

Welcome to

INSTINCTS



Feb 2018

Vol 7:1

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

2017 in Review

Each year since our beginning, our admission numbers have continued to increase. This past year was no exception. We thought we'd share the comparison of five years ago to last year.

	2013	2017
Patients	606	911
Species	97	113
Miles Logged	14,157	21,380

On a side note, the total number of animals Mark & Sharon have treated on their permits since 1998 surpassed 15,000! There certainly doesn't seem to be a shortage of wild animals needing help! The high number of different species we treat means we need many different special formulas and foods and housing! We will certainly continue to do all we can to help them, but we can't do any of it without YOU. Our funding comes totally from memberships and donations. Thank you for helping us help them!

Drivers Needed

We generally admit patients from 30-37 different counties each year. That's a wide geographic area!

We're looking for volunteers to join our Animal Ambulance team.

If you have a car, proper insurance, valid driver's license and think you'd like to help animals in need, we'd like to invite you to one of our Raptor Rescue & Transport Driver Training Sessions. We will be having two in March. They are identical sessions

we offer at 2 different times to make it convenient for you. One is Thurs, March 8th, the other Saturday, March 10th. See the Upcoming Events section on Page 9 for details. You only need to come on Thurs OR Saturday, not both.

A Raptor Rescue Driver is a volunteer we provide basic raptor handling training so they can retrieve/rescue raptors in trouble and transport them to us. A Transport Driver is one who wants to help but may not be up to handling raptors. They pick up animals that have already been contained and simply drive the boxed-up animal to us. We are desperately in need of drivers in the Ashland, Antigo, Eagle River and Merrill/Wausau areas.

Come to a meeting and see what it's all about.

It's an easy, but very important way to help us help them.

Call 715-362-9453 or email

info@wildinstinctsrehab.com to let us know you're coming so we have enough supplies.



Bobcat Popsicle

On January 5, we received a call regarding a young bobcat lying in the road, unresponsive. He was just a few hours from death when a Good Samaritan found him.



.Young bobcat suffering from hypothermia and starvation.

Some time in our ICU and some skilled medical care brought him back to healthy bobcat status within a couple weeks.



Bobcat improving in ICU.

He will be overwintered until the prey base is adequate in the spring for his release.



Bobcat back to normal.



Moved outside and waiting for spring to arrive for his release.



In Honor or Memory Of

~In Memory of "Nellie" Robinson, too soon gone

~In Memory of Frank "Dan" Carlson

~In Honor of Mary Lou Stocker-Baribeau

~In Honor of Fred & Cheryl Andrist

~In Honor of Richard & Jean Anaya

~In Honor of Kathy & Joel Furda

~In Memory of Kevin J. Curby, wonderful husband, loving dad, beloved son, brother, favorite son-in-law, friend; in our hearts forever

~In Memory of John McCormick

~In Memory of Pat Krause

~In Honor of Erinn Brogren

~In Honor of Charles Faulkner, my dad, who loves birds!

~In Memory of Mike Doren, dear friend, nature lover & world traveler

~In Honor of Joe & Jennifer Heitz

~In Honor of Kathy O'Gara for all she does for us

~In Honor of David & Kathy Amo and Family

~In Memory of Ron Brekke

~In Memory of Bill Hintz

~In Honor of Great Neighbors, Gary & Paula Edwards

~In Memory of Phyllis Benson



Close-up view of the feathered foot of a snowy owl.

Field Turtle?

One of the more unusual admissions in 2017 was this snapping turtle.



Snapping Turtle found in a field.

It isn't obviously sick or injured. In fact, it's quite healthy. The thing that makes it unusual was how it came to our care. It was found in an open field in DECEMBER! Most snappers this size are already hibernating by October. Turtles dig into the mud and detritus at bottoms of bodies of water to spend their winters sleeping. Being exposed to winter weather in a field is not a good place for it to be.

Now, however, it is in a good place. It's being overwintered in one of our turtle enclosures. Not hibernating, but staying awake, eating like a king, until spring weather allows for its release.

We are also overwintering a garter snake and a fox snake. The garter snake had a nasty open wound, perhaps from a weed-eater. Each shed of its skin is lessening the scar. The fox snake was just in the wrong place.

Now we just need spring to come so they can get on with their wild lives.

Wish List

Speaking of spring, Baby Season is just around the corner. We will be needing:
Paper towels (more than you can imagine!)
Newspaper
Toilet Paper
Dish Soap
Liquid Hand Soap
Canned Dog Food (any brand)
Unsalted Walnuts

Special Release

Snowy owls are migratory, but their migration is likely more related to prey abundance than seasons or weather. In general, snowy owls move nomadically, and breed when and where prey is abundant. About every four years, many snowy owls irrupt into the northern United States during the winter because prey is scarce further north.

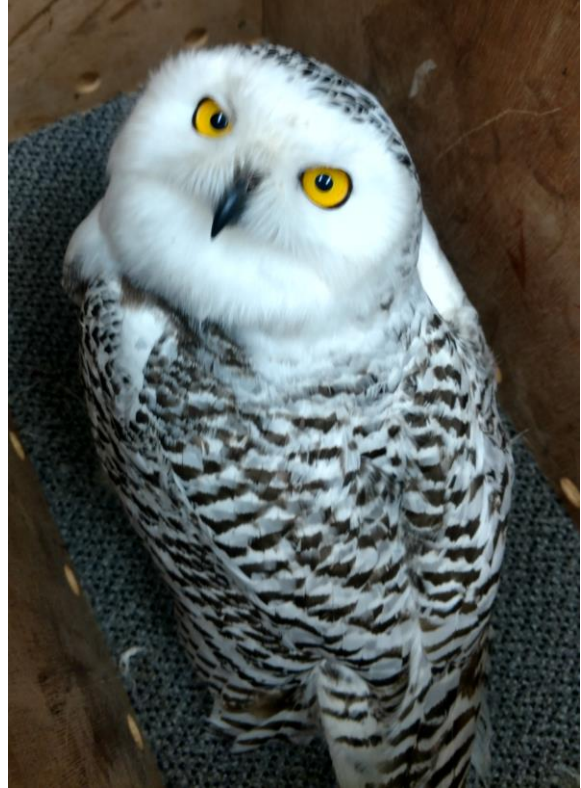
Snowy Owls' main foods are typically lemmings and mice. However, they also take rabbits, seabirds, and even fish. One Snowy may eat more than 1,600 lemmings in one year.

They are open-land hunters so often pass over the Northwoods for more agricultural fields further south. However, we may see them in open fields such as the area potato fields.

When they arrive, they are usually hungry or starved, dehydrated and sometimes injured.

What tends to get them in the most trouble when they arrive, however, is their lack of experience with cars and people. Some of them may never have laid eyes on a car before and are very naïve to how much damage it can do.

Such is the case with this girl. She was struck by a car near Rhinelander on November 11, 2017.



Snowy Owl upon admission.

Her x-rays didn't give us much hope for her to heal well enough to fly well enough to be released again. The wing was "shattered" in a couple places close to a joint. These types of breaks cannot be pinned. They also typically don't heal well enough for the bird to regain enough flight to hunt for itself. In addition, she was drooping that wing which can be an indicator of nerve damage. By law we are given three options of outcome for each animal we admit. The first choice and the one we work very hard to achieve is Release. The second one is to find a permanent placement like an education center or zoo. This option depends on the animal's disposition because not every wild animal is happy being in captivity. The third and last option is euthanasia.

When we saw her x-rays and thought she wouldn't be released, we began to pay attention to her personality. If she didn't mind not having a Wild Life, the last option wouldn't be on the table.



X-ray revealed severe fractures of the wing.

She was calm and accepting. We began to think we may be keeping her as one of our resident ambassadors.

First, though, we had to help her heal. Weeks went by. Her droop improved and finally vanished.

More weeks went by and she was finally moved from a restricted-activity enclosure to a slightly bigger enclosure.

After a couple weeks, she was flying to the top of it and hovering when we fed her. We started to wonder if she would be staying with us after all or if she would be released.

A couple more weeks past before it was time for another x-ray. The vet saw the image and called us miracle workers. Yes. The fractures had healed nicely, but she had one more hurdle.

Birds are intricate flying machines. Just because the bones had healed, didn't mean they healed in a way that would allow for fine, precision flight her life in the wild would demand.



The second image revealed healing that would allow release to be a consideration.

It was a few more weeks inside for more healing before she was moved to an outside enclosure for flight testing and conditioning. Within a few days we knew we would be saying good-bye to our possible resident ambassador. After a bit more flight conditioning and acclimation, she would be released!



Back to the Wild for this girl!

We admit around 100 different species each year-which species varies from year to year. Snowy Owl admissions, however, are uncommon and happen only every few years. Part of an intern's experience here at Wild Instincts is being exposed to many different species. This bird was admitted just a few hours after Intern Kaitlin from 2017 left at the end of her internship. Kaitlin decided to accept a second Wild Instincts internship for 2018. The weather and timing made it possible for now 2018 Intern Kaitlin to have the honor of releasing this bird. Welcome back, Kaitlin!



Waiting for lift-off!



The RELEASE!



Flying Free!

Another Uncommon Patient

Recently we admitted another uncommon patient for our area. This specie has tropical origins so they are not built for extreme cold. Temperature and snow depth limit their range. Prior to European settlement, the limit of their northern range was Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. They've likely been able to expand their habitat by changing their behavior in the extreme cold and using buildings for shelter.



Frostbitten feet on a 'Possum.

Yep. A Virginia Opossum. We loosely refer to Hwy 29 as the 'Possum Line. 'Possums we admit from North of Hwy 29 are usually suffering from hypothermia, frostbite and starvation. Possums are sometimes misunderstood so here are some fun facts:

Opossums are the only marsupials in North America, meaning that they do not have placentas but develop their young in a pouch like a kangaroo
They have an opposable digit on their hindfeet
'Possum body temperature is lower than most mammals.
They may hiss or play dead (play 'possum) when threatened.
They eat lots of ticks.



Virginia Opossum near being examined.

CT's Deli's FUNdraiser

On February 16, Wild Instincts partook in an infamous CT's Deli FUNdraiser. We provided a couple guest bartenders and CT's donated 50% of all beverage sales from 5:00 -8:00 pm. We also kept 100% of the tips and a donation jar. Joy and Dad provided great music. We had several 50/50 raffles. And throughout it all, of course, is the famous CT's food. CT's put the FUN in FUNdraiser. It was a wonderful time and we raised over \$1100.00!
Thanks to CT's for giving back to the community with the opportunity for these FUNdraisers. Thanks to all of you who came out to help us help them.



People enjoying great food and great friends at CT's.



Joy and Dad provided fantastic music.

Happy Birthday!

Wild Instincts turned seven on January 28th. We can't do any of this out without all of you. You all deserve a big slice of birthday cake.



Species	1/1- 12/31/17		
American Bittern	2	Eastern Phoebe	7
American Crow	17	Eastern Screech Owl	1
American Goldfinch	3	European Starling	8
American Kestrel	3	Fisher	3
American Redstart	1	Flying Squirrel, Southern	10
American Robin	43	Fox Snake	1
American Toad	3	Fox Sparrow	1
American Woodcock	1	Gray Fox	15
Badger	1	Great Horned Owl	8
Bald Eagle	42	Hermit Thrush	3
Barred Owl	6	Hoary Bat	1
Belted Kingfisher	4	Hooded Merganser	1
Big Brown Bat	22	House Finch	4
Black Bear	14	House Sparrow	1
Black-and-White Warbler	3	Little Brown Bat	7
Black-capped Chickadee	3	Mallard Duck	17
Blandings Turtle	1	Meadow Vole	6
Blue Jay	9	Merlin	4
Blue-spotted Salamander	3	Midland Painted Turtle	3
Bobcat	2	Mink	2
Broad-winged Hawk	15	Mourning Dove	16
Brown Thrasher	1	Mourning Warbler	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Muskrat	2
Canada Goose	11	Northern Cardinal	1
Cedar Waxwing	5	Northern Flicker	9
Chimney Swift	4	Northern Water Shrew	1
Chipping Sparrow	9	Osprey	1
Cliff Swallow	1	Ovenbird	2
Common Grackle	7	Palm Warbler	1
Common Loon	4	Pileated Woodpecker	2
Common Nighthawk	2	Pine Siskin	2
Common Raven	3	Pine Warbler	1
Cooper's Hawk	2	Porcupine	3
Coyote	4	Purple Finch	2
Dark-eyed Junco	2	Raccoon	58
Deer Mouse	41	Red Crossbill	4
Downy Woodpecker	3	Red Fox	8
Eastern Bluebird	3	Red Squirrel	42
Eastern Chipmunk	14	Red-backed Vole	1
Eastern Cottontail	129	Red-bellied Snake	1
Eastern Garter Snake	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	7
Eastern Gray Squirrel	59	Red-eyed Vireo	3
Eastern Painted Turtle	1	Red-tailed Hawk	3
		Red-winged Blackbird	1
		Ring-billed Gull	2

River Otter	3
Rock Dove	11
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Ruffed Grouse	2
Sandhill Crane	5
Short-eared Owl	1
Short-tailed Weasel	1
Snapping Turtle	11
Snowy Owl	4
Sora Rail	1
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	8
Tree Sparrow	1
Trumpeter Swan	2
Tundra Swan	1
Turkey Vulture	1
Western Painted Turtle	16
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
White-tailed Deer	27
Wild Turkey	7
Wood Duck	6
Wood Turtle	4
Woodchuck	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Total	911

UPCOMING EVENTS

Raptor Rescue & Transport Driver Training

Thurs, Mar 8th 6:30-7:30 p.m.

OR

Sat, Mar 10th 10:00a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

Both sessions are held at Wild Instincts.

They are identical so you need only attend ONE.

Please RSVP to info@wildinstinctsrehab.com

or call 715-363-WILD (9453) by March 6, 2018.

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Merry Spring-mess!

We don't have to explain Spring-mess to anyone living in the Northwoods this year. Wow. We had a Winter that wouldn't die and overlapped right into Spring.

Ten degrees below average temperatures for several consecutive weeks. Then just as we thought we were getting a reprieve and spring was arriving we were blasted by consecutive historic snowfalls. In fact, one of the area TV stations had shirts made that read "I survived the snowiest April on record".

While people could wear the T-shirt with good humor, wildlife was not so lucky. Every year there are returning migrants that push the envelope a bit. All of us have stories about seeing a robin or two shivering in a spring snowstorm. After a couple days, it melts and the adventurous bird is rewarded with being early enough to get the best territory. The early bird gets the worm.

This year, however, we were hammered by several feet of snow. That didn't melt in a day or two. And it didn't just catch the early adventurous migrants. One of the storms caught many of the normal migrants. Pleas went out to help feed the birds. Mealworms flew off of store shelves to stock backyard feeders. People came together to make sure backyard birds weren't forgotten. Other birds probably didn't fare as well. We saw at least one woodcock who returned to

frozen tundra. The majority of their diet is earthworms so he definitely had a tough go of it.

Birds weren't the only ones having trouble. Deer also suffered. Biologists have been using what's called the Winter Severity Index (WSI) for decades to judge the harshness of the winter on deer and their likely reproduction rates. It's based on the number of days the temperature is zero or below zero and the number of days the snow is greater than 18" or about chest height of an adult deer.

From the index, it wasn't really a severe winter. However, the timing of the below average temps and record snowfalls was critical. It came at a time when they were using up all their fat reserves and we looking to spring green up to replenish. Reports of last year's fawns on death's door along roadsides or in people's yards were becoming common. Many thought these deer may have had Chronic Wasting Disease or some other illness. In reality, tests showed they starved. They didn't have the fat reserves to make it to green up. Because deer breed in the fall and give birth in the spring, they are pregnant during the winter. This year monitoring car-kills, the WDNR found some of the does aborted. After the weeks of below average temps, we rebounded right to above average temps. Summer-like temps.

We had been working hard at trying to keep our Spring Interns busy. Generally, we fill in

gaps of patient care with enclosure construction and maintenance in the spring. However, things we needed to get to were buried under snow.

Then everything exploded!

The floodgates opened and spring babies started rushing in. But it was imperative we get a couple projects done, so we went into hyper-drive. Spring interns went from the early stages of boredom to exhaustion almost overnight!

Thanks to dedicated volunteers and interns giving up a day off or two, the critical-must-finish-before-babies-arrive project was completed shortly after baby squirrels started arriving.

Whew. That was close.

Now the weather has swung in the other direction, going from cold winter to above average, dry temperatures like summer.

Without time for any of us, including wildlife, to acclimate. We'll be watching to see what affects that has on our patient intake.



In Honor or Memory Of

- ~ In Honor of Grant Birmingham & Jillanne Consie, great friends of wildlife
- ~ In Memory of Jonathon White, a young man who loved the outdoors
- ~ In Memory of "Jake"
- ~ In Memory of Mae Marquardt
- ~ In Memory of Arlette Platta

Kidnapping Prevention 101

It is that time of year again. Wild animals are having their babies. The best chance the babies have at surviving in the wild, is to stay with their mom like Nature intended.

Many well-meaning people accidentally interfere when no interference is needed.

Fawns are being born. For the first few weeks of their lives, they are instructed to lie quietly and still ALONE for very long periods of time. They have very little scent and great camouflage. Mom doesn't spend much time with them so as not to draw attention to her baby. This also allows her to tend to her other offspring. Does in the Northwoods often have twins, if not triplets- in a good year. Keeping them in separate location increases the chance of one surviving if something should happen. Don't forget Mom has to find time to feed and care for herself, too. Because of these things, people often mistake a fawn alone for an hour as an abandoned baby. This is most likely not the case! Mom is nearby watching.

If you see a fawn, or any wild baby for that matter, that you think may need help, CALL US for advice. We answer our phone 24/7/365. Every situation is different. Our experts can provide you with advice for your situation.



Going Batty

Mark & Sharon have been rehabbing in the Northwoods for almost 3 decades. Over that time there have been some changes. One they were just discussing is how many more bats are admitted as patients.

This is a double-edged sword. It's heart-breaking because bats are in such peril, but it's heart-warming because the word is getting out and people are caring enough about bats to bring them in for help instead of "batting" them about with a tennis racket.

Wild Instincts is the only facility in the entire northern third of WI permitted to rehab bats. This year our special Bat "Cave" was full to the brim with overwintering bats that had been disturbed from hibernation.



Our specially designed "bat cave" was full to the brim!

Each one was released within two miles of where it was found. Considering they came from eight different areas, releasing them all involved several nights of driving!



Big Brown Bat hanging from the perch he's had in his enclosure, smelling his familiar territory and getting his bearings.



After a moment, it takes flight....



.....Hopefully, to returning to a long, healthy life.

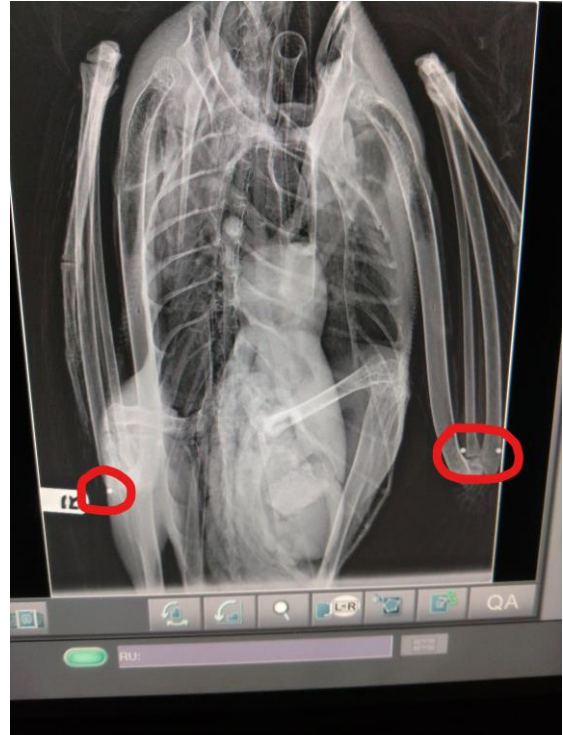
For more about Wisconsin's bats, the latest on White-nose Syndrome and what YOU can do to help, click [HERE](#) for the latest issue of Echolocator and other information.

Trumpeter Swan

This young trumpeter swan was admitted on December 11, 2017. It had a fractured foot and elevated blood lead levels from lead shot pellets. Months of treatment and care ended with weeks of waiting for the weather to allow its release. Finally on April 26, 2018, it flew free once more.



Recuperating.



Shot pellets in wings.



Fractured foot.



Ready for flight.



FREEDOM!

Recent Owl Releases



Great horned owl flying from the box to freedom



Winging back to the Wild Life



One of six red fox kits.



Red fox kit in outdoor enclosure.

Baby Album

Overwintered patient releases made room for the annual expected influx. Spring Interns are finding their groove and Summer Interns will be starting in a few days. Baby mouths of many different species are being fed. It's officially Baby Season. That means lots of baby photos!!



Baby river otter.



Bear cub orphan.



Baby raccoon growing fast!



Bear cubs in outside enclosure.



Baby Raccoon.



Approximately 3-day-old deer mouse.



Three-week-old short-tailed weasel.



Red squirrel growing fast!



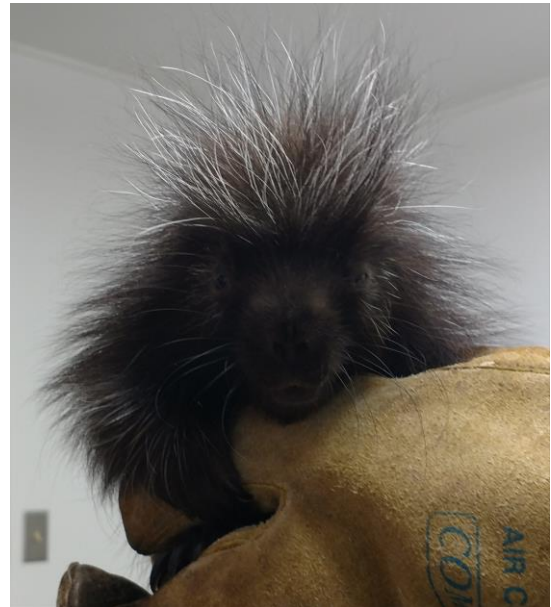
Litter of red squirrels.



First fawn of 2018 was trying to nurse from dead mom on road.



Red squirrel orphan.



Baby porcupine.



Baby Rock Doves (aka pigeons)



Eastern Gray Squirrel napping after lunching.



Robin eggs starting to hatch.

Compressed Construction

Last fall and this spring's weather were making any enclosure construction extremely challenging. We were awarded a grant from Cellcom to add another aquatic enclosure. Another grant from WPS Foundation allowed an upgrade of the pool and feeding areas in the bear enclosure. Because the bear enclosure construction required some deconstruction, it needed to be completed ASAP. When weather finally allowed, a group of dedicated volunteers worked their tails off to get it completed and ready for bears. And we did it.



Yes, we shoveled snow so we could get our concrete frames done.



Dedicated volunteers on a mission.



New bear pond and feeding area upgrade.

A gift from St Mathias Thrift Shop in Minocqua allowed construction of another new mammal enclosure that is nearing completion.



New mammal enclosure.

This means, though, the aquatic enclosure got moved down the list. It will be the project we will be working on here and there when moments and patient housing

allow throughout the summer and finished in the fall.

Wish List

- Paper towels (more than you can imagine!)
- Newspaper
- Toilet Paper
- Dish Soap
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Canned Dog Food (any brand)
- Unsalted Walnuts
- Gas Cards
- Postage Stamps
- Click [HERE](#) for our Amazon Wish List

Species 1/1/18-5/12/18

American Robin	1
American Woodcock	2
Bald Eagle	10
Barred Owl	7
Big Brown Bat	25
Black Bear	4
Bobcat	1
Canada Goose	1
Cedar Waxwing	1
Common Raven	2
Common Redpoll	17
Cooper's Hawk	1
Coyote	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Cottontail	3
Eastern Garter Snake	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	22
Flying Squirrel, Southern	3
Fox Snake	1
Gray Fox	2
Great Horned Owl	2
Little Brown Bat	2

Mallard Duck	1
Midland Painted Turtle	2
Mourning Dove	3
Muskrat	2
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Pine Siskin	5
Porcupine	1
Purple Finch	1
Raccoon	19
Red Crossbill	2
Red Fox	5
Red Squirrel	14
Red-tailed Hawk	2
Ring-billed Gull	1
River Otter	1
Rock Dove	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Ruffed Grouse	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Short-tailed Weasel	2
Snapping Turtle	1
Snowy Owl	2
Striped Skunk	1
Trumpeter Swan	1
Virginia Opossum	1
White-tailed Deer	2
White-throated Sparrow	1
Wild Turkey	2
Total	191

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRAT SALE(S)

Friday, May 25th & Saturday, May 26th
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Trig's Brat Hut, Riverwalk Center,
 Courtney St, Rhinelander

Saturday, July 7th
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Trig's Brat Hut, Riverwalk Center,
 Courtney St, Rhinelander

BAKE SALE

Saturday, August 11th
 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Hodag Farmer's Market
 Pioneer Park, Rhinelander

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Warm Weather Stuff

It seems like weather has a front page in many of our newsletters of late. In reality, the weather has taking front page in newspapers and magazines worldwide. Our local TV station just published a graphic today comparing 90° days in the last few years. In 2015 & 2017 we had 0 days above 90°. In 2016 there were 2. This year, 2018, we have had 14 days of 90° *so far*. That only takes into account the days that are 90° or above, not the days the temps reach the high 80s which in itself used to be a rarity. There is a very interesting article about the history of climate change that can be found [HERE](#).

This is not just happening in the Northwoods, but worldwide. Weather always affects our patient admissions. For instance, Eastern Gray Squirrels generally have two litters- a spring litter and a fall litter. The fall litter matures quicker, because winter is coming. This means we generally don't have baby squirrels in July because we're between spring and fall litters. This year, however, we had baby gray squirrels in July. Hmmm. Were these spring squirrels that were late because of the lengthy late, snowy spring? Or were these harbingers of an early fall? When they opened their eyes, they started acting like Fall Squirrels. Fireweed started blooming early along with some other signs of a potential early fall. Compression of seasons is seen in retail all the time. Halloween items appear on July 5th in big box stores. For us, it's more of an annoyance to chuckle

at. Seasonal compression, however, affects wildlife greatly.

Mark & Sharon have commented on the lack of Eastern Phoebes around their house. Eastern Wood-Pewees as well. Not only does it make for very quiet wood songs, the insect numbers increase.

Phoebes & Pewees are insect eaters that were some of the species hit hard by our late, snowy and lengthy "Spring-mess" (like Christmas in spring, but messier). Returning migrants had spent their energy reserves on flying hundreds (or thousands) of miles expecting to refuel when they arrived. Instead, they had no insects and below normal temps. Whatever meager energy stores they had left were used to try to survive the cold. Many moved on to some place with available food if they were able, others simply starved.

The effects have been noticed by birders across the Northwoods.

Let's hope this is just a weird occurrence and not something we see every year.



Bear cubs' Meals on Wheels

Intern Fall Migration

Every year our summer interns work their tails off doing things they never imagined they were capable of accomplishing. They come from far and wide to spend time away from family and friends, often covered in less than desirable organic material. Just when they start to be comfortable in that which is asked of them, it's time for them to leave.

Here are some of their thoughts on the time they spent at Wild Instincts...in their own words.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Lauren Ansell
Prospect, PA
Senior

Slippery Rock University

In my days before arriving at Wild Instincts, there is only one word I could use to describe the way I was feeling: nervous. I knew that my time here would challenge me in ways I had never dreamed of. My first three days of working were a complete submersion into the field of wildlife rehabilitation and gave me a good idea of what my summer would be like. After these three very long days I realized, this isn't going to be so bad! Now, sadly approaching the end of my internship I have discovered that rehabilitation is something I dream to make a career out of.

I have never had a job that made me feel so essential, selfless, and fulfilled. Every day is similar with the same patients, food preparation, and cleaning required for the day. However, every day is so special and unique. Some days the phone never stops ringing and new patients are arriving consistently throughout the day, and other days are slower. The day is filled with getting chores done and being productive around the center. The unknown factor of how the day will go makes every day exciting and new. I will hold this internship near to my heart for the rest of my life. I have learned so much about my own

limitations and have felt the immense pride of releasing an animal back into the wild where it belongs. I have one more year of college and then I will graduate and try to find a way to incorporate wildlife rehabilitation into my life and make it a lifestyle. Being able to give back to nature some of what humans have taken from it is way more rewarding than any amount of money or normal hours a different job could offer me. I am so thankful that Mark and Sharon provided me with the opportunity to be here and learn so much over the summer. I am also thankful for the incredible people I met, both roommates and volunteers. My experience would not have been the same without all of them. I would like to share the story of my favorite patient we currently have at Wild Instincts, a fawn. I was on call overnight when a call came in about a fawn that was hit by a car. My roommate, Danna, and I called Mark who met us at the center around midnight. The fawn arrived with a break to its front right leg. We then tranquilized her and began our exam. I learned a lot that night about the fawn's anatomy, how to treat an animal who is in shock, but most of all how to splint a leg.



Lauren carries the sedated fawn after a splint change.

The leg was held so that the bones were aligned correctly and would heal in the

correct position and a splint was applied to the leg. When we finished the exam and treatment, it was 2:00 a.m. Since she was older than other fawns we have in care, she was skittish and would not drink from a bottle well. Now, about a month after her admission she eats carrots, apples, sweet potatoes, deer pellets, and leaves. Her leg is re-splinted every two weeks so that the splint can increase in size as she grows and to check on the bone healing process. I always look forward to checking her progress and seeing how far she has come since the night she was hit by a car. She was incredibly lucky to be hit by someone who cared enough to bring her to Wild Instincts late at night to give her another chance at survival. As stated by Max Lucado, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

Sarah Bailey
New Brownsfel, TX
Senior
Texas A&M

As a senior in college, I am often asked many questions about where I see my life headed once I have my diploma in hand and the celebrations have come to a halt. Where do I plan on working? Where do I see myself in ten years? Do I plan on staying in Texas or will I travel to somewhere new? To be honest, I have never been too sure about any of the answers to those questions, but it's the adventure I've had as an intern at Wild Instincts that has taught me true life lessons and given me amazing experiences, which are responsible for guiding me to choose the path that I want to follow. After swearing that I would never leave Texas, I boarded a plane and flew twelve-hundred miles away from family, friends, and a culture that I've known since I was born. I quickly learned that this internship would contain some of the most challenging months of my life due to the incredibly long hours we work, extremely stressful

situations, and the missing presence of familiarity. What started out as uncharted territory for me quickly became an everyday routine where I could implement the knowledge I learned and understand what was happening in the fast-paced environment at the center. I gained experience practicing so many different things such as how-to properly dropper feed a squirrel and how to hold an eagle. I get to do things every day that an average person doesn't get the chance to do or see in their lifetime. As the days have turned into months, I have had the chance of watching many animals grow and develop. Young hatchlings grew feathers and were able to fly away. The baby squirrels moved from drinking formula from a dropper to eating fruit and nuts, but some of my favorite animals to watch grow older have been the black bears.



Sarah learns how to bottle feed fawns.

When I first arrived, the bears were only getting one bowl of food, but they currently get five heaping bowls of a variety of food. One of the most fascinating memories I have of the bears was on Friday the thirteenth after all the feeding were completed for the day. We received a call about a bear cub that had been hit by a car and was on its way to the center. Once the bear arrived on site, the rescuer informed us that he was a veterinarian for a zoo who happened to be passing through when he

saw the cub get hit by the vehicle. As Mark and the vet examined the young cub, it became apparent that she had a large laceration on her inner thigh, which took a total of thirteen staples to close. She also had a fracture in her lower jaw. The cub recently had the staples removed, and her lower jaw is healing. But she will still be on a smoothie diet for a little while longer until she's able to chew her food again. It's been truly amazing to be a part of the cubs' recovery process and to see her grow in the short amount of time that she's been with us at the center.

Even though my time is coming to a close as an intern, I will never forget the wildlife I got to help take care of and some of the more unique situations, such as the Friday the thirteenth cub. This internship has challenged and pushed me to become more dedicated and passionate about protecting our wildlife more than ever before. Even though I may not be completely sure about what I'll be doing in the future, I now know the path I choose to follow will be dedicated to our wildlife and natural resources one way or another.

Danna Pelaez

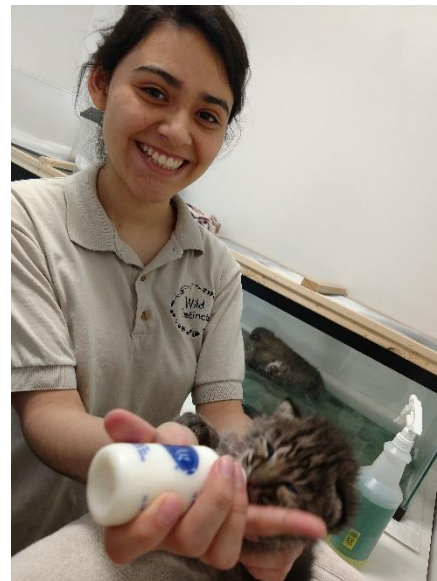
Los Angeles, California

Junior

Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

"¡Me voy a ir a Wisconsin, Ma!" (I'm going to Wisconsin, Ma!) I tell my mother over the phone on April 21st after hearing back from Wild Instincts. I was accepted! A million thoughts were rushing through my mind. I have to buy plane tickets, I need to pack my luggage; I need to do this and that. I was overjoyed. I was ready to leave Massachusetts and gain hands on experience working with wildlife native to Wisconsin that needed to be diagnosed, treated, and returned to the wild after being injured or orphaned. But, wait? That means I will not be going back home to the city. I will not see my family until December and I

will be living in Rhinelander, Wisconsin for three months? What exactly will I be doing for 3 months? This is my first time interning at a wildlife rehabilitation center and I wasn't sure what to expect. During the interview, Mark describes what interns do on a day to day basis which includes working over 12-hour days feeding and cleaning animals and working with the public. I began my internship in early May and I was shadowing Mark and the other three spring interns for the first few days before I was properly trained. During that week I got to see what I was going to do for the next 3 months and what was expected from me. The reality is I was going to wash dishes, sweep, mop, and feed all sorts of animals, and administer medications.



Danna bottle feeds one of the young bobcats.

One of the best things that happened my first week here was feeding red squirrels. The squirrels were small, soft, and hungry! My first time feeding a squirrel was definitely the worst. I had no idea how to hold the squirrel in one hand on the eyedropper in the other. Mark made it look so easy but instead I had squirrels climbing up my arm and I kept spilling formula on the floor. However, with practice I became

comfortable holding squirrels and the eyedropper to feed them. I felt good. I was learning new things and slowly becoming better at my job.

A few days later I moved on to feeding bigger animals like bobcats! The first four we got were found in a piece of farm machinery that was scrapped. The person who found them wasn't sure where the farm machinery came from so Wild Instincts took in 4 orphaned baby bobcats. We would bottle feed the bobcat's multiple times a day and it was my favorite part of the day! After two months I have learned how to feed hummingbirds, bobcats, fawns, bears and so much more. Looking back on my first week here I have gained a better understanding of wildlife rehabilitation and its importance. I have grown as a person and come out of my shell and made some really great memories. Mark and Sharon made my summer here 100 times better. They knew that I hadn't kayaked before and they allowed me and Lauren, another summer intern, to kayak on their lake. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to work at such a great facility with great mentors and interns. I will never forget this summer, the people, the animals, and places that made it the best! Thank you!



Danna, the LA non-driver, drives the tractor.

Gail Morris
DePere, WI
Graduate

University Wisconsin-Stevens Point
My experience at Wild Instincts was an unforgettable one to say the least. I just graduated college this past May and I felt that I had gained enough knowledge to take on this internship with confidence. Boy, was I wrong. It is one thing to learn about anatomy, drug dosages, and other aspects pertaining to wildlife in class, but is completely different when applying it in real situations. This internship was the most difficult internship I have had. With that being said, it was the most rewarding and humbling internship as well. Every day is a learning experience. I really enjoyed not knowing what animal was going to come in next. From identifying the animal, to knowing the right amount of fluids to give based on its weight, or even casting a broken leg, you never knew what the day was going to be like. Not knowing kept the day interesting and was the complete opposite of your typical 9-5 job. I feel lucky to say that I had the opportunity to bottle feed bobcats and observe Mark teach an otter how to swim and the unexpected is what made that possible. There are good and bad days that come with any job. With this job, it is the good days that make all of the hard ones worth it. For example, a Bald Eagle came in with a very high lead content in its system, nearly triple the minimum amount we would begin treating for lead poisoning. In a situation like this it is difficult to tell if the Eagle will be able to survive. Fortunately, nearly two months later, I got to see this Eagle released with little to no lead in her system. Some days are hard and there is nothing that can be done. Seeing the Eagle fly away after months of hard work or even having the cutest little nuggets, like Southern Flying Squirrels, come through that door makes every hardship and struggle worth it.

Let me just say that if you did not do dishes before this internship, you are going to get used to doing them now. Mark and Sharon are not kidding when they say it is a lot of chore work. Luckily, being the weirdo I am, I love to do house chores like sweeping and mopping so it did not bother me. But I looked at it this way, grunt work is what keeps the facility pristine for animal care and everyone contributes to be able to provide that care. You learn to love it.



Gail feeding one of her favorite Southern Flying Squirrel "nuggets".

The volunteers and drivers at Wild Instincts are all incredible. They deserve the biggest shout out for everything they do. Volunteers take time out of their day to help us, whether it's driving across the state to drop off an animal, feeding residents, or even feeding interns, Wild Instincts would not run as smoothly without their help. Wild Instincts is surrounded by such loving and caring people that make the facility a welcoming place.

This experience was incredible and I have learned so much in such a short amount of time. I would do this internship over and over again if I could to keep building on what I have already learned. I am truly blessed to have met all of the people affiliated with Wild Instincts. Thanks to this place I am one step closer to a successful career in this field.



In Honor or Memory Of

- ~ In Memory of Larry Geertgens
- ~In Memory of Alexandra's mom, Mary, who is missed every day
- ~In Memory of Gerry Smith
- ~In Honor of Grant Birmingham's birthday
- ~In Honor of Elsie Thornton's 90th birthday
- ~In Honor of Hope Carmines' 88th birthday
- ~In Honor of Sue Olson's birthday in heaven
- ~In Honor of Barb & Art Barlow's anniversary
- ~In Honor of Eilene Dybvad's 90th birthday
- ~In Memory of Dr. Howard Cook, mentor, supporter and true friend of Wild Instincts
- ~In Memory of Blackthorn's Fraxinus Samara aka "Mara" who has completed her Final Fetch through the Milky Way to the Rainbow Bridge
- ~In Memory of Bob Hasal
- ~In Memory of Werner Zimmer
- ~In Memory of Marge Ostrander

A Lucky Friday the 13th

On Friday, July 13, just as the evening feedings were winding down, a call came in regarding a bear cub hit by a car. Before we could even think about who we would send on that rescue, the caller said he had it in his car and should be at Wild Instincts in about 35 minutes.

It's unusual for someone to put a cub that old in their car and we don't recommend

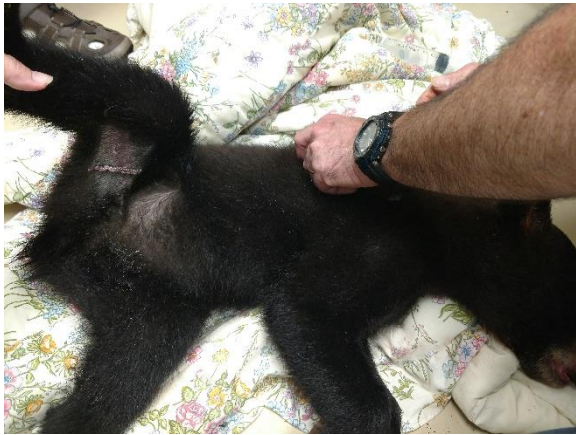
untrained people handle them at all, no matter their age.

When he arrived, we went out to safely get the bear from his car. But he already had it and was walking through the door. We could tell he had done this before.

He was directed to the exam room where it was revealed that he was a wildlife vet for a zoo. He had seen the cub get hit.

He and Mark went into emergency mode.

The cub had a large laceration on her inner thigh and a fracture to her lower jaw.



Laceration stapling complete, giving antibiotics and pain meds.

Thirteen staples later, she was sleeping off the sedative as comfortably as possible. She started eating specially blended smoothies and slowly graduated to solid foods. After almost 5 weeks inside to allow her fracture to heal, she moved to the outside enclosure with the others and is doing very well.

In decades of wildlife rehab, we've never had a wildlife vet not only witness an incident, but accompany the victim to care. It was truly a lucky Friday the 13th for this young cub!



Keeping bear smoothie interesting.



Baby turtle with plastic bead stuck on lip. It was removed and turtle was released.

All Grown Up

It's always interesting to watch the nursery empty out. The lumps of pink flesh grow hair or feathers. Eyes open. Mouths open. Individual personalities with individual food preferences develop. Sometimes this process happens in what seems like a blink of an eye. Some species take a little longer than others, but no matter the length of time, it's always a treat to behold. Here's a photo journal of some of our patients as they make the journey from helpless to wild again.

Red Fox



Red fox kits admitted May 6



Red fox kits June 29



Red fox release Aug 9

Cedar Waxwings



Left is approx. 13 days old, right approx. 10 days



Four days later. Older on left here 17 days old, right 14 days

Mink



Admission on June 8



Release on Aug 6. A final good-bye to the den box of his youth.

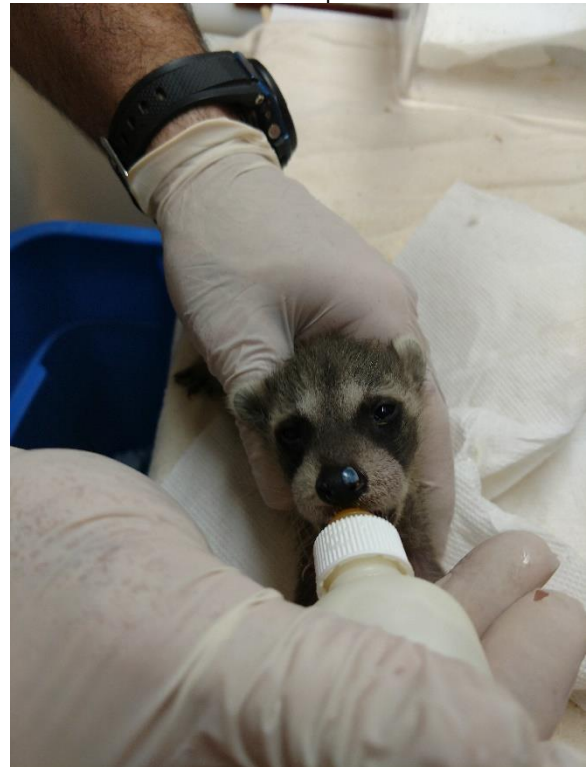


Release on Aug 6. A hello to his new world.

Raccoon



Admission April 21



May 14



July 27



Released Aug 15

Robin



Hatching: Day 0

Eastern Gray Squirrel



3 weeks



Day 17



9-10 weeks and almost ready for release

Almost All Grown UP
Bear Cubs



April 28

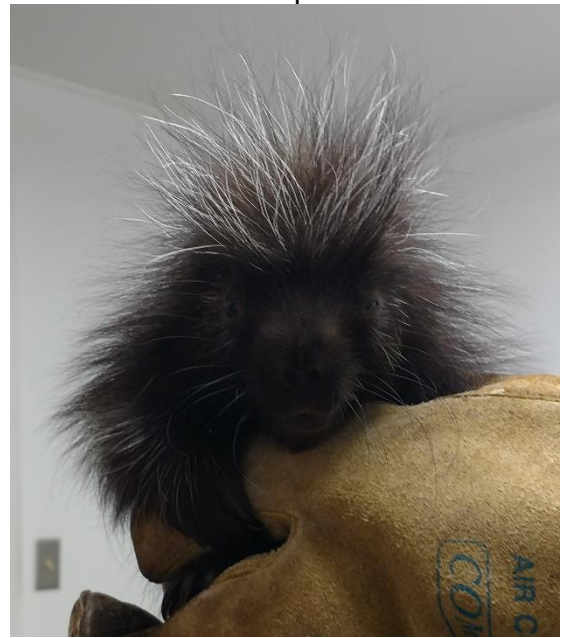


July 27



May 26

Porcupine



Porcupine Baby

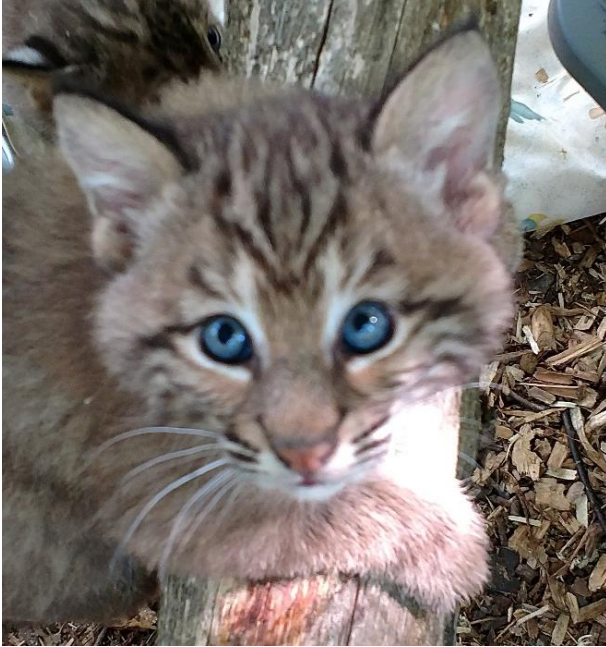


Almost ready for release

Bobcats



May 22



June 22



Aug 18

Southern Flying Squirrels



Wish List

(see our [AMAZON WISH LIST](#) for a more complete listing)

Paper towels (more than you can imagine!)

Blankets

Toilet Paper

Dish Soap

Liquid Hand Soap

Canned Dog Food (any brand)

Unsalted Walnuts/Pecans/Almonds

Gas Cards

Postage Stamps

Species 1/1-8/13/18		Great Horned Owl	6
American Crow	5	Hairy Woodpecker	1
American Goldfinch	6	Herring Gull	1
American Robin	46	Hooded Merganser	5
American Toad	2	House Sparrow	3
American Woodcock	3	Indigo Bunting	1
Bald Eagle	19	Least Flycatcher	3
Barred Owl	10	Little Brown Bat	2
Belted Kingfisher	2	Mallard Duck	6
Big Brown Bat	27	Meadow Vole	6
Black Bear	12	Merlin	3
Black-capped Chickadee	1	Midland Painted Turtle	2
Blue Jay	2	Mink	9
Bobcat	8	Mourning Dove	13
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Muskrat	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Nashville Warbler	1
Canada Goose	15	Northern Cardinal	1
Cedar Waxwing	10	Northern Flicker	3
Chimney Swift	1	Northern Oriole	1
Chipping Sparrow	9	Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Cliff Swallow	1	Ovenbird	1
Common Grackle	7	Pied-billed Grebe	1
Common Loon	3	Pileated Woodpecker	4
Common Merganser	1	Pine Siskin	6
Common Raven	4	Porcupine	1
Common Redpoll	17	Purple Finch	2
Cooper's Hawk	2	Raccoon	35
Coyote	1	Red Crossbill	2
Deer Mouse	12	Red Fox	7
Downy Woodpecker	1	Red Squirrel	33
Eastern Chipmunk	5	Redback Vole	2
Eastern Cottontail	87	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6
Eastern Garter Snake	1	Red-eyed Vireo	5
Eastern Gray Squirrel	54	Red-tailed Hawk	2
Eastern Phoebe	2	Red-winged Blackbird	1
European Starling	13	Ring-billed Gull	2
Flying Squirrel, Southern	14	River Otter	1
Fox Snake	1	Rock Dove	4
Gray Catbird	2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
Gray Fox	5	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	15

Ruffed Grouse	3
Sandhill Crane	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Short-tailed Weasel	3
Snapping Turtle	12
Snowy Owl	2
Striped Skunk	1
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	2
Tree Swallow	1
Trumpeter Swan	2
Unknown	1
Virginia Opossum	1
Western Painted Turtle	15
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
White-tailed Deer	28
White-throated Sparrow	1
Wild Turkey	6
Wood Duck	3
Woodchuck	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Total	710



Young osprey getting sub Q fluids.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wine & Cheese Cruise
 Wisconsin River Cruises
 Sept 22, 2018
SOLD OUT

WISCONSIN *Bat Festival*

Every year the Wisconsin Bat Program hosts a Wisconsin Bat Festival. The Festival is an engaging and fun way to learn about the importance of being good stewards of the earth while learning more about these often misunderstood animals.

This year's festival is being held August 25th at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland. It's FREE!

Click [HERE](#) for the schedule of events.

Welcome to

INSTINCTS



Nov 2018

Vol 7:3

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

CHANGING SEASONS

As seasons are changing and the end of the calendar year is in sight, the rehab seasons are changing, too. The Busy Baby Season has come to an end. The Fall Interns have migrated back to their homes and other adventures. We're getting in the injured fall migrants, naive teens and those wild ones left behind for some reason, generally an injury. It's time to be looking ahead to our next season: Prepping for Baby Season. We have things to winterize and repair. Ordering to do. End of year reports, lots and lots of reports. Permits and licenses to renew. More reports. Revamping some education programs. Repairs to equipment. Medical articles, new research and journals to catch up on. New fundraising. And maybe catch up on some sleep and neglected projects at home, too. Oh yeah, and we still have patients to care for. A few like a couple bobcats, a fox and a couple turtles will be staying the entire winter until spring weather allows their release.

MEET NOVA

Earlier this year we added a new ambassador to our education team. She made her public debut in mid-August. Nova is a Northern Saw-whet Owl. She was admitted as an adult with an injury to her wing which makes it unable for her to be released so she will instead be teaching people about owls and stewardship. Saw-whet owls get their name from their call which is said to sound like a saw being sharpened on a whetting stone.

Saw-whets are among the smallest owl species of North America and very common throughout. Nova weighs about 3 ounces and stands about 6.5" tall.



Nova perched inside her hollow log

MORE AGAIN

As this newsletter is getting ready to be sent to you, our admission numbers are running ahead of last year AGAIN! Last year was a record year for us and now it looks like this year will surpass those numbers. While we love helping all we can, this also comes with a price tag. All our funding comes from memberships and donations. More admissions mean more funding is needed to provide care. As you'll read elsewhere in this newsletter, our biggest yearly fundraiser

has come to an end. We are exploring other options, but until then: Do you enjoy reading our newsletter? Do you support what we do? Consider giving memberships as gifts this holiday season or make a donation or two in honor of someone.

FALL CHALLENGES

In the fall, one of the challenges of rehab can be simple species identification. Birds are no longer in their breeding plumage, the young of the year may look quite different than their adult stage or juveniles can look a lot like adult females. Often biologists rely on body weight to identify one from another in cases like these as often times one gender is larger than the other. However, all that is done using healthy individuals. If you have a bird that is in bad shape or emaciated, the weight does not help. Sometimes not only identifying which sex within a species is difficult, but determining juvenile birds from different species. For instance, it can be very difficult to distinguish Trumpeter Swan vs Tundra Swan juveniles. They are both gray as juveniles. Tundras turn white by March of their first year, Trumpeters not until the summer of their second year. The experts use bill shape, the width of the V and black near the eyes, the black and pink patterns on the bill, and the color of the legs.



Juvenile Tundra Swan

However, the juvenile Tundra Swan in our care has flagship identification from BOTH species. This is where experience comes in. Knowing it's a Tundra Swan because you've seen enough swans to know it's a Tundra Swan is one thing. Teaching it to someone who has only seen a couple swans of any species is more difficult. This is also why it is so difficult to learn rehab. Less common species don't present themselves yearly, or even every other year.

GET THE LEAD OUT!

November in Wisconsin seems like a good time to rerun this blog post from 2016. Yes, we've been preaching against lead for many years.

In a few days Wisconsin's Gun Deer Season opens, bringing an estimated 600,000 hunters to the woods. Now is the time they are making their last minute preparations and packing for the trip to the Hunting Camp. The lists are long: food, beverages, long underwear, extra socks, playing cards, etc. The top of everyone's list should read: **LEAD ALTERNATIVE AMMUNITION.**

Every fall after upland game hunting season starts, but especially after gun deer season begins, Wisconsin wildlife rehabilitators see an increase of bald eagles suffering from lead poisoning. It's not from eagles being shot, accidentally or otherwise, but rather from lead bullet fragments being ingested from gut piles and unfound carcasses that succumbed to hunters using lead ammunition. We recently said as much on TV and received some heated challenges indicating we made that up. We wish we had because that would be easy to fix, but alas, we did not. A simple Internet search will lead you to many scientific studies on the subject, but we know you are busy getting ready for Saturday, so we've brought some of the important findings to you here. Lead is a

naturally occurring highly toxic mineral. The earliest known lead mine dates to 6500 BC. Lead toxicity was known and recorded as early as 2000 BC. Our modern society has removed it from gasoline and paint. It's been outlawed from ammunition used for waterfowl since 1991 because of the incidental deaths of over 2 million waterfowl annually by their eating of spent lead shot in sediments while feeding and developing lead poisoning from it. Lead shot

and rifle bullets, however, are still widely used for hunting mammals and upland game birds. Lead sinkers and lures are still in use by anglers. These uses expose bald eagles, loons, swans, vultures, ravens and other birds to the hazards of lead poisoning by adding lead to your hunting grounds. Hunting guns today come in a huge variety. They shoot a projectile that expands on impact to help inflict a humane kill. How that projectile expands and what happens to it after it enters the target's body depends on what it is made from. There have been many studies in recent years to show how far the projectile expands and where the fragments end up. The results may amaze you:

- No matter the type of animal or type of lead-based bullet, lead bullets fragment when fired into an animal.
- The fragment size and number varies but can number in the 100's in just one carcass.
- Fragments spray out from the wound channel a great distance, up to 18"
- MONOLITHIC COPPER BULLETS produce few, if any, fragments within carcasses.

Interesting and scary, huh?

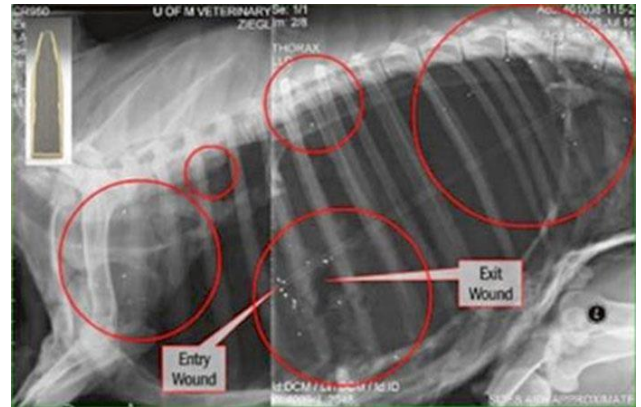


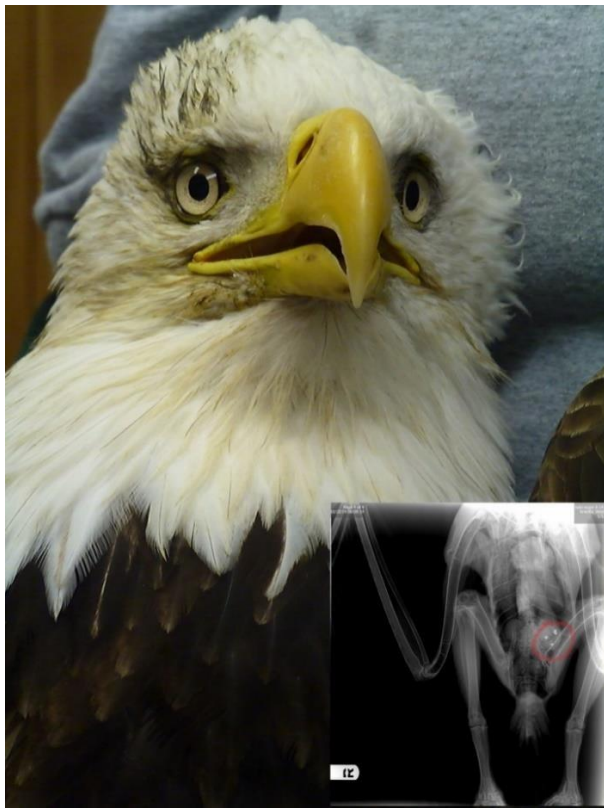
Photo courtesy of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Farmland Wildlife Populations and Research Group, 35365 800th Ave, Madelia, MN 56062

This is scary, too. An x-ray of a domestic sheep shot with lead ammo. Bullet fragments are within the red circles and throughout the body cavity and pelvic cavity, even though it was shot behind the shoulder blade.



This 175-grain lead core, lead tip bullet from a 7mm RemMagnum Rifle left 547 fragments (counted). Note the 9mm carbon fiber tube inserted through the bullet path.

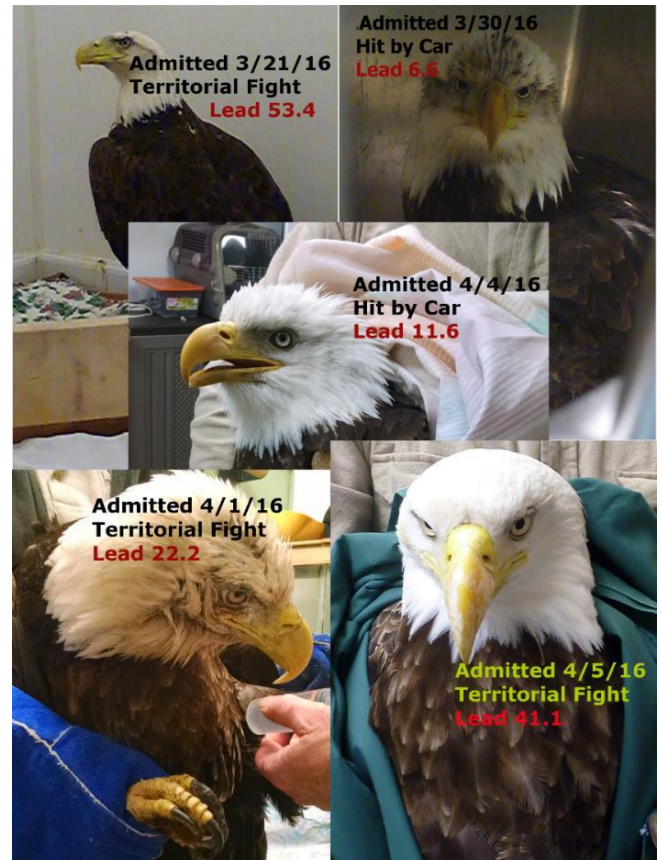
Think about that. Your use of lead creates a firestorm of small lead fragments that significantly increases the chance eagles or other wildlife will scavenge these fragments in the gut pile or carcass you leave behind. It also means more than one animal can be poisoned by a single carcass. Bald eagles are great scavengers. Gut piles and unfound carcasses are easy buffets. Especially in hunting seasons with no snow to cover them. This is HOW eagles get lead in their systems this time of year. Really. We aren't making this up and there are many scientific studies out there to prove it.



Eagle admitted to Wild Instincts with lead shot fragments in its stomach.

In years when there is a lot of snow for hunting season and throughout the winter, we have a delay in admissions. When snow starts to melt and uncover lead-tainted carcasses from hunting season that have been snow

covered for the winter, we see another uptick in lead poisoned eagle admissions.



Lead affects a wide range of body functions that affect the bird's behavior and ability to function and survive normally.

What happens after an eagle accidentally ingests fragments from the ammunition you used on your 30 Pointer? The lead fragment(s) are broken down by the stomach acid to form toxic lead salts which are absorbed into the blood stream. Lead interferes with calcium and causes neurological effects – think seizures here. It affects kidney and liver function. It affects growth, feeding behavior, locomotion, balance, depth perception. It affects every aspect of that bird's life and its ability to survive in the wild.

We draw blood on each eagle we admit to test for lead. There are guidelines that divide the results into different levels. Background level (<.2 ppm (20 µ/dl)) is a very low elevation. Subclinical level (.2 to .5 ppm (20-50 µ/dl)) means they have elevated levels, but they aren't high enough to cause visible symptoms and finally clinical lead toxicity (>greater than .5 (50 µ/dl)).

Our years of experience, however, have shown us these guidelines are often misleading. We have admitted quite a number of birds that should fit into the Background Level of less than .2ppm (20 µ/dl) that are showing clinical symptoms! Our protocol is now not to release a bird until its blood level is too low to read. Birds that have lead levels supposedly too low to cause death, still have effects on their health and life. There have been reports of birds with low blood lead levels being more susceptible to predations, hunting, collisions with vehicles or powerlines, etc. Birds that have elevated levels of lead in their blood are started on treatment immediately. Chelation binds the lead from soft tissue and bone for excretion. It depletes good minerals along with the lead. The treatment for lead poisoning is grueling on the bird. Lots of supportive care is given and rehabbers invest their hearts and souls into every bird. Still, some make it and many do not.

This happens not only in Wisconsin, but across the U.S.

Think about all the needless deaths from just ONE lead fragment contaminated animal and multiply it across the U.S. Deer hunting is the most popular type of hunting in the U.S. with over 10 million people participating in 2006. It's common practice to field dress deer by removing the internal organs to leave a lighter, easier-todrag-out-to-the-car carcass. The entrails are left in place in a gut pile for wild animals to scavenge. There are also deer that are wounded, but not recovered that die in the woods, again for wild animals to scavenge. Small game hunters number around

7.5 million. The above deer scenario is repeated for these rabbits, squirrels, grouse, etc. By now you shouldn't be surprised that doesn't just happen in the U.S., but all over the world.

It's heartbreaking.

It's totally and easily preventable.

Replace your lead ammunition and fishing tackle with non-lead alternatives.

Now.

LAST CRUISE

For those of you not aware by now, our annual Wine & Cheese Cruise fundraising event has come to an end. Wisconsin River Cruises, our generous partner, has sold the boat. Patty Zastrow and family have moved to Michigan. They were a huge help to Wild Instincts in hosting a fantastic, well-loved fundraiser. It's an event that will be missed by all. We wish Patty & Ben and the girls all the best in their new adventures.



The Wilderness Queen has left the Wisconsin River and now lives in Delavan, WI on Lake Geneva.



Surprising Patty on our Farewell Cruise.

Charter NEX Films Charter NEX Films is North America's leading independent producer of highperformance specialty films used in flexible packaging and other critical performance applications. Four of their seven film production facilities are located in Wisconsin. One is located in Rhinelander. In October, a work crew from the Rhinelander Charter NEX Films facility donated 2 days of volunteer service to help Wild Instincts. Volunteers descended on Wild Instincts to help construct a new enclosure to house small wading birds. It was all hands needed to mix & form the specialty pond, the central feature of this enclosure. They also did some log cutting and clearing. All of it very appreciated.



Digging the pond and making forms for concrete.



Mixing and pouring the concrete.



The finished pond.



The finished enclosure.

But wait, not only did Charter NEX Films provide hard-working, heavy-lifting volunteers, they also provided \$4000.00 for another enclosure!

What a wonderful company and community member.

Thank you for helping us help them.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 27, 2018

We have some exciting news! In honor of #GivingTuesday, Facebook is partnering with PayPal to match donations a total of up to \$7 million to U.S. nonprofits on Facebook. **How can you help?**

As a Wild Instincts supporter, we need your help. Create a Facebook fundraiser and share it with your friends on #GivingTuesday. Creating a fundraiser is easy and we welcome fundraisers with any goal amount.



In Honor or Memory Of

- In Memory of Phyllis Benson
- In Memory of Carol Lee
- In Memory of Katie Finley
- In Honor of Dr. Charles Faulkner's 81st Birthday
- In Memory of adult male Bald Eagle hit by car on Hwy 51 on Sept 22, 2018
- In Memory of Carmines' & Thornton's 68th wedding anniversary
- In Honor of Nathan & Laura DeHart's 1st wedding anniversary
- In Memory of Vicki Klar-Loomis
- In Memory of "Remmy", a much loved Bernese Mountain Dog
- In Memory of Lou Norton
- In Memory of Robert S. DiGiacomo, a giving man and much loved uncle
- In Honor of Tom & Judy Hooeyman's 50th wedding anniversary
- In Memory of Hildegard Staus



We're coming into the season traditionally used to reflect on our blessings and give thanks.

At Wild Instincts, we don't have a single season for giving thanks; we have cause to be grateful all year long! Really, our supporters are some of the best on the planet!!

Anytime we've had a pressing need we ask the community for help with, the response is amazing.

This fall we were in the need of some apples for the bear cubs. We asked. You all responded with joy - from across the nation. We got checks from as far away as TX. John F. Kennedy Middle School in Plainfield, IL donated apples from their lunches and teamed up with a local grocer, Peter Rubi to collect and deliver (from IL no less) over 700 lbs of apples!



Go Falcons! Thanks for helping us help them.



Apples delivered from Illinois.

Plus, the cool thing about our supporters is they don't hesitate to help when we ask, but they will show up even we haven't asked. For her 10th birthday, Piper collected items for us instead of for herself. Not many 10 year olds would ask for dish soap and toilet paper - Then she brought her siblings along for the delivery.



Piper and her helpers.

With supporters like ours, every day is Thanksgiving!

We'd also like to give a shout out to the many local and nearby charities and civic groups that remember Wild Instincts in their givings. St. Mathias Thrift Store, Flyin Finn, Presque Isle Lioness, Manitowish Waters Lions, St. Germain Prime-timers, Sayner-St. Germain Fish & Wildlife Club, Northern Paws Animal Hospital, WPS Foundation, CT's Deli, Animal Health Care Center, Sears Hometown Store, The Hodag Store, All Creatures Veterinary, Farmer's Feed Store, Walmart, Rhinelander Woman's Club and Russ Davis Wholesale Produce just to name a few!

We are so thankful for every one of our supporters, now matter how big or small.

RELEASE SEASON

People often comment we must be so sad to see our patients off into the wild. This is not true! This is what we pour our heart, sweat, lack of sleep and soul into making happen!

It's like raising your child to be a successful, independent adult and then sending them off to college or out on their own. Maybe somewhat bittersweet, but never sad. Let's pull out the photo album and reminisce about some childhoods as they head off on their own.

BEAR



Four-month old bear cub upon admission.



Ten-month old paw size comparison.



Increasing in age...and in numbers!



BOBCAT



A litter of bobcat kittens about 2 weeks old at admission.



Getting bigger



Thanks for everything...



.....I've got it from here.

FAWN



Not all are "just" orphans. Some have injuries like this fawn with a fractured leg from being hit by a car.



Same fawn, now healed, on Release Day.

RED FOX



Admission Day



Admission Day



Growing up.



FREEDOM!

Wild Instincts is the only rehab facility in the state licensed to care for every species rehabbable by law. Let's not leave out birds. Here's a series of Summer Intern Danna releasing a red-eyed vireo:



Species Admitted 1/1-

11/3/2018	Total
American Crow	5
American Goldfinch	4
American Robin	54
American Toad	2
American Woodcock	3
Bald Eagle	31
Barred Owl	11
Belted Kingfisher	4
Big Brown Bat	28
Black Bear	13
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Blue Jay	2
Bobcat	9
Broad-winged Hawk	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Canada Goose	16
Cedar Waxwing	13
Chimney Swift	1
Chipping Sparrow	11
Cliff Swallow	1
Common Grackle	7
Common Loon	3
Common Merganser	1
Common Nighthawk	4
Common Raven	7
Common Redpoll	17
Pine Siskin	6
Porcupine	2
Purple Finch	2
Raccoon	35
Red Crossbill	2
Red Fox	8
Red Squirrel	34
Redback Vole	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7
Red-eyed Vireo	6
Red-tailed Hawk	8
Red-winged Blackbird	1
Ring-billed Gull	3
River Otter	1
Rock Dove	7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	17
Ruffed Grouse	4

Cooper's Hawk	2
Coyote	1
Deer Mouse	23
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Chipmunk	7
Eastern Cottontail	123
Eastern Garter Snake	2
Eastern Gray Squirrel	70
Eastern Phoebe	2
Eastern Red Bat	1
Eastern Whippoorwill	1
European Starling	13
Flying Squirrel, Southern	15
Fox Snake	3
Gray Catbird	2
Gray Fox	5
Great Blue Heron	2
Great Horned Owl	8
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Herring Gull	1
Hooded Merganser	5
House Sparrow	4
Indigo Bunting	1
Least Flycatcher	3
Little Brown Bat	3
Mallard Duck	9
Meadow Vole	6
Merlin	3
Midland Painted Turtle	2
Mink	9
Mourning Dove	19
Muskrat	2
Nashville Warbler	1
Northern Cardinal	2
Northern Flicker	6
Northern Oriole	1
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Norway Rat	10
Osprey	1
Ovenbird	3
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Pileated Woodpecker	5

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

715-362-9453 (362-WILD)
4621 Apperson Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501

715-490-2727(cell)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rescue & Transport Driver Training

Thursday March 7, 2018 6:30-

8:00 p.m.

At Wild Instincts

Registration required by March 4, 2018

Rescue & Transport Driver Training

Saturday March 9, 2018 10:00-

11:30 a.m.

At Wild Instincts

Registration required by March 4, 2018

*NOTE: These are identical trainings, just offered at two different times to give people a scheduling option. You only attend one session.

Wish List

(see our [AMAZON WISH LIST](#) for a more complete listing) **Canned Dog Food -any brand (pressing need)**

Paper towels (more than you can imagine!)

Toilet Paper

Dish Soap

Liquid Hand Soap

Unsalted Walnuts/Pecans/Almonds

Gas Cards

Postage Stamps



Newly released otter explores

