

A Word from Our President

What a year it has been! Like most of you, the Bird Center has experienced many profound highs and lows. Even in a pandemic and having to move into lockdown, we managed to care for almost 1,400 birds. The dedicated team of staff and volunteers worked countless hours on behalf of the birds, all while adhering to safety restrictions and guidelines.

We moved from our Ann Arbor location for the November election and were notified by the city that the building, used for a polling site, was in need of repairs and could no longer be occupied.

Thankfully, our good friends at the Leslie Science & Nature Center took us in for the winter. Then good luck finally began to shine upon us and we were able to purchase a new building in January 2021!

This is an exciting new chapter for the Bird Center. This larger building allows us to expand our mission to help even more injured and orphaned birds across the state. To reflect this growth, we also changed our name. We are now the **Bird Center of Michigan**, a fitting name as we answer the calls for help from so many counties throughout the state.

My role as Board President is also new. Having recently retired as Wildlife Director at the Howell Nature Center, I joined the board just one year ago. I am beyond thrilled to work alongside my fellow board members, staff and volunteers as this is a wonderful time for the organization. Minor upgrades have already taken place to renovate this Saline home on 2.5 acres into a proper songbird rehabilitation center ... the only one of its kind in Michigan. There is much left to do. We need to build new aviaries for fledglings and outdoor flight pens for pre-release conditioning, expand caging and acquire additional supplies – all to care for the expected rise in bird patients. With the help and support of the many bird-loving supporters like you, we can make this dream a beautiful new reality. Thank you for your support in the past and please share in our vision for the future!

As always, we are grateful for your support!

Dana DeBenham
Board President
Bird Center of Michigan



From Trapped to Treated

When going for a walk, a “finder” became concerned when she found a small trap, under a bird feeder, with a trapped Blue Jay. Unable to



open the trap and concerned because the bird was in distress, she brought him to us at the Bird Center of Michigan. We were able to remove the Blue Jay, treat the wounds on his head that occurred from entrapment and treat his dehydration.

The incident has been reported to the DNR and they will be following up with the case. Trapping is a very serious issue if you are not following the DNR guidelines.

A private homeowner can live trap nuisance animals, within 100 yards of their home and release them in the same county. However, it is not suggested, especially during baby season. We do not recommend traps of any kind due to the danger they can cause.

If you have an issue with critters, please contact a rehabber first to see if we can offer alternatives and suggestions. Thank you for keeping wildlife safe!



[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. Here are two recent examples:

Sandhill cranes are magnificent birds who have a special place in many of our hearts. That's why the board voted to *oppose* Michigan *Senate Resolution 20* which calls for the Natural Resources Commission to designate Sandhill cranes as game birds, and to seek permission from the federal government for a hunting season. We joined 29 other organizations in submitting testimony to the committee considering the resolution. Although it did pass out of committee, we hope it is not brought for a vote in the full Senate.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 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 are relieved to report that the incoming administration has suspended implementation of a rule that would have limited prosecution under the law to those acts which *intentionally* caused injury or death to birds, and not prohibited those that *incidentally* caused harm. The rule would have given a green light to industry to avoid taking reasonable steps to protect birds.

Actions You Can Take: [Read our letter](#) in opposition to making Sandhill cranes a game bird; and call your Michigan state senator ([find your senator](#)) and ask her/him to oppose SR 20.

Meet the Team

Each month we will be introducing team members including staff and volunteers who save thousands of wild lives each year!



Andrea Aiuto, *Clinic Director*

Andrea started with the organization almost 10 years ago and worked under her mentor, Carol Akerlof. In 2017, she was named Clinic Manager and in January 2021 named Clinic Director.

Andrea has been a vet tech and in the animal field since 2001, holds her federal and state licenses for wildlife rehabilitation and has been featured in two films featuring collision incidents with songbirds.

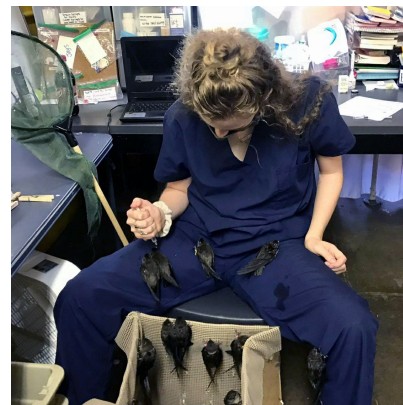
Andrea is "beyond thrilled to be able to be in a new 'bird nest' with our staff, volunteers and new interns." She is delighted to say "we have a beautiful new reception area, bird store, separate rooms for babies and adults, a quarantine area, plus a beautiful 2.5 acres with lots of potential."

The progress that has been made by the team will benefit more than 90 species of native songbirds. We look forward to having you be a part of our growth and thank you for your support.

Katie Baxter, *Rehabilitation Assistant*

Katie graduated May 1st from the University of Michigan, with two Bachelor of Science degrees, in environmental science and in ecology and evolutionary biology. She plans to apply to veterinary school and her dream is to be a wildlife veterinarian or wildlife biologist.

This is Katie's second year at the Bird Center. Her favorite part of the job is watching a bird come in, see the bird improve and ultimately be released. She also loves to see all of the birds' individual personalities and likes/dislikes.



In her spare time, she likes to go to the dog park, volunteer at a dog and cat rescue, go up north, play piano, and go to the movies (pre-Covid). A history fan, she also works for the U of M Hospital in the Urology Department where she does historical research for an

upcoming book series.



Heidi Trudell, Board Member

Heidi is a biologist turned architectural consultant who has been involved with anthropogenic bird mortality, focusing on window collision research and prevention, since 2003.

Her passion for bird conservation has led her to serve on Safe Passage committees, including currently with Detroit Audubon and Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

To learn more about her work, find her at justsavebirds.com and her Facebook groups: Just Save Birds, and Dead Birds 4 Science.

A Heartfelt Thank You

The Bird Center of Michigan would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You!" to our good friends at the Leslie Science & Nature Center for coming to our "rescue" when we needed a temporary home for the birds.

After a phone call to the Leslie Science & Nature Center, they welcomed our small flock of overwintering patients to a building on their property as we searched for a new home.



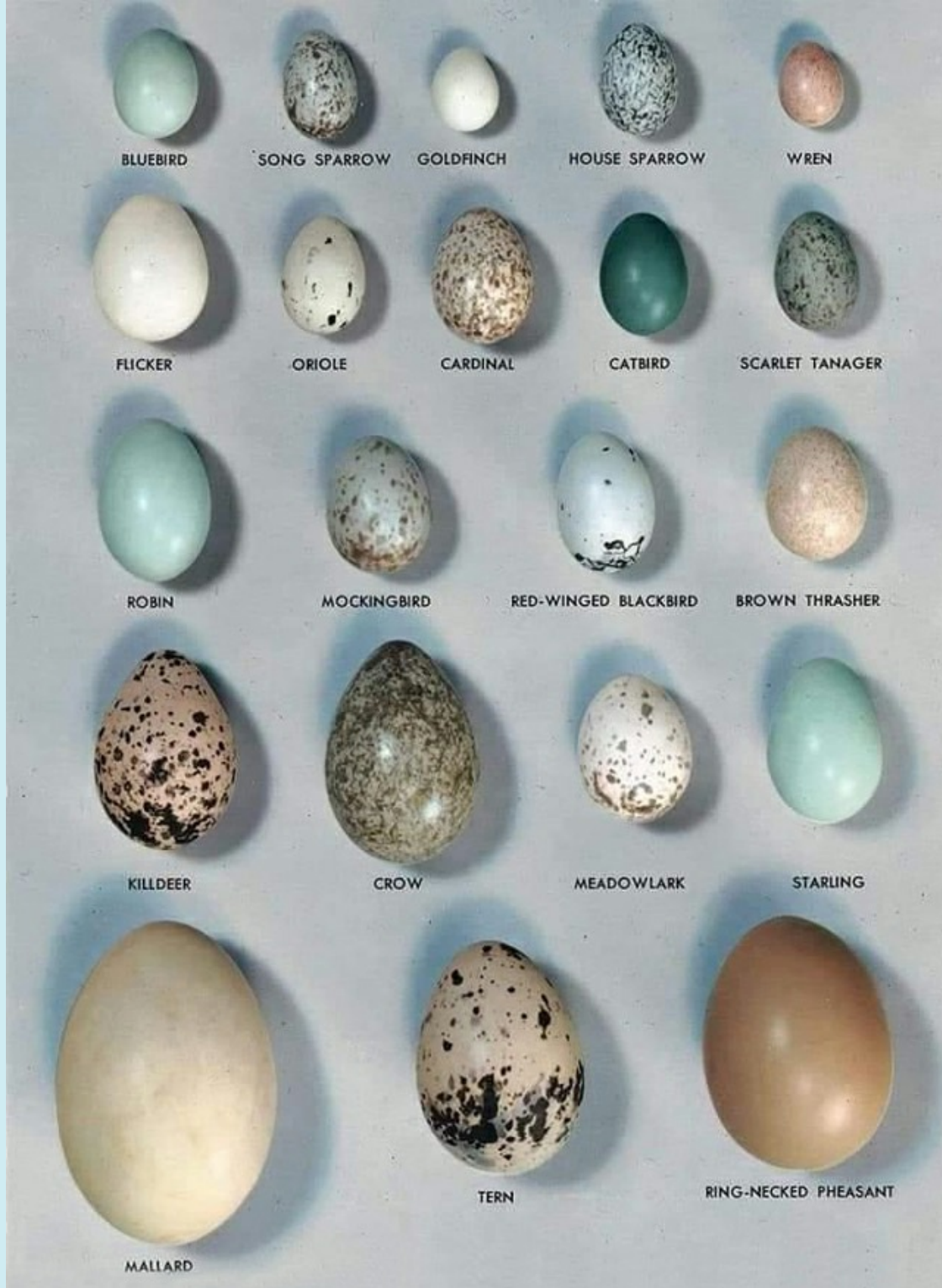
"The Leslie Science & Nature Center was happy to help provide a temporary space for the Bird Center of Washtenaw County. We know what it is like to be a non-profit facing a sudden emergency and felt grateful we had the space and opportunity to help. We look forward to seeing your new space, and hope to work together in the future," stated Susan Westhoff, Executive Director, Leslie Science & Nature Center (pictured).

Thank you, Leslie Science & Nature Center, for your gracious hospitality in our hour of need! We are truly grateful for your generosity and support!

Did You Know?

From bluebirds to starlings and robins to wrens, each species of birds lays eggs of different sizes, shapes and colors.

Use this guide to help identify some of the many eggs found throughout Michigan.



The Perfect Mother's Day Gift

Please consider honoring your mother or another special mom in your life this Mother's Day with a gift to the Bird Center of Michigan. These adorable baby robins and all our other wild birds in need thank you!

[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

