

Welcome to

INSTINCTS



FEB 2021

Vol 10:1

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

2020 HINDSIGHT

Wow. What a year 2020 was for everyone. We are happy to have made it through all the challenges to 2021. We treated more patients than ever with less volunteers and interns but still managed a success/release rate of 71.47%! While other rehab centers were forced to close or limit hours, we were grateful to do neither and continued to be able to provide care to our wild friends in need with no interruptions. Our education programs, however, took a huge hit. Only 33% of our education programs were completed and reached 75% fewer people than last year. Fundraisers, though, were the biggest loser. We were fortunate to get a larger fundraiser finished in January, before the Lockdown. In addition, we had already scheduled a virtual fundraiser in July along with Giving Tuesday. All other fundraisers, 57% in fact, were cancelled. We have already cancelled our anniversary celebration and the first fundraiser of 2021. While we made it through the challenges of 2020, there will obviously be more challenges in 2021. We will continue to monitor what the future holds. No matter what 2021 has in store, we will always move heaven and earth to help wildlife. Based on our experience, we are confident we will be able to do so because of the tremendous support we receive from all of you. Here's to a bright future!

TEN YEAR UPDATE

Another casualty of the Pandemic was our 10-year celebration. Wild Instincts was incorporated on Jan 25, 2011. The special celebration scheduled was cancelled. We may be having something later in 2021 or it may be postponed to a 10+1 Anniversary. Like many things, the celebration is a great unknown. What isn't unknown is how honored we are to have been able to spend the last 10 years here helping injured and orphaned wildlife. We cannot not do any of what we do without the support of communities, local businesses and people like you. In the last 10 years, you have been a part of helping 7928 wild animals in need of help.



Burning brush cleared from building site. March 6, 2011.



Clearing the building site. February 11, 2011.

SARS-CoV2 & WILDLIFE UPDATE

We've been working hard at staying safe to keep our wildlife safe. We also stay up-to-date on what's happening with SARS-CoV2 in wildlife. This is changing all the time. Because this disease is thought to have possibly started in wildlife, it is imperative to understand how it effects not only wildlife but even domestic species. Domestic animals often have more contact with wildlife than people do such as cats catching mice or cows grazing in the field with deer. Research is being done on a many species, with priority and special concern on a few key groups. The "urban wildlife" with the closest proximity and interaction with people because of the obvious human risk. Those that live in large groups where an infected animal can spread the virus to lots of others and lead to sustained species transmission and creation of a disease reservoir. Finally, those that can travel long distances

and could carry the virus to new areas. In August 2020, a study released a database of 410 species suggesting which may be at most risk based on their angiotensin 1 converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) which is the SARS-CoV2 receptor. This is an attempt to identify intermediate hosts of native and domestic species. There is information confirming some of the predictions of this computer model, but other predictions have not been correct. Very small sample sizes of different species are being inoculated with SARS-CoV2 and then monitored for a variety of things. Will they exhibit similar symptoms of the disease in people? Can they shed the virus? If they shed the virus is it possible to infect others? Can the transmission of the virus be sustained over time in a population? In a study updated Jan 21, 2021, it was shown deer mice, bushy-tailed woodrats, and striped skunks were susceptible to infection, shed the virus after infection, but didn't get sick (i.e. all infections were subclinical or asymptomatic). Cottontail rabbits, fox squirrels, Wyoming ground squirrels, black-tailed prairie dogs, house mice, and raccoons were not susceptible to infection. In a USDA study updated Jan 14, 2021, it was demonstrated that White-tailed Deer are highly susceptible. Although they didn't show symptoms, they did transmit the virus to other deer. There are studies coming out very rapidly and frequently. This is important work, but we also need to be aware of some of the limitations and drawbacks of what is & is not being addressed in these studies. When inoculating experimentally, the animals are generally given large doses of the virus that wouldn't be of a typical exposure and sometimes even an atypical route of exposure. Many of these studies are being released "pre-print" meaning they have not yet been peer-reviewed for validity of methods, etc.

While these studies are giving information and insight, it's also vital to look at all research with a critical eye.

Sample sizes tend to be very small. The White-tailed Deer study infected four (4) fawns. Most lab experiments are not reproducing/replicating real world scenarios. In the wild, for example, mink are solitary animals. However, in mink farming the animals are artificially crowded together. If the virus is in wild mink, it likely ends quickly because they are solitary with not large population densities. It spread like wildlife through mink farms, forcing the culling of millions of animals.

While scientists in the labs are trying to predict where we may have to point our attention, animal keepers everywhere are trying to keep the invisible enemy at bay. The San Diego Zoo had a gorilla test positive for SARS-CoV2. Gorillas and humans share lots of genetic material, so it's not very surprising the gorillas caught the virus.

Zoos take great precautions, even before the Pandemic, to protect their primates especially as well as other animals from disease. Even so, an asymptomatic zookeeper managed to infect a gorilla. This is a concern for rehabbers as well. We have been fighting quite hard to remain able to help WI wildlife. We have extremely strict protocols in place for while on duty or off-duty. We are still closed to volunteers and the public.

Wild Instincts is unique in that we have a small staff, 2/3 of which is from the same household. Unlike those facilities that have a larger web of connections between households and housemates' outside exposures, etc., we're able to keep our outside exposures extremely small. Our interns are contractual required to protocols and procedures for traveling to us as well as their stay here.

Wisconsin wildlife officials continue to maintain bans on certain species through an abundance of caution. We will also maintain

an abundance of caution and continue to adhere to strict protocols to protect the wildlife in our care.

As you can see, new research is coming out all the time. At this point we don't know what species may be considered highly susceptible - or when. It is quite possible species may go on the banned list while in our care which is what happened to bats and otters last year.

We had to wait to release our bats until several research studies had concluded...even though the bats had been admitted in 2019!

We were allowed to release our otters because we had been pro-active and taken strict protocols early, before the species ban was enacted while they were in care.

We've been told it may be years before studies have been completed and species bans may be lifted.

WELCOME SPRING INTERNS

Even though it certainly doesn't look like Spring outside, the first two of our Spring Interns have arrived.

Emily drove in from San Antonio, TX and Mikayla drove in from Easton, PA. Both arrived yesterday in the middle of a very cold February cold snap.

You will get to know more about them throughout rehab season because they are both staying through October.

We'll just start with a few fun introductory questions. They've been here less than 24 hours so we're getting to know them, too.

Question: Before today, what was the coldest temperature you've been out in?

Mikayla (from PA): -1

Emily (from TX): +60

Question: What were you excited about once you arrived?

Mikayla: Hodags!!

Emily: Throwing boiling water in the air and watching it turn into a cloud!!

Both are anxious to learn all things rehab. We're happy to have them on the Wild Instincts Team and look forward to a great Rehab Season.



L-R: Emily from San Antonio, TX & Mikayla from Easton, PA



Emily tosses boiling water up in -25 degree cold.



IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

- ~In Memory of WW II Veteran Dick Brege
- ~In Memory of "Remy", a much-loved dog
- ~In Memory of Arlene Breitbart
- ~In Honor of Abbie Shoeder's birthday
- ~In Memory of Ron Brekke
- ~In Memory of Kari Zambon
- ~In Memory of Loretta Julian
- ~In Memory of Rich Johnson
- ~In Memory of Keith Tober
- ~In Memory of "Hans" & "Franz" Skubal
- ~In Memory of Ralph Staus whose laughter will echo forever
- ~In Honor of George & Mary Merkel
- ~In Honor of Ed Cody & Lynn Haemmerle
- ~In Honor of Jean & Richard Anaya
- ~In Honor of Fred & Cheryl Andrist
- ~In Memory of Toby Smith
- ~In Memory of Mary Lou Baribeau
- ~In Honor of Barb Nevins
- ~In Honor of Erinn Brogren
- ~In Memory of David C. Bronk
- ~In Memory of John W. Hillmer
- ~In Honor of Tom & Margo Carmines
- ~In Memory of Richard Rawski
- ~In Memory of Auntie Bonnie Corrick
- ~In Memory of Michael Sidgreaves
- ~In Memory of Charlene Kerschhackl
- ~In Memory of "Heidi" Kerschhackl-Larson-Naniot
- ~In Honor of Sharon Larson & Mark Naniot
- ~In Memory of Jeffery L. Litter
- ~In Memory of Peggy Colburn Intrepidi
- ~In Memory of Winifred Tomasek

FLYING SQUIRRELS

Wisconsin is home to five species of tree squirrels, two of which are known as flying squirrels. These squirrels don't truly "fly" but rather glide using extra skin at their sides that attaches to their wrists and ankles. They can glide as far as 295 feet but generally it's closer to 60 feet.

Northern Flying Squirrels are found in the northern half of Wisconsin and are much

less common than their cousins Southern Flying Squirrels. The Southern species is much more common and found throughout the entire state. In fact, of the 127 flying squirrels admitted in the last 10 years, only 3 have been Northern Flying Squirrels. That's 2.36%!

There are some slight differences to distinguish the species apart but it's generally difficult if you are inexperienced or if you don't have them in hand. It's even more difficult if they are at your feeders in the dark.

Northerns are slightly bigger with a more cinnamon-colored coat. Their belly hair has white tips with a gray base. Their tail is much longer, almost long enough to put up over their head like gray squirrels do with their tails and it has a dark tip.

Southerns are smaller but their belly hair is white all the way to the base, giving their belly a cream, white appearance.



Southern Flying Squirrel on the upper left. Northern Flying Squirrel on lower right. The tail of the Northern is tucked under it with the tip in the uppermost right corner of the photo. The tail in the bottom center belongs to another Southern Flying Squirrel not shown in the photo.

Canada, Michigan and Wisconsin have documented the northern expansion of the Southern Flying Squirrel and declines of the Northern Flying Squirrel.

Flying squirrels are nocturnal and can be seen visiting bird feeders at night or pre-dawn.

They don't hibernate but reduce their time outside when it gets cold.

People often have contact with them when they find them nesting in their attic.

They're colonial nesters so if you find one in your attic you potentially have exponentially that amount. They are not cold hardy so large numbers may allow them to huddle to stay warm.

This mild winter may be a factor in the unusually high number of flying squirrel calls this year. In fact, already in 2021, we have seen a 261% increase in flying squirrel admissions over 2020!



On the left is the belly fur of the Northern Flying Squirrel. On the right is the creamy white all-the-way-to-the-base fur of the Southern Flying Squirrel belly.

If you have flying squirrels in your attic, be aware that both species of flying squirrels are species of Special Concern and Fully Protected.

When live-trapping them out of your attic in the winter please do not just take them down the road and release them. They are not cold-hardy and will likely die. You could release them in your yard because they likely have an alternative nest site nearby. Make sure holes into your home are sealed

before you release them in your yard or they will just return to your attic. As a last resort, contact your local rehabber and they may take them in.



Two young wood turtles, a threatened species in WI, eat their breakfast. Found as eggs and illegally hatched by the public, law enforcement directed they be surrendered to us to overwinter and release in the spring.

LUCKY GROUSE

The tube that connects the back of your mouth to your stomach is called an esophagus.

Most birds have a special feature of their esophagus called a crop. It's basically an enlarged area that forms a storage pouch. This crop is not truly part of the digestive system but a simple storage area.

A crop allows birds to quickly eat more food than necessary in a single sitting, saving food for later when food may be scarce.

This would be handy for some of us at that dessert buffet, right? However, mammals don't really have crops. Some rodents have cheek pouches allowing them to transport more food to their cache, but not a true crop.

A crop can also make feeding safer since birds can quickly ingest large quantities of food then move to a safer, more sheltered location to slowly digest.

In some species, parents feed their young into their crops.

Crops are generally larger and more prominent on birds such as raptors that take advantage of food when it's available. In fact, eagles often gorge themselves on roadkill to the point they have difficulty taking flight until some has passed from their crop.

Other birds you may see a visible crop include gulls, quail and grouse.

This female ruffed grouse was admitted after being found in someone's yard. She may have hit a window. There were abrasions on her throat, and a small tear in the skin over the crop area. Her crop was also very full.

Food getting stuck in a crop is not uncommon in infant and young birds. Called an impaction or crop stasis, there are some techniques we can employ to help things move along.

Grouse are a very high-strung species so too much handling is a very real danger.

They can die from stress. Techniques used on young birds were not suitable for her.

We treated her puncture topically.

She was passing food into her stomach and it was being processed out the other end normally. We decided to wait and see if the impaction moved.

Days passed into weeks. Her appetite was always great, and she kept processing her food correctly.

Generally, peristaltic motion like what moves food through your intestines, helps empty crops. Given her injury, though, there was no way to know if trauma had affected this peristaltic motion.

Looking at her, there was no change in her crop. It was still enlarged and not shrinking at all.

We waited and continued supportive care, hoping she would heal herself.

Eventually to our surprised, the impaction fell from her body, still full.



The outside of the crop area as it fell off the bird. The light-colored area is some of the initial injury, now healed.

released where she was found when the weather allows.



The inside of the crop as it fell off, stuffed full of a mix of catkins and twigs.

From the contents it looks like it was jammed like a beaver dam with catkins and twigs. Nothing could dislodge. We did have an eagle once that had a bone lodged crosswise in his crop, but eventually he was able to dislodge it normally. While we kept thinking nothing was changing from the outside, her body was healing from the inside. When the impaction "fell off", there was just a slight opening needing to heal. Most often a ruptured esophagus needs surgical intervention as soon as possible. As is often the case with wildlife rehab, we have no have no idea how long she had been in this condition before being found. Because she was stable, we decided against surgery immediately. Surgery comes with its own set of risks, especially with birds. Given her ability to heal with little more than access to food and shelter, we are reminded in medicine, especially wildlife medicine, the more we know the more there is to learn. This grouse is slated to be



Pulling apart the contents of the crop.

FUTURE VISION

Amongst the challenges of 2020, there were a few bright spots. One shining brightly was a very large donation.

Donors had seen our Thanksgiving 2019 storm caused power outage struggles. They wanted to help us by possibly funding the purchase and installation of a stand-by generator so we wouldn't need to sleep on a cot and rotate extension cords. Several attempts were made to start the process, but the Pandemic seemed to throw monkey wrenches in the way. Finally, they decided to just send a check to be used for a generator or whatever else we saw fit.

We discussed the generator option at length. We rarely have power outages that last more than a few hours to overnight. We've only had one in the winter. Many animals could be helped with the money spent on a generator for very occasional usage. We have a couple portable generators already. While not as convenient as a generator that automatically starts if the power goes out, would that be the best choice for the animals?

After months of discussions, we finally decided to get a generator, just not THAT kind of generator.

The donation was about half of what's needed to purchase our own x-ray generator.

Previously we've worked at facilities that were attached to vet clinics. It was a wonderful arrangement. We could help them when they needed extra hands in emergencies and we could use the x-ray equipment whenever we needed.

When Wild Instincts was built, we didn't get an x-ray unit. Expense was a huge issue, but so was the technology along with biohazardous waste.

Instead, we've been loading up our patients and driving to the vet's office for x-rays. Not ideal for sure but it worked okay until the Pandemic. Then loading up patients and entering a vet clinic was a last resort.

X-ray technology has made leaps and bounds in the last 10 years. Now is the time for Wild Instincts to catch up.

With more than half the purchase price already in hand, we will be actively fundraising for the rest soon.

Having the ability to x-ray patients as they come in, any time day or night, will only benefit our wild friends, improving the speed at which they receive even more quality care.



Being able to x-ray patients like this loon on-site without having to travel, reduces the likelihood of needing to sedate or the negative affects of the excess stress on the animal. Critical time would also be saved, allowing treatment to begin much quicker.

Species	1/1/-12/31/20		
American Bittern	1	Eastern Garter Snake	2
American Bullfrog	1	Eastern Gray Squirrel	87
American Crow	2	Eastern Kingbird	1
American Goldfinch	4	Eastern Phoebe	5
American Kestrel	1	Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle	1
American Robin	61	European Starling	22
American Toad	6	Field Mouse	5
American Woodcock	3	Gray Catbird	2
Bald Eagle	49	Great Blue Heron	5
Barn Swallow	1	Great Horned Owl	7
Barred Owl	12	Hairy Woodpecker	6
Beaver	1	Hermit Thrush	6
Belted Kingfisher	2	Hooded Merganser	7
Big Brown Bat	21	House Mouse	1
Black Bear	22	House Sparrow	4
Black-and-white Warbler	8	House Wren	1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	Killdeer	2
Blue Jay	5	Least Chipmunk	1
Blue-winged Teal	1	Mallard Duck	27
Broad-winged Hawk	13	Meadow Vole	8
Brown Thrasher	1	Merlin	10
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Midland Painted Turtle	3
Bufflehead	2	Mink	1
Canada Goose	17	Mourning Dove	24
Cedar Waxwing	8	Muskrat	3
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	Northern Cardinal	1
Chipping Sparrow	13	Northern Flicker	7
Cliff Swallow	2	Northern Goshawk	1
Common Goldeneye	1	Northern Harrier	1
Common Grackle	20	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1
Common Loon	1	Northern Water Snake	1
Common Merganser	1	Osprey	2
Common Nighthawk	3	Peregrine Falcon	1
Common Raven	6	Pileated Woodpecker	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	Pine Grosbeak	6
Coyote	6	Porcupine	8
Dark-eyed Junco	6	Purple Finch	2
Deer Mouse	112	Raccoon	27
Downy Woodpecker	3	Red Fox	14
Eastern Chipmunk	20	Red Squirrel	20
Eastern Cottontail	242	Red-backed Vole	1
Eastern Fox Snake	1	Red-eyed Vireo	10
		Red-tailed Hawk	5

Ring-billed Gull	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	1
River Otter	5
Rock Dove	15
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Rough-legged Hawk	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	14
Ruffed Grouse	3
Scarlet Tanager	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Short-tailed Shrew	1
Short-tailed Weasel	2
Smooth Green Snake	6
Snapping Turtle	11
Sora Rail	1
Southern Flying Squirrel	13
Spotted Salamander	4
Spring Peeper	1
Striped Skunk	1
Swainson's Thrush	3
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	11
Tree Swallow	2
Trumpeter Swan	6
Tundra Swan	1
Turkey Vulture	5
Virginia Opossum	10
Western Painted Turtle	29
White Pelican	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
White-tailed Deer	46
Wild Turkey	1
Wilson's Snipe	1
Wood Duck	34
Wood Turtle	3
Woodchuck	3
Woodland Jumping Mouse	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Total	1286



Trumpeter Swan found thin and dehydrated on Feb 7th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wild ScaVenture 2021
 July 16 – July 18
 Played on your smartphone from
 wherever you happen to be.

Welcome to

INSTINCTS



MAY (but really JUNE) 2021

Vol 10:2

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

A NOTE FROM SHARON

We started 2021 with high hopes. We hired more staffing. The Pandemic was starting to come under control. This was going to be the best Baby Season ever.

As often happens, though, things do not go as planned. Staffing continues to be an issue. The Pandemic brought more concerns as on April 16th, just a couple weeks before fawns in WI would be born, Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources Wildlife Health banned all deer rehab. Rehabbers were shocked and dismayed at the timing. A very small study had shown deer could get SARS CoV2 from people so WDNR decided to shut down rehab unless rehabbers could meet some strict biosecurity protocols. I dropped everything and immediately focused everything to that task. (See FAWNS elsewhere in this issue).

The biggest issue for the start of 2021, however, was my father being admitted to home-hospice in March. My duties shifted from duties of Wild Instincts to sharing duties of daughters-turned-hospice-caregivers. This added a new item to juggle in an already challenging juggling routine. As Baby Season got busier, my sister was able to take over Dad's care and fulfill his wish to be at home through the end. In that challenging juggling act, however, despite doing the best I could, I was forced to drop a few balls. Administrative stuff was put to the back burners. Data entry and correspondence was delayed. This newsletter was pushed back.

Dad passed away at home with my sister and myself on May 16th. Early Baby season leaves no time to grieve but there will be

the rest of my life for that. I am slowly getting back on track.

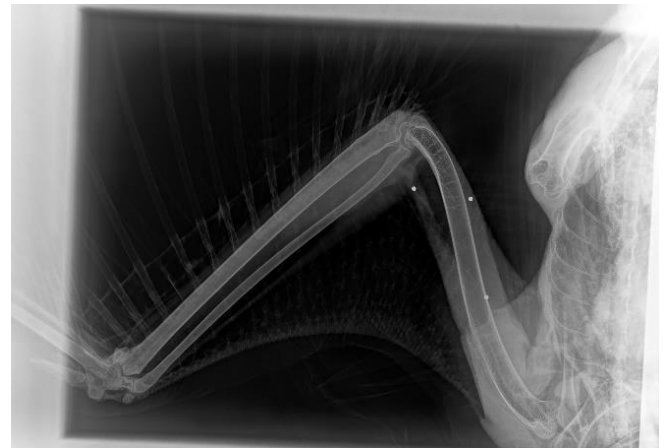
Thanks to everyone for their patience and understanding; for everyone at Wild Instincts for picking up my slack when necessary; for the kind words and cards; and special thanks to my sister, Trish, for giving it all up for Dad.

X-RAY VISION

In the last newsletter we shared the exciting news we were adding an on-site x-ray.

We're thrilled to announce we completed training on April 7th and it started being used immediately.

In fact, the first x-ray was i eagle. We were x-raying her for a shoulder injury and were surprised when the x-ray revealed shot pellets in her wing!



The first on-site x-ray revealed shot pellets in an eagle's wing.



To use space the most efficiently, we modified a fireplace TV mount and built a drop-down table for our X-ray Suite.



Kaitlin and Mark x-ray a fox kit hit by a car.



When not in use, the X-ray generator is stored away, and everything else folds out of the way against the wall.



FAWNS

On April 16th, rehabbers across Wisconsin were surprised to be informed there was an immediate statewide ban on rehabbing deer.

The timing of this decision was very concerning as in 2020 a facility in southern Wisconsin admitted their first fawn of the year April 30th, just two weeks on the horizon.

We were told if we could meet certain biosecurity protocols, we would be allowed to rehab.

Sharon immediately dropped everything to start working on what turned out to be an unnecessarily complicated, cumbersome and time-consuming task- in the middle of Baby Season, no less.

We even built a new biosecurity shelter outside the fawn yard to give us a place to don & doff protective gear sheltered from the elements.

In the end, on May 10th we were finally approved to be able to rehab deer. Within hours, we admitted our first fawn of 2021. Generally, eight to 10 rehab facilities across the state admit fawns every year. For a variety of reasons, other facilities either chose not to attempt their application or could not meet the all the requirements. This year it was just us rehabbing fawns! By 1:15 p.m. on May 30th, we reached our capacity and could admit no more deer.

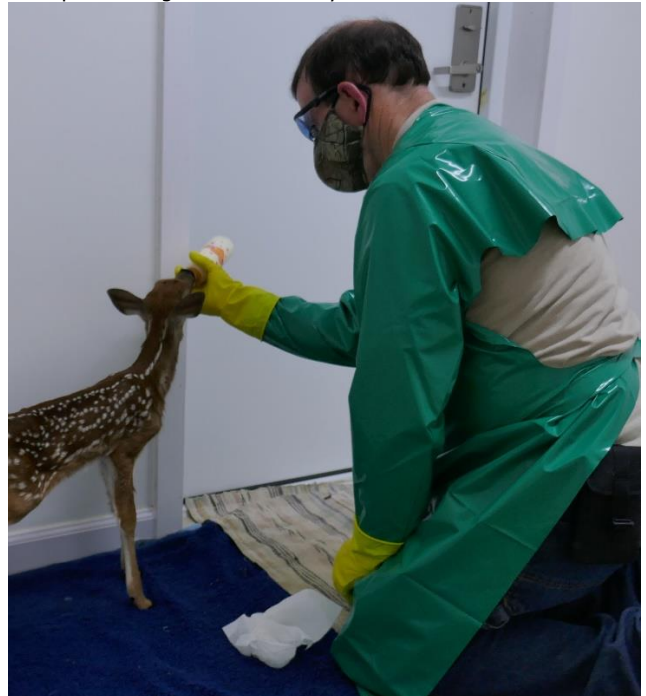
This is making for some very uncomfortable phone conversations with people who have a fawn in need of help.

We greatly appreciate you understanding we are not responsible for this situation and are trying our best to work within the constraints assigned while working to get them changed.

We also suggest voicing your opinions in a respectful manner to your local legislative representative to help change these bans. On June 4th, Bay Beach in Green Bay was given permission to admit fawns also. As of the writing of this newsletter covering the state. Instead of the 8-10 facilities normally raising fawns, there are 2.



The new biosecurity shed to put on, take off, disinfect and store protective gear for the deer yard.



The new fawn feeding fashion wear.



Mark dressed to feed the fawns in Personal Protective Equipment, including eye protection. You can imagine how hot it is to be dressed like this, especially in the 90° humid heat of late!

- ~In Memory of Charles C Wilson
- ~In Memory of Heleen Kortendick
- ~In Memory of Carol Hartman
- ~In Honor & Memory of Mothers and Other Mothers everywhere
- ~In Memory of Ralph Larson

INTERESTING SURPRISE

The Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) is listed as Endangered in Wisconsin.

It's an uncommon spring migrant, rare fall migrant and rare summer resident.

The largest population in Wisconsin can be found in Rush Lake, Winnebago County where between 35-65 pairs have nested annually. In the Grassy Lake Wildlife Area in Columbia County, one to three pairs have nested annually since 1975.

None of these areas are near northern WI, so it was a welcome surprise to have it admitted this April. Especially since it wasn't injured and likely just came down in bad weather (see Loon Weather Event in this issue) and was able to be released shortly after admission.



IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

- ~In Memory of Chuz Wilson
- ~In Honor of Debi McGregor's Birthday
- ~In Memory of Arlene Hanisch
- ~In Memory of Judy Pospychalla
- ~In Memory of Tim Muench
- ~In Memory of Carol Delaney
- ~In Memory of Dr. Jacob Martens
- ~In Memory of Bob McKelvey
- ~In Memory of Pauline Zwickey
- ~In Memory Dollie Carlson
- ~In Honor of Kathy Plautz's birthday
- ~In Memory of Scott Kerschhackl
- ~In Memory of Beverly Coller, beloved, long-time St. Matthias Thrift Shop volunteer
- ~In Memory of Jean Sherer



Red-necked Grebe

Here's an interesting grebe fact: Like other grebes, the Red-necked Grebe ingests large quantities of its own feathers. The stomach retains two distinct masses

(balls) of feathers, and their function is unknown. One hypothesis suggests that the feathers help protect the lower digestive tract from bones and other hard, indigestible material. The Red-necked Grebe also feeds its feathers to its young.



One of the grounded loons during its physical exam.

LOON WEATHER EVENT

Migrating birds deal with lots of different hazards along their journey. Weather is one. When the weather affects many birds all at once, we call it a Weather Event.

This year the spring storm on April 26 became a Weather Event for loons.

Temperatures aloft formed ice on their feathers and the birds "iced up" just like planes do, becoming unable to fly. If they didn't form actual ice, they were forced to avoid the weather by landing where they thought they could.

Unfortunately, wet pavement and parking lots look like bodies of water from the sky to many birds. They land on them thinking they are going to wait out the storm, but instead they become grounded. Loons need large bodies of water to run across to become air-borne.

Rehabbers across the Northwoods received multiple calls of grounded loons. Volunteers went out to check fields and ditches with standing water to make sure all were found. Fortunately, there were no major injuries discovered and all were back in their normal flight patterns after a short weather delay.

Braving the Bunnies

Mikayla Xander, Spring-Fall Intern
Graduate
Pennsylvania

During my time at Wild Instincts, thus far, I have been taught how to feed a plethora of different animals. I can successfully feed squirrels via eyedroppers, I've bottle fed a black bear, and I have experience using tweezers to feed a barred owl. What I thought, though, would be one of the biggest challenges during my internship was tube-feeding bald eagles, but it turns out that is a piece of cake compared to the real feeding obstacle: bunnies. Yes, I said bunnies. The cute, little, fuzzy, creatures with long ears and a fluffy tail. Rabbits are extraordinarily fragile, so much so that we have a joke at work that if you look at one the wrong way it could break.

Rabbits are very high-stress, and they can suddenly die due to many reasons. Bunnies can experience fear-induced heart attacks, they can pass away if the outdoor temperature is too high or too low, they can pass away from diarrhea due to eating too many greens. Because they are so fragile, rabbits have a low national rehabilitation success, making the pressure for correctly and successfully tubing them so much greater.

I remember my first time tubing a bunny back in early April and being so nervous. Mark demonstrated, making it all look so easy. It probably took him only a few seconds to weigh and tube a single bunny. He handed me the next rabbit and explained to hold it on its back since that's how its mother would feed it in the wild. You would think holding a bunny on its back would be easy, right? Wrong! If you have it turned even 5° off of being perfectly flat on

its back, it will wiggle and fuss until it is held correctly. The next challenge is getting the tube into the bunny's mouth. After measuring the tube against the rabbit's body to see how far it needs to be inserted until it reaches the stomach, you need to insert the tube perfectly between its teeth. Well, the bunny will chew on the tube if you spend even a millisecond too long trying to reach the tube to the back of its throat.



Mikayla concentrating on tube feeding a bunny.

Then the tube will be curled and you can risk choking the rabbit and you have to start all over again! During this whole process though you have to keep in mind: bunnies are high-stress! While you're becoming stressed about how you're holding the bunny and thinking if it is going to chew on the tube and how many times you'll have to start the process over again, the rabbit is becoming even more stressed about how its laying and having a person jab a long tube of plastic down its throat. Needless to say, my first few times attempting to tube a bunny were very unsuccessful and I had to call in reinforcements to get the job done properly.

The first time I successfully tubed a bunny I was so proud...until I saw that Mark tubed about 7 rabbits before I even got finished with one! After about a month I was able to tube 2-4 bunnies without having to ask for help, but the time I am most proud of is May 14th. On May 13th I was so excited that I tubed 7 rabbits all by myself! I didn't even have to call for backup to assist me. I thought to myself that that would surely never happen again, but I didn't know what was in store for me the next day. Between the midday and nighttime feedings on May 14th, I successfully tubed 17 different rabbits! I had never been so proud of a job I've done before. I'm hoping for many more learning adventures and exciting moments just like that during the rest of my internship at Wild Instincts.



A bunny being properly tubed fed.

FEATHERED AND TARRED

This poor goose was found at an asphalt plant in Northern Wisconsin. It's too bad we can't attach the smell to this newsletter, because that was something to experience!



Canada Goose covered in asphalt and sawdust

Those are not bread crumbs you see. The plant workers used sawdust to remove him from the asphalt.

Luckily for the goose (and us), it's the time of year they molt all their feathers at once and become "flightless". They then grow new feathers to ready for fall. This gave us the option of cutting feathers where necessary.

We were able to cut lots of feathers and slowly work the rest of the remaining asphalt off by hand.

After lots of work and a LOT of mess, everyone, including him needed a bath! The worry with situations like this is how much of the chemical the bird may have ingested trying to preen itself to get the mess off its feathers.

The goose recovered nicely and was released.

Kaitlin's shirt did not fare as well.

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Carefully cutting feathers and working off the asphalt using soybean oil and tender hands.



There's a wing under all that mess!



A much needed (and deserved) bath to finish.

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Kaitlin really gets into her work! This asphalt residue never did come out of the shirt.



A photo comparison of same-aged eastern cottontail bunnies vs snowshoe hares. Cottontails on top. Snowshoe hares on bottom.

PETS AND WILDLIFE

Every year we admit young wild animals that dogs and cats mistake for chew toys. Rabbits, birds, even fawns are frequent admissions due to injuries from pets. Recently, however, we admitted a painted turtle that had been used as a dog chew toy.

Judging from the damage, the dog had this turtle for quite a while.

The coloring is worn away from the shell. In fact, the edges of the back of the shell are "scalloped" from the dog's attempts to break in.

At the front of the shell, the break-in was successful. The damage there is too graphic to show in a photo.

The good news is the damage is isn't immediately life ending. She is responding to wound treatment and medications. We are cautiously optimistic she will be released, but she still has a long road ahead of her.

Dogs will be dogs and cats will be cats. It's up to us to supervise our pets' activities to help keep our wild friends safe.

If your pet does accidentally get ahold of a wild animal, please don't wait to call. Just like with people, the sooner it gets to help the better.



Painted turtle shell "scalloped" by a dog chewing on it.

FAREWELL CAROL

In early May we learned of the sudden passing of a dear friend and long-time supporter, Carol Hartman. She had been a supporter of Mark & Sharon for decades; since moving to the Northwoods. She supported Milwaukee and Lake Geneva rehabbers before that. Not only was Carol an awesome rescue driver with many fun stories to share, she helped with feeding and fundraising. She tirelessly worked on crafts to sell to raise funds and purchase items from our wish lists. She was not bashful and always quick to promote Wild Instincts with her big laugh and welcoming charm. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tom and her family. Thank you for sharing her with the Wild Instincts family. She leaves a giant hole in the lives and hearts of countless people. She will be missed not only by us, but the wildlife she helped.



Carol Hartman's smiling face will be missed by many.

THIRD ANNUAL WILD ScaVenture

Do you love wildlife?
Do you love puzzles?
Do you love a challenge?
If you answered yes to even one of those questions, then Wild ScaVenture 2021 is for you!!
Over the years we heard lots of feedback from people who support our mission but couldn't get to local fundraisers because they weren't local.
WE HEARD YOU!
We developed the family-gearred Wild ScaVenture. The game's clues and missions are designed to be played from your smartphone wherever you are in the world as long as you have a signal.

What is a Wild ScaVenture?

A ScaVenture is part scavenger hunt and part adventure (**Scavenger** hunt + **Adventure**). It's also one of Wild Instincts' annual fundraising events. The game is played by completing clues and missions using a free app downloaded on your smartphone.

Why should I participate?

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

How do I participate?

Gather a team of no more than 6 people. At least one needs to have a smartphone with a data plan.
Decide on a FAMILY FRIENDLY team name and chose a team captain.
Register (on-line registration is scheduled to open July 2nd)

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

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

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

What do I win?

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

First Prize = \$100

Second Prize = \$75

Third Prize = \$50

Wild ScaVentures RULES

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

Stranger Danger- Some missions deal with strangers. These types of missions have been changed to be COVID compliant. It's very important to be kind and respectful with strangers, and with that said – always be on guard and stay safe, use your healthy judgment when it comes to people you don't know.

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

If You Fight the Law (and the Law Wins)- You're participating to have fun but do so legally. If you break any laws at any time during any portion of the ScaVenture, your team will be disqualified. This includes, but is not limited to, moving violations, trespassing, burglary, larceny, embezzlement, grand theft, petty theft, shoplifting, assault, plagiarism, blackmail, indecent exposure, decent exposure, recent exposure, bribery, forgery, perjury, fraud,

computer fraud, mail fraud, telemarketing fraud, tax evasion, tax fraud, insurance fraud, securities fraud, halitosis and bad hair. Seriously, if you get so much as a speeding ticket, you lose.

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

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

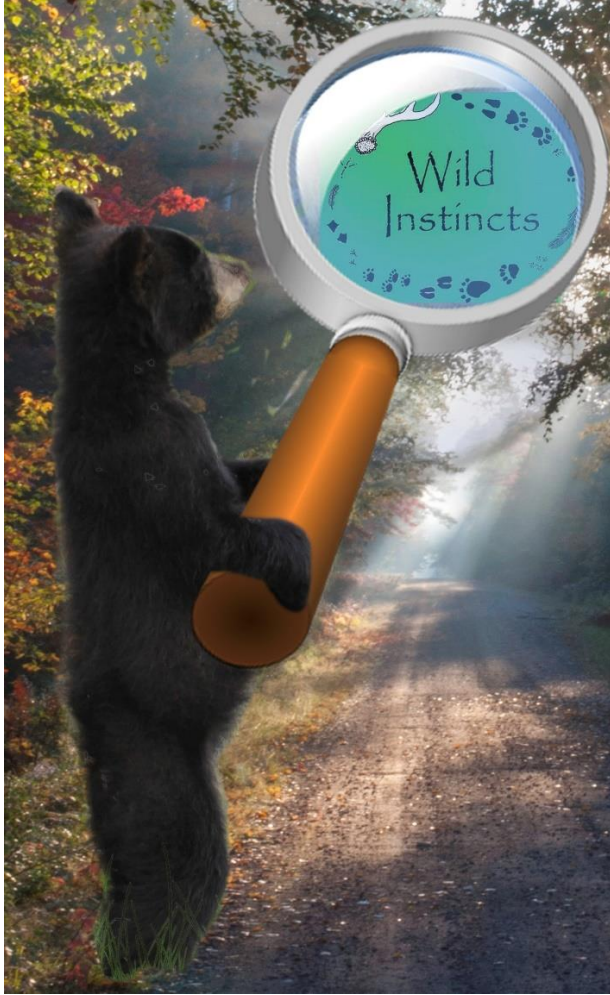
Tick Tock- All Missions must be completed during the duration of this specific ScaVenture. Missions completed outside this time frame will be disqualified.

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

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

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

Void where prohibited.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wild ScaVenture 2021 July 16-18

The game's clues and missions are designed to be played from your smartphone wherever you are in the world provided you have a cell signal.

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

Answer: Our Wild ScaVenture 2021

The Species Breakdown will return next issue after Sharon has time to catch up on neglected duties and reports.

Welcome to

INSTINCTS



August 2021

Vol 10:3

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

SUMMER 2021

What another busy summer 2021 is turning out to be!

Some rehab facilities are still being affected by COVID and have not reopened to full capacity or some even at all!

This is in turn affecting our admission numbers. Last year was record-breaking and this year is close behind and it's only the middle of the third quarter!

Because we answer the phone 24/7, we are also getting phone calls from areas where centers have limited their services. We will give advice until they can get it to their local rehabber, or even admit the animal if they can get it to us.

The ripple effects of COVID don't stop at phone calls and admissions, however. Thrift shop organizations that donate many items such as sheets and blankets, food pantries that donate unusable produce and even charities that donate financially all have been forced to reduce donations, both in size and frequency.

Just like other health care providers, we have been able to roll up our sleeves, though, and continue to work and work HARD with less. Wild lives depend on us and we take that responsibility very seriously.

While it's been a very hectic Baby Season, there have been some interesting events as well.

When Wild Instincts was first started, circumstances dictated we needed to address animal needs immediately and all at once. And so we did. And continue to above all else.

But we've always wanted to expand our services to offer a nature center. Tourists

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often stop hoping to learn a little more about the wildlife in the area but because we are a wildlife hospital, we can only offer a small room of displays.

We have so much experience and knowledge we understand that to help wildlife well into the future, we also need to share those things.

One of the most exciting developments this year is the Wild Instincts Dream Big Campaign.



A young Great Horned Owl takes flight under the watchful eye of our foster parent and a sibling.

In April, in midst of family health issues, the normal influx of patients, addressing newly imposed SARS CoV2 animal regulations and everything else the busy Baby Season brings, a surprise opportunity appeared. The property that abuts the entire west border of our current property became available for purchase!

The owners support our mission so much, they reduced the price of the 53 acres as much as possible to make the purchase

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within our reach. It's a big stretch, but it is do-able...with lots of help from our amazing supporters!

This is so exciting on many levels. Besides being a great place to see our Dream Nature Center, it prevents the land from being subdivided, protects our property border, the wildlife and facility we spent the last decade creating.

Mark & Sharon have personally invested their entire life savings into Wild Instincts and work tirelessly (well, almost...they are pretty exhausted right now, but still working!) to make sure that investment grows and flourishes.

Now they are again investing their entire retirement in these uncertain times to continue to move forward the mission of Wild Instincts.

You can show your support and belief in this by joining them.

No support is too small for the Dream Big Campaign.

More details and how to get involved can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

MYSTERIOUS BIRD DISEASE

We have received many phone calls wondering if we have seen any of the "blinding bird" disease in our area. This mysterious disease is causing death in young songbirds such as blue jays, robin, grackles starlings, and others has been seen in VA, WV, MD, PA, DE, IN, OH, and KY. Researchers have ruled out a number of diseases but have yet to identify what could be causing it.

In areas and states where it has been detected, people are advised to stop feeding the birds to prevent it's spread. If you are in a state not affected and can still feed the birds, remember to always practice good feeder hygiene. Wash feeders at least once a week with a 10% bleach solution. Rinse well and allow to dry thoroughly before hanging again. Clean up spent seed. Replace nectar frequently.

To date no known cases have been found in WI. If you see a bird with crusty eyes or otherwise abnormal, contact your local rehabber or Department of Natural Resources.

CONGRATS KAITLIN

Our Wildlife Rehab Assistant, Kaitlin is an important member of the Wild Instincts Team. She started here as an intern, returned as an intern supervisor and then became Wild Instincts' first full-time employee.

She is an integral part of all operations here as well as providing quality care to our wildlife patients. She also now has obtained her Advanced Wildlife Rehabilitation permit. Many people think anyone can do wildlife rehab. It is as simple as paying a fee for a permit and looking up some often sketchy info about an animal on the Internet. It's not.

They remember a time when Uncle Joe raised a raccoon on the farm. Or when you could walk up to a counter and get a rehab permit, no questions asked.

Those days ended in the '90's.

Wildlife rehabilitation is a skilled profession that requires knowledge and dedication.

You must study with a mentor, have established relationships with veterinarians, meet stringent standards and protocols and pass a written exam just for a Basic Permit which allows you to work with a handful of basic species.

To become an Advanced Rehabber, you must have at least 2 years of experience beyond your Basic Permit, keep learning and honing skills on many more different species and pass another written exam.

And that's when the door to the real learning starts.

We are so proud of her and her accomplishments. We are certain the future has wonderful things in store for her and the wildlife in her care.

IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES...

...Until someone loses an eye is how the old saying goes.

It wasn't much fun for this Ring-billed Gull and fortunately he didn't lose his eye!

Someone at a picnic area/boat landing spotted this bird in trouble. We were able to send one of our rescue drivers who was able to locate it after some searching. She was able to cut the main lure off before transporting it to us for the intricate extractions.

Fortunately, there were no permanent injuries and the bird should be released shortly.

If you see any fishing tackle or fishing line where it shouldn't be, please dispose of it properly.



Fortunately, there was no damage to the eye itself.



A treble hook through its right cheek and eyelid; another through its bottom jaw.



Fishing tackle successfully removed from the gull.

USED MOTOR OIL AND GRAPE JELLY

No, it's not a new sandwich combination. It's hard to imagine what these things could possibly have in common, but they have at least one thing: they can be deadly to wildlife.

It may seem obvious that motor can be dangerous to animals. We think of maybe our dog or cat getting into it and then having to give them a bath or worse yet a vet visit. We tend to forget about the wild animals that visit the yard. We can't call them away from an open container of used motor oil.

For wild ones that find their way into used motor oil it's often a death sentence. Animals will try to clean the oil from their bodies and ingest some of the toxin-containing oil. It then attacks them from both the outside and the inside.



Least Flycatcher after being removed from an open container of used motor oil.



Carefully removing the oil.



Hoping for the best after he begins to look like a bird again. Unfortunately, he ingested too much and died hours later.

It's not as obvious that grape jelly could be a hazard. Many people feed grape jelly to the orioles. In fact, there are many commercial feeders for this purpose. One design has a large open container on a board for the grape jelly. If it is not changed frequently or in very hot weather, the jelly can literally become a glue trap, enveloping and sticking birds to it.



This Black-capped Chickadee died a few minutes after arriving. It had been stuck in grape jelly that became like a glue trap.

You can help by disposing of used motor oil properly and immediately. If you chose to feed grape jelly to the birds, please water it down to a thick soup or place out small amounts and check frequently.



IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

- ~In Memory of Mr. Reilly, beloved dog
- ~In Memory of Adeline Engstad's birthday
- ~In Memory of Ralph Larson
- ~In Memory of Carol Hartman
- ~In Memory of David Finanger
- ~In Memory of Randy Koehler
- ~In Honor of Cheryl Bowen
- ~In Memory of Ralph Staus
- ~In Honor of Barb Nevins
- ~In Memory of Betty Wilson, her love of all things wild & wonderful, was & remains an inspiration
- ~In Memory of Shirley Becker
- ~In Memory of Jim Ashbrenner
- ~In Honor of Barb & Art Barlow's 50th wedding anniversary
- ~In Memory of Ted Regni
- ~In Memory of Carrie Zimmer
- ~In Memory of Bill Kuehn, whose passion for life was only matched by his passion for caring for wildlife
- ~In Memory of Ben Dykstra



Great Blue Heron release.



Young Barred Owls growing up.



Young Cedar Waxwings demanding their hourly meal.



Baby American Goldfinch sporting some downy accents to his head.



SARS CoV2 in Wild Deer

In case you missed it, there is a recent study released by the USDA that found SARS CoV2 antibodies in 40% of wild white-tailed deer sampled in MI, IL, PA and NY. These are very interesting findings. How this or if this will affect future deer rehab is unknown right now. If you'd like to read the entire study click [HERE](#).



Summer intern Natasha releases a young red fox raised at Wild Instincts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Still not certain due to COVID

SNAP STATS

Number of animals admitted through 8/9 is 1027 from 106 different species, 36 different counties and 3 different states.



Welcome to

INSTINCTS



November 2021

Vol 10:4

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

RELEASE AND REJOICE

This is a time of year we celebrate all our hard work. In the fall, the releases of our larger animals take place.

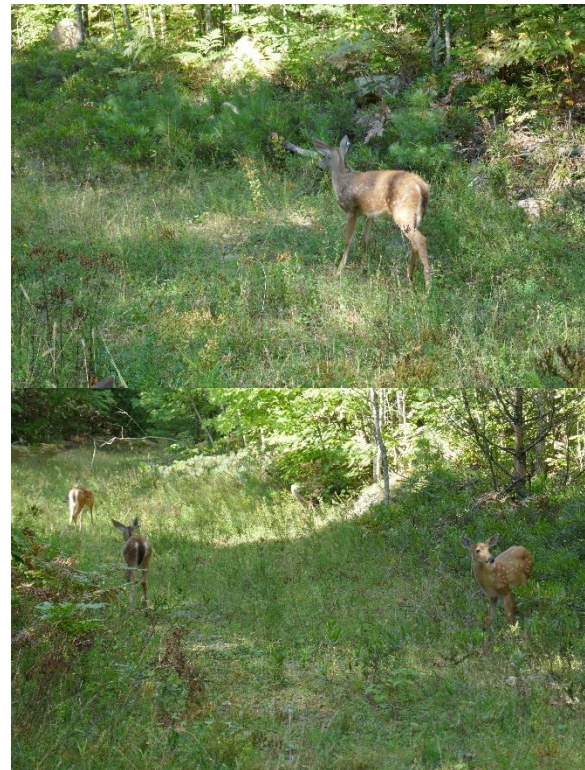
DEER:

After a very stressful, chaotic start to deer rehab season and a stress-filled season, we all breathed a sigh of relief when 13 deer were able to return to the wild.

We hope deer rehab for 2022 will not become more restrictive and we will continue to be able to help.



The 2021 Deer Rehab Fashion Statement.
Carly models the required PPE for ALL deer interactions.



Release Day! Off to explore their new home.

BEAR:

This year 10 bear cubs were released. We are happy to again participate with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Bear Project. Dr. Cady Sartini's Bear Ecology class placed GPS collars on two females. Students will track their movements and habitat use. In early spring, they will visit their den sites, take more measurements, check collar function and fit.

Since participating in our first bear telemetry project back in 2000, a goal of ours has been to be able to follow bears we released long enough to be able to

possibly use them as foster moms when needed and place early orphaned cubs in dens with them. Bringing it all full circle instead of fostering cubs with "strangers".
We may closer to being able to do that.



Bear cub admitted in March



Dr. Sartini oversees students taking measurements.



Newly released bear wearing a GPS collar.

EAGLES:

Four orphaned eagles were driven to Prairie du Sac and released along the Wisconsin River.

These birds all came in as babies that had somehow fallen out of their nest and been separated from their parents.

We drive our young eagles down to give them a better chance of success.

The area is a large gathering ground for wintering adults. This allows opportunities for the young ones to scavenge from and watch & learn from the adults.



An exam is about to start on an orphaned eaglet.



Intern Taylor releases one of the eagles.



Back in the wild sky where she belongs!



IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

- ~In Honor of Erika Lintereur
- ~In Honor of Rory Alexander Nebgen
- ~In Memory of Catherine Bailey
- ~In Honor of Laura & Nate DeHart's wedding anniversary
- ~In Honor of Elsie & Bob Thornton's wedding anniversary
- ~In Honor of Hope & Frank Carmines' wedding anniversary
- ~In Memory of Barbara Ann Reynolds
- ~In Memory of Sue Abelson, devoted Wild Instincts Transport Driver and friend
- ~In Memory of "Maui's Miki Mo" Thyne, beloved and faithful companion for nearly 14 years!
- ~In Memory of Tim Muench
- ~In Memory of Llewellen "Randy" Randles who loved caring for the birds and little critters in his yard

SARS COV2 IN WILDLIFE: THE LONG VIEW

On Oct 6th, SARS CoV2, the pathogen responsible for COVID-19 in people, was announced confirmed in a binturong and a fishing cat in a zoo in IL. Samples from a variety of species at the zoo were collected and tested after a tiger at the facility showed signs of the virus. On Oct 14, it was announced a coatimundi there also tested positive.

This is important because while tigers have tested positive previously the findings are the first time SARS CoV2 has been found in any of these other species.

Even though the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago began vaccinating some of their more susceptible species against the virus in mid-September one of their older tigers tested positive on Oct 1st.

Although rehabilitation facilities are not zoos, we keep up with what is happening at zoos as there are many parallels that may affect us.

For example, the coatimundi is in the same family as raccoons. While we know of no raccoon that has tested positive at this time, this finding may possibly lead to changed regulations in raccoon rehab in the future.

As more research is being done, more and more states are discovering SARS CoV2 in deer. What will that mean for the future of wildlife rehab for deer?

Each state varies as to their regulations for rehab, even without COVID in the picture. SARS CoV2 considerations bring about even more variations of regulations. Much like each state with human COVID regulations. For example, Pennsylvania is allowing the rehab of bats. Before their release the bats need to be tested for SARS CoV2 through a fecal test the State pays for. To date dozens of bats have been tested with not a single bat testing positive. That's dozens of bats, threatened and endangered species across the country, returned to the wild, safely.

Wisconsin is only allowing the rehab of one species of the eight found in the state but not in the winter.

WDNR has again banned bat rehab from Nov 1st until hopefully sometime in the spring of 2022. We're told the research allowing us to rehab Big Brown Bats (ONLY) during the summer has not been replicated during hibernation so we cannot admit this species during the winter.

So many regulations, mandates and changes!

While you are following all the changes new research and regulations brings about in different states and countries in just the ONE human species, we must follow the research in over ONE HUNDRED different species! It can be mind-boggling.

We are working hard like everyone to navigate these challenging times to come up with protocols that keep not only us safe and healthy, but the wildlife as well.

We are still not allowing the public in the buildings. We are all fully vaccinated. If you see any staff around town, you will see us

wearing masks. We do this willingly and happily and will continue to do so to protect the wildlife in our care.

Please be considerate don't try to shame us or make us (or anyone) feel bad about doing so. (Yes, this has happened).

CELLCOM GREEN GIFT

Wild Instincts is honored to be awarded a \$1,000 Cellcom Green Gift. This gift will assist with construction to upgrade to the deer enclosure. White-tailed deer have been found to be highly susceptible to SARS CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in people. The upgrade will ensure new enhanced biosecurity precautions are in place to protect deer and other species of animals susceptible to SARS CoV2.

A total of 25 green organizations received a share of the \$30,266 in Green Gifts from Cellcom this year. The Green Gifts program uses funds generated from Cellcom's cell phone recycling program to fund green nonprofit initiatives. Customers and community members can bring in their old or unwanted phones to be reused and recycled. Cellcom sends the phones to recyclers who in return send money to Cellcom for the materials that were saved from the phones. Cellcom's Green Gift program completes the green cycle that starts with consumers being environmentally conscious and donating their devices.

"Over the last year there has been a boom in outdoor enthusiasm as the pandemic pushed people outdoors for recreation and wellbeing. Organizations throughout Wisconsin pave the way for people to connect with nature by preserving and enhancing natural areas, providing educational programming, and spearheading sustainability and research efforts," said Cindy Durand, director of Public Affairs at Cellcom. "We're proud to support the many nonprofits throughout our service area that are not only performing critical work for our environment but also

inspiring the community to become environmental stewards.”

Visit [Cellcom's website](#) for the full list of award recipients. Cellcom is proud to support organizations of all sizes, whose work is impacting the community and building a greener tomorrow. The company's recycling program has generated \$550,679 for local charities over the past 18 years.

Cellcom is an innovative wireless company that provides nationwide service for its customer base throughout Wisconsin and Michigan, with more than 45 retail and agent locations. Cellcom is respected for its long-standing reputation of delivering extraordinary customer care, being a strong community partner, and for its renowned network, which is customized to its rural markets. As a subsidiary of Nsight, Cellcom is part of a family of companies offering complete telecommunications services.

THE COMMON THREAD (OR IS THAT THREAD?)

What do you think this Bald Eagle and Trumpeter Swan have in common?



Bald Eagle



Trumpeter Swan

Yes, they are both birds. Yes, they were admitted within hours of each other. Yes, they are both beautiful.

Hint: The thing they have in common is much too common!

They are both suffering from and being treated for lead poisoning.

We recently admitted three eagles and a trumpeter swan within 24 hours. All four had lead poisoning.

One of the three eagles had levels so high, our analyzer couldn't tell us the level exactly, just that it was over 65 micrograms/deciliter.

The other two eagles were very high, in the 40's; more than 4 times what some consider "background" levels.

The eagle with levels too high to discern died shortly after admission. Another died the next morning.

The swan, who also had levels so high our analyzer couldn't discern a number, and the remaining eagle are still in treatment.

Chelation treatment for lead poisoning is comparable to chemotherapy. A drug is

given to bind the lead and expel it from the system. However, like in chemo, the life-saving drug wracks havoc on good things the body needs. Minerals/vitamins needed to stay healthy are also removed in chelation. It becomes a balancing act of taking lead out and adding the good things back. The treatment is very hard on the bird.

This eagle was in good weight, strong and stable enough the treatment hasn't been too difficult for him. His lead levels have dropped dramatically and chelation will be done for him soon.

The swan however, despite treatment, still has lead levels too high for our analyzer to discern a number.

Neither of these birds were shot, but rather ingested their lead. The eagle likely ingested his from eating carrion shot by lead shot. His x-ray didn't reveal any lead remaining in his body.



Trumpeter swan x-ray shows at least 19 pieces of lead (circled in yellow) in the digestive tract

Unlike the eagle's x-rays that showed no sign of lead remaining in its body, the swan's initial radiograph revealed at least 19 discernable lead fragments in its stomach.

Swans feed on vegetation and tubers in the bottom of waterways. As they feed and disturb the muck and sand, vacuuming up their food, they also vacuum up lead shot pellets. While it is now illegal to use lead shot for waterfowl hunting, that wasn't always the case. Lead has settled into many lake and riverbeds from days gone by. It also continues to be used by trap shooters and upland game hunters and still finds its way into the water.

Currently the swan is tolerating treatment, but there's a long way to go. Another radiograph taken Oct 31 reveals lead still in its system, although less numerous and smaller.

Because the stomach acids continue to break down the lead in the stomach, lead is still being continuously shed into its system. We will chelate for as long as necessary to remove it from its system.

We once treated an eagle for six months before we could remove the lead from his system. That eagle was eventually able to be released.

We are cautiously optimistic the swan will also be able to be released.

There's still something else they have in common we haven't mentioned yet. Have you figured it out?

Probably the most glaring thing they have in common is that neither of them need to be suffering like this nor did the other eagles need to die.

Lead poisoning is completely human caused and preventable!

There is a huge uptick in lead poisoning cases in the fall that correlates to hunting seasons. Get the lead out of your fishing and hunting equipment. Tell your family and friends to do the same.

The thing these two should have in common is that they are both beautiful wild birds living their best wild life without being needlessly harmed by us!



Eagle suffering from lead poisoning upon admission. Below is his radiograph.



Seven lead shot pellets in an eagle's stomach. A small piece of just one of them would be enough to kill an adult eagle. This eagle died a few hours after admission.

NATURE CENTER

A place to take the grandkids that's both fun AND educational. Trails with blinds at strategic locations to watch the birds and wildlife unnoticed. Experienced wildlife experts to answer your questions, classrooms for outdoor skills building. What do these things have in common? Why, Wild Instincts, of course! Our dream to expand our facility to include a proper education center has begun.



Three generations of the Balsewicz family hand off the keys to Mark Naniot & Wild Instincts Team.

On August 20th we expanded by purchasing the neighboring 50+ acres that includes several different habitats. The property had been in the Balsweicz family for generations. The land was important to their family and holds many wonderful memories. They are thrilled to see it be used for wildlife and education instead of being developed.

We have a vision and big plans but we'll need lots of help.

Financially, we still have a DAUNTING (to rehabbers) sum to obtain just to cover the cost of the property. Mark & Sharon mortgaged their retirement to make this possible. Returning that investment to them before they need it for retirement is an important goal.

But another equally important goal is being able to give back to the community Not only cultivating a strong stewardship for our natural world for generations to come but being able to give our supporters much needed resources in the area.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Dream Big capital campaign, please click [HERE](#). Make sure to

choose the Dream Big Campaign from the drop-down menu if you want your donation to be earmarked for that campaign only. Mail checks to Dream Big Campaign, Wild Instincts, 4621 Apperson Drive, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Financial contributions are just a part of this project. We also have a lot of physical work to be done. The immediate plans are for the current house to be used temporarily as housing for staff/interns. Minor repairs, painting, winterizing, etc. are underway. If you would be interested in attending a work-day (or more than one) to help clean up the trails, paint, or do repairs etc. please email info@wildinstinctsrehab.com or call 715-362-9453 to be put on a contact list for volunteering for work days.



Photos showing some of the varying habitat and existing trails on our new property purchase.



#GIVING TUESDAY

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

November 30th is Giving Tuesday, a Facebook event that will be our last fundraising event for the year again this year

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving. To help raise awareness of charitable causes and encourage donors' generosity, Meta, formerly known as Facebook, will match \$8 million in qualifying donations made on Facebook during GivingTuesday.

Matching begins on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

Matches are made on a first-come, first-served basis and will continue until the \$8M fund has been met.

For the first \$2 million, Meta will match 100% of donations made to qualifying fundraisers. For example, if you donate \$10, Meta will also donate \$10.

For the remaining \$6M, they will match 10% of donations made to qualifying fundraisers. For example, if you donate \$10, Meta will donate \$1.

Matching begins on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 8am Eastern Time and continue until the \$8M match runs out.

We were successful last year in getting some of the matching funds because of awesome people like you! Let's see if we can do it again.

GIVING MONDAY AND BEYOND (NOT JUST TUESDAY)

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

Your gift of money pays for vet care and medications, sends Kaitlin to continuing

education on bat rehabilitation and keeps the electricity on to run the ICU this loon stayed in.



Lead poisoned loon in ICU.

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



Orphaned flying squirrel on newspaper.



Orphaned fawns on donated used blankets.

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



Orphaned raccoon.

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

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

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

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

We cannot do any of this without you.

Species Admitted 1/1/-11/10/21

American Crow	4
American Goldfinch	6
American Robin	48
American Toad	1
American Tree Sparrow	1
American Woodcock	4
Bald Eagle	48
Barrred Owl	9
Belted Kingfisher	3
Big Brown Bat	11
Black-and-white Warbler	1
Black Bear	14
Black-capped Chickadee	6
Blanding's Turtle	1
Blue Jay	8
Bobcat	1
Broad-winged Hawk	13
Brown-headed Cowbird	3
Canada Goose	14
Cedar Waxwing	6
Chipping Sparrow	12
Cliff Swallow	2
Common Garter Snake	2
Common Grackle	12
Common Loon	5
Common Nighthawk	1
Common Raven	4
Common Redpoll	1
Cooper's Hawk	6
Coyote	8
Dark-eyed Junco	1
Deer Mouse	72
Downy Woodpecker	7
Eastern Chipmunk	7
Eastern Cottontail	221
Eastern Fox Snake	2
Eastern Gray Squirrel	109
Eastern Gray Tree Frog	3
Eastern Painted Turtle	2
European Starling	7
Evening Grosbeak	1
Gray Catbird	1

Gray Fox	17	Ring-billed Gull	1
Great Blue Heron	4	Rock Dove	11
Great Horned Owl	9	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21
Hermit Thrush	1	Ruffed Grouse	5
Hoary Bat	1	Sandhill Crane	2
Hooded Merganser	10	Snapping Turtle	52
House Sparrow	5	Snowshoe Hare	7
Least Flycatcher	2	Sora Rail	2
Little Brown Bat	1	Southern Flying Squirrel	54
Mallard Duck	21	Spotted Salamander	1
Masked Shrew	6	Swainson's Thrush	3
Meadow Vole	6	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	20
Merlin	7	Trumpeter Swan	3
Midland Painted Turtle	2	Turkey Vulture	3
Mourning Dove	33	Unknown Nestling	1
Muskrat	1	Virginia Opossum	16
Nashville Warbler	2	Western Painted Turtle	19
Northern Cardinal	4	White-breasted Nuthatch	4
Northern Flicker	8	White-tailed Deer	35
Northern Flying Squirrel	1	White-throated Sparrow	2
Northern Oriole	1	White-winged Crossbill	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	Wild Turkey	4
Northern Water Snake	1	Wood Duck	28
Norway Rat	3	Wood Turtle	3
Peregrine Falcon	1	Woodchuck	8
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
Pileated Woodpecker	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Pine Grosbeak	3	Total Admitted	1277
Pine Siskin	1		
Porcupine	2		
Raccoon	34		
Red Fox	11		
Red Squirrel	25		
Red-backed Vole	11		
Red-bellied Snake	1		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2		
Red-eyed Vireo	9		
Red-headed Woodpecker	1		
Red-necked Grebe	1		
Red-tailed Hawk	5		
Red-winged Blackbird	5		

UPCOMING EVENTS

Giving Tuesday, Nov 30 on Facebook