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Weld Animal Control officer rescues stuck Grebe

The Weld County Sheriff's Office's Animal Control Unit had a unique encounter with one of North America's migratory bird species.

About 10 a.m. Friday, Animal Control Officer Rebeca Farris responded to a report of a bird not moving in a driveway off Weld County roads 35 and 394 east of LaSalle. When Farris arrived at the scene, she found the bird stuck in the snow.

Turns out the bird was a Grebe, an aquatic diving bird common to North America, Europe and Asia. Excellent swimmers, Grebes can also run on land, but they are prone to falling over due to their feet being located so close to the rear of their bodies.

Farris was able to catch the Grebe by covering it with a blanket and placing it in a cage. After moving the Grebe to her pickup to warm up, Farris called the Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Longmont for advice about releasing the bird.

The Center said Grebes commonly become stuck on land. So long as it wasn't injured, it could be released to any body of water, which is what Farris did.

Steve Reams – Sheriff