

## **NDG&F May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Newsletter**

### **Leave Baby Animals Alone, Motorists Advised of Deer**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department emphasizes a simple message to well-intentioned humans who want to pick up and rescue what appear to be orphaned baby animals – don't touch them. Whether it is a young fawn, duckling, cottontail rabbit or a songbird, it is better to just leave them alone.

More often than not young animals are not abandoned or deserted, and the mother is probably watching nearby. Young wildlife are purposely placed into seclusion by their mothers to protect them from predators.

Anytime a young wild animal has human contact its chance for survival decreases significantly. It's illegal to take wild animals home, and captive animals later returned to the wild will struggle to survive because they do not possess learned survival skills.

The only time a baby animal should be picked up is if a young songbird is found on a doorstep. If that is the case, the young bird should be moved nearby to suitable habitat.

Citizens should also steer clear of adult wildlife, such as deer or moose that might wander into urban areas. Crowding stresses animals, and this could lead to a potentially dangerous situation.

Also, motorists are reminded to watch for deer along roadways. June is one of the peak months for deer-vehicle accidents because young animals are dispersing from their home ranges. With deer more active during these months, the potential for car-deer collisions increases.

### **Habitats Workshop for Teachers Scheduled in Bismarck**

Teachers, environmental educators and anyone else who works with youth are invited to attend a wildlife conservation and resource management workshop June 30 and July 1 in Bismarck.

"A Visual Arts Approach to Teaching Life Science" will be held at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's main office in Bismarck. Teachers completing the course will have a basis for teaching ecological concepts and environmental stewardship through visual arts. The North Dakota Studies Habitats curriculum will be used.

The workshop is fast-paced and offers a hands-on approach educators can use in their classrooms and field trips, and in discussing classroom and curriculum integration. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to experiment with different visual arts including clay, water media, pastel and colored pencil. No previous art experience is necessary or required, and all supplies are provided.

Workshop instructors are Sherry Niesar, a volunteer wildlife educator with Game and Fish for more than 25 years, and Paul Noot, a visual arts teacher at Bismarck High School, Sleepy Hollow Summer Arts program and Theo Art School.

A \$35 registration fee is required by June 29. Graduate credit is available through the University of North Dakota. To register, call (701) 527-3714 or e-mail [sniesar@nd.gov](mailto:sniesar@nd.gov).