

Tomorrow is Last Day of Tax Amnesty Period

Have you reviewed your financial records for the last three years to determine whether you have an outstanding tax liability? Remember to verify the following:

1. Did you pay tax on all items that were transferred to clients (i.e. either you paid your supplier or remitted the appropriate tax to the State yourself).
2. Did you engage in retail activity by selling one of the products that is listed in the new regulation as non-medicinal (i.e. non-prescription pet food)?
3. If you engaged in retail sales and paid your suppliers .0625 Service Occupation Tax (SOT) have you paid the State of Illinois the difference between the SOT paid and the your local option tax owed?

These are among the questions each practice should be asking themselves. If you have an outstanding tax liability, and choose not to take advantage of the amnesty period, you may be audited by the Illinois Department of Revenue. If you are found to have tax liability, you will owe penalties and interest.

The amended sales tax return form ST-1X is available on the IDOR website at www.iltax.com. Copies of the Compliance Agreement and final tax regulation are available on the ISVMA website at http://www.isvma.org/isvma_library/2007_tax_seminars_info.html.

If you need assistance completing your amended returns or have specific questions about the process, please contact the ISVMA Audit Consultants at J.D. Michael & Associates, LLC by calling (217) 527-1700 or emailing atinfo@jdmichael.com.

Did You Hire a 2007 Graduate? License Status Update

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has been issuing licenses for applicants that graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 2007.

Licenses were issued much faster this year because of improved coordination between Continental Testing Service (CTS) and the Testing Section at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR).

A brief crisis with the applications from the Class of 2006 led to an important dialogue between ISVMA, the College of Veterinary Medicine, CTS and the IDFPR. The end result seems to be a streamlined processing procedure!

If you wish to check the status of your license (or one of your recent hires), you can do so by using the form at <https://www.idfpr.com/dpr/licenselookup/default.asp>.

University of Illinois Class Challenge Update

In December 2006, Peter Weber, ISVMA Executive Director, challenged graduates of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine to contact to their classmates who are not members of ISVMA and encourage them to join immediately! A goal of 99 new members from the classes of 1981 through 2005 was established.

As May 29, 2007, there are only 15 new members from this 25-year block of prospects that originally included 397 prospects.

Weber pledged a \$500 contribution to the Wildlife Medical Clinic at the University of Illinois in honor of the class that has the highest percentage increase in membership if we reach the goal before June 30, 2007. An additional 84 new members from the remaining pool of 385 prospects are needed to reach the goal!

Please take a few minutes to look at the veterinarians from your class that are licensed to practice in Illinois. Your class roster is available at http://www.isvma.org/isvma_library/class_challenge/challenge.html.

If you have a personal or professional relationship with one of your classmates that isn't a member, please give them a call and tell them why they should become members of ISVMA. If you need to reference the many benefits of ISVMA membership, you can go to http://www.isvma.org/about_us/benefits_of_membership.html. Your classmates' last known professional contact information is included in the class roster.

ISVMA also has a very easy to use online application form at http://isvmaimpak.networkats.com/members_online/members/newmember.asp. Please help support your association by increasing your class participation and help support the Wildlife Medical Clinic by making Peter Weber write that check!

About the Photo in This Issue...

The Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) and closely related White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) are also the only North American birds with bills that cross at the tips like misaligned scissors. The birds hatch with uncrossed bills, which begin turning inward in about four weeks and cross completely by six weeks.

Crossed bills enable the birds to pry apart cone scales so they can extract seeds with their spoon-tipped tongues. A tendency to hold the cones with their thick legs, hang upside down, and use their bills like legs to cling to branch tips gives feeding crossbills a parrotlike appearance.

Year-round residents of cool, evergreen forests stretching from Canada and Alaska south through the Cascades, Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains, Red Crossbills depend so completely on conifer seeds for food that they routinely wander far and wide—and unpredictably—to find them, particularly during winter. Conifer seeds—or rather, seed shortages—are what turn crossbills into nomads. Conifers may put out a big cone crop one year, and the next year produce no cones. That's when crossbills take off, turning up in unexpected places across the continent, including outside their ordinary range. Biologists call these mass movements of birds irruptions.

Red crossbills have recently become the subject of great study by ornithologists and biologists. This species is to North America what finches are to the Galápagos Islands—a beautiful and clear example of evolution by natural selection. Like Darwin's famous finches, crossbills have evolved unique bill sizes, bill shapes and body sizes depending on the kind of conifer seeds they eat. There's a crossbill that specializes on ponderosa pine seeds, one that's equipped to eat lodgepole pine seeds and another that feeds on western hemlock. While the birds may all look alike to a casual human observer, they seem to recognize their own kind. Each type of crossbill has a different call and refrains from breeding with other types. Although the American Ornithologists' Union officially recognizes just one red crossbill species today, biologists have proposed as many as nine.

The Red Crossbill is also a species that has a special place in American folklore. One traditional story holds that its odd bill shape was caused when crossbills tried to extract the nails that held Jesus to the cross and that Christ's blood turned the birds red.

I photographed this male Red Crossbill at Genesee Mountain Park in Colorado in May 2007. They were among approximately 700 Elk I saw during in the park that day.

Contact Us

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