

## A Word from Our President

Summer is the best time of year to enjoy all the simple pleasures of life.

Whether it is watching the bees busy on the garden blooms, a mother robin feeding her hungry nestlings, or the twinkle of fireflies at dusk, this is a special time of year to slow down and appreciate. Though the staff and volunteers at the Bird Center cannot afford to slow down, we have many simple and new pleasures to appreciate this summer.

Our expanded space has given more room for more birds in need, all kept well-organized and clean, and separated by age or type of injury. There are multiple parking spaces outside, a rarity at our old facility in downtown Ann Arbor. We can finally boast of a

dishwasher (!) which saves time that we can dedicate to bird care. Our on-site washer and dryer (thanks to our good friend Laurie) mean we do not have to transport dirty laundry to be cleaned. Our gardens have been transformed with native plantings thanks to an amazing undertaking you will read about in this edition. A new flight-testing pen is being installed in the pole barn this week. These are simple blessings indeed and ones we do not take for granted.

The Bird Center staff and board are moving quickly to address all the vital additions our new facility needs. Our next "big project" will be outdoor flight pens for pre-release conditioning, an important last step in the rehabilitation process. The plans and materials are being finalized and a campaign to fund them will follow, not a moment too soon.

While the orphaned babies have slowed down, we have recently experienced an uptick in collision cases. These, unfortunately, will only increase as we move out of the nesting season and into migration...and so our work continues. The Bird Center of Michigan is doing all it can to meet the needs of our beautiful native songbirds for many years to come.

Happy Summer!

**Dana DeBenham**  
Board President  
Bird Center of Michigan



## Baby Bird Service Announcement

Please **DO NOT** feed baby birds. If you find a baby bird seemingly injured or truly orphaned, please call a licensed rehabber. **DO NOT** offer any food or water.

Feeding a bird an incorrect diet can cause great harm and impact their prognosis, as baby birds are very sensitive.

This sparrow was brought to the clinic after being fed cat food. Baby birds often come into the clinic after being fed inappropriate foods such as cat food, fruit loops, and salted almonds.

You can find a list of licensed rehabilitators here: <https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dlr/>



[Donate Here!](#)

## Advocacy in Action

Our primary mission is to care for injured and orphaned songbirds and release them into the wild. However, we also keep an eye on laws and policies that impact birds and other wildlife and take positions when appropriate. We'll be providing this information to our members and supporters as part of our educational work.

**The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA)** has been a bedrock federal law protecting birds for over a century. Many of our patients are migratory birds and we have followed with concern efforts to substantially weaken the law over the past several years. We reported several months ago that a rule to limit prosecution under the law to those acts which intentionally caused injury or death to birds, and not prohibit those that incidentally caused harm, was not being enforced by the previous Administration. The rule would have given a green light to industries to avoid taking reasonable steps to protect birds.



Late last month, a bill was introduced in Congress that would amend the MBTA to clarify that such an "incidental take by commercial activities" violates the law, even if there was no intent to harm birds. H.R. 4833 has 51 co-sponsors including Michigan U.S. Representatives Stevens, Levin, Dingell, Slotkin, and Kildee.

**Action you can take:** Contact your U.S. Representative and ask her/him to co-sponsor H.R. 4833. If your congressperson already has, thank them! [Find your representative here](#); and [a list of co-sponsors here](#), as well as more information about the bill.

**Not all migratory birds are celebrated, however.** The double-crested cormorant has drawn the ire of sport fishers who claim the birds eat too many fish. A federal rule change came into effect earlier this year allowing permits for the lethal taking of these migratory birds to resolve conflicts. This spring, Michigan received a permit to kill up to 9,650 adult birds and destroy up to 1,400 nests this year. The DNR reported in July that about 2,000 birds have been shot and oil poured over 1,000 nests to prevent eggs from hatching; and that the state intends to kill about 1/3 of the birds allowed by the permit (approximately 3,200).

[The Michigan Audubon Society opposes the rule change](#), and in a position statement noted that science does not support the claim that the birds are decimating fish populations. Rather, cormorants are the scapegoats and the problem is the changing ecosystem of the Great Lakes.

Photo by Daniel Miguel, NPS

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## Meet the Team

*We hope you enjoy this piece shared by Diana Dyer, one of our wonderful flight cage hosts!*

An Instagram ad in 2018 announcing the opening for applications to the Bird Center of Washtenaw County for interns and volunteers caught my eye and piqued my interest. I sent off a message, and an outdoor flight recovery enclosure was built on our 15-acre organic farm on the NE edge of Ann Arbor during the summer of 2018.

The birds coming to our enclosure are coming for supervised outpatient therapy after an extensive inpatient stay at the Bird Center of Michigan. We also enjoy thinking about these birds arriving at the "Dyer Farm Bird Camp". Here, the juveniles will learn and the adults will re-learn the many skills they need to know for a successful life in the wide, wide world while doing so within a safe space at camp. While I do keep an eye out for medical problems that will need more inpatient attention, primarily I'm their rehab supervisor, i.e., the head camp counselor who brings them food and clean water. They are the ones doing the work in therapy and/or having fun at camp.

It's an honor and a pleasure to participate in a small way with the larger effort to help "Bring Birds Back", bird by bird, rehab and release. Good luck, feathered friends. With thanks to the team at the Bird Center of Washtenaw County (now expanded in 2021 to be the Bird Center of Michigan), you've been given the best chance possible to fly free in the wide world!

Diana Dyer  
<http://www.dyerfamilyorganicfarm.com>



## Did you know?



You can be creative while also helping to save birds from window collisions, like this great idea from P. Hayes: "I draw with soap on my windows to prevent bird strikes. This is an inexpensive solution that really works."

A+ for creativity and artistry! Plus the soap will make it easier for when you are ready to clean your windows! Just be sure that your soapy decorations are on the outside of the glass.

Are you looking for other ways you can help prevent bird window collisions? Please visit the links below, or visit Bird Center of Michigan board member Heidi Trudell's website at <http://justsavebirds.com>.

<https://birdsafe.ca>

<http://birdsmartglass.org>

Thank you for caring about wild lives!

## Are You a (Chimney) Swifty?

These unique birds are the first Chimney Swift nestlings we have received this season. They are aerial insectivores and require specialized care.

If you hear chattering calls in your chimney, you might be hosting Chimney Swifts. Swifts come all the way from South America to nest in chimneys. By allowing them to stay in your chimney, you are actually helping a native species in decline.



We are always excited to help raise Chimney Swifts each baby season!

Here are some fun facts that make them so special:

They use their saliva to help form nests.

They are known to fly up to 500 miles in one day - talk about a workout! As a result, they eat tons of flying insects and are great to have around.

We are swift fans, aka "Swifties"!

[Donate Here!](#)

## Newspaper Needed!



Due to multiple enclosure cleanings each day for more than 100 clinic patients, we are finding ourselves in need of newspaper!

Keeping enclosures consistently clean and disease-free is a top priority of the staff and volunteers.

It doesn't matter if it's the Wall Street Journal, Detroit News or Free Press, New York Times...we are not picky! Any amount would be greatly appreciated!

## Audi & Ashley's University of Michigan Master's Practicum Project for Landscape Architecture

Thank you so very much to Audi and Ashley for hosting their Planting Project Day at the Bird Center of Michigan on July 25th!

Also, THANK YOU to everyone who participated! The before and after photos clearly show

how hard everyone worked. All 500+ plants went into the ground with the help of so many volunteers. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Thank you again, everyone! Our new home is looking better and better each day!



Before...



After!

## Please Keep Cats Indoors

This adorable juvenile mourning dove was brought to the Bird Center featherless and cat-attacked.

From the [American Bird Conservancy](#): "In the United States alone, **outdoor cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year**. Although this number may seem unbelievable, it represents the combined impact of tens of millions of outdoor cats. Each outdoor cat plays a part."

Our team has worked diligently on this mourning dove's wounds and care. Thankfully, his belly punctures are healing nicely. We are still questioning the fact that he is bald!



For more information on how you can prevent cat attacks, please visit <https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/>.

**Donate Here!**

## It's feeding time all day long!

Young birds like this robin are growing very quickly and are fed every 30 minutes.

When we have 30-50 birds needing to be fed that often, we end up feeding large amounts of our most common feeder insect - mealworms (they are in fact insects and not worms).

On average, our clinic feeds around 150,000 mealworms a week. That's a lot of bugs! It is also a sizable expense for the Bird Center.

If you are interested in contributing toward our mealworm funds, please consider donating at <https://www.rainbowmealworms.net/giftcertificates.php>. Because these are email gift certificates, please use our [admin@birdcentermi.org](mailto:admin@birdcentermi.org) email address for the recipient's email.

Thank you for your support!

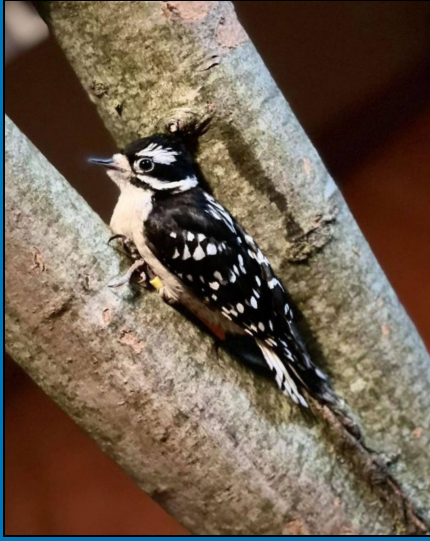


## It's easy to contact us!

For bird-related questions, concerns, or emergencies, please contact our rehabilitation clinic by phone or email:

**Clinic Phone:** 734.761.9640

**Clinic Email:** [clinic@birdcentermi.org](mailto:clinic@birdcentermi.org)



For information about donations, sponsorships, or business-related concerns, please contact our administration email:

[admin@birdcentermi.org](mailto:admin@birdcentermi.org)

For information about volunteer opportunities or events, please contact our volunteer email:

[volunteer@birdcentermi.org](mailto:volunteer@birdcentermi.org)

**Donations/Mailing Address:** PO Box 3718 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106

**New Location:** 7800 Platt Road • Saline, MI 48176

**Phone:** 734.761.9640

**Website:** [birdcentermi.org](http://birdcentermi.org)

**Donate:** [birdcentermi.org/donate](http://birdcentermi.org/donate)

