

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

Spring 2011

Vol 1:1

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Instincts, the official newsletter of Wild Instincts, Inc.

Wild Instincts was formed to address a need for quality, ethical wildlife rehabilitation in the area.

Having decades of professional wildlife rehabilitation experience in Northern Wisconsin, we suddenly found ourselves without a place to rehab. More disturbing, however, was suddenly the wildlife we had been serving was now left with nowhere close to get help.

We decided to step up and do something about it and formed Wild Instincts.

Baby season in the wildlife rehab business refers to the time of year when the orphan babies get admitted for care. Here in Northern WI, it generally starts in early to mid April and increases in earnest into June.

Looking at the calendar, we were reminded Baby Season wasn't going to wait for people or politics. We started doing our darnedest to be ready because no matter what the animals would be coming.

January 28th, we purchased 16 acres just north of Rhinelander for our new facility.

We designed, planned and jumped through endless zoning meetings and hoops, all the while

admitting wild patients. (We admitted our first babies of the season, Eastern gray squirrels, on March 24th.)

We "waited" for the never-ending winter to finally become spring. By "waiting", we mean we took care of patients, we remodeled a garage on the property to work out of temporarily, we cleared a building site and completed mounds of paperwork including our nonprofit application with the IRS to mention just a few.

Building Progress On

May 11th, the shell of Wild Instincts' new building was completed. At the time of this newsletter, the plumber has just finished all the sewer and drain lines, the water lines will be completed early next week. The mobile home to be used for intern quarters and temporary offices should be moved to the site next week.

Newly completed Wild Instincts Building shell



Monday, May 2 Drain Field Work Begins

We want to thank all 22 who participated in the May 1st Work Day cutting and hauling brush so we could get the septic system and mobile home site ready on time. You guys are great and we couldn't do this without you!!!

Work Day



st
Sunday May 1 Work Day

Volunteer Opportunities

- Rescue Drivers
- Transport Drivers
- Construction Volunteers
- Animal Care Volunteers
- Office Volunteers
- Newsletter Volunteers
- Fundraising Volunteers

Contact us if you are interested in volunteering in any way: 715-490-2727 or info@wildinstinctsrehab.com

Become a Member

Our tax-exempt status is currently being processed by the IRS. For now we are operating on donations with no tax write off. When the tax-exempt status is granted, it's generally retroactive to the date filed, but we technically don't even know if we'll be granted tax exemption.



Still, we could use whatever support you are willing to give. As long as you understand currently you cannot get a tax write-off with your donation. The animals still need helping and we still need funding to help them.

We are offering memberships at the following levels to start:

Wild Neighbor	\$35
Family	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Silver	\$250
Gold	\$500
Platinum	\$1000

Of course you are always welcome to donate in amounts different from these levels.

WISH LIST

For a complete wish list, please visit our website: www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

Chain link fencing
Fence poles
Whole fish
Frozen venison
Dry dog food
Canned dog food
Unsalted walnuts
Unsalted pecans
Paper towels
Dish soap
Hand soap
Newspapers
Sheets/blankets/towels
Gas cards
Cash donations

A Few Wildlife Tales

~ On Feb 16, Wild Instincts received a call about a raccoon in a trap. It was stuck in a crawl space under a mobile home and in great distress. It was obvious it had been caught for a long period. It was frantic and in much discomfort. Mark went to the site, sedated it, and determined the only

humane solution was to end its suffering. The landowner is now rethinking using leg-hold traps as a solution to "nuisance" animals around his property. If you have animal visitors causing problems, box live traps can be part of a solution. Catching the animal unharmed and relocating it to a more suitable location can be an answer everyone can live with.

~ On Feb 22, a female Pine Grosbeak was admitted with a left wrist injury. On Mar 19, she was released back at the recovery site before the flock she was hanging out with left the area for their breeding grounds further north.

~ On March 24, the season's first babies arrived - three baby gray squirrels.

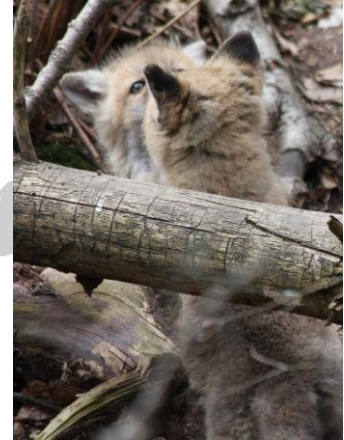
~ On May 5, Wild Instincts admitted a female orphan red fox kit. She had been found in a window well. Attempts by the recoverer to locate her den were unsuccessful. Freeing her from the window well and placing her so she could go back to her den on her own resulted in her simply diving into the window well again. So we admitted the first red fox of 2011. Fox are very social and having a buddy of the same species (called a conspecific) to be raised with is best. We put word out to other rehabbers in the area as normal protocol. If someone else has a singleton, they either take ours or we take theirs. Add to the situation we are under construction. We could keep her for a while, but we don't have a pre-release conditioning cage completed at this time. While we were contemplating how and when and where to transfer her, a wonderful supporter, wildlife advocate & wildlife photographer sent a note of encouragement to us. She knows we've been working inhumane hours and often having cold cereal for supper about 9:30pm. She had no idea we had admitted a fox kit but as a morale booster she sent photos of the fox kits playing outside their den in a corner of her yard. For three years, they have had a fox including part of their yard as part of her

territory. This year she had a litter of kits. Fox vixens are reputed to be pretty accepting of others. While we routinely place orphan bear cubs with denning bear sows, we had never tried it with a fox kit. Mostly because it's rare to know exactly where a den is and how many kits are already being cared for. We certainly wouldn't place a foster with a mom if it would tax the resources available to all. This set up was perfect- a fox den that could be monitored daily from a safe distance, a vixen used to human activity in the area and a known litter size of 3-4. On May 10th, we decided to try to "wild foster" our fox kit into this den. Because the vixen was already used to the landowners' scents and activities, it was decided she would be the one to place our fox near the entrance of the den. As soon as our kit was on the ground, she scrambled in the den to her soon-to-be siblings. A quick peek in revealed acceptance from the youngsters; the vixen was out hunting. When she came home, her new surprise kit would smell more like her den, increasing the chances of successful adoption.

We've received a couple updates with photos we'd like to share:

"Mark (friend and rehabber extraordinaire) from Wild Instincts brought a sweet little orphaned fox kit to today for introduction into our fox family. Since mama fox and kits are used to my scent, he suggested that I do the release into the den. My husband was only able to get one picture (holding kit in my gloved hand) before I set him in with the others (mama fox gone hunting). No snarls or growls or sounds of any kind- good news! Later I sat behind the den, watched and waited. ALL the kits came out on the logs..... 1, 2, 3, 4, 5! (Indeed, there was an original 4th kit

as I suspected.) The orphaned kit (a bit smaller) was very shy coming out at first, but when he did, one of his adopted siblings engaged him in some play. It was such a remarkable sight! And having the scent of one of the other kits will increase the probability of mama fox accepting him even more.



Checking out the new family member



A happy family with a new addition!

[Wild Instincts Contact Info:](#)

715-490-2727

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

www.wildinstincts.wordpress.com

www.youtube.com/wildinstinctsrehab

Don't forget to check us out on
Facebook!

*Thank
you for
helping us
help the
wildlife!*



Welcome to *INSTINCTS*

June 2011

Vol 1:2

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

So much has happened in the last month we thought we'd update you in another newsletter.

Building Progress

Like typical building projects, things are progressing, but not as fast as we'd have liked. Construction on the building has been interrupted by animal care and animal care construction! The deer enclosure has been completed -just in time for the five fawn patients we currently have.



Center of photo shows fawn grazing in new fawn enclosure

Work is feverishly underway to finish the 30 X 40 bear enclosure. We have a bear cub that would like to be moved into a larger enclosure soon. Plans will be to expand this enclosure this fall after bears are released.

The songbird enclosure is also finished and has already seen birds come...and go as they get released!

Even though construction focus shifted to animal enclosures, there are stud walls being completed in the building, along with

plumbing and electrical. The heating/cooling is mostly done.



Heather, Mark and Kristina erect a wall on the dedicated cleaning room.

The donated mobile home arrived on site on June 14 – about 3 weeks after it was supposed to! We have 2 volunteers helping who have been great sports about camping out on airbeds at a nearby dog training facility. One will be leaving before ever getting to stay in the actual housing we've planned for students and volunteers.



The mobile home for intern quarters/office is finally in place on site.

In Their Own Words

Speaking of students and volunteers, we've been fortunate to have a University of Wisconsin-

Stevens Point student here volunteering. Kristina Borgstrom had a couple weeks between class obligations this summer and decided to donate her time, sweat and muscle to Wild Instincts! We're not sure how we didn't scare her off that first evening because literally within the first two hours of her arrival she fed birds, squirrel, and fawns!

Why don't we just let her tell about it in her own words:

"I first met Mark during Wild Instinct's workday on May 1st 2011, while I volunteered with the organization Women in Natural Resources from Stevens Point University. As an organization, we helped them with the much-needed brush clearing for the new facility. While clearing brush, Mark had told us girls the goals of his new project in getting the facility up and running for animals in need. After learning that he was not able to take on paid interns for a while, I asked him if he would be willing to take on a volunteer for a few weeks during the summer. I have a major in Wildlife Ecology – Research and Management and a minor in Captive Wildlife. I figured that when it came to animal husbandry, Mark would be one of the best to learn from. He right away said yes, and before I knew it, I was working with him to take care of the animals.

My adventure started when I arrived at Wild Instincts during the evening of June 3rd. Shortly after my tour of the facility in progress, I was given a syringe and pipette and was shown how to feed two young robins and a baby black squirrel. The night didn't end there. I also learned how to prepare formula and feed three fawns that were already out in the smaller deeryard.

During my first week here, I have learned so much – helping to admit patients, filling out charts, feeding squirrels, birds, fawns, rabbits and more. Each day brings a new adventure as the phone rings asking for advice and if we would take in a new patient. Besides caring for the animals, which has always come first, I have had the opportunity to lend a hand with construction. Together we tackled the larger deeryard putting up protective screening and removing undesirable bracken fern by the handful. Before long, we had made enough progress to move on to constructing

the wet walls in the new building. From there I have dug and filled trenches, trimmed brush, collected materials, and helped select a spot for the new bear cage – all while caring for our hungry patients.

My experience here has inspired me to continue working hard. Not knowing what to expect when I first arrived, I soon came to admire Wild Instincts' passion to care for animals and educate the public in what is natural for these organisms. People should embrace the opportunity to help these injured and orphaned animals by either volunteering their time where help is needed or simply making a donation. Although the animals may not be able to speak for themselves, I am sure they appreciate the help and Wild Instincts does too."

We sure *do* appreciate it! We also appreciate the fact Kristina has been "camping out" without complaining a bit along with working crazy, long hours.

Our second resident volunteer, Heather Berry, showed up on June 8th. Heather worked as an intern with Mark previously and wants to give being rehab assistant a try. She will be donating her entire summer to Wild Instincts. You'll be hearing from her in the next newsletter.

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Transport Drivers
Construction Volunteers
Animal Care Volunteers
Office Volunteers
Newsletter Volunteers
Fundraising Volunteers

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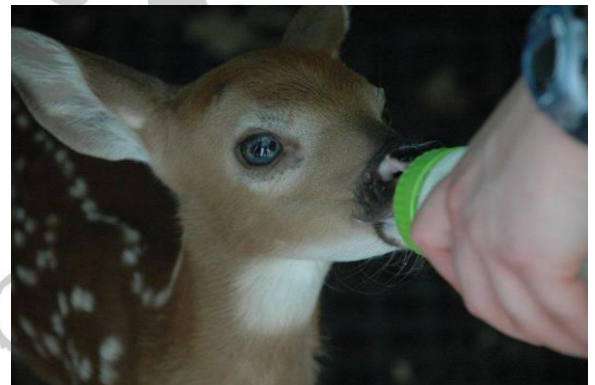
For a complete wish list, please visit our website:
www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

- Chain link fencing
- Fence poles
- Whole fish
- Frozen venison
- Dry dog food
- Canned dog food
- Unsalted walnuts & unsalted pecans
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Newspapers
- Sheets/blankets/towels
- Good used pick-up truck
- Gas cards
- Cash donations

A Few Wildlife Tales

~ On May 22, Wild Instincts admitted the first fawn of the year.

People come across a fawn in their yard, on the road or in the woods and can't believe how something so small and vulnerable can be okay on its own. Unbelievably, 99% of the time, they are. People can't help themselves, though, and often time interfere when they shouldn't. Currently, we have five fawns. Four of them should've been left alone to be cared for by mom.



Two week old white-tailed deer orphan.

Species Admitted

Here's a little idea of what we've admitted in the first half of 2011*:

*this outdates sometimes on an hourly basis this time of year!

*Thank you for
helping us help
the wildlife!*

~ On March 24, the season's first babies arrived - three baby gray squirrels. On May 26, all three were released.

Species	1/1-6/9/11
American Crow	1
American Robin	4
Bald Eagle	6
Barred Owl	2
Black Bear	3
Canada Goose	1
Common Grackle	1
Common Raven	1
Eastern Cottontail	15
Eastern Gray Squirrel	14
European Starling	4
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	3
Great Horned Owl	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Hermit Thrush	1
House Finch	1
Mallard Duck	3
Mourning Dove	2
Pine Grosbeak	1
Porcupine	1
Raccoon	1
Red Fox	3
Red Squirrel	7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2
Virginia Opossum	1
Whippoorwill	1
White-tailed Deer	9
Wild Turkey	1
Total to date	92



Taken 5/19/11, about a week before release

~ On 5/28/11, Wild Instincts admitted an orphan black bear cub whose mom and sibling were illegally shot by someone not wanting them around their house. He'll be raised at here at Wild Instincts until his fall release.

Coming next issue: More volunteer spotlights, the costs of rehab and more patient updates

Don't forget to check us out and Like Us on Facebook!



Eastern Gray Squirrel on 3/27/11, three days after admission

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

July 2011

Vol 1:3

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

Six Month Progress Update

Wow! It's the six month anniversary of the purchase of the property now housing the growing Wild Instincts.

For those of us trudging along 16 hour days, 7 days a week, sometimes it's hard to remember what we did a couple hours ago. It's good to take a break from time to time to look back and see how far we've come.

We thought you may want to, also.

Some Brief Highlights:

We started with a 24x30 un-insulated garage and remodeled it into an operational temporary rehab building. It will eventually become a storage building.

We obtained town, county and state building/zoning permits and our 501(c)3 non-profit organization status.

We got a 16 X 80 mobile home donated and moved onto site which was cleared by some of the May 1st Work Day volunteers.

We had a 45'x64' Cleary building erected. Electric, sewer and well have been put in. Some of the interior framing, plumbing and duct work are also done.

We built a deer enclosure, bear enclosure, coyote enclosure, song bird enclosure among others.

We've cared for 213 patients from 55 different species so far in 2011 while all this was going on (see complete breakdown on last page).

We are also maintaining a website, blog and Facebook page.

Our membership has grown to over 50 members.

Not too bad for 180 days. Let's keep the momentum going and money coming to keep helping those wild friends!



March 2011



February 2011



April 24, 2011



May 11, 2011

Big Thank You to AV Campground

Arbor Vitae Campground in Arbor Vitae, WI hosted an Ice Cream Social over the July 4th weekend. All proceeds collected were donated directly to Wild Instincts. Over \$300 dollars were raised. That's a lot of ice cream headaches!!

They also have a donation jar in their general store which collects donations throughout the summer.

Thank you! That all helps us help the animals.

In Their Own Words

Heather Berry has donated most of her summer to be our Rehab Assistant. Here is her recount:

"Volunteering as the Rehabilitator's Assistant has not been easy! There have been days I've laughed, days I've cried, patients coming and going, chilly/cool days and miserable hot days, busy days with many new patients and slow days with not a single one, but the experience has been a rewarding one to say the least.

I knew growing up that whatever my occupation would be, I would want to work with animals. I participated in 4H and was an avid fan of Animal Planet in high school.

In college I was a leader in our pre-veterinary club and obtained a degree in biology from UW-Platteville.

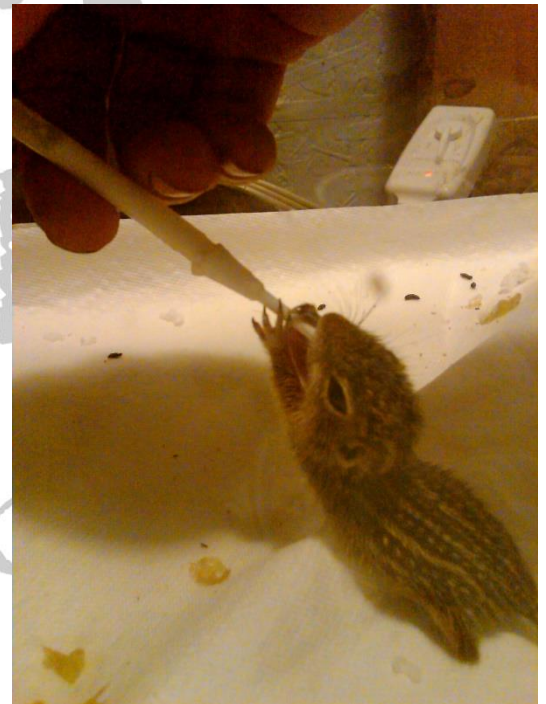
Then last fall I took an internship with Mark that I couldn't get enough of. I had an insatiable want to know more. What's the difference between a rabbit and a hare? How long before a baby cottontail opens its eyes? What kind of a bird is this and what does it eat? How do you hold a rambunctious baby squirrel to feed it? These are just some of the many questions I have asked. When I heard Mark and Sharon were committing to starting a new center and needed help I was excited. I have been helping them with daily rehab activities since the beginning of June and I have never stopped asking questions. Just this year I have gotten to work with black bears, coyotes, fawns, bald eagles, but some of my favorites have been the more common and even more commonly overlooked animals.

One of my favorites has been the thirteen-lined ground squirrels or "gophers". To someone who has not seen many of them, they look exotic with

a coat of alternating spotted and striped lines; like someone picked one straight out of Africa and brought it here to Wisconsin. Their large eye to body ratio gives them an inquisitive and benevolent look, making their feisty temperament unexpected.

With each day comes new patients, questions and experiences- none of which would be possible without the help of donors, volunteers and of course, Mark and Sharon.

So I would like to thank everyone who has made this experience both rewarding and possible."



Thirteen-lined ground squirrel taking formula from a dropper.

In Memory Of/In Honor of

Wild Instincts gladly accepts memorial and honorarium donations.

Donations have recently been received:

~In Memory of Robert Hoerner

~In Memory of Tom Breitbart

A complete list can be found on the Honor/Memory page of our website.

WISH LIST

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www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

Chain link fencing

Fence poles

Walk-in Freezer

Whole fish

Frozen venison (this need is urgent)

Dry dog food

Canned dog food

Unsalted walnuts & unsalted pecans

Paper towels

Dish soap

Hand soap

Newspapers

Sheets/blankets/towels

Good used pick-up truck

Gas cards

Cash donations



Bear cub is growing and doing well.

On July 6th, several coyote pups were transferred to Wild Instincts from another rehab facility. The cause of admission for a couple of them was because someone decided they wanted a coyote for a pet and raided a den and stole couple. The people were caught. The pups were recovered young enough and were placed with a couple other more wild coyotes, there should be no problem with habituation and should be released in the fall with no issues.



Baby beaver about to be examined after being hit by a car.

A Few Wildlife Tales

Some updates on our patients:

The bear cub admitted this spring after its mom & sibling were shot illegally is doing very well.



Coyote pups

On the afternoon of July 18th, storms rolled through the Northwoods. About an hour after one went through, Sharon was on her way to teach a class. She came upon a loon chick in the road. This is a highly unusual sight, even for wildlife experts.

Loons' legs are situated far back on their bodies making them excellent swimmers and divers, but making it extremely difficult to get around on

land. They tend to pull themselves along with their wings.

Sometimes after periods of rain, adult loons land on roads and wet pavements that have the appearance of water from the air. Then they are unable to take off because loons need large bodies of water from which to launch into the air. This chick was not flying yet. There is a lake very close by with a nesting pair with chicks. Apparently, somehow during the storm it wound up in a boggy area of shore and took a wrong turn winding up on the road that curves around that lake.



Loon chick waiting to be reunited with family after being separated from them in a storm.

Even though the lake was right there, Sharon had to get to class. She called Mark and made arrangements for him to meet her at her class location. Mark & Heather arrived within 20 minutes then took the loon chick back to the lake. On shore, they let it make a little noise. Viola! An adult loon appeared from around a corner of the shoreline. Another chick was a little farther off. They set the chick into the water. It swam like mad to its sibling and the reunited family swam off together.

~~~~~

This incident happened to involve a lake we were familiar with so it had a happy ending.

Loons are extremely territorial. Adult loons trying to move into a territory will kill the chicks of other loons.

On lakes we aren't familiar with, small lakes containing more than one pair or where there is obviously a territorial dispute taking place, we err on the side of caution. In cases like those, the loon chick would've been taken and raised until ready to be released.

### **Soft Opening Scheduled**

Come see for yourself the progress Wild Instincts has made in the last six months.

There is a "Soft Opening" scheduled for Saturday, Aug 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Wild Instincts, 4621 Apperson Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501.

While we're not quite ready for a Grand Opening, we'd like you all to see the progress your donations and generosity have made possible!



This duckling has been sprinkled with bloodworms so he will get some extra nutrition while preening himself and jump start his instinct to self feed. There is a feather duster behind him to mimic mom.



A baby Eastern cottontail rabbit pauses for a brief second before hopping to freedom on release day. He had been brought in with several others, all victims of a dog attack. They were severely injured. This was the only survivor of that litter. If you look closely, you can see part of his left ear is missing. Please keep your dogs and cats under control outdoors. Innocent wildlife will thank you.

A baby hooded merganser drying off after being placed in a bucket of water by its recoverer. Newly hatched ducks lack the water-proofing to keep them dry and warm for a little while so while people automatically think ducks should be in water, that isn't always the case.

### Species admitted 1/1-7/18/11

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| American Crow          | 4  |
| American Goldfinch     | 2  |
| American Robin         | 16 |
| Bald Eagle             | 8  |
| Barred Owl             | 2  |
| Beaver                 | 1  |
| Black Bear             | 4  |
| Black-billed Cuckoo    | 1  |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1  |
| Broad-winged Hawk      | 1  |
| Canada Goose           | 2  |
| Common Grackle         | 2  |
| Common Loon            | 1  |
| Common Raven           | 1  |

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Coyote                         | 4          |
| Deer Mouse                     | 1          |
| Downy Woodpecker               | 1          |
| Eastern Bluebird               | 2          |
| Eastern Chipmunk               | 2          |
| Eastern Cottontail             | 34         |
| Eastern Gray Squirrel          | 14         |
| Eastern Phoebe                 | 2          |
| European Starling              | 4          |
| Flying Squirrel                |            |
| (northern/southern combined)   | 3          |
| Great Horned Owl               | 1          |
| Hairy Woodpecker               | 2          |
| Hermit Thrush                  | 1          |
| Hooded Merganser               | 5          |
| House Finch                    | 1          |
| Mallard Duck                   | 5          |
| Midland Painted Turtle         | 1          |
| Mourning Dove                  | 3          |
| Northern Saw-Whet Owl          | 1          |
| Pine Grosbeak                  | 1          |
| Pine Siskin                    | 1          |
| Porcupine                      | 1          |
| Purple Finch                   | 1          |
| Raccoon                        | 3          |
| Red Fox                        | 3          |
| Red Squirrel                   | 11         |
| Rock Dove                      | 2          |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak         | 1          |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird      | 2          |
| Snapping Turtle                | 2          |
| Snowshoe Hare                  | 2          |
| Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel | 9          |
| Tree Swallow                   | 3          |
| Turkey Vulture                 | 1          |
| Virginia Opossum               | 1          |
| Western Painted Turtle         | 2          |
| Whippoorwill                   | 1          |
| White-breasted Nuthatch        | 8          |
| White-tailed Deer              | 22         |
| Wild Turkey                    | 1          |
| Wood Duck                      | 2          |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>213</b> |

*Thank you for helping us help the wildlife!*

Don't forget to check us out and Like Us on Facebook

*Coming next issue: More volunteer spotlights, the costs of rehab and more patient updates.*

Wild Instincts

Welcome to

# INSTINCTS

October 2011

Vol 1:4

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

## **Progress Update**

The delay in a timely newsletter over the late summer/early fall was due to construction! For this to be the year of record-breaking early cold was not a welcome event here at Wild Instincts.

We had to forge ahead to make sure we were ready for insulation. Ice on the toilet water motivated us to put all we had into getting the ceilings sheathed to allow for insulation to be installed.

Added to that was the untimely event of the insulation company getting new equipment and putting an even earlier deadline upon us. Either be ready by the end of Sept or wait another six weeks to be on their schedule.

Wow. That was a good motivator. There was no way we could operate another six weeks without having the building insulated and we couldn't let the animals down.

The good news is we got it done. However, it was at the expense of not getting a newsletter out in a timely fashion.

We're trusting that you will all understand our extremely small staff made that impossible and you won't hold it against us.

Now that the ceiling is sheathed and the strange weather has flip-flopped into warmer than usual temps we have put the indoor construction on hold and turned the concentration to more outdoor enclosure construction.

The pond for the otter aquatic enclosure is dug. The concrete should be poured in the next week or so. That will give us a big jump on spring construction.

The eagle flight enclosure is also being laid out and trees cleared to start construction on that next.

## **Thanks to All Giving Us Hope**

There's no doubt, starting Wild Instincts has been a huge undertaking. We've been working some pretty crazy schedules doing sometimes seemingly superhuman tasks.

The community support from all of you has kept us going. Just when we would become overwhelmed with what's in front of us to accomplish and real doubt we could complete the task, someone would appear, unrequested, to help out. There are too many of these instances to single out. Please know your support hasn't gone unnoticed and some days it's the only thing that keeps us going.



Wipfli Accounting Work Crew donated part of a day to help shovel gravel and fill trenches.



### **A Loss to Wildlife**

On 9/30/11, long-time wildlife rehabilitator, Roland "Fred" Friedrich left this planet to continue his next journey without us.

Not only was Fred a friend to Wisconsin wildlife everywhere and a staunch supporter of Wild Instincts, he was a close personal friend.

We're reminded of a quote by Kahil Gibran: "A sense of humor is a sense of proportion." By that standard, Fred was a man of large proportion and we're sure will be remembered as such.

His absence will be felt by many on many different levels, but he lives on tucked deep into our hearts and that of the wildlife we encounter.



Fly free, Fred, and soar high.

### **WISH LIST**

For a complete wish list, please visit our website:  
[www.wildinstinctsrehab.com](http://www.wildinstinctsrehab.com)

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1 1/2" steel pipe

Fence poles

Walk-in Freezer

Whole fish

Frozen venison

Dry dog food

Canned dog food

Paper towels

Dish soap

Hand soap

Newspapers

Sheets/blankets/towels

Cash Donations

Gas Cards

Good Used Pick-up Truck

Unsalted Pecans

Unsalted Walnuts

### **A Few Wildlife Tales**

On 9/2/11, Wild Instincts admitted a Red-tailed Hawk.

The initial exam revealed swelling in the right elbow possibly from a through & through gunshot wound and what felt like shot pellets in each leg. Radiographs confirmed the shot pellets which were able to be physically manipulated out to reveal copper-coated shot pellets.



Copper-coated shot pellets removed from Red-tailed Hawk.

The bird recovered without incident regaining flight and health enough to be released. On 9/21/11, the bird was returned to the wild.



Red-tailed Hawk Release.

A full-story and more photos of this story can be found on our blog:

[www.wildinstincts.wordpress.com](http://www.wildinstincts.wordpress.com)

Look for the entry titled *Red-Tailed Hawk*.

### **Recent Releases:**

In early September, the coyote pups raised at Wild Instincts were released. With a small staff, often times the camera has to be put down to help with actual animals needs. Unfortunately, the coyote release was one of those times so we have no photos of the release to share with you. But

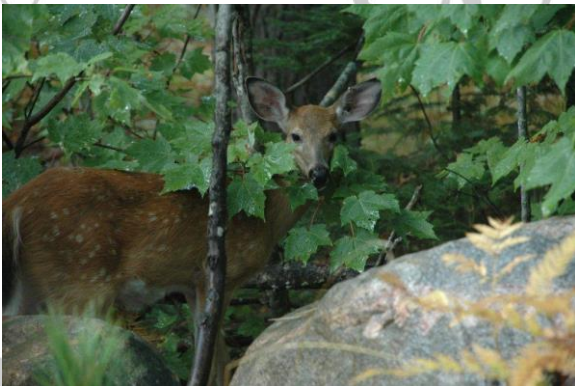
here's one taken almost a month before their release.



Coyote pups still weeks from release in this photo.

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Over the first weekend of Sept, eight fawns raised here at Wild Instincts were released.



Newly released deer "tasting" its new home.

A complete story of the deer release with many more photos can be found on our blog:

www.wildinstincts.wordpress.com

The entry is titled *Wild Once More*.

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Just when we thought we were done with fawn care for the season, the day following the last deer's release, we admitted another fawn that had been hit by a car. We had that fawn for another few weeks before successfully releasing her back into the wild also. ☺

### **Mark teaching IWRC**

Over the winter, Mark was approached about becoming an instructor for the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC).

IWRC is one of the organizations promoting wildlife rehabilitation as a profession. They are the only organization sponsoring actual courses from basic to more advanced subjects for wildlife rehabilitators. They have a certification process in which one can become a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator.

Mark will be helping teach an introductory Basic Rehab weekend class in October.

Mark loves to share his vast knowledge and wisdom with those wanting to learn. It should be a great way to recharge after a very challenging year.

### **Wild Instincts Apparel**

We have placed a small order for short-sleeved and long-sleeved tee shirts with the Wild Instincts logo on the front.

We hope to have them shortly in order to sell for the holiday season (and beyond).

If they are popular, we will be trying to keep some in stock or asking for pre-orders before the next order.

If you have requests for specific sizes, please contact: [sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com](mailto:sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com)

### **Species admitted 1/1-9/30/11**

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| American Crow          | 5  |
| American Goldfinch     | 3  |
| American Robin         | 20 |
| Bald Eagle             | 13 |
| Barred Owl             | 2  |
| Beaver                 | 1  |
| Black Bear             | 4  |
| Black Duck             | 1  |
| Black-billed Cuckoo    | 1  |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1  |
| Broad-winged Hawk      | 3  |
| Canada Goose           | 3  |
| Cedar Waxwing          | 1  |
| Chipping Sparrow       | 1  |
| Common Grackle         | 2  |
| Common Loon            | 3  |

|                                              |    |
|----------------------------------------------|----|
| Common Raven                                 | 1  |
| Coyote                                       | 5  |
| Deer Mouse                                   | 4  |
| Downy Woodpecker                             | 1  |
| Eastern Bluebird                             | 3  |
| Eastern Chipmunk                             | 2  |
| Eastern Cottontail                           | 42 |
| Eastern Garter Snake                         | 1  |
| Eastern Gray Squirrel                        | 20 |
| Eastern Phoebe                               | 3  |
| European Starling                            | 4  |
| Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined) | 3  |
| Gray Fox                                     | 2  |
| Great Blue Heron                             | 1  |
| Great Horned Owl                             | 2  |
| Hairy Woodpecker                             | 2  |
| Hermit Thrush                                | 2  |
| Hooded Merganser                             | 5  |
| Horned Lark                                  | 1  |
| House Finch                                  | 1  |
| House Sparrow                                | 1  |
| Least Bittern                                | 1  |
| Mallard Duck                                 | 6  |
| Midland Painted Turtle                       | 1  |
| Mourning Dove                                | 6  |
| Northern Flicker                             | 1  |
| Northern Saw-Whet Owl                        | 1  |
| Pileated Woodpecker                          | 1  |
| Pine Grosbeak                                | 1  |
| Pine Siskin                                  | 1  |
| Porcupine                                    | 1  |
| Purple Finch                                 | 2  |
| Raccoon                                      | 5  |
| Red Fox                                      | 3  |
| Red Squirrel                                 | 13 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker                       | 1  |
| Red-eyed Vireo                               | 1  |
| Red-tailed Hawk                              | 2  |
| Rock Dove                                    | 4  |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak                       | 2  |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird                    | 5  |
| Ruffed Grouse                                | 1  |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk                           | 1  |
| Snapping Turtle                              | 3  |
| Snowshoe Hare                                | 2  |
| Song Sparrow                                 | 1  |
| Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel               | 9  |
| Tree Swallow                                 | 3  |
| Turkey Vulture                               | 3  |
| Virginia Opossum                             | 1  |
| Western Painted Turtle                       | 3  |
| Whippoorwill                                 | 1  |
| White-breasted Nuthatch                      | 8  |
| White-tailed Deer                            | 28 |
| Wild Turkey                                  | 1  |

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Wood Duck                | 2 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 1 |

**Total 296**



Eastern Bluebird Fledgling wanting some food!

**Thank You for Helping  
Us Help Them!**

Wild  
Instincts

# Welcome to **INSTINCTS**

Nov-Dec 2011

Vol 1:5

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

## **Holiday Season Has Arrived**

The holiday season is upon us already with the end of the year sight.

It has been a whirlwind year at Wild Instincts full of challenges and successes-thanks to all of you for the latter.

The busy animal season is behind us with just a few admissions each week.

That doesn't mean we're slowing down in other aspects, though.

The Intern Quarters has been winterized and closed down for the winter.

The focus on outside enclosure expansions and prep is now on a day-to-day basis totally dependent on the weather.

Inside construction is going full tilt. Anyone wishing to help drywall (yes, that dreaded mud word, too) contact us and we'll put you to work.

Painting won't be too far behind the drywall work.

In addition, we're recruiting interns for next year, applying for grants, getting ready for Rescue & Transport Driver training early next year, and giving presentations to local groups among other activities.

## **THE ONE & ONLY**

Just a reminder Wild Instincts is THE ONLY wildlife rehab center in Northern Wisconsin permitted to treat ALL native WI wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.

From mice to black bears, hummingbirds to eagles, we treat them all!

This means we need a wide variety of diets, enclosures and equipment. See our Wish List for some ideas!

## **Need a Gift Idea?**

Does your list include a hard-to-buy-for person who has everything? How about a gift of wildlife for the year? Give a gift membership or make a donation in honor of someone. You can check them off your list quickly and easily without fighting any crowds!



Or if you're looking for something for someone to actually unwrap, try a Wild Instincts shirt! We have short-sleeved t-shirts, long sleeved t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts available in a great array of colors and sizes.

We are currently accepting pre-orders for holiday giving. Contact us by 12/1/11 to insure your order arriving in time for Christmas giving.

You can see all the items in our new on-line gift shop: <http://www.wildinstinctsrehab.com/shop.htm>

Members are entitled to a 20% discount on gift shop items. If you haven't received your instructions on how to claim your discount, contact [giftshop@wildinstinctsrehab.com](mailto:giftshop@wildinstinctsrehab.com)

## A Few Wildlife Tales

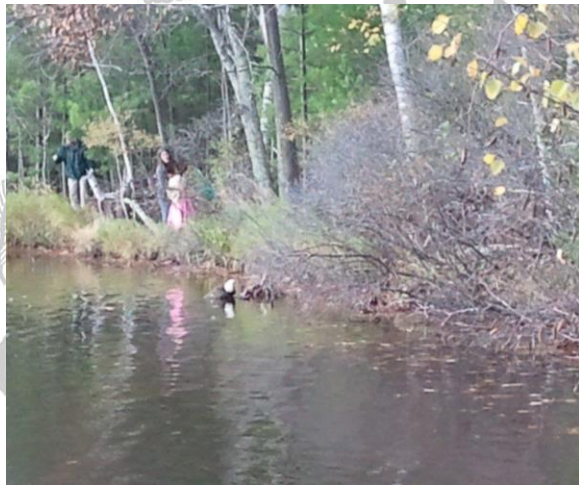
We've asked a couple of our rescue drivers to write about some of their more memorable rescues. Each rescue is memorable in its own way but some become more of adventures than rescues.

While we wait for their recounts, there are some general rules of thumb for rescues to keep in mind:

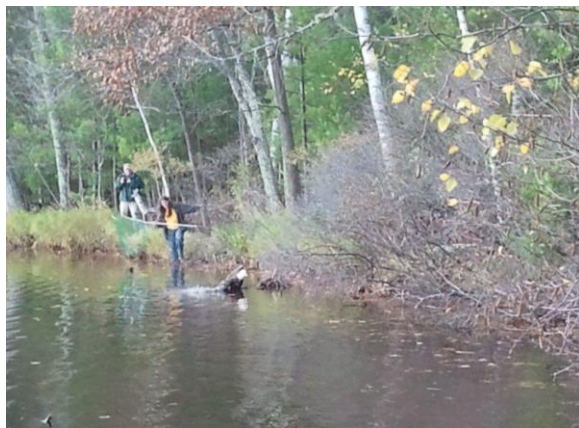
~expect the unexpected and expect to get dirty &/or wet!

~~~~~

In mid-October, Sharon unexpectedly found herself capturing an eagle by wading in an area lake in her jeans and tennis shoes. The full story with more pictures can be found on our blog www.wildinstincts.wordpress.com



Trying to figure out a way to retrieve this injured eagle without getting into the cold water.



Guess it's time to get wet. Hope my shoes stay on my feet!

WISH LIST

(We've been good, Santa Paws!)

For a complete wish list, please visit our website:
www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

Chain link fencing	Cash Donations
1 1/2" steel pipe *	Gas Cards
Wire-feed welder*	Fence poles
Good Used Pick-up Truck	
Walk-in Freezer*	Unsalted Pecans
Whole fish	Unsalted Walnuts
Frozen venison	
Dry dog food	
Canned dog food	
Paper towels	
Dish soap	
Hand soap	
Newspapers	
Sheets/blankets/towels	

*there is a pressing need for these items!

Artists and Crafters

A number of our talented supporters have been donating portions of their sales of crafts to Wild Instincts. This has been tremendously helpful in giving us a more steady income stream. Those of you doing this or wishing to do this, please tell us what you need- copies of newsletters for your vendor booths? Donation jars? Just let us know. If you have a special event or show you want us to mention in a calendar of events in the newsletter or on-line, contact us.

sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com

Thank You for Helping Us Help Them!

Recent Releases

After bear season was finished, it was time to say good-bye to our bear friend. Admitted 5/28/11 after her mom and sibling were shot & killed by a violator, she was finally returned to the wild on 10/19/11.



Tranquilized bear being carried on stretcher*
*Thanks to [Cindy Covers It](#) of Eagle River for making and donating this stretcher!



Foot Number One



Black bear gets her bearings during release.

~~~~~  
**Our Success Rate**

It appears our success rate is going to be about 66% this year; still above the national average of 50%, but below the 70% or higher we normally achieve. Given this year of transition and turmoil, even though not quite our normal standards, it's still note-worthy. We've been able to return two-thirds of our wild friends to the wild!

**Feet for Fun**

Just for fun, we have three photos of feet from three different raptors.

Can you guess what species they belong to?  
Answers are found on the last page.



Foot Number Two



Foot Number 3

### Species admitted 1/1-11/20/11

| Species                                            |    |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| American Crow                                      | 5  |
| American Goldfinch                                 | 4  |
| American Robin                                     | 20 |
| American Woodcock                                  | 1  |
| Bald Eagle                                         | 15 |
| Barred Owl                                         | 2  |
| Beaver                                             | 1  |
| Black Bear                                         | 4  |
| Black Duck                                         | 1  |
| Black-billed Cuckoo                                | 1  |
| Black-capped Chickadee                             | 1  |
| Broad-winged Hawk                                  | 3  |
| Canada Goose                                       | 3  |
| Cedar Waxwing                                      | 1  |
| Chipping Sparrow                                   | 1  |
| Common Grackle                                     | 2  |
| Common Loon                                        | 3  |
| Common Raven                                       | 2  |
| Coyote                                             | 5  |
| Deer Mouse                                         | 4  |
| Downy Woodpecker                                   | 1  |
| Eastern Bluebird                                   | 3  |
| Eastern Chipmunk                                   | 2  |
| Eastern Cottontail                                 | 42 |
| Eastern Garter Snake                               | 1  |
| Eastern Gray Squirrel                              | 20 |
| Eastern Phoebe                                     | 3  |
| European Starling                                  | 4  |
| Flying Squirrel<br>(northern/southern<br>combined) | 3  |

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Gray Fox                          | 2   |
| Great Blue Heron                  | 1   |
| Great Horned Owl                  | 2   |
| Hairy Woodpecker                  | 2   |
| Hermit Thrush                     | 2   |
| Hooded Merganser                  | 5   |
| Horned Lark                       | 1   |
| House Finch                       | 1   |
| House Sparrow                     | 1   |
| Least Bittern                     | 1   |
| Mallard Duck                      | 6   |
| Midland Painted Turtle            | 1   |
| Mourning Dove                     | 7   |
| Northern Flicker                  | 1   |
| Northern Saw-Whet Owl             | 2   |
| Pileated Woodpecker               | 2   |
| Pine Grosbeak                     | 1   |
| Pine Siskin                       | 1   |
| Porcupine                         | 1   |
| Purple Finch                      | 2   |
| Raccoon                           | 7   |
| Red Fox                           | 3   |
| Red Squirrel                      | 14  |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker            | 1   |
| Red-eyed Vireo                    | 1   |
| Red-tailed Hawk                   | 2   |
| Rock Dove                         | 4   |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak            | 2   |
| Ruby-throated<br>Hummingbird      | 5   |
| Ruffed Grouse                     | 1   |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk                | 1   |
| Snapping Turtle                   | 3   |
| Snowshoe Hare                     | 2   |
| Song Sparrow                      | 1   |
| Thirteen-lined Ground<br>Squirrel | 9   |
| Tree Swallow                      | 3   |
| Turkey Vulture                    | 3   |
| Virginia Opossum                  | 1   |
| Western Painted Turtle            | 3   |
| Whippoorwill                      | 1   |
| White-breasted Nuthatch           | 8   |
| White-tailed Deer                 | 30  |
| Wild Turkey                       | 1   |
| Wood Duck                         | 2   |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker          | 1   |
|                                   | 309 |

### Feet for Fun Answers:

Number 1 = *Aegolius acadicus* (Northern Saw-whet Owl)

Number 2 = *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle)

Number 3 = *Cathartes aura* (Turkey Vulture)