

Welcome to INSTINCTS

Jan 2016

Vol 5:2

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

2015 in Review

At the end of each year we compile lots of reports for lots of different government agencies. With all the numbers and statistics we have to gather for the authorities, we put together a fun little compilation for us, too.

In 2015, we admitted 663 patients comprised of 98 different species from 37 different counties! There are 72 counties in Wisconsin so that's 51% of the state! We work very, very hard to keep our success rate above the national average of 50%. We achieved 70.96% success in 2015. Over 2896 people were reached by our 23 education programs keeping Ruby, Amelia and interns busy.

In addition to Mark and Sharon's countless hours, volunteers logged in over 974 hours. Other volunteer contributions get tracked not in hours, but in distance. Our Animal Ambulance Team put on over 17,994 miles. All these statistics add up to more wild animals in need getting the assistance they deserve.

Even though these numbers are all at least double digit values, never underestimate the power of one. Because none of this would be possible without you, each and every single one!

Thanks for making 2015 another successful year.

WANTED DEAD

**WHOLE FISH
FRESH OR FROZEN**



**TO FEED INJURED EAGLES
AND OTHER WILDLIFE**



Wild Instincts 4621 Apperson Drive, Rhinelander, WI 54501 715-362-WILD wildinstinctsrehab.com

First Babies

Each year we keep track what date the first orphans of the year arrive and what species they are:

2011	March	Gray Squirrels
2012	January	Black Bear
2013	April	Gray Squirrels
2014	April	Black Bear
2015	April	Cottontail Bunnies

Now for 2016 there is:



Male and female bear cub. The male is much larger than his sister.

Another year of very young black bear cubs. We always get lots of questions so here are some answers.

Common Bear Cub FAQ:

How did you get them?

The sow had made her "den" an open den. It was basically just a depression in a cattail marsh. Some hunters were hunting coyotes with hounds and accidentally scared mom off.

Do bears den like that a lot?

Most people think of bear dens as caves or mounds under roots of fallen trees. It's not unheard of for them to den out in the elements. We know of one who just laid out in the middle of a farmer's plowed field!

Why didn't mom return?

If the sow is traumatized enough by the disturbance she doesn't always return. This is not uncommon among first time moms, especially when the cubs are very young and there is no "bond" yet. The 2012 cubs were admitted after their mom was scared off by logging operations. She also had an open den just beside some log piles. In this case, the hunters waited 24 hours and went back to check to see if mom had returned. She hadn't so they called authorities who put them in touch with us.

How old are they?

In Wisconsin, black bears have their babies in January during their winter sleep. They do wake up and know they are giving birth. This brother and sister were admitted on January 24th and were about 10-12 days old then. Click on this link to see some video from their [First Day](#) here.

How big are they?

In Wisconsin, when they are born they are usually 7-12 ounces but grow QUICKLY! Upon admission the male weighed about 2 1/2 pounds and the female weighed about 1 1/2 pounds. They continue to grow and gain daily. Their eyes will open when they are around four weeks old.

What do you feed them?

Wildlife rehab has come a long way formula-wise. Gone are the old days when rehabbers mixed different things together and hoped it would be a close enough formula. Chemical analysis has been done on most wild animals' milk. We can purchase formula especially formulated just for them. It has 30% protein and 50% fat!

How often do they eat?

Right now they are being fed every four hours. They aren't always happy about that

schedule. If you want to hear for yourself, click [HERE](#).

What will you do with them?

With very young cubs, our first choice is to try to foster them into a wild den. We've worked closely with different bear research projects over the years. Researchers with radio-collared bears typically go into the den in the late spring to change collar batteries and take different biological measurements. They know if the bear in the den should be a lactating female which is obviously what we are after. When they tranquilize her to do their work, we are there with the potential fosters. If it's determined she has room for another cub in her litter, when the family is placed back in its den, one of our cubs is added. Bears can't count and being wonderful moms, just accept the extra mouth to feed.

The challenge right now is that most of the bear research projects have ended or have had their funding cut. We may not be able to find a suitable foster den. If that is the case, we will raise them and release them in the fall.

We will not know if we can foster them until March.

Can you raise cubs to be wild?

We have successfully done so in the past, more than once. Our first choice, however, is not to have to.



to Wild Instincts. We turned 5 on January 25th!



Cub left rear foot.

Raptor Rescue & Transport Drivers Needed

Drivers are an integral part of animal care here at Wild Instincts. They play a huge and important role in getting animals to help. They also allow patients already in care to receive proper care by allowing us to stay on site to provide care every 30 minutes instead of having to drive after a new patient.

We couldn't operate without them. Our drivers are located all over the Northwoods with good reason! If you read the last story you know our patients are located all over the Northwoods! Do you have a vehicle & a valid driver's license?

The Wild Instincts Animal Ambulance Team needs YOU!

We are looking for transport and rescue drivers.

Transport Drivers go out on calls where the animal is already contained in a box or such. They bring the box to Wild Instincts. Raptor Rescue Drivers have extra training on how to handle and rescue birds and raptors. They may be asked to catch the animal in need of care.

When Wild Instincts gets a call about an injured animal, we call one of our drivers on our list from an area they have chosen to

drive in. If they are not available for whatever reason, we'll call the next person on the list and so on until we find a driver willing and able to help.

Having a list of lots of drivers from lots of different areas allows us not to use the same people all the time. It also keeps the driver's driving radius to a manageable size. Please consider volunteering as driver. Required training sessions are provided free of charge.

Animal Transport training is about 30 minutes. Raptor Rescue training consists of the same Animal Transport training and an ADDITIONAL 30 minutes.

If you are interested in becoming a driver, come to one of the following sessions. You need only attend Tues OR Sat, not both.

ATTEND AN INFO/TRAINING SESSION:

Tues, March 15th

6:00-6:30 p.m. Animal Transport

6:30-7:00 p.m. Raptor Rescue

or

Saturday March 19th

10:00-10:30 a.m. Animal Transport

10:30-11:00 a.m. Raptor Rescue

NOTE: even if you are CURRENTLY a driver, you may attend one of the sessions for a refresher and to pick up your 2016 driver credentials.



Some of the big brown bats being overwintered.

CWD in Oneida County

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal nervous system disease known to infect white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, and elk. It belongs to a group of fatal diseases of animals which include bovine spongiform encephalopathy (also called "mad cow disease") in cattle, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. These diseases are thought to be caused by an abnormal form of a normally occurring protein called a prion.

CWD was initially documented in a Colorado research facility in 1967. It was first found in a free ranging animal in 1981, when it was diagnosed in a Rocky Mountain elk, also from Colorado. CWD has been discovered in farmed and/or free-ranging populations of wild deer, moose, or elk in 18 states and two Canadian provinces. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) began active surveillance for CWD in 1999 following increased awareness of interstate transport of elk from CWD infected western game farms.

CWD was first detected in the southern part of Wisconsin on February 28, 2002. When Wisconsin initiated efforts to control CWD in 2002, the goal was to eradicate the disease from the state. A very ambitious goal, indeed.

After eight years of surveillance, it was noted that CWD was found in a substantially larger than geographic region than was known in 2002, and is likely increasing, despite moderate deer population reduction during that same time. In 2010, with the [Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan](#), the goal became ultimately to keep CWD from spreading. The plan has a 15-year scope.

In December 2015 it was announced that a deer on a deer farm in Three Lakes, tested positive for CWD.

As part of this current WDNR policy feeding and baiting must cease in three counties within a 10 mile radius. Most

people have heard this, but did you know as CWD has spread across the state, deer rehab has been affected?

Up until 2014, a fawn or other deer needing help in a CWD Positive county was out of luck. No facility in the state was allowed to take in deer from CWD counties.

On May 22, 2014, a policy change allowed rehab facilities in CWD areas to treat deer from CWD areas. Rehab facilities in CWD areas could admit deer from CWD designated counties ONLY. Facilities in non-CWD counties could accept deer from non-CWD counties only.

This left us about the only ones in the entire state treating deer from the then 37 NON-CWD counties in the state. As you can imagine, we had admissions from hundreds of miles away.

As of January, 2016, we are now in a CWD county and not allowed to take deer from a non-CWD county.

Currently, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay is the ONLY rehab facility able to admit any deer from non-CWD areas. For the ENTIRE state!

This WDNR policy may change, but until it does, we will not be able to admit deer from Lincoln, Langlade, Price, Ashland, Iron, or any other non-CWD county. We can admit deer from counties where CWD has been found, even from the so-called "Hot Zone", and release them here. However, we cannot admit a seemingly healthy fawn from a non-CWD 30 miles from here.

We are as unhappy about this as anyone, but we have no choice but to abide by the policy. We are working with WDNR to change this policy. We will let you know immediately of any changes.

WISH LIST and AMAZON

We are continually amazed and blessed by all those generous folks out there who take the time to check our list and go shopping. We'd like to say a big THANK YOU for helping us help them, no matter who you are out there.

Some even see a need and just respond without giving us a chance to list it on our wish list. Every time we receive an item to help our mission it gives us a great feeling. We cannot do this without you and your help.

Some select items from our wish list:

~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets

~Venison

~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)

~Paper Towels

~Liquid Hand Soap

~Dish Soap

Here's a link to our [Amazon Wish List](#) if you'd like to go wild shopping ☺

IN HONOR OF/IN MEMORY OF

Donations have been received

~In Honor of Kathleen Hilgers

~In Memory of Shirley Gluch

~In Memory of Ruth & George Nance

~In Honor of Dave, Kathy, Cathy, Dan,

Megan, Bill, Indi, Quinn. Happy Holidays!

Instead of buying material gifts for my family I decided to donate to a good cause.

Thanks for taking care of the animals

~In Memory of Doris Larson

~In Memory of "Riley", devoted Bearded Collie to Margaret Bakey

~In Honor of Dave & Cindy Furda

~In Honor of Jim & Julie Furda

~In Honor of Paul & Paula Benner

~In Memory of Ron Brekke

~In Memory of bird and animal lover, Jeanne Pennington

~ In Memory of Aaron Kupferschmidt, dear Uncle Chub

~In Memory of Great Aunt Millie Rossi

MEET OUR NEW TEACHER

A baby barred owl was transferred to us from another facility on May 28, 2015. We have no idea what happened to her. It was as if someone had taken the young feathers on both her wings and twisted.

Whatever the cause, it was clear she would not be able to be released back into the wild.

Instead, she has become our owl ambassador and will teach people about owls.

Barred Owls' songs are often said to sound like "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?"

We thought a while about her name. What would be perfect? Frying pan? Chef? Spoon?

Nothing seemed to fit her until Mark suggested Whisk! It was perfect! She's been out on a couple programs so look for her.



Baby Whisk sitting on her teddy bear. Photo including Adult Whisk below.



Young Kathryn participated in a service project for her confirmation class at Immanuel Lutheran and chose to raise funds Wild Instincts! Way to go, Kathryn!

Species Admitted	1/1-12/31/15
American Crow	8
American Goldfinch	5
American Robin	28
American Toad	3
American Woodcock	2
Bald Eagle	36
Baltimore (Northern) Oriole	1
Barred Owl	5
Beaver	1
Belted Kingfisher	2
Big Brown Bat	14
Black Bear	7
Black-and-White Warbler	1
Black-capped Chickadee	3
Blandings Turtle	1
Blue Jay	4
Bobcat	3
Broad-winged Hawk	7
Canada Goose	14
Cedar Waxwing	3
Chimney Swift	1
Chipping Sparrow	7
Common Grackle	5
Common Loon	7
Common Raven	2
Cooper's Hawk	3
Deer Mouse	12
Downy Woodpecker	2
Eastern Chipmunk	5
Eastern Cottontail	82
Eastern Garter Snake	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	65
Eastern Kingbird	1
European Starling	13
Fisher	1
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	9
Great Blue Heron	2
Great Horned Owl	8
Hairy Woodpecker	4
Hermit Thrush	5
Herring Gull	1
Killdeer	3
Little Brown Bat	7
Mallard Duck	7
Meadow Jumping Mouse	2
Meadow Vole	6
Merlin	2
Midland Painted Turtle	2

Mourning Dove	15
Mourning Warbler	1
Muskrat	1
Northern Cardinal	4
Northern Flicker	5
Northern Goshawk	1
Northern Leopard	
Frog	1
Northern Saw-Whet	
Owl	1
Northern Shrike	1
Osprey	5
Ovenbird	1
Pileated Woodpecker	4
Pine Siskin	5
Porcupine	4
Purple Finch	1
Raccoon	32
Red Fox	3
Red Squirrel	31
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Red-eyed Vireo	4
Red-tailed Hawk	4
Ring-billed Gull	6
Ring-necked Duck	1
River Otter	2
Rock Dove	6
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4
Ruffed Grouse	3
Scarlet Tanager	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Snapping Turtle	9
Snow Bunting	1
Song Sparrow	1
Striped Skunk	1
Swainson's Thrush	1
Tennessee Warbler	1
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	10
Trumpeter Swan	2
Turkey Vulture	2
Western Fox Snake	2
Western Painted Turtle	18
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
White-crowned Sparrow	1
White-tailed Deer	36
White-throated Sparrow	3
Wild Turkey	4
Willow Flycatcher	1
Wood Duck	3

Wood Turtle	1
Woodchuck	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Total	663

Events Calendar

Rescue & Transport Driver Training

Training Sessions held at Wild Instincts. You only need to attend March 15th OR March 19th, not both.

Tues, March 15th

6:00-6:30 p.m.	Animal Transport
6:30-7:00 p.m.	Raptor Rescue
	or

Saturday March 19th

10:00-10:30 a.m.	Animal Transport
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Thank You for Helping
Us Help Them!



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SPRING!

It looks like we are trading in our heavy winter jackets for sweatshirts, at least for the near future. Old Man Winter doesn't generally go out so quietly. There will probably be a snowstorm or two yet before we can call Spring official, but we will certainly enjoy this unseasonable March weather!

Judging from the geese flying overhead and the Tundra Swans on the river, the animals are enjoying this unseasonably warm weather also.

We just hung up from a call about a possible baby raccoon under someone's house. If it really is a baby raccoon, it would be about a month early. That will make for a long baby season!

One of the sure signs that spring is just around the corner is the arrival of our spring interns.

On March 6th, Megan and Katie began their spring internships with Wild Instincts.

Megan, who hails from Oregon, hadn't even officially started work when she got to tag along on a foster den possibility (see Cub Updates). She has experience in wildlife rehabilitation and will be staying with us for Summer and Fall sessions, too.

Katie is a Wausau native. While she her hometown is close by, she is worlds away now being immersed in her first wildlife rehabilitation setting.



Spring Interns Megan & Katie start training.

Welcome, Ladies. We're glad to have you on the Wild Instincts' Team!

In this issue:

- Spring Interns Arrive
- Cub Update
- In Honor/Memory of
- Bird Feeder Maintenance
- Salmonellosis
- First Babies
- Great Horned Owl
- Eagle Territorial Fighting
- RAFFLE!
- Admissions to Date
- Upcoming Events

Cub Update

You may remember from last newsletter we admitted two very young bear cubs on Jan 24. There is a long FAQ section there about how they came to us, what they eat, and our plans for them.



Big brother often makes a pillow out of little sister.

Our first choice is always to try to place young cubs in dens with wild foster moms. This allows them to grow up Bear with the best teacher. We often work with a variety of bear researchers who would be going into bear dens as a general course of their study project. Researchers usually start going into the dens late February on into March. Commonly we have several opportunities to try to place cubs with a wild mom. As bear research projects have ended or are coming to the completion of their project life, we have less opportunities. Details and photos of this procedure can be found on our blog by clicking [HERE](#).

This year we made THREE attempts to foster the cubs into wild dens. In each case, the wild sow already had four cubs, making placing our cubs impossible. We even investigated a den not part of a research study. Click [HERE](#) to find out how we made sure we didn't have to needlessly disturb her or her cubs.

Going into three dens, in Lincoln, Oconto and Ashland Counties, and finding four cubs

in each diminished hopes for being able to place our cubs in a wild den. The sudden warm up and arrival of "spring" pretty much took away any other possibilities. They will remain with us until fall when they will be released.

They are now being weaned off a bottle as quickly as they are able. Getting them to drink out of a bowl as soon as possible reduces the chance of them imprinting onto people, which would essentially be a death sentence for them. The male is catching on slightly faster than his sister.

As we move onto their next phase of care, we will be reminded of how costly it is to raise infant cubs, having already spent over \$200 in formula alone in the last 49 days. By the time they are released this fall, costs to raise them will be around \$3000.00 EACH!



In Honor or Memory Of

~In Honor of Fabulous Aunt Trish Kirk
~In Memory of John "Jack" Monahan who loved birds and critters
~In Memory of my dear aunt, Jeanne Pennington
~In Honor of "Fortuna"
~In Memory of Dave Jackson of Birnamwood

Spring Cleaning Is For the Birds

We've been watching the avian migrants passing through and the harbingers of spring arriving the last week or so. The arrival of the red-winged blackbirds, robins, tree and fox sparrows is always a welcome signal of spring.

As these incredible miracle athletes of the sky make their way hundreds of miles, thousands for some of them, feeding stations can be important way stations to help them with their journeys.

It's important to remember to clean our bird feeders, especially this time of year. Many birds are putting on so many miles and are depleting their energy stores making them more vulnerable to all sorts of calamities. Let's not make our feeders one of those! Mold, bacteria like Salmonella and pathogens can all thrive in and around feeders. It's important to clean all old seed, dirt and feces from all feeders. Take feeders down, take them apart as much as possible, using soap and water, scrub them with a toothbrush. As an alternative, you could run them through the hot cycle on your dishwasher.

After they are clean and sparkly, then soak them in a 10% bleach solution for 10 minutes. After all that, rinse, rinse, rinse! Let them dry and refill as usual.

It is also important to clean the areas around the feeders. Spent seed, feces, wet weather, etc. make for prolific breeding grounds for all sorts of pathogens; pathogens that can be harmful to many different animals and spread easily.

Because feeders offer you an up-close view of birds, and because birds seek out easy meals when their health is compromised, you may sometimes see a sick bird at your feeder. If you see a bird that appears to be sick or injured, call us or another wildlife rehabilitator. Do not try to care for the bird yourself. It is illegal for you to possess most wild birds unless you are under the direction of someone licensed for their care.

If a sick bird comes to your feeder, minimize the risk of infecting other birds by thoroughly cleaning your feeders as outlined above.

If you see several sick birds, take down all your feeders for at least a week to give the birds a chance to disperse. Remember that prevention is the key to avoiding the spread of disease.

Cleaning your feeders and the areas around them every couple weeks, even if there are no signs of disease, will help keep our

feather friends healthy and spreading their joy and not spreading their disease.

Salmonellosis

Salmonellosis is a bacterial disease caused by a group of bacteria in the genus salmonella. All species of birds are susceptible to salmonella infection. Salmonellosis is a common cause of sickness and death in birds at birdfeeders. There are many different strains of salmonella. Many different types of animals can carry salmonella, including rodents. The bacteria live in the intestines and pass out with the feces. The organism can be spread from bird to bird through direct contact, or through ingestion of food or water contaminated with feces from an infected bird or mammal. Carriers of the organism may appear healthy but shed the organism periodically in their feces.

There are no distinctive signs associated with salmonellosis in wild birds. Different species and ages may exhibit different signs even when infected with the same strain.



A Pine Siskin exhibiting some of the signs of Salmonellosis such as fluff/ruffled feathers, droopiness. Below shows same bird unsteadily perching on a dish.



Commonly reported signs include ruffled feathers, droopiness, diarrhea, and severe lethargy; chronically infected birds often appear severely emaciated. Sick birds may also be observed to seizure. Birds fly many miles, especially during migration periods. Remember, just because a bird shows up at your feeders with signs of the disease, doesn't mean it became infected at your feeding stations. Because the disease is spread through close contact with other birds and their feces, the USGS National Wildlife Health Center recommends taking down your feeders for at least a week (even two) to allow the birds to disperse and help stop the spread of the disease.

First Babies

While it's technically true that our first babies of 2016 were orphan bear cubs, we still keep track of when the "normal" baby season starts. This year a litter of four-five day old Eastern Gray Squirrels were admitted on March 12 after their nest was disturbed by some demolition work. Attempts were made to give mom a chance to return, but they were unsuccessful. It was too dangerous to the babies to wait any longer so they were admitted. Good thing, too, as one was in the early stages of hypothermia. With eyes closed, hairless

neonates, things can become critical and life-threatening very quickly!



Two of the five-day old Eastern Gray Squirrels.

The March 12 admission date is about three weeks earlier than typical. If you've been watching the wild migrants and our wild neighbors shouldn't surprise you. The animals are ready for winter to be over as much as we are.



Another photo of two of the four continuing to develop.

Great Horned Owl

On December 15, 2016, a Great Horned Owl was admitted to Wild Instincts. She had flown down into someone's long and narrow garden, colliding with the perimeter fence. She severely injured her shoulder, which then made it impossible for her to get

enough lift to get fly up over the fence to get out. Her shoulder injury was severe enough, we weren't sure she would ever fly again. As always, we would do our best. The rest would be up to her. It was a tentative day when she was finally deemed well enough to move outside to a restricted flight enclosure. We all held our breath to see if she would manage to fly to the higher perches. She didn't at first, but just like with any physical therapy, it takes more time. When it became certain she would be able to fly again and could be released, we set about fixing something from her past- a dislocated toe.

This dislocation resulted in the talon of that toe pointing back in the direction of her foot, making perching and catching food cumbersome. On Friday, March 18, Dr. Goodroad and staff of Northern Paws Animal Hospital volunteered their time and services to surgically remove the end of the digit with a laser, much like the declawing procedure for a cat.



Digit to be removed is isolated.



Making laser incision.



Anesthetized and ready to begin the procedure.



Starting to wake up minus one talon.

She's back inside until sutures dissolve and the incision heals. Then she'll be moved back outside for pre-release conditioning. We expect her to be released in approximately 4-6 weeks. Great horned owls have already nested and are currently raising their young. She missed this mating season, but will be able to fly free again soon.

Eagle Territories and Courtship

Some area bald eagles stay here all year around. Some of them migrate a short distance south. A popular spot is near Sauk City, WI where the hydroelectric dam keeps the river open and makes fishing easier. Wherever it is the migrants chose to winter, now is the time they head back. Eagles are setting up territories. With the very healthy population of eagles, that means territorial fights as they all compete for space and the best nesting spots. Males most commonly will fight amongst themselves for their territory, but females have also been known to get into fights with other females. We've even been called out on fights where the two eagles get locked together in air and won't let go. They crash to the ground still locked together. We admitted the loser of a less dramatic territorial fight near Minocqua on March 21st.



Bald eagle bloodied from a territorial dispute, but also has lead toxicity.

He is bloodied and tattered, like a person who recently lost a fight. However, because we test all our eagle admissions for lead, we know he also has extremely high blood lead levels. He wasn't presenting with any clinical signs of lead poisoning which is why his extremely high reading surprised us. He was immediately started on treatment for lead poisoning. This brings to mind an interesting question. Did he lose this fight because he has lead poisoning? Did that make him more vulnerable? Or is it because he is not mature or breeding so wasn't really setting up territory but was engaging in this behavior for practice for the future and is just inexperienced. Besides establishing territories, eagles are engaging in courtship behavior. Sometimes this can be very physically demanding and even dangerous. This whirling nuptial flight has the courting pair locking talons and whirling through the air, disengaging before they hit the ground. It's often referred to as cartwheeling or even the death spiral - with good reason. Sometimes things can go awry. On Saturday, March 19th, we were called out on that exact situation. Eye-witnesses saw the courtship flight along with the cartwheeling. Except something went wrong and there was an injured eagle on the ground.

We went to the location to find wing marks and blood in the snow. We recovered a large female with a life-ending injury to her right wing.

Species	1/1-3/24/16	
American Robin		1
Bald Eagle		7
Barred Owl		1
Big Brown Bat		7
Black Bear		3
Black-capped Chickadee		2
Bobcat		1
Canada Goose		1
Common Grackle		1
Common Raven		2
Eastern Chipmunk		1
Eastern Gray Squirrel		5
Eastern Gray Tree Frog		1
Great Horned Owl		1
Little Brown Bat		2
Mourning Dove		1
Northern Saw-Whet Owl		1
Pileated Woodpecker		1
Pine Siskin		7
Porcupine		1
Raccoon		1
Rock Dove		2
Ruffed Grouse		1
Tree Sparrow		1
Western Painted Turtle		2
Total		54

SPECIAL RAFFLE

Have you ever seen an eagle from afar and wondered how big it was really? Have you ever wanted to feel the rush of the wind from their wings in your hair? You could get your chance. We are raffling the chance to release an eagle!

There will only be 500 tickets sold so there's a 1 in 500 chance of winning!

Drawing will be on the Wild for Wine & Cheese Cruise on September 17th.

You need not be present to win, but you must be 18 or older.

Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25.

We will be selling tickets at lots of different events and of course at Wild Instincts.

Tickets will be on sale from May 1st until September 17th or while supplies last.

Watch for more details!



Upcoming Events

Wild for Wine & Cheese Cruise

Saturday, Sept 17th 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Wisconsin River Cruises, Rhinelander

Eagle Release Raffle Drawing

Saturday, Sept 17th

1:00 p.m. during the Wild for Wine & Cheese Cruise

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The weather certainly can't seem to make up its mind. We hit 87 degrees here a few days back and now it's snowing. Despite this see-saw pattern out the window, the animals are telling us that is very much spring.



Clockwise from upper left: Flying squirrels, great horned owls, bear cubs, mallard duckling, river otter, Eastern gray squirrel

Here are just a few of the many babies we've already admitted in 2016 and it's not even May 15th!
Baby Season started about three weeks

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

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

earlier than normal this year and is showing no signs of slowing down.

From January 1- May 12 last year we admitted 138 patients, during the same

time frame this year we've admitted 223; a 62% increase!

Among those admissions have been some early turtle injuries. It's the time of year when turtles are crossing roads and beginning to lay eggs on the shoulders. Please, please slow down and watch for them.



Examining the extent of injuries sustaining from a turtle after being hit by a car.

If you want to help a turtle in danger on the road, make sure you keep yourself safe first! If you get hit by a car, you will do the turtle no good at all.
Help the turtle across

In this issue:

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- Upcoming Events

the road IN THE DIRECTION IT WAS HEADED, even if you don't think it knows what it's doing. It does.

As we start getting the gardens in, the landscaping done and just general mowing, remember to watch for baby bunnies.



Eastern Cottontail orphan

Eastern cottontails nest in shallow depressions in the grass. The mom leaves the babies alone and unattended other than to nurse a couple times a day, generally at dusk and dawn. That's so she doesn't draw attention to her babies. However, that means they are vulnerable to cats, dogs, lawnmowers, rototillers and other attackers. If you come across a nest of baby bunnies, don't assume they are abandoned. Here's a simple trick to help determine if mom is still caring for them.

Cross two pieces of grass or very light twigs in an X pattern over the nest. Leave the area and check the nest again in 14-24 hours. If the X has been moved, mom returned to nurse her young and all is well. If the X has not been disturbed, please call us for further instructions.

Baby bunnies are on their home and separated from their moms when they are the size of a woman's fist or tennis ball. According to the current policy, deer from CWD areas can only be rehabbed in facilities within CWD areas. Deer from non-CWD areas can only be rehabbed in

facilities in non-CWD areas.

The discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a captive deer in a deer farm in Oneida County, changed our designation from non-CWD to CWD and changed the criteria we can use to admit fawns. However, since we were about the only rehabilitation facility left in non-CWD designation, this is creating a problem. Current WDNR policy is being changed and updated, but things work slowly. We know fawns are already on the ground, but at the time of this writing we still do not have a final policy change from the authorities. OUR policy will be not to admit fawns from counties where a wild deer has tested positive for CWD. We will accept fawns from counties where a captive deer has tested positive and, if allowed, from non-CWD counties.

Wild Instincts is trying to find the proper balance between the health of the population as a whole and the health of single individuals. This seems to be the most biologically sound solution.

Please be understanding and patient as we wait for the notification of the policy updates from the WDNR.



Orphaned fawn

If you find a fawn, please resist the urge to get close or pet it. Mom is nearby but staying away to keep predators away from her baby. Don't become that predator! If you suspect a fawn is in trouble, CALL A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR FIRST THING. They will talk you through the specific situation. There are many variables to

consider before declaring a fawn in trouble.



BATS IN TROUBLE

The Winter 2016 Bat Survey conducted by the WDNR found that white-nose syndrome has spread to new bat hibernating sites in Wisconsin and is starting to decimate bat populations. White-nose syndrome causes hibernating bats to frequently wake, depleting their energy and causing them to die from starvation, dehydration or exposure to the elements. Forty two of 74 sites examined were found to house the fungus thought to cause white-nose syndrome. This includes the largest roosting sites in Wisconsin and six new counties. Surveys showed a 94 percent drop in bat populations at the Grant County mine where the disease was first detected in Wisconsin in 2014, and one site where the disease was first found in 2015 had zero bats. WDNR biologists worked with University of California-Santa Cruz researchers this winter to experimentally treat bats in one mine; results of those tests are still pending.

Bats play an important role in Wisconsin's ecosystems and economy and our state has one of the highest concentrations of hibernating bats in the Midwest. With white-nose syndrome spreading, volunteers are critically important to collect information about how the disease may be affecting cave bat populations.

Volunteers are needed to count the bats emerging from bat houses and buildings in the evening several times during the summer and for the Great Wisconsin Bat Count, scheduled for June 3-5 and July 29-31. Information collected from roost monitoring volunteers have enabled the Wisconsin bat program to create a database of more than 200 roost locations and population estimates across Wisconsin, shed light on bat roosting behaviors, and fuel more research.

Volunteers also are needed to drive, paddle and hike along pre-set routes with bat detectors, listening for bat echolocation calls that can help identify bat species and locations. Such acoustic monitoring volunteers have enabled Wisconsin to identify ranges of species found in the state while also investigating relative abundances.

For more information regarding volunteer opportunities, visit the [Wisconsin Bat Program](#) website or contact Paul White at 608-267-0813 or Heather Kaarakka at 608-266-2576.



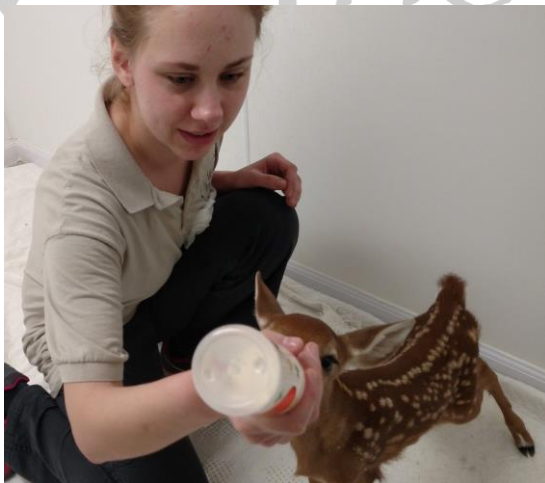
In Honor or Memory Of

- ~ In Memory of Walter Wendt, an incredible life force and wildlife lover
- ~ In Honor of Bailey Nebgen's 18th birthday
- ~ In Honor of Sharon's mom
- ~ In Memory of James Kuehn

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Spring Intern
Katie Fitzke,
Wausau, WI

When I applied as an intern my basic understanding of wildlife rehabilitation, as I'm sure is the belief of many, was simply the care of injured animals. Sharon and Mark discussed what my day to day routine would look like including feeding, cleaning, basic medical work, capture and release, record keeping, answering phones, long hours, how it could be physically and emotionally demanding, etc. As I listened I remember thinking this all sounds reasonable, it will be a great experience and I do get to deal with animals of course. It wasn't until I started that I began to realize just how true their words were and just how much work and knowledge went into everything.



Katie feeds her first fawn.

I admit the first couple of weeks were stressful and overwhelming, but of course interesting and educational. Learning where and what everything was, daily procedures

and expectations and various other things of the sort was just the beginning. Learning about the natural history of numerous animals, different medical procedures, tools and types, how to effectively and safely handle animals, even how to competently answer the public's questions could be a daunting task. Before I started this internship I had never handled an eagle. It's not easy and I have the bruises to prove it. I had never seen, held, or fed a newborn baby squirrel. I didn't know that many animals are lactose intolerant. You need to be able to identify an animal at all stages of its life. You need to know what, how much and how often an animal should be fed or medicated. The list is endless. The moral of my story is that there is so much more that goes into wildlife rehab than many realize. It requires an extensive amount of practice, patience, time and knowledge. Few people can say they've held or fed an eagle. Being able to say that I had a part in raising and/or caring for an animal, watching it grow or gain its strength back and then helping release it back into the wild is a great feeling. Watching a baby squirrel wag its tail while it's being fed or observing bear cubs wrestle and play is both entertaining and heart-warming. Despite the frustration, the stress and the long hours, it has been a rewarding and educational experience to say the least. Lastly, I would like to thank Mark and Sharon for this opportunity and all they've taught me. It takes a patient, knowledgeable and dedicated person to do what they do. It has been an enlightening and unforgettable experience, so thank you.



Baby Deer Mice found in a tackle box.

SPECIAL RAFFLE

Have you ever seen an eagle from afar and wondered how big it was really? Have you ever wanted to feel the rush of the wind from their wings in your hair? You could get your chance. We are raffling the chance to release an eagle!



Spring Intern Katie releases an eagle.

There will only be 500 tickets sold so there's a 1 in 500 chance of winning! Drawing will be on the Wild for Wine & Cheese Cruise on September 17th. You need not be present to win, but you must be 18 or older. Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25. We will be selling tickets at lots of different events and of course at Wild Instincts. Tickets will be on sale from May 1st until September 17th or while supplies last. Postal regulations prohibit moving raffle tickets through the U.S. Mail but that doesn't mean if you want tickets we can't get them to you. Email

sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com for more details.



Mallard ducklings and a gosling. Check out the video of the mallards hatching from their eggs by clicking [HERE](#).



Red Fox kit with mange.



A loon recuperating from an eagle attack gets some time in the pool.



Orphaned Gray Fox kit.



Baby river otter
Check out one of my videos by clicking [HERE](#)



One of the many baby raccoons in care.



Otter starting to be weaned. Asleep in his fish dish.

Species Admitted 1/1-5/14/16

American Robin	4
American Toad	1
Bald Eagle	17
Barred Owl	1
Big Brown Bat	7
Black Bear	4
Black-capped Chickadee	3
Blanding's Turtle	1
Bobcat	1
Bohemian Waxwing	1
Broad-winged Hawk	2
Canada Goose	3
Common Grackle	1
Common Raven	2
Common Redpoll	13
Cooper's Hawk	1
Dark-eyed Junco	1
Deer Mouse	6
Eastern Chipmunk	1
Eastern Cottontail	24
Eastern Gray Squirrel	39
Eastern Gray Tree Frog	1
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	4
Great Horned Owl	5
Little Brown Bat	3
Mallard Duck	18
Mourning Dove	2
Northern Cardinal	1
Northern Flicker	2
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1

Pileated Woodpecker	1
Pine Siskin	16
Porcupine	2
Raccoon	9
Red Fox	2
Red Squirrel	9
Red-tailed Hawk	1
River Otter	4
Rock Dove	3
Ruffed Grouse	1
Tree Sparrow	1
Western Painted Turtle	4
Total	223

Upcoming Events

Hodag Farmer's Market Bake Sale
 Saturday, July 30th 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Pioneer Park, Rhinelander

Wild for Wine & Cheese Cruise
 Saturday, Sept 17th 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 Wisconsin River Cruises, Rhinelander

Eagle Release Raffle Drawing
 Saturday, Sept 17th
 1:00 p.m. during the Wild for Wine & Cheese Cruise



Details on Page 5

Welcome to

INSTINCTS



Oct 2016

Vol 5:4

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

Please check out our [WISHLIST](#) for items we could use before Baby Season 2017 arrives.

Record Year

Things are finally starting to slow down for the winter months (we hope).

It was a year of craziness!

Each year we have had an increase in patient admissions. This year, however was extra ordinary!

Last year we admitted 663 patients.

This year we tied that number on August 20th! We are now over 800.

A logical question is "Why?"

One reason could be that people are just becoming more aware of us and the quality, professional care we administer.

We've only be here for five years so some people don't know about us.

Another reason is that bird admission numbers are coming back to normal.

Our bird admissions have been down slightly the last couple years probably because of the severe winters.

There was also an outbreak of Salmonella early this year that resulted in an increase of bird admissions this early spring.

Whatever the reason, it's clear that 2016 is a record year for admissions for Wild Instincts. It also brings the number of patients treated on Mark & Sharon's permits to over 14,000 and counting! The end result is also that our coffers are empty and our shelves are bare.

Cellcom Grant Enables Enclosure Expansions

It's amazing how far we've come in just 5 years, but we can't rest just yet. Along with the increasing number of admissions, comes the pressing need for more enclosures. Cellcom Green Gift Grant is enabling us to get one of our mammal enclosures up sooner than we anticipated.



Rhinelanders Cellcom Manager Karen Buck presents a check to Mark Naniot, Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Wild Instincts was among 22 green organizations that received a share of the \$37,800 in Green Gifts from Cellcom this year. The Green Gifts program launched in 2010 and 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.

Because we are the only wildlife rehab facility in the state permitted to admit anything allowed to be rehabbed by state law, we get a large variety of different species. Often times we have different species in care whose needs overlap the enclosure availability.

For example, one enclosure design can be used to house bobcats, coyotes, fox or fisher. Because we provide care for all those species, it's common for us to have fox and bobcat and coyotes all at the same time! All those species cannot be housed in the same enclosure so we need multiple enclosures of the same design so each species can have its own space to heal, recover and grow.

This grant will help ensure we can provide quality care to more than one of these species simultaneously.

Thank you, Cellcom, for helping us help them!

SPECIAL RAFFLE WINNER

As scheduled on Sept 17, the winner of the Eagle Release Raffle was drawn. Yvonne Bitney was the winner but she immediately gave her winnings to Bob Moreau of Rhinelander.

On September 29, Bob claimed his prize and released an adult male bald eagle. It had been admitted after being in an uncommon fall territorial fight and suffering minor injuries.

Release Day happened to be a day that the BBC was here filming for the otter project. Who could resist going along on an eagle

release? So Bob was filmed by the BBC as a bonus to his experience.



Mark hands off the eagle to Bob



Bob taking in the moment and processes he is holding a live bald eagle, under the watchful lens of the BBC no less!



We have LIFT OFF!



Soaring free once more

Eagle Scout Project

The rank of Eagle Scout may be earned by a Boy Scout who has been a Life Scout for at least six months, has earned a minimum of 21 merit badges, has demonstrated Scout Spirit, and has demonstrated leadership within his troop, team, crew or ship. Additionally he must plan, develop, and lead a service project—the Eagle Project—that demonstrates both leadership and a commitment to duty. After all requirements are met, he must complete an Eagle Scout board of review.

This fall Wild Instincts was the happy recipient of an Eagle Scout Project.

Thirteen-year old Zach Goodrich decided to

take on construction of a multi-purpose mammal enclosure.

As you may imagine, enclosures must meet many standards. Because we are a facility that admits many different species -this year 106 already- we need enclosures that can meet the needs of many different species as well as the standards established for each of them.

We pride ourselves on building our enclosures *beyond* the minimum standards set forth.

This particular enclosure will be able to house porcupines, weasels, young fox kits, young bobcat kittens, mink, fisher or even the occasional opossum; but not all at the same time!

Zach's crew learned the importance of math and geometry as everything had to be square and level. They also learned about predator proofing, hog ringing, pea gravel, enclosure safety, sweat, and hard work. So much more goes into an enclosure than what you see in the finished project.

Thank you, Zach, and his whole crew for helping us help them!



Prepping the site and setting up the base.



Things starting to shape up.



Working on the double door system.



Zach and his completed project.

In Honor or Memory of

Donations have been received

- ~In Memory of Shari Cook
- ~In Honor of Charles & Terry Faulkner's Birthday
- ~In Memory of Julie Wood
- ~In Memory of Chet Balsewicz
- ~In Memory of Dick Malmgren
- ~In Memory of John "Jack" Nurre
- ~In Memory of Sheila Thornton Liles



Calendar & Coloring Book

Just in time for the holiday season we have not just one wonderful gift idea, but TWO! Our annual calendar featuring photos of patients is always popular. The 2017 edition is no different.

In addition, we have something new. One of our very talented supporters just graduated from college with an Art Degree. She had designed an adult coloring book just for Wild Instincts!

This unique, custom designed book features intricate designs begging to be colored. Both are in limited supply.

Calendars sell for \$20, coloring books for \$15, but get a "Stocking Stuffer Steal" and buy them both for \$30.

[Order](#) early so we can ship them in time for the holidays. Shipping charges are extra. Supplies are limited.

Another Gift Idea

Looking for a way to express your creative side? [The Blank Canvas](#) of Eagle River is teaming up with Wild Instincts for fundraiser.

Create a unique painting to keep –or give for a holiday gift!

NO SKILL OR EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

On Nov 7 from 6:30-9:30 we'll get away from political polling calls and get in touch with our creative sides.

This is what we will be painting:



Yes! **YOU** can do this! And raise money for Wild Instincts to boot.

There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

Paint, snacks, drinks, fun people and a good cause.

Join us!

There are a few spots left. You must register by Nov 4th. Call 715-362-9453.

CT's Deli FUNdraiser

On October 21, we were fortunate enough to be part of CT's Deli Friday FUNdraiser. We supplied two guest bartenders and they donated 50% of the bar proceeds and 100% of the tips.

Mark served as one of our guest bartenders. Local celebrity The Masked Biologist was

the other. Neither had previous bartending experience but both managed to pull it off and have a good time doing it.

[Matt Duranceau](#) provided great music and volunteers sold 50/50 raffle tickets to round out the evening.

Almost \$1200.00 was raised during this awesome evening.

Don't forget to visit [CT's Deli](#) other than FUNdraiser nights. They have incredible food and give back to the community.

Thank them for helping us help them!



Thanks to all the wonderful supporters who came down.



The Guest Bartenders: The Masked Biologist & our very own Mark. Can you guess who is who?

Russ Davis Thanks

Bears are expensive to raise and feed. Deer are too. One of the ways we can help more animals is by making our budget stretch as far as possible.

We do this is by getting donations of produce from Russ Davis Wholesale. They have been stupendous supporters. Discards and returns are delivered once/week. This enables our animals to have a great variety of nutritious food.

The local food pantry also donates the items they can no longer put on their shelves for human consumption. Several times/week a volunteer delivers leftovers to us.

A huge shout out to Russ Davis Wholesale and the Rhinelander Food Pantry for helping us help them!



Produce to sort and bag for our patients.



Both wagons are one meal for the bears.

Newsletter Changes for 2017

Starting in 2017 we will be changing our newsletter frequency from bimonthly to quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov). This will give us more time to for increasing animal care responsibilities.

Follow us on Facebook for timely updates. Remember you DO NOT have to be member of Facebook to see our posts, you just can't comment on them. We also have an Instagram account so for those of you on Instagram check us out there, too!

The Otter Connection

Another interesting event of 2016 has been the BBC's filming of our otters. Mark Wheeler, producer of Natural World, has been phenomenal to work with. [Charlie Hamilton James](#) is the on-screen presenter. Besides being an award winning National Geographic photographer, you may recognize his name from Animal Planet's "Saving Grace" or BBC's "I Bought a Rainforest".

Other incredible talent we met were [Skip Hobbie](#), [Neil Rettig](#), Mary Melville and Nick Allinson.

Everyone we met was outstanding. Great humor, polite, respectful of the animals AND the people.

They are not quite done with filming and scheduled to return at least one more time. Then editing and production will take some time. We don't have a timeline.

We will be planning a VIP pre-screening party for when it's released. Or maybe even more than one in different area communities.

We will keep you posted.

Some photos chronicling bears through their release:



Brother and Sister admitted at about 10 days old.



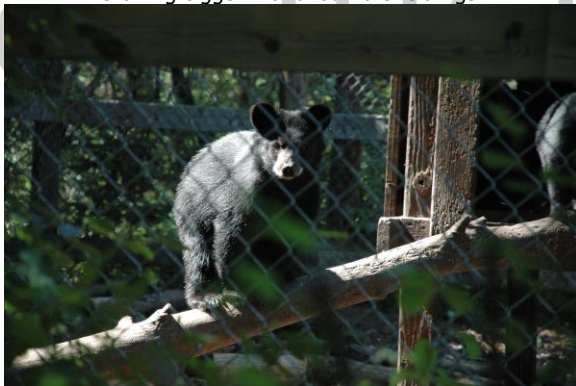
Smelling the new "home", eager to explore.



Growing bigger with a lot more "siblings"



Let me be wild!



Growing even bigger still!



This is the smallest cub pictured on the bottom of the first photo in this series on her Release Day.

Soccer Net Hazards

Fields of soccer nets may bring sounds of kids' laughter, fun, sport and family during the day, but at night they are real hazards for wildlife.

Twice within the last 4 week period, we admitted Great Horned Owls that had been tangled in soccer nets; one from the Rhinelander area and one from the Land O' Lakes area. Both had been discovered by people out walking their dogs. The site in Land O' Lakes actually had two owls tangled, but one had already passed away before being discovered so was not admitted.

Luckily, both owls that were admitted had minor enough injuries to heal quickly and be released.

Other wildlife is not so lucky.

If you have a soccer net or hockey net or even a badminton net in your yard, consider removing it when done with the activity. If that is not possible, please monitor closely and daily to prevent needless tragedies.



Soccer nets and wildlife do not mix.



Great Horned Owl tangled in soccer net.

Upcoming Events

Wild Strokes Paint Party

Monday, Nov 7th 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Backwaters Bar & Grill Hwy 47 Rhinelander

Call 715-362-9453 by Nov 4 to register.

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT!



Bobcat Release

Part of our mission is to help with wildlife health research so when we have a chance to help out research projects we try to do so.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is conducting a population study on bobcat. We invited them to tag or even radio-collar the kit we raised this year.

Nathan Roberts, WDNR carnivore & furbearer research scientist, came out on release day to ear tag our kit. She was too small to place a radio collar on.



After being tranquilized, she is laid on a tarp, the corners of the tarp are hooked to a scale and she is weighed.



Temperature, heart and respiratory rates are monitored. Whisker and hair samples are taken for biometric samples. Tags are placed in her ears.



By the time she gets to the release site she is ready to go.



Wild Again!

Species	1/1-10/3/16		
American Crow	10	House Wren	5
American Goldfinch	5	Little Brown Bat	5
American Kestrel	1	Mallard Duck	27
American Pipet	1	Meadow Vole	12
American Robin	36	Merlin	3
American Toad	1	Midland Painted Turtle	1
American Woodcock	1	Mink	1
Bald Eagle	33	Mourning Dove	21
Barred Owl	3	Muskrat	1
Beaver	1	Nashville Warbler	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	Northern Cardinal	1
Big Brown Bat	11	Northern Flicker	17
Black Bear	20	Northern Harrier	1
Black-capped Chickadee	8	Northern Oriole	1
Blanding's Turtle	1	Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Blue Jay	11	Osprey	2
Bobcat	2	Ovenbird	1
Bohemian Waxwing	1	Pileated Woodpecker	1
Broad-winged Hawk	9	Pine Siskin	16
Canada Goose	9	Pine Warbler	1
Cedar Waxwing	5	Porcupine	4
Chimney Swift	3	Purple Finch	5
Chipping Sparrow	6	Raccoon	25
Cliff Swallow	1	Red Fox	3
Common Grackle	3	Red Squirrel	14
Common Loon	4	Red-bellied Snake	1
Common Merganser	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Common Nighthawk	2	Red-eyed Vireo	4
Common Raven	4	Red-tailed Hawk	7
Common Redpoll	13	Ring-billed Gull	3
Cooper's Hawk	3	River Otter	4
Coyote	1	Rock Dove	9
Dark-eyed Junco	2	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Deer Mouse	45	Ruffed Grouse	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Sandhill Crane	2
Downy Woodpecker	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Eastern Chipmunk	11	Short-tailed Weasel	1
Eastern Cottontail	116	Snapping Turtle	4
Eastern Gray Squirrel	69	Solitary Sandpiper	1
Eastern Gray Tree Frog	2	Song Sparrow	2
Eastern Phoebe	4	Sora Rail	1
European Starling	10	Striped Skunk	1
Fisher	1	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	5
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	5	Tree Sparrow	1
Fox Snake	1	Trumpeter Swan	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Turkey Vulture	1
Gray Fox	5	Western Painted Turtle	14
Great Blue Heron	2	White-tailed Deer	25
Great Horned Owl	8	Wild Turkey	2
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Woodchuck	1
Hermit Thrush	2	Woodland Jumping Mouse	1
Hooded Merganser	6	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
House Finch	1		785
House Sparrow	2		