

Welcome to

# INSTINCTS



FEB 2022

Vol 11:1

*"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."*

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## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!**

On January 25, Wild Instincts turned 11.

The Pandemic has taken away not only our 10-year celebration but also our 10+1-year celebration.

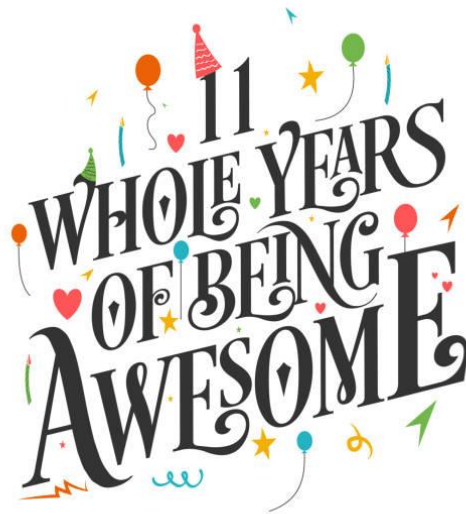
We're hopeful this trend will not continue.

Though, we celebrate every day we have the privilege of being able to do this work.

And the only reason we can continue to do so is because of the support of all of you.

So really, any celebration is to celebrate all of you.

Happy Anniversary to YOU ALL!



## **2021 in Review**

The second year of the Pandemic we treated more patients than ever with less volunteers and interns but still managed a success/release rate of 66%!

While other rehab centers were forced to continue to limit hours or remain closed, we were, and are,

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grateful to do neither.

We continue to be able to provide care to our wild friends in need with no interruptions.

Our education programs, however, are still running behind. We are just now carefully starting to again present education programs for 2022.

Fundraisers, though, continue to be the biggest loser. Last year we had our virtual Wild ScaVenture and Giving Tuesday as the only fundraisers for the entire year. This year will be the same, although we are watching things closely and hope to be able to schedule a smaller fundraiser sometime before the year is over.

Despite the lack of official fundraisers, our supporters have been incredible! Thank you for helping us help them!!



We admitted 1306 patients from 118 different species from 39 different counties and three different states in 2021.

### **SHOW ME THE NUMBERS**

NUMB3RS was a TV show airing from 2005 -2010 that focused on how mathematics is always important in daily life, often in unexpected ways. The program showcased using math in astonishing manners to solve crimes.

Many people are surprised how much simple math is involved in day-to-day wildlife rehab and medicine. Lots of different data is collected, tracked and analyzed. However, it encompasses much more than just fluid calculations and drug doses.

Data is important to many aspects of any organization. It helps show what they're doing right, what areas need improvement, helps secure funding and a host of other things.

Here at Wild Instincts we track lots of different data: survival rates, admissions, food intake, disease outbreaks are just a few.

At the end of every calendar year we compile and analyze what we collected and compare to other years. Here we'll try to provide a snippet in a way that doesn't make people glaze over when they hear MATH or NUMBERS.

For instance, in 2021 we treated 1306 patients from 118 different species from 39 different counties.

We admitted the same number of wild animals as the human population of Glenwood City, WI, the site of the yearly St. Croix County fair.

There are 72 counties in WI so last year we admitted patients from over half of all the counties in WI.

Many years it's even higher

than that, but it's always a big geographic area we cover! We also transferred in patients from Michigan and Minnesota, so we had admissions from three different states.

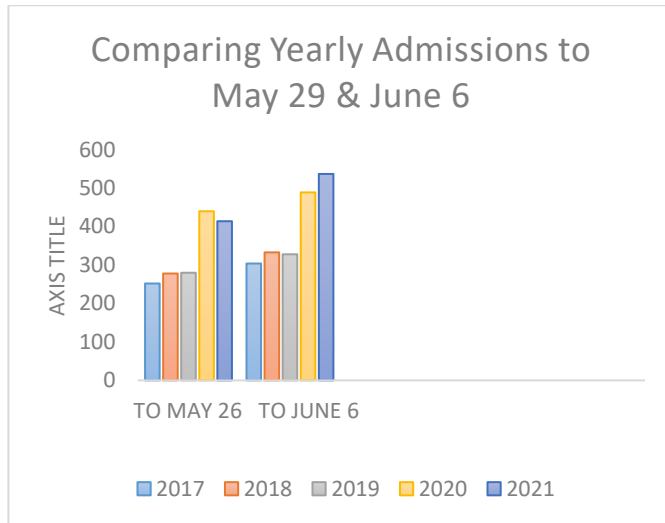
Keep in mind also, we do this with only three permanent staff, a few seasonal interns and a handful of volunteers.

Some interesting items from compiling and comparing year to year:

Even though they started Wild Instincts 11 years ago, Mark & Sharon have been wildlife rehabbers for a very long time. In 1998 they started tracking how many patients they've been personally responsible on their permits. As of 12/31/2021 that total was 19,865.

Sometimes numbers and data analysis clarify something we may suspect or experience. A perfect illustration of that is our "To Date" category.

Way back in 1998 Mark & Sharon started tracking how many patients they saw to May 29<sup>th</sup> and then to June 5<sup>th</sup>. This was designed to compare what the effect of the Memorial Day Weekend kick-off to tourist season in the Northwoods had on admissions. Many people would come North to their cabins and open them up for the summer and find unexpected house guests or injured wild friends.



The last two years during COVID, we have continued to operate as usual. We kept our same hours and services. We kept the same three staff. We reduced volunteers to less than six. Intern levels fluctuated but were never at full capacity.

Other facilities were forced to reduce hours and limit their admissions so we assumed some of our frantic Spring Seasons were due to more admissions that would normally go to other facilities and not having a full staff of interns at any time.

Looking at our comparative data for that time, however, reveals to what degree this occurred and validates our exhaustion.

Will this trend continue? Is it strictly due to COVID? Is a component of this due to climate change? As more people relocate to their Northwoods cabins permanently, will this trend be permanent?

Stay tuned as we continue to collect and analyze data and more importantly, adjust so we may continue to provide top quality care to as many of our wild friends as possible.



### IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

- ~In Memory of Larry Maholland
- ~In Memory of Ron Brekke
- ~In Memory of Walter Kunde
- ~In Honor of Grandma Kate who loves animals
- ~In Memory of Winnie Tomasek
- ~In Honor of the Biolo Family
- ~In Loving Memory of Esther Mayo
- ~In Loving Memory of "Moon Pie"
- `In Memory of Stephanie Boismenu's mom
- ~In Honor of Erinn Brogren

- ~In Honor of Cindy & Joel, Nature Lovers
- ~In Memory of Karin Randolph and her love of animals
- ~In Memory of Geraldine Urbonya
- ~In Honor of Carol Schultz
- ~In Honor of Pat & Mary Bowles
- ~In Memory of Herman & Eleanor Jessen of Phelps, WI
- ~In Memory of "Teton" Robinson
- ~In Memory of Mark & Kathy Brylski
- ~In Memory of Sandra Freeland
- ~In Honor of Mike & Debbie DeLany's 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- ~In Memory of Anne C Bourget
- ~In Memory of Betty White
- ~In Memory of Jules O'Neal-Dall
- ~In Memory of Great Friends John (Jack) Goossen & Ralph Larson
- ~In Honor of Wild Instincts 11th Anniversary
- ~ In Memory of Michael Wilhelm

### **SWAN UPDATE**

This Trumpeter Swan was admitted on 10/22/21 after he was found walking in ditch along a road in Polk County.

Initial exam revealed he was starving, in poor body condition and his blood lead level read HIGH (over 65 mcg/dl or 0.65ppm).

The x-rays taken revealed at least 19 lead fragments in his digestive tract. We started chelation immediately.



No noticeable from the outside, this Trumpeter Swan has more than 19 lead fragments in his digestive tract.

Chelation is the process of removing lead from their bodies. We inject a chemical that binds to the lead in the body to allow it to be excreted. It's similar to chemotherapy in the way that chemo kills good with bad, chelation removes lead and other "good" heavy minerals in the body necessary in a healthy animal. And like chemo, many animals don't feel well during the process. Some stop eating during the chelation period and then need to be force or tube-fed.

With cases like this with high lead values that may have settled into the bones, we may do lower doses of chelation for a longer period, giving a period of rest in between courses of treatment.

Treatment is daily injections for a period of consecutive days. That means we must physically grab and inject the bird, causing added stress to the bird's stay.

He's been in care for 113 days and been injected with chelating agent 87 times. His level has been tested eight more times since the initial blood draw.

We're getting closer but we're still not there yet. While some are of the thought any lead level reading of 10 is below the "level of concern" and not an issue, we don't think that way. We release after the lead level is LOW and doesn't register on our analyzer (below 3.3 mcg/dl or .033ppm).



The yellow circles indicate some of the lead fragments in the Trumpeter Swan's digestive tract on admission.

We know even though we have been actively campaigning to get lead out of our environment, it's still there. Wildlife will be re-exposed so starting with the lowest level possible will give them a better chance to survive when they get re-exposed.

This year wildlife rehabbers across the nation are facing yet another hurdle when treating lead poisoning: a shortage of lead-testing supplies.

There is a problem at the manufacturer that we are told is not related to COVID. But we have no idea when it will be fixed and no idea when we will be able to get the supplies we need to run these important tests.

This is so frustrating as these scenarios are completely preventable. Get the lead out of your hunting and fishing equipment!

## MEET MARGOT

Margot Vermeylen  
Wildlife Rehabilitation Assistant

Hi everyone!

I just joined the amazing Wild Instincts team in January, so I thought I'd introduce myself. To take this job, I moved from Belgium all the way across the pond to Rhinelander. I was born and raised in Belgium - yes the country, not the city

in WI. I am 23 years old and have a bachelor's degree in Biology and a master's in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation. After my studies I interned at a wildlife rehab center in Florida, where I truly discovered my passion for helping wildlife. This eventually led me to the amazing opportunity at Wild Instincts. I am beyond excited to start my career in wildlife rehabilitation here in the Northwoods and to

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learn more about the unique wildlife here in Wisconsin. Some of the animals I am most excited to work with are the bald eagles, porcupines, and bears.

Besides simply being out in nature and helping wildlife, I enjoy reading, photography and many outdoor activities such as hiking and downhill skiing. I am excited to try different winter sports here like snowshoeing and cross-country skiing (maybe I'll even come across the mysterious Hodag!). I also love to travel. One of my most memorable experiences was when I spent a couple months volunteering in the amazon rainforest in Peru. This was probably the most remote place I have ever been, but I enjoyed taking a break from cell service, WIFI and all the other distractions so I could truly enjoy being in nature. Seeing such unspoiled wilderness made me want to protect our wildlife and their habitats even more.



Margot, Wild Instincts' newest staff member.

Even though I have never lived in the US before, I am a US citizen and my family has roots here in Wisconsin. My great-grandparents lived in Crandon, in a cabin my great-grandfather built together with my grandfather. Also, my parents first met in Eau Claire before they moved to Belgium, so you could say that me coming back here was fate!

So far, I have been adjusting well to life up north. The biggest adjustment has been the cold weather, but all the warm welcomes from everybody have made it so much more bearable. I can't wait to explore more of this beautiful country and see how the Northwoods transform as the seasons change.

If you ever happen to see me in town (most likely in one of the coffee shops or anywhere that sells plants), don't hesitate to come say hi! I am always up for a chat and meeting new people!

Here are some fun facts you might not know about Belgium:

**Belgium has three official languages:** Dutch, French and German. Most people don't speak all three though, it depends more on which part of the country you live in.

**Belgium is known for its chocolate** and sells more than 220,000 tons of it each year!



**The French did not invent French fries, it was the Belgians!** Every town/city usually has multiple 'frituren', a place selling fresh fries (usually eaten with mayo).

**Belgium holds the record for the longest time without a government.** For 541 days we had no formal government because the many different parties (believe me there are a lot!) could not come to an agreement.

**Belgium is famous for its local beers,** there are more than 2,200 of them! And every beer has its own special glass it is served in.

**The national symbol of Belgium is a urinating boy,** called 'Manneken Pis'. Don't ask me why because I have no idea!



### **SNOWY OWLS**

In a typical winter, some Snowy Owls stay close to their treeless arctic home and a few migrate into the Northern US. Every few years, however, there is an irruption where larger numbers of Snowy Owls migrate south and land in WI.

According to WDNR the last irruption was 2017-2018.

As of January 4, 143 of the large charismatic owls have been recorded in 54 counties. While that sounds like a lot, it's about half of the last irruption.

Many scientists have data now to show not all the owls are headed south because they are starving as once thought.

Wildlife rehabbers, however, see many admitted due to beginning stages of starvation. As well as the human caused injuries expected from a species of bird that rarely is exposed to humans or human activity.

If they are in good enough condition, they generally bypass our wooded area for the open farm fields further south that more closely resemble their open tundra home.

This juvenile male was admitted on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> with a shoulder injury likely a result of being hit by a car.



Juvenile male Snowy Owl upon admission.



Snowy Owl eyeing up a room service meal.

After 50 days in care, he was healthy enough and flying well enough to be released.





Juvenile male Snowy Owl release after recovering from a shoulder injury

A note about their camouflage coloration. They are not completely white. They have mottling and patterns which help them blend into their environment



The coloration and pattern of Snowy Owls is different between juveniles and adults, males and females.

This photo below illustrates the perfect camouflage for the open snow fields.



Can you see the Snowy Owl flying in this photo? See the next page for help.



The red arrows point to each of his wing tips.

## **BEETLES' DIGEST**

Kaitlin Wikoff  
Assistant Wildlife Rehabilitator

It is an unfortunate fact that there are some animals that come to us that we cannot save. However, that doesn't mean that we can't use those animals to learn from after they pass. Sometimes we can use carcasses to teach interns how to feel for injuries, how to give injections in different places, and even just how to safely handle certain species. We can also use them to educate the public. Skulls, wings, feet, shells, and pelts are all part of our education programs. We're now working on expanding that collection to include entire skeletons of mammals and birds to further our opportunities to educate others.

Since education has always been part of the Wild Instincts' mission, the idea of having a nature center has been a potential long-term idea for the future and with the Dream Big Campaign, it's starting to become a reality. We currently do some education programs for schools, groups and at events, but we've never had the space to have larger displays. We have some skulls, snake skin sheds and nests on display in the lobby, but they're not easy to transport to various programs. Over the past couple of

years, we've added enough skulls to be able to have traveling specimens to take to schools and other outings. I've been working on adding more to those collections to incorporate all the native species that we commonly see here in the Northwoods. We now have different mammal skulls, comparing rabbits and squirrels to foxes and bobcats. We also have a display showing the differences in skull and foot structures between hawks and owls, plus I'm working on a display to showcase all of the different types of bird feet, from ducks to woodpeckers to hummingbirds. When we get our nature center established, these types of displays will be part of a larger exhibit to teach the public about all of the amazing adaptations that animals have.

This winter, I've been working on trying to clean and rearticulate a complete skeleton. My first real trial is a bobcat. This bobcat was found last February, full of porcupine quills and very lethargic on someone's property. We set out to try to pull quills and get the cat some fluids, hoping that the basic treatment would be enough to get the cat back on its feet, since the rehabilitation ban on anything in the cat family had already been put in place by the WDNR. We arrived to find the cat very cold and skinny and full of porcupine quills. It was so lethargic that we didn't even tranquilize it, for fear that it wouldn't be strong enough to wake up from the drugs. We started giving it warm fluids to rehydrate and warm it and started the tedious task of pulling quills. Unfortunately, our efforts were too little and too late. We couldn't save this bobcat but she has provided a wonderful learning opportunity. Removing porcupine quills is an important skill to have and it was an opportunity for me and an intern to learn. The bobcat also gave me a good-sized skeleton to work with. After the cat had passed, we took it back to our facility and I finished removing all the quills. After the quills were removed, it was placed in our Dermestid beetle colony.

Dermestid beetles, sometimes called flesh-eating beetles, are my favorite method of cleaning bones. It may sound gross, but they are excellent at their job. They are very good at getting into all the hard-to-reach places and the whole process doesn't smell quite as much as other ways of cleaning bones. After the beetles strip the bones, they get immersed in a cleaning solution to remove any excess grease or staining, and then dry out before re-articulation. Then the real fun begins because I have to put humpty-dumpty back together again. Cats have 230 bones in their body, compared to a human's 206 bones, and the tiny bones in their feet are proving to be quite tedious to put back together. I have most of the skeleton put in the correct order and the next step is to articulate it into a standing skeleton. The goal for this project is to be a display to show different bone locations, structures for different species and to be a part of a larger collection of native Wisconsin species as part of an exhibit for future education.



Bobcat skeleton pieces to re-articulate



Bobcat skeleton laid out to start putting back together.



Pieces of bobcat feet being put back together like a 3D jigsaw puzzle.

Species Admitted 1/1-12/31/21

American Crow

4

American Goldfinch

7

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American Robin	48
American Toad	1
American Tree Sparrow	1
American Woodcock	4
Bald Eagle	51
Baltimore Oriole	1
Barred Owl	11
Belted Kingfisher	3
Big Brown Bat	11
Black Bear	14
Black-and-White Warbler	1
Black-capped Chickadee	7
Blandings Turtle	1
Blue Jay	8
Bobcat	1
Broad-winged Hawk	13
Brown-headed Cowbird	3
Canada Goose	15
Cedar Waxwing	6
Chipping Sparrow	12
Cliff Swallow	2
Common Garter Snake	2
Common Grackle	12
Common Loon	5
Common Nighthawk	1
Common Raven	4
Common Redpoll	1
Common Snapping Turtle	53
Cooper's Hawk	7
Coyote	8
Dark-eyed Junco	1
Deer Mouse	72
Downy Woodpecker	7
Eastern Chipmunk	7
Eastern Cottontail	226
Eastern Fox Snake	2
Eastern Gray Squirrel	109
Eastern Painted Turtle	23
European Starling	7
Evening Grosbeak	1
Flying Squirrel, Northern	1
Flying Squirrel, Southern	55
Gray Catbird	1
Gray Fox	18

Gray Treefrog	4
Great Blue Heron	4
Great Horned Owl	10
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Hermit Thrush	1
Hoary Bat	1
Hooded Merganser	10
House Sparrow	5
Least Flycatcher	2
Little Brown Bat	1
Mallard Duck	21
Masked Shrew	6
Meadow Vole	2
Merlin	7
Mourning Dove	33
Muskrat	1
Nashville Warbler	2
Northern Cardinal	4
Northern Flicker	8
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2
Northern Water Snake	1
Norway Rat	3
Peregrine Falcon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Pileated Woodpecker	3
Pine Grosbeak	4
Pine Siskin	1
Porcupine	2
Raccoon	36
Red Fox	11
Red Squirrel	25
Red-bellied Snake	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Red-eyed Vireo	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Red-necked Grebe	1
Red-tailed Hawk	5
Red-winged Blackbird	5
Ring-billed Gull	1
Rock Dove	12
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21
Ruffed Grouse	5



Sandhill Crane	2
Snowshoe Hare	7
Snowy Owl	1
Sora Rail	2
Southern Red-backed Vole	15
Spotted Salamander	1
Swainson's Thrush	3
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	20
Trumpeter Swan	4
Turkey Vulture	4
Unknown	1
Virginia Opossum	17
White-breasted Nuthatch	4
White-tailed Deer	35
White-throated Sparrow	2
White-winged Crossbill	1
Wild Turkey	5
Wood Duck	28
Wood Turtle	3
Woodchuck	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Total	1306

The climate of the Antwerp, Belgium area is like the climate of Seattle, WA. Arriving in mid-January, Margot had not experienced temperatures this cold before, nor this much snow. She is embracing the new experiences. We had her throw boiling water in the air in the minus 23-degree F temperatures when she first arrived to experience the condensate cloud first hand. Her mom taught her there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes. Dressing for the weather is key!



Margot watches boiling water condensate in the cold.

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MAY 2022

Vol 11:2

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## HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been detected in North American wild birds for the first time since 2015.

The USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) has been conducting surveillance activities to provide critical information regarding avian influenza strains and enhance the understanding of the disease in wild birds since its founding in 1970.

Surveilling wild birds provides early warning for commercial poultry facilities.

In the 2014-2015 outbreak of avian influenza in the US, losses exceeded more than 50 million poultry and over \$3 billion dollars of economic impacts.

Between 2016-2021, the NWHC tested over 3,400 wild bird carcasses and over 12,400 samples from healthy wild birds for avian influenza.

Over 2,600 low pathogenic avian influenza viruses were identified.

The designation of low pathogenic (LPAI) or highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) refers to the potential for these viruses to kill chickens. The designation of "low pathogenic" or "highly pathogenic" does not refer to how infectious the viruses may be to humans, other mammals, or other species of birds. Just chickens.

Most strains of avian influenza are not highly pathogenic and cause few signs of disease in infected wild birds. However, in poultry, some low pathogenic strains can mutate into highly pathogenic avian influenza strains that cause a contagious and severe illness among poultry and sometimes wild birds, and often death. The

effect is dependent on the viral strain and host species.

It is a global disease that can have devastating effects on a country's food supply, economy, wildlife populations and even human health.

The United States has the strongest avian influenza surveillance program in the world. It's not uncommon to detect avian influenza in wild birds, as avian influenza viruses circulate freely in those populations without the birds appearing sick.

Confirmed in Europe as early as July 2021,

initial detections of EA HPAI H5N1 occurred in Canada & the US in December 2021.

Since then the Avian Flu has been confirmed in wild birds, backyard flocks and commercial poultry facilities across North America, including Wisconsin.

Because of its global and wide-ramifications, many different agencies are involved.

ww  
Currently, research shows a low-risk for HPAI in songbirds. We are not recommending taking bird feeders down unless you have ducks or geese that feed or hang out under them

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### HPAI & Wild Instincts

A lot is still unknown about avian flu and wild birds. The current strain much more aggressive than the previous outbreak. It is causing illness and death in some species of wild birds including waterfowl, swans, shorebirds, scavengers like gulls and crows, and raptors (especially bald eagles).

Because it is easily spread on items, all facilities with birds have increased bio-security measures of all sorts.

Remember in the beginning of COVID when no one was sure how it was transmitted? One possible transmission method could have been via items, so people gloved up, washed the groceries before bringing them in the house, kept things in quarantine etc.

This is what HPAI biosecurity requires.



Entryway shoe changing area.

We remove our "Street Shoes" in the entryway where we change into our "Inside Shoes". All "Inside Shoes" are left on-site and used only inside the building.

We have "Outside Feeding Shoes" that we change into when we go out to feed certain animals housed outside.

We have "Inside Feeding Shoes" we change into when we feed certain animals. We use gowns, gloves, and masks galore. There are special disinfecting foot baths for footwear everywhere.



Separate shoe trays for different purposed shoes.



Different footwear for feeding different patients.

We immediately purchased a UV/O<sub>3</sub> disinfecting cabinet to use for handling equipment and some PPE. We also purchased more PPE. And then some more.



Ultraviolet/Ozone Disinfection Cabinet

We quickly erected a tent for bird triage outside the garage. We divided the parking lot into bird admissions and non-bird admissions. The workshop was transformed into Avian Quarantine.



A parking lot divided. Bird admit and triage on left. Others on right.



Dedicated parking for bird admissions.



HPAI certainly stretched rehabbers still under some SARS CoV2 restrictions to the limit. Just as we were allowing some volunteers back to volunteer again, we had to restrict people again, especially those with backyard poultry, to suspend their activities until this is over. Because we want to balance giving the best care to the most wildlife, we made some difficult choices.

We stopped doing programs with our live education birds until further notice.

We moved our education birds, all very susceptible raptor species, off-site so that we won't put them at risk by continuing to admit birds.

We are admitting certain bird species on a case-by-case basis. Birds that are showing symptoms or certain species are triaged in the parking lot to determine the risk of bringing them into the facility. To protect everyone, we will be erring on the side of caution in certain cases.

All our volunteer drivers have new rescue, transport and PPE protocols.

We are required to submit certain symptomatic species for testing. But some species are totally asymptomatic, so we may have to submit some individuals no matter what.

If a positive case is traced back to our facility, we are immediately quarantined.

Because so many agencies are involved, it is not clear if quarantine will mean simply no more avian admissions for a period of weeks or if all birds on site must be euthanized.

Yes, the stakes are extremely high we get this right.



Please know we are all doing the best we can.

You can help. Here's how:

In Wisconsin:

If you see a duck, goose, eagle, gull, crow or other bird holding its head in a strange position, unable to stand, stumbling, swimming in circles or any other neurological issue, do not approach.

Call the WDNR Wildlife Management Hotline at 608-267-0866.

Many of these symptoms can be attributed to something other than the avian flu. If you would like to call for advice, we would certainly help assess the situation over the phone, but please understand we may refer you to the above number in the end.

Outside of WI:

Go to your state wildlife agency's website and search HPAI. In states with HPAI cases confirmed, there will likely instructions and phone numbers posted.

While the virus should die back when the weather gets warmer and dryer, we will likely be on high alert through fall migration.



### **IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF**

- ~In Honor of Karissa & Matthew Wiegert's Wedding Anniversary
- ~In Memory of "Bailey" Pagel
- ~In Memory of Jim Ashbrenner
- ~In Memory of Loretta Schaefer
- ~In Memory of Carol Schultz
- ~In Memory of Jim Comp
- ~In Memory of Tom Oungst
- ~In Memory of Dan Picard
- ~In Honor & Memory of Mothers everywhere
- ~In Memory of Doug & Linda Gambrill
- ~In Memory of Steven K., who enjoyed catching fish for our patients

### **WE'RE STILL MASKING?**

We are an essential service. Any impact to us endangers the animals in our care.

We think about the continuing COVID/SARS CoV2 risks for us in several different ways:

- To prevent the infections of animals with SARS CoV2
- To prevent infections of staff to staff
- To prevent infections from animals.
- *To protect our facility and its operations. This is the big picture issue that needs to be remembered.*

#### Prevention of infection of animals

There are certain species that can get the SARS CoV2 virus from people. WDNR still has a rehabilitation ban on all Mustelids & Felids. Rehabilitation of bats and deer are under strict guidelines.

If SARS CoV2 starts circulating in wild populations, it can serve as a reservoir for the virus to spread back to people as some research is indicating may be happening. It could also mutate into something different that could potentially be even worse.

### Prevention of human-human infections of staff

This is a big one. Staff can be exposed by other staff, by visitors or volunteers. The more COVID in the community, the more risk.

True, that's the same for any other workplace where staff and public mingle. We also know outbreaks occurs in those settings and result in infected staff having to quarantine. In some of these cases they can work remotely from home. In many businesses, they can adjust their operating hours to accommodate staff shortages; even close an extra day or two a week. For us this impact is the issue.

We can't shift animal care to remote for a couple weeks while a staff outbreak is underway. People need to attend to the animals. Staffing issues are a major concern in a wide range of industries, but many of those can handle things through shifting to remote activities or pausing some activities.

Wildlife rehabilitation facilities can't.

If our small staff gets sick, animals will suffer or even die. Wildlife rehabilitation is very specialized and requires special permits. There are very few of us in the state that could cover in an emergency.

We are balancing being proactive and practical.

All staff and interns are required to be fully and properly vaccinated.

Our facility is locked and closed to the public.

We have restricted volunteers.

And all staff and interns are required to mask in public.

That's why when you see us around town or at functions, we are still wearing masks. It's all about the animals.

### **SWANS RELEASED**

The Trumpeter Swan admitted on 10/22/21 after he was found walking in ditch along a road in Polk County and the Trumpeter Swan found in a local parking lot on 1/10/22 have both been released.

The initial exam of the Polk County Swan revealed he was starving, in poor body condition and his blood lead level read HIGH (over 65 mcg/dl or 0.65ppm). The x-rays taken revealed at least 19 lead fragments in his digestive tract.

He was in care for 170 days during which he was injected with chelating agent 95 times with a total cost of chelating agent alone equaling \$256.73.

The local swan was thin, dehydrated and her left eye was infected. Her x-rays revealed she had been shot. Her lead levels, however, were low. The two pellets in her body did not seem to cause any long-term issue.



Polk County Swan



Oneida County Swan



Two overwintering swans hang out in the pond in the Pond Room.



Now it's my turn.



Thanks for Freedom!



Ahhhhh.

### **AVIAN INFLUENZA & RED FOXES**

Near the end of April, we admitted the first red fox kit with vague neurological symptoms of unknown origin. Several days later, the second one. By the time Canada announced they had isolated HPAI in two red foxes, we had also seen a number exhibiting symptoms. Shortly after, tests did confirm HPAI in red fox kits in WI...and across the nation.

We are, as is a trend across the US, seeing a dramatic uptick in red fox kit admission numbers. Of those admissions, 50% are presenting with HPAI symptoms that progress rapidly to seizures, blindness and death.

It's a virus so the treatment is simply supportive care until it runs its course. Most admissions have presented with severe neurological signs. The few presenting with less severe symptoms still progressed quickly to severe vision deficits and blindness.

Permanent blindness deems an animal non-releasable so even if they clear the original viral load, this long-term side-effect requires euthanasia.



Red Fox kit being examined.

Why is bird flu being found in red foxes? It's thought that they are getting it from eating infected birds. Adult foxes kill goslings or ducklings or chickens that carry the virus for food for their kits. They then bring the food tainted with the disease back to their kits.

What can you do?

Support your local wildlife rehabilitator. This is a tough year for rehabbers across North America.

Some of us are still under constraints and restrictions from SARS CoV2 and now have the heartbreak of HPAI extending the emotional and financial tolls.

## **IN BEHALF OF REHABBERS EVERYWHERE**

In normal years, wildlife rehab is difficult work. This year with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza on top of the leftover SARS CoV2 concerns from the last couple years, it is downright BRUTAL!

As a wildlife rehabber we see many heartbreaking things. In fact, someone said that is the price of being a rehabber- to be able to have your heartbroken again and again. Sometimes multiple times in one day.

Certain species likely having Avian Flu are being admitted with symptoms very difficult to see, even for veteran rehabbers.

Baby Season is here in full force and extra-emotionally draining this year.

We know you are reading this because you care about our wild neighbors and want to help.

Here are important ways you can help:

### **1. BE KIND!**

Wildlife rehabbers receive no funding from State or Federal agencies but must follow the rules of those agencies. We do not make the rules but to keep our permits we must follow them.

There are many valid reasons why you cannot keep the wild baby you found. These reasons protect not only the animal but people as well. We do not have time to explain each of them to you. Rest assured because we follow the rules does not mean we don't care. Calling us uncaring or unhelpful or other names not repeatable here says more about you than it does about us but still can take a toll on us.

### **2. DON'T LIE!**

When you call regarding an animal, we will ask many questions. Some may seem irrelevant or silly to you. They are not. Answer truthfully. We are experts in natural history of hundreds of different species, especially for certain geographic areas. We will likely know you are lying. It will delay getting the animal you profess to care about the help/care it needs.

### **3. LISTEN!**

There used to be at least 3x as many rehabbers able to admit fawns two years ago as there are today. Now there are TWO facilities covering the needs of orphaned and injured fawns across the entire state. Each of these facilities have limits on how many they can admit (see #1 above).

Please follow our advice and work with us, not against us. We all want what's best for the animal in front of you and the one tomorrow that will need our help even more.

### **4. BE RESPECTFUL!**

We are professionals. A lot of time, education, effort and expense goes into what we do. The Internet does not. Google may seem to have all the answers, but it rarely has THE RIGHT answers.

Just because our professional assessment doesn't match your desire to abduct that precious little creature you found doesn't mean we don't care about it.

Likely it means we care about the animal more than we care about YOU feeling like a hero or trying to give your kids a "fun" experience. Yes, there are coyotes and other predators in nature. Wild babies are given traits to protect them from natural predators. Most are not given protection from human predators, however well-meaning they may be. Your insults truly say more about you than us, but would you insult (or hang up on) the emergency service personnel you called for help because you don't like their professional assessment?

### **5. CONTROL YOUR PETS**



There has been an unusually high amount of calls regarding dogs bringing home baby animals, especially fawns, from some unknown spot. So much during baby season is out of our control: animals darting in front of cars, accidentally digging up something by the rototiller. Keeping our cats inside or supervising our dogs while out is something totally within your control.

#### 6. PREVENT WINDOW STRIKES

Stop birds from hitting your windows by using window decals or our favorite: use window screen replacement available from any hardware or building supply store. Cut the screening to fit your window, but instead of using it on the inside, Velcro, thumbtack, staple or otherwise fasten it to the OUTSIDE window framing. The screen is on the outside of the window, stopping all glare and reflection, but you can still see through the window from the inside.

#### 7. SLOW DOWN & ENJOY

It's that time of year when people and wildlife are out and about in larger numbers. Remember that wild babies are also about and trying to navigate all the same areas you are. Slow down so we ALL have a great, enjoyable summer.



Spring Intern Cary

### **INTERNS!**

In May we said Goodbye to Spring Intern Cary and Hello to the Summer Interns. Interns are an integral part of the rehab season here at Wild Instincts.

There are some differences between the different sessions of internships we offer.

Spring is a shorter session. Cary spent 8 weeks with us while Summer Interns will spend 13. Our Fall session is another 8 or so weeks. Two of the current Summer Interns are staying through Fall session so you'll be seeing them again.

Cary also had the benefit of learning the ropes before babies started arriving. He had time to learn procedures and protocols before trying to hold a squirming squirrel.

The Summer Crew gets thrown in the deep end immediately. They need to know it all at once!



Summer Interns (L-R): Kristin, Savannah, Maria, Clare, Kaylee and McKenna

There are similarities between the sessions, too. Everyone's adrenaline rush when holding their first eagle or feeding their first fawn. Although their faces have changed this year as they are hidden behind PPE. The one thing for certain that never changes no matter which session: DISHES, DISHES, DISHES!



Dishes are on-going here.



Spring Intern Cary feeds a baby Gray Squirrel



Summer Intern McKenna holds her first eagle.



Summer Intern Clare holds her first Snowy Owl.



Summer Interns Kaylee, Clare and McKenna feed newly admitted orphaned woodchucks.



One of the fawns in care right now.

### **FAWNS, TURTLES & FIREWORKS**

Because of SARS CoV2 biosecurity issues again this year, currently there are only TWO wildlife rehab facilities in the entire state able to admit fawns. The other facility is only taking fawns from 3 counties. We are covering the entire rest of the state.

This means it is even more imperative to keep healthy fawns with their moms.

Mother deer leave their fawns alone for long periods of time. Fawns have very little scent and great camouflage to keep them safe from predators. Their instinct is to lie still and pretend to be invisible. As they get older they may get up and cry on and off as they get impatient for mom to return (toddlers, right?). This doesn't mean they fawn is automatically in trouble.

If you see a fawn you have questions about, CALL US! We answer the phone 24/7 and will talk you through the situation.



Turtles are near roadways and in parking lots looking for places to lay their eggs. Please SLOW DOWN!





The finder used band-aids to hold the shell together until they could get to help.

Other wild families are also trying to navigate crossing the roads. Ducks, raccoons, foxes, porcupines all need you to slow down and look out for them. As we look ahead to the rest of the summer, please also reconsider celebrating with fireworks. The loud noises and polluting debris are hazards to the environment and our wild neighbors.



### **QUICK WISH LIST**

We need:

- ~Produce such as apples, any berry except cranberry, grapes, carrots, sweet potatoes, etc.
- ~Gas Cards
- ~Blankets, sheets and other bedding (used but clean)
- ~Towels (used but clean)
- ~Human Snacks to Power Interns always appreciated!

### **FOURTH ANNUAL WILD ScaVenture**

Do you love wildlife?



Do you love puzzles?

Do you love a challenge?

If you answered yes to even one of those questions, then Wild ScaVenture 2022 is for you!!

Over the years we heard lots of feedback from people who support our mission but couldn't get to local fundraisers because they weren't local.

**WE HEARD YOU!**

We developed the family-gearred Wild ScaVenture. The game's clues and missions are designed to be played from your smartphone wherever you are in the world provided you have a cell phone signal.

### What is a Wild ScaVenture?

A ScaVenture is part scavenger hunt and part adventure (**Scavenger hunt + Adventure**). It's also one of Wild Instincts' annual fundraising events.

missions using a free app downloaded on your smartphone.

### Why should I participate?

Wild Instincts is permitted by the state & federal government but receives no funding from them. Wild Instincts ONLY funding comes from generous people like you This fun, family-friendly event helps raise funds for Wild Instincts to care for orphaned and injured wildlife by moving some gold coin from your treasure chest into our treasure chest while you have fun and learn things along the way.

### How do I participate?

Gather a team of no more than 6 people. At least one needs to have a smartphone with a data plan.

Decide on a FAMILY FRIENDLY team name and chose a team captain.

Register (on-line registration is scheduled to open July 1st)

If you cannot get a team together, there is a Lone Wolf option to assign you to a team.

Cost is \$100/team or \$25 for the Lone Wolf option.

Download the free GooseChase app to your phone. You will be given a game code. Complete as many missions as you can.

### What do I win?

You mean other than that warm fuzzy feeling for helping us help them while having a blast with your friends and family?

First Prize = \$100

Second Prize = \$75

Third Prize = \$50

### Wild ScaVentures RULES

*Safety first for everyone-* This ScaVenture is fun for the entire family, but make sure any minors are supervised, everyone always wears their seat belt and no one runs with scissors.

*Stranger Danger-* Some missions deal with strangers. These types of missions have been changed to be COVID compliant.

It's very important to be kind and respectful with strangers, and with that said – always be on guard and stay safe, use your healthy judgment when it comes to people you don't know.

*Play Fair-* Have fun and try to win but don't let your competitive instincts drive you to ruin other peoples' chances to win. If you do, your team will be disqualified. That means no sabotaging, lying, cheating, stealing or copying other people's work.

*If You Fight the Law (and the Law Wins)*- You're participating to have fun but do so legally. If you break any laws at any time during any portion of the ScaVenture, your team will be disqualified. This includes, but is not limited to, moving violations, trespassing, burglary, larceny, embezzlement, grand theft, petty theft, shoplifting, assault, plagiarism, blackmail, indecent exposure, decent exposure, recent exposure, bribery, forgery, perjury, fraud, computer fraud, mail fraud, telemarketing fraud, tax evasion, tax fraud, insurance fraud, securities fraud, halitosis and bad hair. Seriously, if you get so much as a speeding ticket, you lose.

*Always be Humble & Kind*- Teams must be courteous and respectful to their teammates and all the outside people involved in the ScaVenture (It doesn't hurt to be courteous and kind to all, whether inside or outside the ScaVenture).

*NO harassing* citizens of your town or even your galaxy, physically or verbally for items or photographs. It is their right to choose not to help you and you should respect that (even if you think they are lame for not helping you). NO harassing wildlife or disturbing landscape. Take photos, do not chase or interfere with wild animals and do not pick flowers, etc.

*Tick Tock*- All Missions must be completed during the duration of this specific ScaVenture. Missions completed outside this time frame will be disqualified.

*Ties*-The game kind not the bow or Father's Day kind. The winning team will be the team obtaining the most points. In case of a tie, the winners will be determined by a Trivia Quiz Off.

*Appeals*-There is no appeals process in this scavenger hunt. There is also no crying. There's no crying in ScaVentures! All decisions by the judges are final. No exceptions.

*Play hard until the end.* Don't know who is penalized for what. Can get extra points for creativity.

Void where prohibited.

#### Species Admitted 1/1-6/3/22

American Black Bear	9
American Crow	1
American Goldfinch	2
American Robin	2
American Woodcock	1
Bald Eagle	19
Barred Owl	3
Belted Kingfisher	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Canada Goose	4
Chipping Sparrow	1
Common Grackle	6
Common Raven	2
Common Redpoll	7
Common Snapping Turtle	1
Coyote	1
Dark-eyed Junco	1
Deer Mouse	12
Eastern Chipmunk	2

Eastern Cottontail	86
Eastern Fox Snake	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	36
Eastern Painted Turtle	1
Fox Sparrow	1
Gray Fox	2
Gray Treefrog	2
Great Horned Owl	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Hooded Merganser	1
Mallard	23
Meadow Vole	11
Midland Painted Turtle	1
Mourning Dove	5
Northern Cardinal	1
Northern Raccoon	4
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	1
Osprey	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Pine Grosbeak	2
Pine Siskin	1
Purple Finch	1
Red Fox	20
Red Squirrel	22
Red-eyed Vireo	1
Rock Dove	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6
Snowshoe Hare	1
Snowy Owl	3
Southern Flying Squirrel	12
Spotted Salamander	1
Trumpeter Swan	2
Veery	1
Virginia Opossum	6
Western Painted Turtle	3
White-tailed Deer	18
Wood Duck	4
Total	366



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Wild ScaVenture 2022**

July 22-24

Played on your smartphone from wherever you happen to be!

Riddle me that, riddle me this  
What's the Fundraiser you can't miss?\*



Young Red Squirrels

\*Answer: Our Wild ScaVenture 2022

Welcome to

# INSTINCTS



AUGUST 2022

Vol 11:3

*"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."*

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## **HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) UPDATE**

Probably the biggest challenge of the 2022 rehab season here at Wild Instincts has been and continues to be the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or the Avian Flu for short. Early on during migration, there were heart-shattering cases. So. Many. Of. Them. We were able to do some quick improvising and turn the workshop in the garage into a Flu Quarantine ward. We erected a Flu Triage Tent and divided the parking lot into bird and non-bird traffic.

Along with some extra tight biosecurity, this allowed us to continue to admit all patients. Other facilities closed to certain species. Even others closed to all birds in general. This meant in addition to dealing with our normal admissions, we found ourselves getting admissions from all over the state due to closures.



Specially assigned parking for disease prevention.

Species we saw particularly hit hard here at Wild Instincts were bald eagles and red fox. This flu has been seen in mammals other than fox as well. In Wisconsin it was also detected in at least two bobcat and a fisher. Just a few weeks ago, the virus was even being linked to deaths of gray and harbor seals in Maine. As the summer continues, our cases of animals suffering from flu symptoms declines, but the strict biosecurity remains. The risk is still there for our own residents and patients. We are anticipating another surge in cases as fall migration picks up. We will continue to adapt and adjust to be able to help as many wild animals as possible. You can help by supporting your local wildlife rehabilitator. This continues to be a tough year for rehabbers across North America. Some of us are still under constraints and restrictions from SARS CoV2 and now have the heartbreak of HPAI extending the emotional and financial tolls sustained for months. Click here if you'd like to see a table of what species have tested positive for HPAI in Wisconsin so far <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/disease.html>

### **DREAM BIG UPDATE**

We recently received our final approval to move forward with our Nature Center plans! We are now ready to demolish a concrete garage to make way for a new, temporary building to house the Nature Center, to clean up garbage and to brush some trails. If you know of anyone with connections to demolition crews, please let us know! Contractors are quite busy and finding bids has been challenging to say the least. We are also looking for people to help with generations of debris/garbage clean up, trail clearing and of course, maybe most importantly, fundraising!!



If you share in our vision of establishing a Nature Center and any of the above tasks sound like something you could do, contact Kaitlin at 715-362-9453 or [kaitlin@wildinstinctsrehab.com](mailto:kaitlin@wildinstinctsrehab.com). We are also hoping to have several Clean-up days in September, October and November. If you would be willing to help in a fall Clean-up day, contact Kaitlin.

### **LOON ENTANGLEMENT**

Thanks to the sharp eyes of 6-year old Nora Grace, this loon got the help it needed. And a special thanks her grandparents Gary & Barbara for not giving up.

On Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, this loon had beached itself at a boat landing in Woodruff. It had fishing line wrapped around its bill and its body. Gary & Barbara made multiple calls to organizations and agencies they thought could help only to be turned away until they finally reached us. Because it would take more precious time for us to find someone to get to them, they were more than willing to try our advice to get this bird help ASAP. Unfortunately, the loon had other ideas and escaped before anyone could intervene.

Knowing this loon really needed help, the next morning some of the family decided to reroute their early morning run by the boat landing again just to check. The loon had beached again! They ran back to the house, got equipment and reinforcements. This time they were able to catch it.

They hopped in the car and It was in our care by 7:30 a.m. August 5<sup>th</sup>.

The loon had THREE different types of fishing line wrapped around its body and bill. It also had fishing line coming out of its mouth indicating it had also swallowed some fishing equipment.





Loon with fishing line wrapped around its body and its bill.

We quickly removed the fishing lines from its body. We left the line hanging out of its mouth. We would need that. Some line had slightly embedded into leg tissue, but no serious injuries were found.

X-rays revealed he had swallowed a large hook, but no sinkers could be seen. In some cases, we are able to pass a tube down the fishing line into the digestive tract and physically dislodge the hook. This is why we did not immediately cut the fishing line protruding from its mouth. We would use that in this procedure. Unfortunately, the line in his mouth was the lightest weight of the three types he was entangled in and it broke during the attempt. The good news is the digestive acids will break down the hook and with no visible lead there should be no issues from that. And the best news is that its blood lead level is LOW!



Untangled loon.



Three different types of line removed from loon.

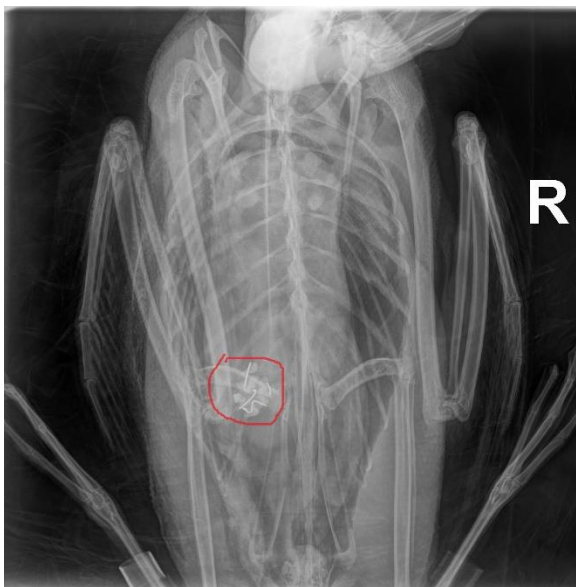
It has identifying leg bands so we know that it was banded as a chick/juvenile on South Turtle Lake in Winchester on Aug 19, 2010.

Within the hour following admission, he started eating on his own. Loons have voracious appetites. Just in one day alone he consumed over 500 minnows. Thanks to those who saw us mention in passing how expensive they are to feed and donated money to help cover the costs of minnows.

More x-rays were taken to verify the hook was moving through the digestive tract as anticipated. It was progressing just as we had hoped so it was released back where it was found.



First x-ray revealed a hook in the digestive tract.



X-ray taken six days later shows hook moving down the digestive tract and breaking up.



Not out of the loon, but from the x-rays, the hook it swallowed is likely very similar to this.



Back where it came from, wild again.

### **IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

As our summer interns end their time here with us and start their fall migration, we thought you may be interested in what they had to say about their experiences.

Kristin Pagel  
Amherst, WI  
UW-Stevens Point  
Senior

Before I came to Wild Instincts, I never really thought about what living with five other people would be like, let alone sharing a room with three other people. I have shared a small dorm room in the past, but that experience only helped so much.

In the dorms, the bathrooms are public, so there are multiple stalls, sinks, and showers for multiple people, so you can use it at almost any time with no issue. Here, however, we only have two bathrooms. One for the two single rooms and then one for the master bedroom, which four people share. This causes a slight issue in the morning with three of the four people trying to all get ready for work, but we all wait our turn with no complaint. Everyone has their

own routine, which sometimes changes depending on who's working. Sometimes you can be the first in, and other times it's the split second before you need to leave for work. Using the kitchen with multiple people can also be challenging. Here the kitchen is somewhat small, and four interns are working each day that need to make food at the same time. Thankfully there are two refrigerators, so we aren't all waiting to use one fridge, and not everyone cooks the same thing. So one person might use the microwave, another person uses the stove, oven, or toaster oven, which does space us out some, and we don't need to sit and wait as often for something to open up so we can make food. It is a little challenging to find counter space when everyone is prepping stuff, but some people use the island counter, and others use the kitchen table, giving everyone some kind of space. We also try to be as quick as we can so we aren't taking up too much space.

The living room is probably the least chaotic part of the mobile home. During our breaks, we all sit down in the spots that we have claimed and talk about what happened at work while we ate. Sometimes it's venting about something, talking about animals we care for, or just making each other laugh. We have a dining table, but we have all gotten used to eating in the living room since there is more space. Plus, during dinner, we watch a few episodes of whichever show someone recommended and eat while we watch it. Not everyone is into every show we watch, but it becomes something to talk about for those who regularly watch it. Ask each other which character they like the most, who is most like which character, what they think will happen next, and so on.



Kristin holding a baby woodchuck.

Thankfully everyone gets along quite well and are friends, which has definitely made living with so many people easier. However, outside of an internship, I probably wouldn't want to live with this many people again. I am an introvert and like my own space and alone time, which you don't get much of when sharing a room with three other people. For this internship, though, I did enjoy living with all the other interns. It gave us a place to bond and feel more connected,



but it also allowed us to talk to other people who were also going through the same things we were and to know you weren't the only one having a hard day or making that one mistake.

Kaylee Doebert  
Mount Horeb, WI  
Monmouth College  
Senior

If you ask Mark, Sharon, Kaitlin or Margot which intern of this year asked the silliest questions like if there are more species of geese than just Canada and Snow, I bet my name would be high on the list. Before this past spring semester at college, I had taken classes only to do with Pre-Medicine. I am well-versed in organic chemistry, molecular biology, and human anatomy. I realized medicine is something I love, however spending my life working in a hospital is not what I want anymore. My dad suggested applying to any biology related internships I could find to see what else I might like. Eventually, I found Wild Instincts. So, I applied, had my zoom interview two days later, and I accepted their offer on the call. However, the second the video call ended, I thought to myself, "Oh my God what did I just sign up for???" I was definitely more nervous than excited. I felt vastly underprepared for what I should know coming into this summer. So, in typical college student fashion, I tried to study what I didn't know. The only issue was, I had no idea where to start. I ended up making 112 flashcards, one for every species of animal that came through Wild Instincts in 2021. Do I think my flashcards helped? No. Not really, but hey, at least I tried! In hindsight, studying plants of northern Wisconsin would have been helpful. Then maybe I wouldn't have picked sow thistle thinking it was dandelions. Good thing Kaitlin double-checked the bucket or we would have had not-so-happy bunnies.

I quickly realized after my first couple days at Wild Instincts that I will be learning most things by doing them wrong. On my first day, I shadowed the staff during feedings trying to pick up on the correct holding techniques for the animals in the nursery and was shown proper ways to give food to the larger animals outside. The whole time I was nervous thinking about when it was my turn and doing it wrong or hurting the animal on accident. By 8pm I was told it was my turn to feed a young squirrel with a dropper. That is when I learned the golden rule that Mark makes everything look easy. My squirrel did not want to drink from my dropper, she was crawling all over the place making tiny scratches on my hand. When I handed her to Mark she was completely still and drank every, last drop. Over the next couple days, the squirrels moved less and less and drank more and more in my hands, it just took some practice.

This became a common theme—being nervous about something new, trying it, doing less than good, trying again and hopefully doing better. I was most nervous about raptor handling but by the second week here I was asked if I wanted to hold an eagle. Mark didn't really take "No, I'm scared" for an answer and he talked me through picking up the eagle from the Iso room and bringing him into the exam room. And as the learning curve goes, I did less than good, the eagle was uncomfortable, I was uncomfortable, and Mark got footed. {Editor's note: Most think that raptor beaks are the most dangerous part of those big birds, but it is their feet and long talons. Being "footed" is the term used for being grabbed by a raptor's foot/talons} But I learned from it and no one else got footed from a raptor I was holding.

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be an intern here. I have learned more in three months about caring for animals, plants, bird calls, releases of animals, and myself than I



thought possible. Big shout out to Mark, Sharon, Kaitlin, Margot, all our volunteers, everybody who has donated, and everyone that has brought us animals in need of help. You all have given another opportunity to not only the wildlife but also to a bunch of interns.



Kaylee, a vegetarian, taking a bowl of assorted meat out to the red foxes.

Clare Cops  
Kaukauna, WI  
UW-Stevens Point  
Junior

As my sophomore year of college was three weeks away from being over I applied to an internship at Wild Instincts. I began my studies at UW-Stevens Point with the goal of working in wildlife rehabilitation, but during the past semester, I was very unhappy with my classes because they weren't focused on animals. I understood that I had to learn other natural sciences, but it made me question if I was in the right major. I knew I couldn't put in another year not knowing if I was in the right field. Within a few days, my whole summer was booked at Wild Instincts. Classes ended and two days later I was moving into the mobile home right next to the center.

It was pretty crazy at first, but in a really exciting way! I had no experience going into this internship and suddenly I was being asked to calculate drug dosages and feed animals that I'd never been so close to. The first animals I held were baby red and gray squirrels. Some were as young as three weeks old, so they were still fed formula for a while. Within my first four days I had tube-fed formula to baby bunnies, caught and held a snowy owl, bottle fed fawns, and I'm sure a million other things I didn't remember to write down in my journal. I don't know if I've ever been given so much information in so little time, but I loved every second of it.

One of my favorite parts of the job is getting to see the personalities of each patient. We spend as little time with the animals as possible so they do not get used to humans, but some of them require us to hold and feed them multiple times a day. My favorite patient was a woodchuck chucklet that came in because she was an orphan. She was quickly given the nickname “Chuckalette”. We had four older chucklets as well who ate ferociously, but Chuckalette would aspirate, or get formula up her nose, every time. We had to attach a special “miracle nipple” to the syringe, and then she started eating like a pro. She would have such a strong suction on the nipple that I didn’t have to push the plunger at all. I also had to pry the syringe out of her hands in order to get more formula; she was very strong for a little creature that fit in my hand. As she grew, I waited for the bittersweet day she would bark at me like the older woodchucks when I went to feed them their fresh broccoli, cauliflower, carrot and other veggies. Although Chuckalette drank very fast, I still spent a lot of time with her. We literally watched her grow, and she made me laugh a lot, so seeing her released was really memorable. My time at Wild Instincts has been so special to me. I love that I learn and do something new every day. The animals bring me incredible joy. They make me laugh whether they’re wrapping themselves around my finger or pooping down my shirt. This summer has made it very clear to me that I am on the right path, and if I’m lucky enough to work with animals every day, I’ll never work a day in my life



Clare feeding her favorite young woodchuck.

Maria Teets  
Port Huron, MI  
Michigan State University  
2022 Graduate

There were many questions from my family on the direction of my life after I graduated from college this past spring. In answer I got to describe an exciting opportunity in Wisconsin assisting with the rehabilitation of wildlife. After I completed my finals, I anxiously waited for two weeks until I could make the drive up through the Mitten, across the Mackinac Bridge and over and into Wisconsin.

The first month was hard as we had to learn a multitude of different tasks and skills in caring for a variety of animals. But along with learning these skills we had to learn special protection protocols, some started last year for COVID and others set in place just this year due to Avian Influenza (AI). The area of the garage normally used for young raccoons was transformed into a quarantine for birds; footbaths, protective gowns, gloves and face masks were implemented to prevent the spread of AI to known healthy birds. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) was also used in the case of fawns as COVID is a serious health risk to them. These protocols added another layer of difficulty onto our work. Certain species have been banned for rehab across the state so our opportunities to work with these species was non-existent. We still had exposure to a variety of the animals rehabbed at the facility though and were involved in their day-to-day care. One of the very first animals we got to care for, and were primarily responsible for, were baby squirrels. We ensured they had food, cleaned their enclosures and monitored and reported if any displayed signs of illness. Along with the squirrels we cared for bunnies, ducks, foxes, eagles, and bears; some required medical attention while others were simply too young to survive on their own.



As the summer progressed the squirrel numbers began to dwindle but would be replaced by baby song birds. This was a new challenge that would keep our eyes on the clock as these birds required feeding every hour or even every half hour. We received baby birds ranging in age from a week or so old to just a day old, which were some of the most difficult to care for. Other animals seen further into the summer included woodchucks, coyotes, kingfishers, broad-winged hawks, merlins, kestrels, and osprey. The older raptors brought in would often not eat on their own and would need to be tweezer fed. An opportunity that allowed me to practice raptor holding techniques on a few different hawks. However, the young hawks brought in would often be so young they looked like small puff balls and could more easily adapt to their temporary captivity.

With our final days at Wild Instincts approaching, the second wave of baby squirrels came rushing in, tiny and without fur. These small neonates are very difficult and frustrating as some wouldn't survive. Those that did were frustrating in their own way as they required feedings multiple times throughout the day and would often not even want to eat. But even with those that would try to stop eating after taking only a small amount, or those that would often spit up their food, we persevered as these nutrients were essential to their continued growth. Eventually they did grow, larger and soon will be old enough to survive on their own in the wild. There were many other animals that we were able to release as well, which was often an exciting moment. But there were also a number of animals that could not be released and had

to be euthanized. Times like those were often sad and a reminder that there is still a lot of work to be done and learned in the field of wildlife rehabilitation.

### **QUICK WISH LIST**

We need:

- ~Produce such as apples, any berry except cranberry, grapes, carrots, sweet potatoes, etc.
- ~Gas Cards
- ~Postage stamps
- ~Human Snacks to Power Interns always appreciated!



### **IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF**

- ~In Honor Art & Barb Barlow's wedding anniversary
- ~In Memory of Jane Bishoff
- ~In Memory of Beloved Fathers & Treasured Memories
- ~In Honor of Deb Rugar & Randy Schubert's wedding
- ~In Memory of Eva Hall
- ~In Honor of "Jukka's" 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday
- ~In Memory of Phil Pausma, "Fish on, Dude"
- ~In Memory of Virginia Hagen
- ~In Honor of Nancy Nebgen's birthday
- ~In Honor of the 2022 Wild ScaVenture, looking forward to the 2023 ScaVenture
- ~In Memory of James Carson

### **A Chronological Photo Album of American Kestrels**

We admitted six kestrel nestlings this year. Five boys came in one clutch and a single female was admitted a couple weeks later.

In cooperation with Central Wisconsin Kestrel Research, when it was time to release them, we sent them to central WI to be hacked out.

Hacking is the term giving to a process of holding young birds in a fairly transparent box for a few days. This allows them to be safe while allowing them to see the surrounding. They are fed in the box for a time until they are ready to fledge. When they are ready to fledge, the door is then left opened and they can come and go as they need to. Food is still provided in the box while they are learning to fly and hunt. As they get more proficient, they return to the hack box less and less. It's hoped that the young birds then imprint to the habitat around the hack box and return to the general area where they've been hacked.

This method has been used for reintroduction of several species of falcons, osprey, eagles, kites and owls.

Thanks to everyone at Central Wisconsin Kestrel Research.



A clutch of 5 boys were admitted on June 30th



A lone female was admitted on July 12







Hanging out in the flight enclosure growing up to be Kestrel



Being placed in the hack box.



Banded and safe in their new temporary home. Next stop: Freedom!

## **WILD ScaVenture 2022**



In true ScaVenture form, Wild ScaVenture 2022 was a lot of fun! Teams played hard and just a handful of points separated the winners. We always enjoy everyone's creativity and willingness to be silly, have fun and learn something in the process.

Here's what a member of a new team shared with us:

*I wasn't sure I would be able to work with the technology, but the app was easy. And the missions were great! I'm definitely doing it again next year. I would tell anyone wondering if they should join, to go ahead and try it once. If you don't like it, the worst that happens is that you have supported Wild Instincts. But I think you'll have a lot of fun and learn some new things, too!*

Returning Teams CoLAMBo came in first with 18050 points and Mangy Muskrats placed second with 18000 points. Newcomers Nature Nerds finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 17960.

The top three teams won cash prizes which they all donated back to Wild Instincts.

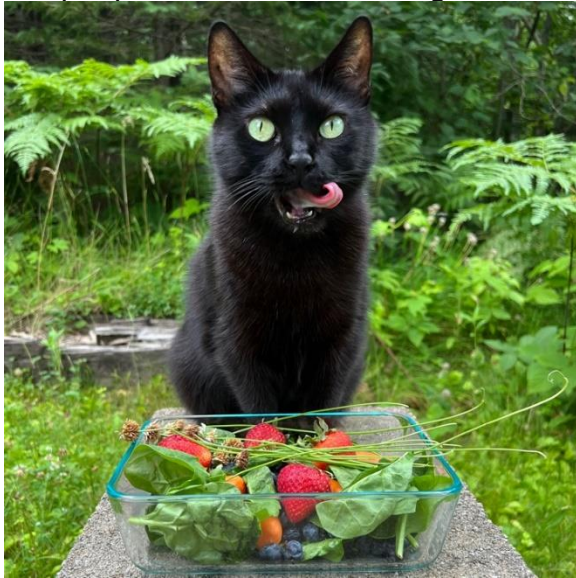
Thanks to all the wildlife are the real winners!

Here are a few submissions from some of couple of the easy missions to pique your interest for next year:

Chuckcutterie

400 Points

Snap a photo of at least 3 things we feed the Woodchucks. Hint: Facebook video



Submission from blackcattrails

Soniashnyk

400 Points

Ukrainian Bat Rehabilitation Center has been functioning and dedicated to bats in their care despite some pretty incredible and dangerous situations. To honor these amazing people, post something related to sunflowers, the Ukrainian national flower.



Submitted by Mangy Muskrats



Submitted by Belgian Bears

## Other Scenes from the Summer



Osprey fledging on ground. Was reunited with parents.



Summer Intern Maria releases some of the young Belted Kingfisher we raised this summer.



A young merlin was admitted with its throat blocked by this mass of bone pieces. It could breathe, but not swallow. Its parents likely fed it this meal. The mass was removed, the bird recovered full and will be released with the other merlins in a few days.





Days old beaver transferred to Fellow Mortals in Lake Geneva. Their facility is known for their beaver specialists.



Young Green Heron



Ruffed grouse eggs incubating



Newly hatched ruffed grouse chicks

Species Admitted 1/1-8/6/22

American Beaver	1
American Bittern	1
American Black Bear	10
American Crow	3
American Goldfinch	2
American Kestrel	6
American Robin	39
American Woodcock	1
Bald Eagle	32
Baltimore Oriole	1
Barred Owl	4
Belted Kingfisher	12
Black-and-white Warbler	1
Black-capped Chickadee	4
Blue Jay	2
Broad-winged Hawk	10
Canada Goose	17
Cedar Waxwing	4
Chipping Sparrow	11
Common Garter Snake	1
Common Grackle	12
Common Loon	4
Common Merganser	1
Common Raven	5
Common Redpoll	7
Common Snapping Turtle	1
Cooper's Hawk	1
Coyote	4
Dark-eyed Junco	1
Deer Mouse	28
Downy Woodpecker	2
Eastern Chipmunk	4

Eastern Cottontail	178
Eastern Fox Snake	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	53
Eastern Painted Turtle	2
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1
European Starling	6
Fox Sparrow	1
Gray Fox	2
Gray Treefrog	2
Great Blue Heron	1
Great Horned Owl	1
Green Heron	1
Hairy Woodpecker	5
Hooded Merganser	7
House Sparrow	5
House Wren	1
Lincoln Sparrow	2
Little Brown Bat	1
Mallard	38
Meadow Vole	15
Merlin	4
Midland Painted Turtle	1
Mourning Dove	6
Nashville Warbler	1
Northern Cardinal	2
Northern Raccoon	18
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	1
Norway Rat	1
Osprey	3
Ovenbird	2
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Pine Grosbeak	2
Pine Siskin	2
Purple Finch	1
Red Fox	22
Red Squirrel	27
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Red-eyed Vireo	5
Ring-billed Gull	1
Rock Dove	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	13
Ruffed Grouse	9
Sandhill Crane	2



Snapping Turtle	7
Snowshoe Hare	2
Snowy Owl	3
Song Sparrow	1
Southern Flying Squirrel	13
Spotted Salamander	1
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	1
Trumpeter Swan	2
Veery	1
Virginia Opossum	6
Western Painted Turtle	24
White-tailed Deer	37
Wood Duck	10
Woodchuck	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4
	808

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Nature Center Property Clean Up Days  
To Be Announced

Welcome to

# INSTINCTS



NOVEMBER 2022

Vol 11:3

*"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."*

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## **RUBY, AMELIA, ERIK & PHOENIX**

Late this summer, Ruby, our ten-year old education resident Red-tailed Hawk, became very ill. West Nile Virus (WNV), a virus spread by mosquitoes, is likely the cause. This illness can be difficult to overcome and can leave long-term neurological issues.

When we slowly started giving programs again after taking time off for COVID and Avian Flu, Amelia, our nine-year old Peregrine Falcon, made it clear she would rather be worshipped from afar like at a zoo than to do up-close, personal programs any more.

We posted on FB for good thoughts & prayers for Ruby and we respected Amelia's wishes by moving her to the Wildwood Zoo in Marshfield.

When we announced these changes, we were quickly contacted by a colleague in MI. About 10 years ago, a couple of gentlemen from the Marquette, MI area wanted to start a wildlife rehabilitation/education facility. As part of their permitting process they had to take an International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Basic Rehab class. Mark was the instructor for that class. He always tries to encourage his students to connect with mentors, tour lots of facilities, and ask lots of questions.

These two gentlemen came to Wild Instincts to tour our facility and to learn from our expertise. They called often in the

early years while they gained skills and confidence.

We watched Chocolay Raptor Center grow from their dream to reality. They really wanted to do more education than rehabilitation so often they would transfer eagles to us for pre-release conditioning or intensive lead treatment.

A couple years ago, one of them retired, leaving Jerry Maynard to run Chocolay alone.

After our post about Amelia and Ruby, the phone call from our friend in MI was to let us know Jerry passed away just a few weeks prior to our post. He left a couple of education birds that needed to be placed somewhere as soon as possible - a Peregrine Falcon and a Red-tailed Hawk. Wow. We had no idea Jerry had passed away.

Yes, we would absolutely take the birds.

Because we had all the permits and proper enclosures already, the transfers went very quickly.

Besides being the same species as education birds we already had, there are other similarities in the injuries which prevent their release.



Phoenix the Peregrine Falcon



Erik the Red-tailed Hawk

Phoenix, the Peregrine, is missing his left eye. Ruby is missing her left eye. Phoenix is a calm bird (especially for a Peregrine!). Ruby is extremely calm. Phoenix was hatched in a camera-monitored nest box at a power plant in MI and will likely keep his name. Amelia, who is now in Marshfield, has a left-wing injury. Erik, the Red-tailed has a right-wing injury. Erik the Red may have his name changed. But most importantly, both birds are settling in well. As the rehab colleague that started all of this in motion said, it's like it was meant to be!

**UPDATE:** While compiling this newsletter, after 9 weeks of having to be tube or tweezer-fed, Ruby started eating on her own! She still has a long way to go and we will have to evaluate any long-term effects she may have, but this is *wonderful* news! Thanks to all who have sent good thoughts for her!



After two months of not even being able to stand, much less perch, Ruby is finally starting to perch and eat on her own.

## **HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) UPDATE**

Just like COVID is still circulating, the Avian Flu is still a concern.

We haven't seen as many likely cases of HPAI recently as we did during Spring Migration but Fall Migration has been drawn out because of the very nice weather and is still on-going.

We will continue to monitor migration and quarantine as needed.

If you call with an injured bird, we will give you specific instructions on admission procedures.

## **CELLCOM GRANT**

The outbreak this year of HPAI, highlighted the need for expanding our quarantine facilities.

We were able to meet government requirements for dealing with HPAI because we were quickly able to adapt an outbuilding into an expanded quarantine ward.

What we weren't prepared for was that other facilities weren't prepared. Instead, they closed to many different suspect species.

Just like with COVID, this resulted in an unexpected influx of patients that normally would have been admitted to other facilities.

We were able to move some caging around but had to add large crates to cover some needs. Not an ideal situation taking much longer and much more man-power for cleaning and sanitizing.

Cellcom to the rescue!

This year Cellcom awarded us a Green Gift for \$1500.00 allowing us to purchase an additional stainless-steel cage to be used for mobile quarantine areas in the future. This will reduce the need for crates.

A total of 32 green organizations received a share of the \$30,527 in Green Gifts from Cellcom this year. The Green Gifts program uses funds generated from Cellcom's cell phone recycling program to fund green

nonprofit initiatives. Customers and community members can bring in their old or unwanted phones to be reused and recycled. Cellcom sends the phones to recyclers who in return send money to Cellcom for the materials that were saved from the phones. Cellcom's Green Gift program completes the green cycle that starts with consumers being environmentally conscious and donating their devices.

"Cellcom is focused on reducing our negative impact on the environment and investing in projects in our communities that do the same. From preserving and enhancing natural areas to providing educational programming to spearheading sustainability and research efforts, this year's Green Gift recipients are leading the way for environmental causes locally," said Mick O'Malley, director of sustainability at Cellcom. "We're proud to support the many nonprofits throughout our service area that are not only performing critical work for our environment but also inspiring the community to become environmental stewards."

Visit [Cellcom's website](#) for the full list of award recipients. Cellcom is proud to support organizations of all sizes, whose work is impacting the community and building a greener tomorrow. The company's recycling program has generated \$581,206 for local charities over the past 19 years.

## **CALENDAR UPDATE**

The calendar company we have been getting our calendars from the last 10 years was sold and closed. We will be doing a small order for 2023 from a different company. The format will be quite different but it will still feature great wildlife photos. Contact [us if you would like to pre-order a calendar](#) Sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com or 715-362-9453



## RELEASE SEASON

Late summer and early fall are exciting times around Wild Instincts.

The babies needing long-term care are finally ready to start their lives in The Wild. Many people think this is a sad time for wildlife rehabbers, but it really is just the opposite!

We have put our sweat and tears, yes, sometimes even our blood, into giving each of these animals the chance to succeed in fulfilling their role in the ecosystem.

Yes, they are like bittersweet high school graduations, but each release is most definitely a celebration!

Especially for some species like fawns that now require extra protocol requirements and efforts to be allowed to treat.

Enjoy a short pictorial of some of these celebrations:



Some of the 11 fawns we released this year.

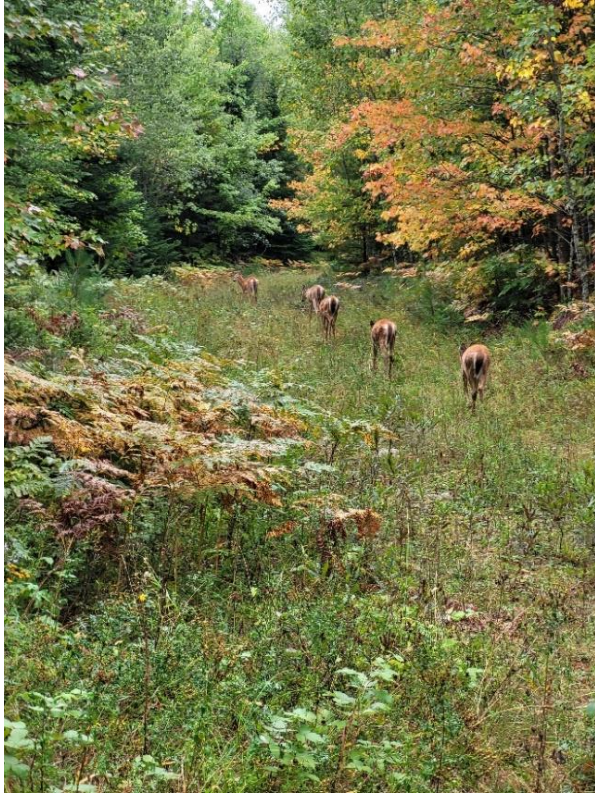


Release Day. Fawns are sedated to be transported to their wild homes. Notice the masks and PPE.



Rehab Assistant Margot monitors a fawn during her first fawn release.





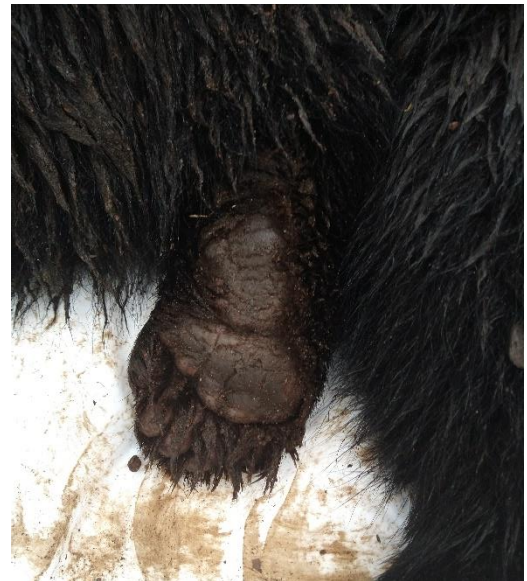
Five fawns walking off into their wild lives.



We released 9 cubs this year.



Bear Release



A wet bear foot.





Rehab Assistant Margot has a moment with one of the six-month old bald eagles before releasing it.



Fly FREE!

## SPECIAL SNOWY RELEASE

On April 7<sup>th</sup> we admitted a Snowy Owl that had been seen on the ground for a while. Her beak and talons were worn in such a way it almost looked like someone cut them that way on purpose. We have no idea what happened to her.



Snowy Owl on admission with worn beak and issues with both feet.

She had a fractured toe on her left foot that would need to be amputated and what appeared to be an infection in her right leg. Birds lack the enzyme that keeps pus liquified and able to drain. Instead, severe infections in birds can become hard masses that do not resolve.

After weeks of trying to clear the infection with medication, it was decided it would have to be removed surgically.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr Ray Goodroad of Northern Paws Animal Hospital, amputated the toe and removed the infection.



Snowy Owl foot being prepped for surgery.

Yes, raptors can do well without a toe provided it's not their hallux, the rear toe of the foot.

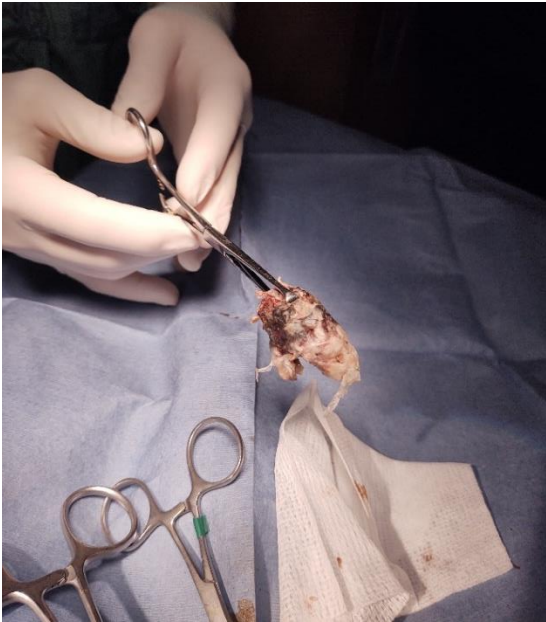
After months of recovery and waiting for her beak and talons to regrow to a length she would need in the wild, she was finally released this fall. Dr. Goodroad, the vet who did the surgery, had the honors of the release.



Waiting for beak and talons to grow back.



Dr. Goodroad prepares to release the Snowy Owl.



Infected mass removed from its leg.





Wild again!

## #GIVING TUESDAY

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Join the movement and give – each Tuesday and every day – whether it's some of your time, a donation, or the power of your voice in your local community. It's a simple idea: whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts and everyone

has something to contribute toward building the better world we all want to live in.

Let's not forget the communities of the natural world in our giving and gratitude, this time of year and always.

November 29<sup>h</sup> is Giving Tuesday.

In the past Facebook had celebrated by matching up to 7 million dollars of donations made to charities.

Now that they have transitioned to Meta, they have also transitioned to Meta's Giving Season.

Giving Season is a 6-week period where Meta may match eligible donations to eligible nonprofits on Facebook. Meta will match up to \$7 million of eligible donations.

If you sign up to be a monthly donor to an eligible nonprofit on Facebook during Giving Season, then Meta may match a donation after the second donation made on that recurring agreement.

Matching for Giving Season begins on

November 15, 2022 and goes until

December 31, 2022, or until the \$7million match fund is spent. For your donation to

be eligible for match, you will need to have set up a recurring donation between

November 15, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

### **GIVING MONDAY AND BEYOND (NOT JUST TUESDAY)**

Not a fan of social media? There are many ways to give and support us. Many don't even require an internet or WIFI connection!

Your gift of money pays for vet care and medications, sends staff to continuing education and keeps the electricity on to run the ICU this loon stayed in.



Lead poisoned loon in ICU.

Your gift of old bedding or newspaper provides comfort for eagles, swans, fawns, squirrels and many more.



Orphaned flying squirrel on newspaper.



Orphaned fawns on donated used blankets.

Your gift of canned cat food helps feed orphaned raccoons like this one



Orphaned raccoon.

Your gift of time and gas to be a volunteer Rescue Driver allows wildlife to get to help while letting staff still care for even more wildlife on site.

Your gifts, no matter how big or seemingly small, no matter if financial or other; your gifts MATTER.

Your gifts enable us to humbly give our gifts to our wild friends.

We are grateful during this season and throughout the year for all of you that help us help them.

We cannot do any of this without you.

### **FREEZER CLEAN OUT**

It's that time of year when people are preparing their freezers for hunting season. If you are cleaning out expired meat or fish



from your freezer, think of us. We will take old venison, fish or anything that is not seasoned or processed. No bacon, ham, sausage, fish sticks, taco meat or things like that, but we would absolutely love venison, ground beef or fish.

We have coolers outside the front door so you can drop off donations at your convenience.

If you know any venison was from archery and would mark it as such, that would be greatly appreciated, but it's not necessary.

## DREAM BIG UPDATE

Progress was slow to start, but things are getting accomplished quickly now. Finding someone to demolish and remove some existing structures took a while.



Clearing trees to ready garage for demolition.



Garage ready for demolition.



Garage gone. Ready for clean-up.



Some of the items from the beginning of clean-up to prep for trail building.

Buildings are down, trail work has started. Thanks to all who came out for the couple work days we had. Lots was accomplished. There's still a lot to do.

Anyone interested in helping clear trails please contact Kaitlin at

[Kaitlin@wildinstinctsrehab.com](mailto:Kaitlin@wildinstinctsrehab.com)





Volunteers clearing trail.

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Our last summer-fall intern has completed her migration home. Here are some thoughts she had about her experience in Wisconsin:

McKenna Brocco  
Orem, UT  
2022 Graduate  
Weber State University

I am infinitely grateful for the opportunity I have had to intern at Wild Instincts. Coming all the way from Utah to Wisconsin was an intimidating idea, and the thought of being so far away from my friends and family left me unsettled. You could say I was quite nervous when I first arrived at Wild Instincts, but luckily the staff and other interns made me feel welcomed and eased my worries. During my first few days interning here I was immersed into the practices of wildlife rehabilitation. There was so much to learn, and I felt like I would never be able to remember it all. Now, at

the end of this internship I have so much bragging material to impress my friends and family back home. I have done many things that most people will probably never get the chance to do. I have fed so many different types of little fuzzy baby animals from squirrels to fawns to woodchucks to hawks. I have carried tranquilized black bears and fawns and helped prepare them to be released. I've been peed on by raccoons and had my eye makeup done by an eagle using only his own excretions (talk about sustainable fashion)! I have been able to experience the highs and the lows of wildlife rehab. I've been able to see many animals get released back to the wild where they belong, but I have also seen the trauma that some animals go through. Everyday isn't easy, but the release days and seeing an animal heal make it all worth it.



Intern McKenna (here from May -Oct) holds a bald eagle before its release.



Throughout this summer I have had my favorite animals and my least favorite animals. One of my favorite animals to care for was a female flying squirrel. I started referring to her as princess bubblegum in my head after I found out that flying squirrels glow bubblegum pink in UV light. When I first arrived, she was just a little pink jellybean. Throughout my first few months of being here, I was able to feed and care for her. She was a dream to dropper feed because she was always a polite little lady who ate her meals with manners. It was super fun to watch her go from a little naked pinkie to a cute and chubby flying squirrel. I loved being able to witness her entire journey from an itty-bitty baby to a squirrel that could survive on her own. Some of my least favorite animals to care for were the five belted kingfishers we had. When you looked at those birds you could tell there was not a thought behind their eyes. They did not eat on their own when they first came in so we tweezer fed them live minnows multiple times a day. Feeding them felt like it took at least 3 hours each time. We would put a minnow right into their beak and they would just sit there with it flopping around for what felt like forever, no clue about what to do with their hand delivered meal. Seeing those guys released was one of my favorite releases, not because it meant I didn't have to feed them anymore (although at that point they had figured out to eat on their own), but I was also able to see them fly away so beautifully that you could tell they were finally where they belonged. Looking back from when I first arrived here to now, I can recognize how much I have learned, and I surprise myself with how many things I know now that I was certain I would never be able to remember. Even though it's been hard being away from home, and I still haven't gotten used to the flat horizon and the fact that it's humid all the time and rains probably a hundred times more often than it does in Utah, I

have really enjoyed my time at Wild Instincts. I am immensely grateful for the people I met and the experiences I had, and I will carry the principles I learned from my time at Wild Instincts with me wherever life may take me.

### QUICK WISH LIST

We need:

- ~Venison, especially lead-free (archery, copper)
- ~Gas Cards
- ~Postage stamps



### IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

- ~In Honor of Sharon Larson's birthday
- ~In Honor of Alison's birthday
- ~In Honor of Mindrolling Khandro Rinpoche's birthday, for the most fragile animal or bird
- ~In Memory of Ted Miller
- ~In Memory of Bernie Bitney
- ~In Memory of Elizabeth VanHousen
- ~In Memory of Jan LaDue, beloved friend, sister, treasure; wonderful nursing instructor and colleague
- ~In Memory of Jane Bishoff
- ~In Memory of "Niko", "Raider" & "Moose"
- ~In Honor of Ripco Credit Union's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- ~In Honor of Laura & Nate DeHart's 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- ~In Honor of Elsie & Bobby Thornton's 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary
- ~In Honor of Hope & Frank Carmines 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary
- ~In Memory of Irene Mutter
- ~In Honor of Sue Mixis
- ~In Memory of Dr. Jane Pearson

Species Admitted (110)	1/1-11/1/22	Hermit Thrush	2
American Toad	1	Hooded Merganser	7
Gray Treefrog	2	House Sparrow	6
Spotted Salamander	1	House Wren	1
American Bittern	2	Least Sandpiper	1
American Coot	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
American Crow	12	Mallard	40
American Goldfinch	6	Merlin	5
American Kestrel	6	Mourning Dove	8
American Robin	40	Nashville Warbler	1
American Woodcock	1	Northern Cardinal	3
Bald Eagle	40	Northern Flicker	1
Baltimore Oriole	1	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1
Barred Owl	9	Osprey	6
Belted Kingfisher	12	Ovenbird	4
Black-and-white Warbler	1	Pileated Woodpecker	1
Black-capped Chickadee	4	Pine Grosbeak	2
Blue Jay	5	Pine Siskin	3
Broad-winged Hawk	18	Purple Finch	2
Canada Goose	19	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Cedar Waxwing	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Chipping Sparrow	13	Red-eyed Vireo	6
Common Grackle	13	Red-tailed Hawk	5
Common Loon	6	Ring-billed Gull	4
Common Merganser	1	Rock Dove	3
Common Nighthawk	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7
Common Raven	6	Rough-legged Hawk	1
Common Redpoll	7	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	14
Common Yellowthroat	1	Ruffed Grouse	12
Cooper's Hawk	1	Sandhill Crane	3
Dark-eyed Junco	2	Snowy Owl	3
Downy Woodpecker	3	Song Sparrow	1
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1	Trumpeter Swan	2
European Starling	7	Turkey Vulture	2
Fox Sparrow	1	Veery	1
Great Blue Heron	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Great Horned Owl	5	White-throated Sparrow	2
Green Heron	1	Wood Duck	11
Hairy Woodpecker	6	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7

Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
American Beaver	1
American Black Bear	10
Big Brown Bat	2
Coyote	4
Deer Mouse	46
Eastern Chipmunk	7
<b>Eastern Cottontail</b>	<b>192</b>
Eastern Gray Squirrel	91
Gray Fox	2
Little Brown Bat	1
Meadow Jumping Mouse	5
Meadow Vole	26
Muskrat	1
North American Porcupine	1
Northern Raccoon	20
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	1
Norway Rat	1
Red Fox	23
Red Squirrel	30
Snowshoe Hare	2
Southern Flying Squirrel	18
Striped Skunk	1
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	1
Virginia Opossum	7
White-tailed Deer	39
Woodchuck	7
Common Garter Snake	1
Common Snapping Turtle	15
Eastern Fox Snake	1
Eastern Painted Turtle	29
Northern Water Snake	1
Wood Turtle	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1037</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

GIVING TUESDAY is TUES, Nov 29



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