

## A Word from Our President

Since our founder, Carol Akerlof (pictured), first conceived of the Bird Center of Washtenaw County in 2004, this organization has been on a journey. The mission was then, as it is today, clear and simple: to help injured and orphaned native birds to thrive in the wild through both rehabilitation and public education.

The actual practice of rehabilitation is never simple. From the humble beginnings of Carol's home to the little old building on Mary St. in Ann Arbor, the Bird Center has persevered through election-day moves, limited capacity, soaring supply expenses and even global pandemics. Yet through it all, to date we have cared for over 17,000 Michigan birds, always with the goal to get them healthy and free again.



Our new location in Saline is the newest, most exciting chapter in our evolution! With four times the space, we can finally expand our one-of-a-kind rehabilitation program to serve more birds in need. We worked hard all winter and spring to get the new (to us!) building up and running. Now the board and staff will turn their attention to the outside.

Plans are already underway to get a flight-testing pen erected inside our pole barn this month as well as converting an old waterfowl shed into 3 flight pens for overwintering birds.

While we know these new additions will not be nearly enough to pre-condition over 1500 birds a year prior to release, it is a start! Our next goal is to develop a series of species-specific bird enclosures developed from a well-conceived Master Plan. We hope you will follow along with us as we expand the Bird Center of Michigan into the state-of-the-art rehabilitation center we dream of.

Together we can all make a difference in so many wild lives.

Thank you for your support in the past and in the years to come!

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

## Don't Step on my Blue Jay Shoes!

This fledgling Blue Jay was brought to the Bird Center with curled toes, causing him to be unable to perch.

We are able to help young birds with feet issues by putting them in "boots". This will help the feet form correctly and allow the bird to perch and move around normally.



[Donate Here!](#)

## Soaring into the Future

The Bird Center of Michigan is proud to announce the appointment of not one but two talented staff members to Co-Managers. Marissa Jardine and Grace Goetting have both been promoted to Co-Managers of the BCM Rehabilitation Clinic. Each have many years of combined experience in wildlife rehabilitation, for the past three years specializing in songbird care.

"The board is beyond grateful to have these two new Co-Managers leading the team and the mission. Marissa and Grace are knowledgeable, dedicated and will help the Bird Center of Michigan to continue to improve on our excellence in the field of songbird rehabilitation," stated Dana DeBenham, Board President.



### **Marissa Jardine - Clinic Co-Manager**

Marissa's first experience with injured wildlife was when she was a young teen. She had found an adult squirrel motionless on the ground but still breathing. Not knowing what to do, she picked him up and placed him in a towel-lined box. Unfortunately he did not make it long enough to be transferred to a rehabber, but the memory stuck with her and impacted her future.

She's always had a passion for animals, and in college she majored in biology.

She had various jobs and internships in exotic or domesticated animal care before she found out about the Bird Center of Michigan (formerly of Washtenaw County). She was so excited, as wildlife rehabilitation combines two passions of hers: animal medicine and wildlife conservation. Marissa first interned in the summer of 2019 and has stayed on ever since, with her love of rehab growing every year. After her first season at the Bird Center she became certified in wildlife rehabilitation and was promoted to a leadership position this past winter. She is thrilled to be a part of the Bird Center during this time, seeing us move from a small city building to a property that allows us to grow and provide even better care.

Marissa looks forward to a bright future at the Bird Center of Michigan. Working with Grace, she will continue the mission of the Bird Center and strive to further expand and advance the care of Michigan's wild birds.

### **Grace Goetting - Clinic Co-Manager**

Ever since Grace was a young girl, she always knew that protecting animals had to be her life's mission. Whether it be a kitten with no mother, a mouse getting chased by a cat, or a spider in the house, she knew all animals had to be protected. Growing up on a farm in Southern Illinois meant there was never a shortage of animals to observe and study. Knowing that animals were her passion, she earned a B.S. degree in Zoology from Southern Illinois University in 2018. From there, she received internships at Black Pine Animal Sanctuary in Indiana, Howell Nature Center in Michigan, and finally, the Bird Center of Michigan.



As an intern at BCM, she learned how to ID over 100 species, treat severe wounds, educate the public and so much more! Grace also had the opportunity to become a certified wildlife rehabber by taking an International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council course.

Some of Grace's favorite tasks at work include organizing supplies, keeping the working spaces clean, training interns to be successful, and flexing her ever-growing bird ID skills!

We couldn't be happier having both Marissa and Grace "soar with us into the future"!

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## **Advocacy in Action**

Our primary mission is to care for injured and orphaned songbirds and release them into the wild. We also follow legislation and policies that impact birds and other wildlife; and provide information to our members and supporters as part of our educational efforts.

### **"Birds of Conservation Concern" List Updated This Spring**

**What is the List?** The Department of Interior's US Fish and Wildlife Service, which enforces the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, is required by law to periodically

identify and assess the status of migratory non-game birds, who are *not* currently listed as either endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act but who *might* become candidates for ESA listing absent additional conservation actions. The list is intended “to stimulate coordinated, collaborative and proactive conservation actions among international, federal, state, tribal and private partners” (*report at page 4*). This is only the 6th update to the list since the original one in 1982. It is the first update since 2008.

**Who are the Birds?** The list is comprised of 239 birds who are found throughout the US states, commonwealths and territories, and certain marine areas. It includes land birds, shorebirds and water birds. They are grouped by Bird Conservation Regions (BCR).

Looking at Michigan, the state is located in three separate BCRs (#s 12 and 23 predominate, with a small portion of southern Michigan in #22). Interested readers are encouraged to review the report, but listed birds we might see at the BCM include:

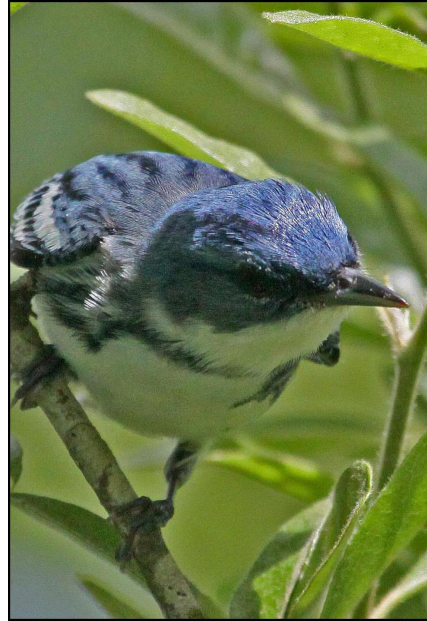
- Chimney Swift
- Eastern Whip-poor-will
- Wood Thrush
- Bobolink
- Kirtland’s or Cerulean Warbler

**What is the Philosophy Behind the List?** Of note, the USFWS explicitly acknowledges climate change: “The philosophy underlying the BCC reports is that proactive bird conservation is critical at a time when continued human impacts will be intensified by effects of a changing climate. By investing in actions for designated BCC taxa, we can prevent further degradation to environments that we all share, improve the odds for successful long-term conservation, and avoid the complexities associated with federal ESA listing.” (*report at page 6*).

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2021. Birds of Conservation Concern 2021. United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds, Falls Church, Virginia.**

<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>

Image credit: Dan Clark/USFWS



## Did You Know?

Did you know that putting a birdbath in your yard could attract birds that don’t eat seeds and wouldn’t otherwise come to your feeders? The following article from [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) provides tips on how you can make your own birdbath, how to keep your birdbath clean, and how to set up a birdbath in the winter.





### Attract Birds With Birdbaths

Once you've got feeders set up, perhaps the best way to make your backyard more attractive to birds is to just add water. Birds need a dependable supply of fresh, clean water for drinking and bathing.

[Read more](#)

[www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)

## Volunteer of the Month

Volunteer Lisa Catledge is one of our Monday volunteers! She helps us with dishes, cleaning enclosures, and many other essential Bird Center tasks. Without volunteers like Lisa, we wouldn't be able to do what we do! Thanks for sharing your time with us, Lisa!

If you'd like more information about volunteer opportunities at the Bird Center of Michigan, please email us at [volunteer@birdcentermi.org](mailto:volunteer@birdcentermi.org).



## Upcoming Events

### U of M Master's Practicum Project for Landscape Architecture

Hosted by Audi & Ashley on Saturday, July 24, 2021

8:00 AM until 4:30 PM (Feel free to join us for a few hours or all day!)



Join Audeline and Ashley (pictured), graduate students from the University of Michigan, in transforming the Bird Center of Michigan's landscape into a beautiful, naturalized, bird-friendly garden!

As one of the main features of their Master's Practicum Project for Landscape Architecture, they have selected more than 500 plants (mostly perennials) which need to go into the ground beginning Saturday, July 24th, and they need all the help they can get to make this happen!

If you are interested in helping this vision come to life, please join us whenever you can! Event runs from 8 am - 4:30 pm. (You do not need to volunteer for the entire day. Even a few hours will help!)

Cold beverages and snacks will be provided! Check out our [Facebook event page](#) to RSVP.

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

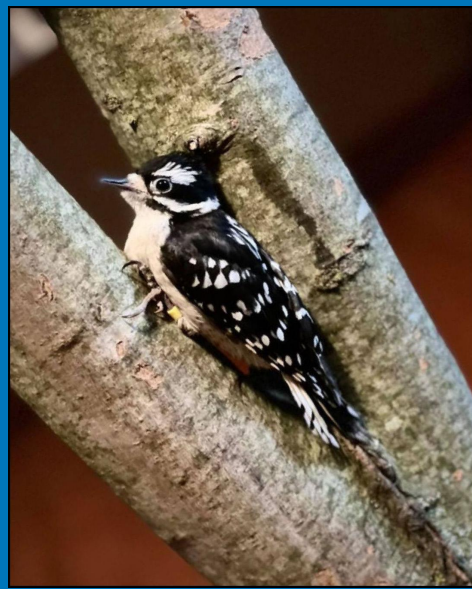
**Clinic Email:** [clinic@birdcentermi.org](mailto:clinic@birdcentermi.org)

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)



## Sticky Trap Survivor



Sticky traps are used to kill insects and rodents.

Additionally, birds of all sizes and small mammals also get trapped. Their death is long, suffering, and painful when using this method.

This little sparrow was lucky that someone found him in time and brought him to the Bird Center for care. After being removed from the trap, thankfully no bones were broken, which commonly occurs.

He will be with us for a short period to rehydrate, gain weight, and most importantly, receive multiple baths to remove the leftover sticky residue.

There are many humane ways to catch and release rodents or ways to deter them if they become an issue at your home.

We also recommend companies reach out to rehabbers and biologists to research more humane approaches when dealing with wildlife.

Wild lives are depending on it!

**Donate Here!**

**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)



