

A Word from the Clinic

This season has been our busiest yet! In the month of May we took in nearly 600 birds, which is about 175 more birds than last May! Due to the avian flu, we are one of the only wildlife rehabilitation centers in the area taking in birds this season. As a result, we are incredibly busy here at the Bird Center, caring for nearly 350 birds and answering up to a hundred calls each day. While our case load has increased, we are still strictly following guidelines and protocols to prevent the spread of HPAI.



Not only has this summer been one of our busiest, we've had some changes these past few months to our staffing and board members! Grace Goetting, former clinic co-manager, has relocated but is now helping the Bird Center as our newest board member! Keith Taylor, nature author and UM professor, has also joined the board. Staff members Katie and Dominick have both been promoted to assistant manager, where they help with inventory, coordinate flight cage releases, and supervise interns and volunteers. We also would like to give a shout to our volunteer mentors: Carole, Jamie, Jing, Lisa, Meredith, and Susan for helping train new volunteers this season!

We are grateful for all the interns, volunteers, and supporters of the Bird Center. Whether you volunteer your time and help clean enclosures, or support us through Wishlist Wednesdays and sharing our Facebook posts to help educate the public, we thank you! With this being our busiest season yet, we could use more volunteers at the Center to help with daily tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out an application at birdcentermi.org/volunteer/. Rehab costs are higher than normal due to a record high number of intakes. If you are unable to volunteer but would still like to help support the Bird Center, donations are a great way to help us continue to provide outstanding care to our patients.

Thank you for supporting the Bird Center!

Marissa Jardine
Clinic Manager
Bird Center of Michigan

A Leggy Little Killdeer

Killdeer are a unique species that require highly specialized care in rehabilitation settings. This hatchling Killdeer was brought to us after a rescuer found him abandoned and with his eyes slightly swollen. Since arriving at the Bird Center, he is getting bigger and bigger and improving each day! He makes the precious Killdeer "peep" sounds and loves snacking on soaked

bloodworms - yum! He is being continuously monitored through our livestreaming camera to make sure he continues to eat and improve.

As he becomes more active, he has been moved up into a larger enclosure where he has more room to walk around and stretch those long legs. It's an amazing sight to watch him grow and improve! Your donations will help us rehabilitate and release birds like this adorable Killdeer and give them a second chance at life in the wild. We appreciate your support!



[Donate Here](#)

Advocacy in Action

Great Lakes Piping Plovers: It Takes a Village...and Good Laws



We've written about the Migratory Bird Treaty and Endangered Species Acts and encouraged you to contact legislators to support these landmark laws. But what do federal protection and related resources mean? Let's look at a much beloved bird.

The Great Lakes piping plover is one beneficiary of these laws. The species has been listed as endangered since 1986. Most are born at, and return to, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The

birds are watched over by a [conservation team](#) of scientists, researchers and others from state and federal agencies, tribes, universities, NGOs; and volunteers, and private

landowners.

The birds return annually to mate, nest and raise their young. During this period, approximately April to mid-July, the team monitors them continually. Monitors camp on isolated beaches for 5-day stretches where they walk the beaches to observe and protect the eggs. They install wire enclosures around the eggs which are a barrier to larger predators but allow adult birds access to the nests. If a nest is abandoned, they collect eggs to send to the Detroit Zoo for captive rearing and release. The team bands each bird.

In 2021, there were 35 nesting pairs and 74 total individuals; 81 chicks fledged in the wild and 8 captive-raised chicks were released. When first listed, there were only 17 pairs. That number declined to between 11-14 over the next few years. Great Lakes piping plovers remain vulnerable to human development and a changing environment. The recovery plan calls for 150 nesting pairs before they can be delisted.

As a shore bird, piping plovers are an indicator species of the health of beaches and dunes that Michiganders love.

More information can be found in a recent *Detroit Free Press* [article](#) and [picture gallery](#); and The Great Lakes Piping Plover [website](#).

Piping Plover & Chick ☐: [Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes](#)

Other News

- Black terns are a species of special concern in Michigan and a priority species in the current DNR Wildlife Action Plan. The wetlands near Harsens Island has an active colony, but the population plummeted from about 200 breeding pairs in 2013 to about 50 in 2021. The DNR and Midwest Audubon have partnered to develop a conservation plan. [Read about these efforts.](#)



- Bills in Congress of note: has your US Representative or Senator co-sponsored (find them [here](#))?

- [H.R. 1569](#), Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Act
- [H.R. 1986/S. 791](#), Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act
- [H.R. 4833](#), Migratory Bird Protection Act

- Just this week, the US House passed the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, [H.R. 2773](#), which would provide states and tribal nations with dedicated funding of \$1.3 billion annually for conservation of threatened and endangered species. MI Rep. Debbie Dingell, the bill's sponsor, said: "Right now, the United States is facing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis, ... we've lost nearly 3 billion birds since 1970. Without a significant change in the way we finance conservation, more of the animals and wildlife we hold dear to our heart will become endangered." The bill now goes to the Senate, which has its own version.

Black Tern ☐: [Michigan DNR](#)

A Bird Center of Michigan First



After 18 years of operation, we have accepted our very first Bobolink into care! This rarely-seen bird was brought into the Bird Center recently after being caught by a dog. Luckily, the Bobolink only sustained a slight wing injury that we hope will heal with a wing wrap and some rest.

During their long migration journey, Bobolinks can orient themselves with the earth's magnetic field, thanks to iron oxide in bristles of the nasal cavity and in tissues around the olfactory bulb and nerve. Bobolinks also use the starry night sky to guide their travels!

We hope to get this beautiful bird back out into the wild as soon as possible!

A Dove's Crop Rupture



This Mourning Dove came in after suffering a window collision. Due to having a crop full of seed, the impact of the collision caused her crop to rupture. We receive crop rupture cases a couple times each year, and it's almost always a Mourning Dove who has suffered a collision of some sort.

After pain meds had kicked in, staff promptly cleaned and treated the injury. The wound is bandaged and being replaced frequently while staff monitors her healing. It's hard to believe, but this wound can heal! Thanks to our wonderful supporters, birds with serious injuries such as this can be treated and heal peacefully while in our care.

Donate While You Shop

Amazon Smile

Be sure to use our [Amazon Smile link](#) for an easy way to donate to the Bird Center! Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. For more information about how Amazon Smile works, please visit <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/>.



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Kroger Rewards

The Bird Center is excited to be participating in the [Kroger Community Rewards Program](#). Register your Kroger Plus card online with a Kroger Rewards Account and designate the Bird Center as your charity of choice. We will automatically receive a donation from Kroger every time you use your card. You can register the Bird Center by name or by the NPO number that Kroger has assigned to us — 90972.



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[Read more](#)
www.kroger.com

Remembering One-Eye

One-Eye, our educational Mourning Dove, was recently found passed away in his Songbird Suite enclosure. This was a surprise to us, as he spent the day active and cooing as usual, not indicating any illness. One-Eye originally came to the Bird Center as a nestling dove with a severe head injury due to being animal-caught. As he grew older, he recovered from his injuries but was blind in his left eye and had a malformed skull. Due to the physical trauma he experienced when he was young, we assume this may have impacted his lifespan.



We are deeply saddened by this loss, as we all cared for One-Eye and found he made a great educational ambassador. He was just over three years old and we all grew attached to his spunky personality and his beautiful coos. At the Center, he taught young doves how to eat off the ground and how to coo. He also kept staff company during the winter

and would even land on our keyboards when we were away and add his own "words" to our daily rehab note. In addition, he spent the past few months helping us educate the public on the importance of songbirds and keeping an eye on your pets during baby season to ensure there aren't more birds brought in like One-Eye.



He was buried in the front yard by our eastern redbud tree with plenty of his favorite snack - safflower seed. Though his life was short, his impact on those who knew him will last a long time. □

The Flu Normal

This summer, with the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), rehab centers across Michigan and the United States are having to turn away injured and orphaned birds they would normally accept. Very few centers are available to treat wild birds now, and yet birds are still getting hurt — hurt by window collisions and car-strikes, cat- and dog-attacks, glue-traps and more. And this time of year almost every injured adult is leaving behind a nest of hungry babies as well. The thousands of potential patients have just a fraction of licensed rehab centers to take them in.



The Bird Center of Michigan team is thrilled there are still just as many people out there who care about the fate of these birds in need! We remain here for them and rely on rescuers to give them that chance to fly free again. HPAI has brought brand new challenges to saving songbirds, but the Bird Center has risen to meet all of them in order to keep providing care to our feathered friends. In fact, our circle of care has only expanded to include more waterfowl while following all the DNR protocols that keep our patients safe.

Due to the new requirements of care, the Bird Center asks for continued understanding and efforts from the public to help us help the songbirds. All the calls that would normally end in admittance at centers not currently accepting birds, are referred to the handful of rehabbers that are. Our responses will always be as swift as possible while we treat the animals already in our care, and in the meantime rescuers can keep their bird in a dark, quiet box without food or water until we can guide you over the phone. We truly appreciate your patience and couldn't do any of the work we do without people like you.

On top of the extra time and energy it takes to serve the birds during the HPAI outbreak, there is also more personal protective equipment needed. Disinfectants and supplies like syringes that can usually be re-used have to be discarded to prevent contamination. Whether you have donated in the past or would like to donate for the first time, now more than ever the Bird Center could use your help while we work through this demanding season of wildlife rehabilitation. We thank you for supporting songbirds!

[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...

We were recently able to release 32 of the Mallard ducklings that were in care at the Bird Center! This is our first duckling release of the season, with many more to come - another release is happening soon! ☐



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

