

Baby Barn Owls Captivate Viewers Around the World

Live “Owl Cam” offers rare glimpse into the lives of young barn owls

Thousands of people around the world have been watching a family of barn owls grow up in western North Carolina through the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission’s live “Owl Cam (ncwildlife.gov/wildlife-habitat/barn-owl-live-cam).”

More than 62,000 viewers tuned in to witness the first of six eggs hatch in real time, with wildlife enthusiasts from across the United States and countries including Canada, Germany, France, New Zealand and Argentina following the action.

The project marks the agency’s first live wildlife camera experience and has exceeded expectations.

Since hatching in April, viewers have watched the owlets being fed by their parents, growing feathers and beginning to test their wings. Wildlife officials say the young owls are now learning to fly and will soon begin exploring beyond the nest.

“Things naturally quieted down after hatching, but there is so much more to see,” said Sydney Brown of the agency’s Education Division. “The owlets are learning to fly, testing their wings and getting into all kinds of antics.”

The tree cameras inside and outside the nest box provide multiple views of the activity. Officials say viewers may soon witness the fledglings making their first flights and exploring the surrounding barn.

Five of the six eggs hatched successfully. The youngest owlet died in late May, which agency staff believe was due to several factors, including competition with older siblings and reduced prey availability caused by drought conditions.

The nest box was installed in 2011 at an undisclosed location in western North Carolina and has been used for monitoring purposes. The barn owl was selected for the project

because it is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the agency’s 2025 Wildlife Action Plan.

The live camera has also sparked public interest in helping barn owls. Many viewers have asked how to attract the birds and support conservation efforts.

According to conservation biologist Joe Tomcho, barn owls provide valuable natural rodent control. White droppings, known as “whitewash,” on the floor of a barn or silo can be a sign that barn owls are roosting there.

Once the young owls leave the nest, the cameras will be removed temporarily for maintenance before returning next season. Officials hope the same pair of owls will return.

Info about the project and barn owl conservation is available at ncwildlife.org. Injured wildlife can be reported through the Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401.



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Town of Lilesville
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
BUDGET HEARING

When: Monday, June 29, 2026
Where: Lilesville Fire Department
202 West Wall Street
Lilesville NC 28091
Time: 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Lilesville Proposed FY 2026-2027 budget has been submitted to the Town Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk at 114 East Wall Street, Lilesville, NC 28091. The Lilesville Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing concerning the Proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget during it's regular meeting on Monday, June 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Citizens are invited to attend this Public Hearing and may provide comments. The budget ordinance is scheduled for adoption by the Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on June 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

For additional information regarding the Annual Budget, please call

704-848-4711

Lynn B. Whitlock, Town Clerk / Finance Officer

Church

JUNE 14 - 18

Vacation Bible

School At Freedom Baptist Church, 5964 Hwy 218, Peachland, 6-8:30pm each evening.

The community is invited.
JUNE 15 - JULY 2

Summer Enrichment

Program At Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. Theme is “Reading and Math Connect.” Activities include art, physical education, storytelling, guest speakers, read-aloud sessions, music, drama, and field trips. Lunch & snacks provided. Mon-Thu, 8am-12 noon.

JUNE 21

Father’s Day Service

At Divine Unity House of Restoration Ministries Fellowship Hall, 3760 Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro, 11:15am with Rev. Curtis Long.

JUNE 22 - 26

Vacation Bible

School Theme “Under Construction.” At Sandy Ridge Missionary Baptist Church, 6:30-8:30 each evening. 2111 Sandy Ridge Church Rd, in Morven.

JUNE 24 - 26

Holy Convocation At Victory Temple Miracle Center, 1685 Morgan Sellers Rd, Wadesboro. Nightly 7:30pm..

Vacation Bible School At Divine Unity House of Restoration Ministries Fellowship Hall, 3760 Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro, 6-8pm nightly.

Vacation Bible School At New Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 6-8pm nightly

JUNE 28

28th Appreciation Service

For Elder Rebecca Little at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 11:45am with Elder Carlos Melton. Everyone is invited.

JULY 26

12th Appreciation Service For Elder Gary Gaddy at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 3:30pm with Apostle Marvin Leak of Sound Doctrine Fellowship in Rockingham. All are invited.

JULY 26 - 31

Revival Services At Rose of Sharon FCOG. Sun-Pastor Bishop Arvestor Lindsey at 12 noon. Mon-Fri Rev. Vincent Tillman of Life Giving Church of God in Concord at 7:30pm.

Events

JULY 7

Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in the Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. There are two regular monthly meetings, with the second June meeting on June 16 at 6pm. Meetings are available online at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

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Recent Queen Bee Rearing Workshop
Draws Participants from Five Counties

Beekeepers from five counties gathered June 13 for the Anson County Queen Bee Rearing Workshop, a half-day event focused on the art and science of producing healthy, locally adapted queens.

Organizers expressed appreciation for the partnership among Pee Dee Electric’s corporate office, retired N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Apiary Inspector Nancy Ruppert, current Apiary Inspector Shirley Harris, Anson Beekeepers and Anson Extension for making the workshop possible.

Twenty participants attended the event, where Ruppert provided instruction on hive conditions needed for queen production, seasonality, the queen life cycle, cell production, and both grafting and non-grafting techniques. Participants then put their new knowledge into practice through hands-on larva grafting.

Queen bee rearing allows beekeepers to manage genetics, productivity and the long-term health of their apiaries. The process requires experience and a thorough understanding of honey bee development and hive behavior.

Raising locally adapted queens with desirable traits helps strengthen worker bees and improves the quality of drones in the area. Successful queen bee rearing can also reduce the expense of purchasing replacement queens and provide beekeepers with options when dealing with failing queens, queenless colonies or swarm management.

Interested in learning more about Anson Beekeepers or locating a local beekeeping chapter? Contact Anson Extension horticulture agent Aimee Golf at 704-694-2915. You can also visit the Anson Beekeepers Facebook page for more information.

National Pollinator Week Celebrated June 22-28

This week marks National Pollinator Week, an annual celebration recognizing the importance of bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, bats and other pollinators that help produce many of the foods we eat and support healthy ecosystems.

Pollinators are responsible for fertilizing countless crops and wild plants, making them essential to agriculture and wildlife. Gardeners and homeowners can help by planting native flowers, reducing pesticide use and providing habitat for these beneficial creatures.

National Pollinator Week is observed June 22-28 and serves as a reminder that even small actions can help protect the insects and animals that keep our world blooming.

Learn more about pollinators at pollinator.org.

Library to Show Women of World War II Documentary

The Hampton B. Allen Library will present the documentary *Women of World War II* on Monday, June 29, at 10 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room.

The film explores the often-overlooked contributions of women during World War II, including those who cracked enemy codes, built ships and aircraft, and filled critical roles on the home front that helped secure victory for the Allies. Many of their stories remained little known for decades after the war.

Library officials invite everyone to attend and enjoy this inspiring look at the determination, ingenuity and patriotism of the women whose efforts helped shape history.

Admission is free, and all are welcome. For more information, call the Hampton B. Allen Library at 704-694-5177.