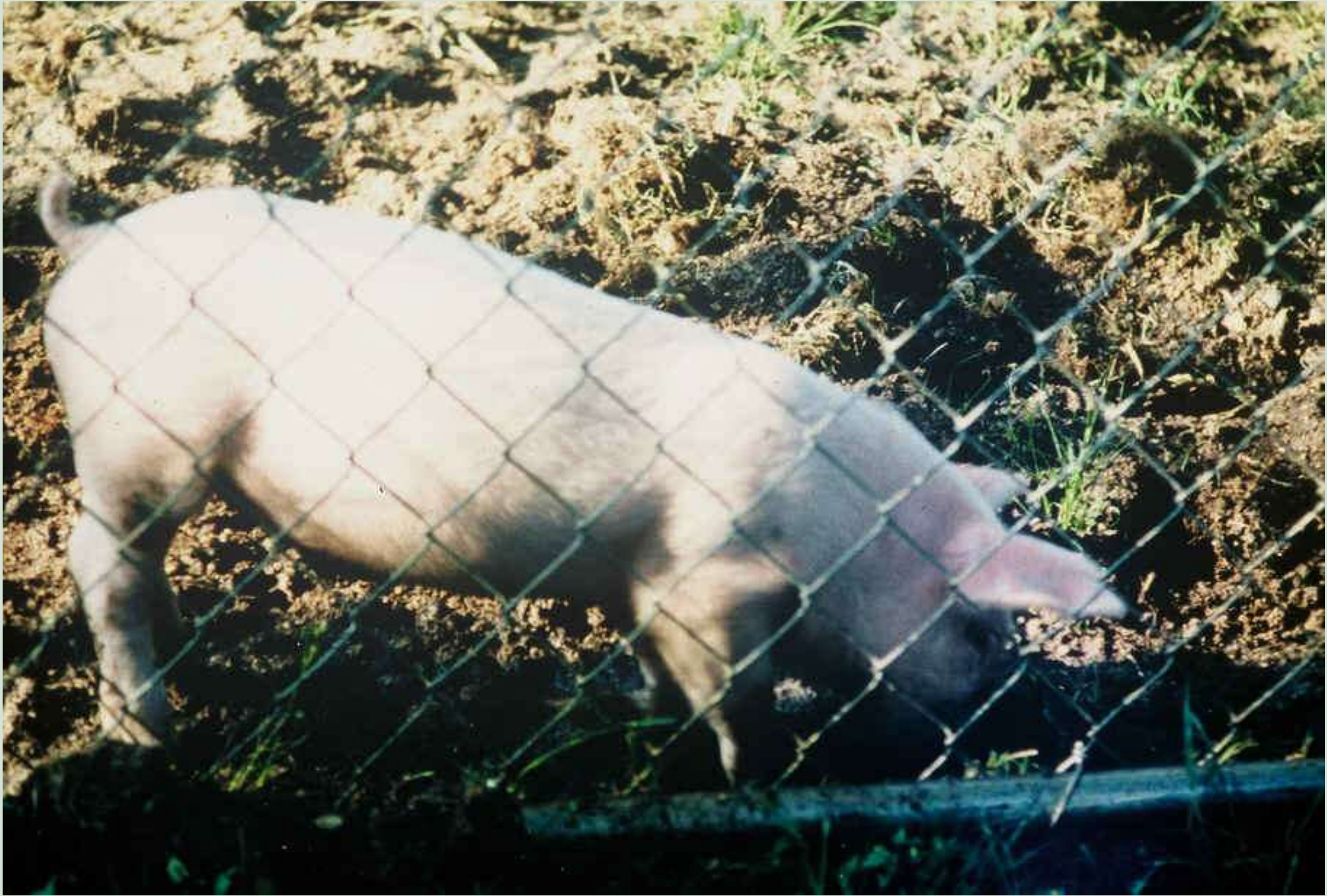
# Misc

**There's a weasel living under  
my porch. You have to come  
and get it before it attacks  
me!!!!!!**



# Misc

**We found a baby pig in the  
median of Interstate 40.....**



Wildlife Resources Commission List of Licensed Rehabilitators in NC

<https://www.ncwildlife.org/Injured-Wildlife#5549116-is-it-injured>

Carolina Raptor Center – 6000 Sample Rd, Huntersville, NC

704-875-6521

<http://www.carolinaraptorcenter.org/>

OWLS Wildlife Shelter – 100 Wildlife Way, Newport NC

252-240-1200

<http://www.outerbankswildlifeshester.com/>

Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary – 119 Doe Dr, Hubert, NC

910-326-6432

<http://www.possumwoodacres.org>

Wildlife Welfare, Inc. – Raleigh NC

919-387-1662

<https://wildlifewelfare.org/>

Carolina Waterfowl Rescue – 5403 Poplin Rd, Indian Trail, NC

704-668-9486

<https://www.cwrescue.org/>

Sea Biscuit Shelter – 1638 E Beach Dr, Oak Island, NC

910-278-7871

<https://www.seabiscuitwildlifeshester.org/>

Skywatch Bird Rescue – 3600 Lynn Ave, Castle Hayne, NC

855-407-3728

<https://www.skywatchbirdrescue.org/>

# Answering Wildlife Phone Calls

## Photo Credits

1. N/A
2. Linda Bergman
3. Toni O'Neil
4. Linda Bergman
5. Wildlife Rehab, Inc.
6. Jim Isaacs
7. Beth Knapp-Tyner
8. Wildlife Rehab, Inc.
9. Jim Isaacs
10. N/A
11. Jim Isaacs  
US Fish and Wildlife Service
12. Jim Isaacs
13. US Fish and Wildlife Service
14. US Fish and Wildlife Service
15. Animal Control-David Seerveld
16. US Fish and Wildlife Service
17. Beth Knapp-Tyner  
US Fish and Wildlife Service
18. Elizabeth Hanrahan
19. US Fish and Wildlife Service
20. Jean Chamberlain
21. US Fish and Wildlife Service
22. US Fish and Wildlife Service
23. N/A
24. Paul & Georgean Kyle
25. Jennifer Gordon
26. Wildlife Rehab, Inc.
27. Wildlife Rehab, Inc.
28. US Fish and Wildlife Service

## WHY WE SHOOT DEER

I had this idea that I could rope a deer, put it in a stall, feed it up on corn for a couple of weeks, then kill it and eat it. The first step in this adventure was getting a deer. I figured that, since they congregate at my cattle feeder and do not seem to have much fear of me when we are there (a bold one will sometimes come right up and sniff at the bags of feed while I am in the back of the truck not 4 feet away), it should not be difficult to rope one, get up to it and toss a bag over its head (to calm it down) then hog tie it and transport it home.

I filled the cattle feeder then hid down at the end with my rope. The cattle, having seen the roping thing before, stayed well back. They were not having any of it. After about 20 minutes, my deer showed up - 3 of them. I picked out a likely looking one, stepped out from the end of the feeder, and threw my rope. The deer just stood there and stared at me. I wrapped the rope around my waist and twisted the end so I would have a good hold.

The deer still just stood and stared at me, but you could tell it was mildly concerned about the whole rope situation. I took a step towards it, it took a step away. I put a little tension on the rope .., and then received an education. The first thing that I learned is that, while a deer may just stand there looking at you funny while you rope it, they are spurred to action when you start pulling on that rope.

That deer EXPLODED. The second thing I learned is that pound for pound, a deer is a LOT stronger than a cow or a colt. A cow or a colt in that weight range I could fight down with a rope and with some dignity. A deer-- no Chance. That thing ran and bucked and twisted and pulled. There was no controlling it and certainly no getting close to it. As it jerked me off my feet and started dragging me across the ground, it occurred to me that having a deer on a rope was not nearly as good an idea as I had originally imagined. The only upside is that they do not have as much stamina as many other animals.

A brief 10 minutes later, it was tired and not nearly as quick to jerk me off my feet and drag me when I managed to get up. It took me a few minutes to realize this, since I was mostly blinded by the blood flowing out of the big gash in my head. At that point, I had lost my taste for corn-fed venison. I just wanted to get that devil creature off the end of that rope.

I figured if I just let it go with the rope hanging around its neck, it would likely die slow and painfully somewhere. At the time, there was no love at all between me and that deer. At that moment, I hated the thing, and I would venture a guess that the feeling was mutual. Despite the gash in my head and the several large knots where I had cleverly arrested the deer's momentum by bracing my head against various large rocks as it dragged me across the ground, I could still think clearly enough to recognize that there was a small chance that I shared some tiny amount of responsibility for the situation we were in. there and I started moving up so I could get my rope back.

I didn't want the deer to have to suffer a slow death, so I managed to get it lined back up in between my truck and the feeder - a little trap I had set before hand...kind of like a squeeze chute. I got it to back in

Did you know that deer bite?

They do! I never in a million years would have thought that a deer would bite somebody, so I was very surprised when ..... I reached up there to grab that rope and the deer grabbed hold of my wrist. Now, when a deer bites you, it is not like being bit by a horse where they just bite you and slide off to then let go. A deer bites you and shakes its head--almost like a pit bull. They bite HARD and it hurts. The proper thing to do when a deer bites you is probably to freeze and draw back slowly. I tried screaming and shaking instead. My method was ineffective. It seems like the deer was biting and shaking for several minutes, but it was likely only several seconds. I, being smarter than a deer (though you may be questioning that claim by now), tricked it. While I kept it busy tearing the tendons out of my right arm, I reached up with my left hand and pulled that rope loose.

That was when I got my final lesson in deer behavior for the day.

Deer will strike at you with their front feet. They rear right up on their back feet and strike right about head and shoulder level, and their hooves are surprisingly sharp ... I learned a long time ago that, when an animal -like a horse - strikes at you with their hooves and you can't get away easily, the best thing to do is try to make a loud noise and make an aggressive move towards the animal. This will usually cause them to back down a bit so you can escape.