

A Word from the Clinic

With spring almost upon us, the Bird Center staff have begun wrapping up several winter projects in preparation for the busy spring baby season. Winter gives us a chance to update protocols and continue with education to ensure we are always giving the best care to the birds. Along with new protocols, we have also restructured our volunteer and education programs. We are excited to announce that Blue the Blue Jay and One-Eye the Mourning Dove will soon be ready for their ambassador duties! Animal ambassadors help teach us about their natural history, our ecosystem, and environmental conservation. We know these two birds will help inspire and educate both children and adults for many years to come.



In early March, Bird Center managers Marissa and Grace, along with rehab assistant Davey and board member Sherri, attended the annual National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association Symposium (NWRA). With it being our first time attending an NWRA conference, we were excited to immerse ourselves into the world that is wildlife rehabilitation. With lectures and workshops about avian splinting, ambassador education programs, insect diets, and much more, there was no shortage of new information. Wildlife rehabilitation is a field where we are always learning and striving to become better. The NWRA Symposium also gave us the opportunity to connect with wildlife rehabbers from all over the U.S., including other Michigan rehabbers and songbird rehabbers. Connecting with Michigan rehabbers will help us to improve rescuer support as well as helping with animal transfers and continued education.

Continuing our education is exceedingly important if we want to continue our mission of saving Michigan's songbirds. Rehab supervisors Katie and Dominick recently completed the IWRC wildlife rehab basics course to become certified in wildlife rehab! They reviewed the basics about wildlife care as well as learning some new techniques for wrapping wings and administering subcutaneous fluids. This new information will help the Bird Center treat and release even more birds.

In addition to being busy with winter projects and continuing education, the Bird Center has had its busiest winter season to date. On average, the Center has had twice as many intakes each month compared to past winter seasons. As the Center expands, so does our number of intakes! With our continuing expansion we have wonderful news! Thanks to donors and rescuers John and Kathryn Mathey, we are having four 8' x 16' flight cages built on the Bird Center property! We've hired licensed builders New Hue Restoration and Design LLC, who will begin construction in April. These enclosures will be used by our fledgling birds, where they will practice perfecting their flight and acclimating to the outdoors before release. With extra flight cages on the property, this means we will be able to release birds faster and take in even more injured birds.

With spring just around the corner, we are excited for another successful baby season at the Bird Center, where we can implement ideas learned over the winter to improve wildlife care. We can't thank our supporters and volunteers enough for all their help over the winter! From funding flight cages to helping with day-to-day projects at the Center, we couldn't do it without you! If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact our wonderful volunteer coordinator, Shelley, at volunteer@birdcentermi.org.

Grace Goetting & Marissa Jardine
Clinic Co-Managers
Bird Center of Michigan

Titmouse with a Special Message



Notice how this Tufted Titmouse is leaning so far to the side? This bird is suffering from what is known as torticollis, a type of neck injury that causes the head to twist to one side. Collisions from windows and cars can cause severe brain damage that can lead to neurological trauma and muscle damage such as this.

Due to the severity of the injury, the Bird Center staff

offered food and water every hour to ensure the titmouse stayed in top physical condition. In hope of correcting the neck injury, physical therapy was administered two to three times daily by gently twisting the neck to the correct position and holding for 10 seconds.

We're so happy to share the news that this Tufted Titmouse successfully recovered! Our wonderful volunteer, Peter Osler, had the joy of letting this beautiful bird fly free again.

Peter began volunteering at the Bird Center last fall, and he has a very special reason for sharing his time with us. His sister, Molly Osler, was a volunteer and board member at the Bird Center; sadly, Molly passed away in November 2019. Peter volunteers with us in honor of his late sister.

Peter says that releasing rehabilitated birds is very special to him and his family because they think of it as Peter sending a message of love to Molly.



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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.

This month we'll focus on federal issues:



Budget Bill and Birds: The 2022 FY bill just passed Congress and includes the following regarding birds, as reported in this analysis by the [National Audubon Society](#).

- Minor increases for coastal and freshwater ecosystem restoration, fisheries management, and migratory bird conservation, including in the Great Lakes.
- US Fish & Wildlife Service migratory bird conservations grants will receive minor increases.
- Funding for a new program for the US Geological Survey to benefit migratory birds dependent on salt lake habitats in the US west.
- "Good news/bad news" for the Greater Sage Grouse, with increased funding for conservation, but a condition that prevents this bird from Endangered Species Act protection.

Avian Influenza: Unfortunately, this disease has been found in the wild bird population in about 20 states since the beginning of the year. None of these cases have been in Michigan. Our staff is aware and is taking precautions. The USDA's APHIS (Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service) is monitoring the situation. Read more [here](#).

Migratory Bird Treaty Act: Last summer, a bill was introduced in Congress that would amend the MBTA to clarify that incidental take by commercial activities violates the law. [H.R. 4833](#) has 84 co-sponsors including Michigan U.S. Representatives Stevens, Levin, Dingell, Slotkin and Kildee. All are original co-sponsors. No other Michigan representative has co-sponsored since late July. **Action you can take:** contact your U.S. Representative and ask her/him to co-sponsor H.R. 4833; or, if your congressperson already has, thank them! Find your representative [here](#). Be sure and mention that you are a member/supporter of the Bird Center of Michigan.

□: Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Designed by Burt E. Pringle. - U.S. Postal Service; National Postal Museum.

Meet One-Eye!



Bird #122, now known as One-Eye, came in as a nestling in the late summer of 2019 after being attacked by a dog. He had sustained a severe head injury, with the top of his head being scalped and dented.

The Mourning Dove was treated with pain medicine and antibiotics, then placed into an incubator. To the staff's surprise, he made an incredible recovery, apart from an injured left eye due to his head injury. Due to the progress the bird had made, the staff conducted physical therapy and flight practice during the winter of 2019.

By May of 2020, the dove was flying perfectly, even with a missing eye! He was successfully released after 8 months of treatment. Eleven months later, in April of 2021, the Bird Center received a call about a dove who had a collision. The bird was described as having a flat head and missing an eye. The staff at the Bird Center knew that bird!

Sure enough, when the dove came in, he was the one-eyed bird we had rehabbed! After considering his eye injury and how that could relate to his collision, the Bird Center decided not to release the bird again in fear of him further injuring himself.

He now thrives in captivity and is an educational ambassador at the Bird Center. You will be able to see One-Eye at our educational programs and events along with our other ambassador, Blue the Blue Jay!

Blue Jay from a Ways Away



A pair of dedicated rescuers from the "tip of the thumb" in Michigan drove two hours (four hours round trip!) to bring in this injured Blue Jay who was caught by a hawk in their backyard.

The Blue Jay has some swelling in his right wing and is not able to use his legs very easily right now. We are closely monitoring his progress and following a strict medical treatment in hopes of

improving his condition. Thankfully no large lacerations or skin tears were evident. In hawk-caught cases, it is unfortunately common for birds to be admitted with extensive skin wounds, often infected.

We thank the rescuers for doing everything they could to ensure that this Blue Jay was able to receive prompt and proper medical treatment! Without the dedication of rescuers who transport the birds they find, we wouldn't be capable of rehabbing over 1500 birds each year!

[Donate Here](#)

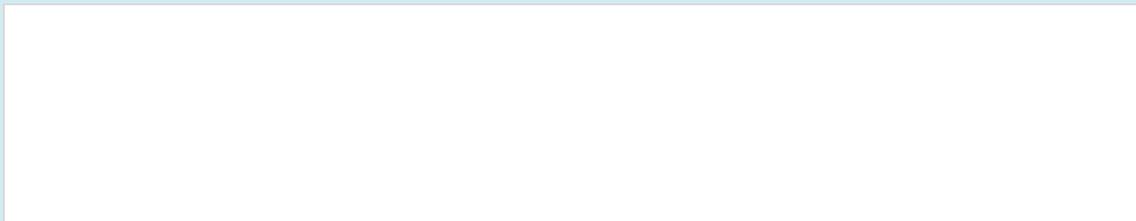
Share your Spare Change

Looking for an exciting new way to donate to the Bird Center of Michigan? Check out the RoundUp App!

It's easy! Download the RoundUp App or visit roundupapp.com, choose Bird Center of Washtenaw County Inc. as the nonprofit, and connect your credit or debit card to donate the rounded-up change from your everyday purchases!

Please note, we are currently in the process of changing our name to Bird Center of Michigan with the IRS. Rest assured, we will still receive donations made to Bird of Washtenaw County! You can verify our nonprofit status on guidestar.org with our EIN: 830406863.

Thank you for your support!



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Save the Date!



If you are interested in volunteering at the Bird Center of Michigan, we will be holding a volunteer orientation on Zoom on Saturday, March 26th at 11:00 AM!

At this virtual orientation, we will discuss all aspects of volunteering with us, and we'll share information about the Bird Center and our mission. For more information on volunteering at the Bird Center of Michigan, please visit <https://birdcentermi.org/volunteer/>.

Warming Orphaned Songbirds

With the weather warming up in fits and starts, the word on most every wildlife rehabbers' mind is: babies. Soon the Bird Center will be flooded with baby birds and all the time-consuming care involved with raising them.

Orphaned birds require frequent feedings and diligent hydration by trained staff, proper humidity levels inside incubators, along with the consistent warmth their parent would be providing. And just recently at the NWR

conference in Madison WI, Bird Center staff discovered a better way to keep all our baby birds warm and happy.



At the height of the season there can be up to fifteen baby birds on a table needing heat at once! To reach everyone, it can become a jigsaw puzzle of arranging heating pads, all with separate power and different settings. In order to simplify our nursery we are hoping to start using larger, full countertop heaters to supply uniform heat to all our younger patients from one source. Without the hassle of the smaller heating pads, more time and energy can be put into feedings and the necessary medical care to help these lost birds find their way to the wild where they belong.

Please consider helping orphaned baby birds this season by donating to the Bird Center of Michigan. These patients are missing the most important thing in their development as wild birds, and we have to fill in as best we can and give them a chance at being free. By giving what you can, you can help give back to the natural world which provides so much for us. Thank you for participating in the work we do, none of it would be possible without our donors.

[Donate Here](#)

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

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

admin@birdcentermi.org



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

volunteer@birdcentermi.org

Some fun before you go...

Sherri Smith, who holds the permits we operate under, has been rehabbing birds for more than 30 years. She reports that she has recently had the first Northern Cardinal in her care in all that time who didn't bite her! Sherri told us, "They bite very hard and know where it will really hurt."

We appreciate your support!

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

Donate: birdcentermi.org/donate

