

A Word from the Clinic

This past summer has been a great season at the Bird Center thanks to the wonderful dedication of our interns, volunteers, staff, and board. We had the honor of raising several unique species including Belted Kingfishers, Purple Martins, Common Nighthawks, and an Eastern Meadowlark. This baby season was very interesting not only in the unique species we admitted at the Center but also in the abundance of certain species admitted. For example, we got very high numbers of Eastern Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, and Cliff Swallows (pictured) compared to previous seasons.



In addition, we increased our release rates and added two new flight buildings to the property for a total of six new flight cages. Lastly, we recently installed a new flight cage for our educational ambassador, Blue. We are so thankful to everyone who helped make this baby season great!

As we are moving into fall, the Center is busy with migratory birds suffering window collisions and the last round of baby birds including goldfinches, doves, and waxwings. In addition, staff are focusing on numerous off-season projects, as we always strive to provide the highest quality of care to our patients. This includes expanded call guidance for species we don't normally take in, intern workshop expansions, and new volunteer opportunities.

We also have some exciting news! Thanks to some very kind donors, we will soon have an x-ray machine and other medical devices to assist in our ability to treat injured patients. Thank you to our supporters for allowing us to continue and expand our work on saving Michigan's songbirds!

Marissa Jardine
Clinic Manager
Bird Center of Michigan



Fall is in the air, but we are still seeing a higher-than-normal number of baby birds admitted to the Center these past few weeks, including this adorable Northern Cardinal. We also currently have baby waxwings, goldfinches, and of course doves. In addition to caring for our baby birds with frequent 30-minute feedings, staff are also monitoring critical collision patient cases from fall migration. □

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Advocacy in Action: Migratory Birds

A recent announcement from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the Interior Department provides a good topic for this month, since we're in the fall migration season. These birds are regulated and protected by the federal government because they – well – migrate from state-to-state. The Bird Center has many migratory bird patients and holds both federal and state licenses.



[Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) and the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) are the best known laws. We've mentioned the MBTA in this newsletter before, and readers may remember there was an important revision in 2021 to overturn an interpretation that would have weakened the Act by setting an almost

impossible standard for finding violations. It required showing that human activities which harmed the birds had been done with the intention of harming them and not just incidentally.

A lesser-known law also administered by FWS is the [North American Wetlands Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. §4401 et seq.](#), passed in 1989 to encourage public/private partnerships to protect, enhance, restore and manage wetland ecosystems, waterfowl and other migratory birds in the US, Mexico and Canada. The Act authorizes grants and earlier this month FWS announced \$50.6 Million for Wetland Conservation Projects and National Wildlife Refuges, to help conserve or restore more than 106,600 acres of wetlands and associated uplands.

Fall migration is one of the best bird-watching opportunities in Michigan. Get out and enjoy it! [Birdcast](#) is an excellent tool to find migration reports that are updated daily.

Image: USFWS/Sharp-shinned Hawk

Celebrating our Interns & Volunteers

The bulk of our interns started heading back to school in August, so to celebrate all their hard work this past summer, we held our annual intern appreciation party at Pinball Pete's in Ann Arbor.

This year the interns all pooled their tickets together to get Blue, our education ambassador, a bird stuffed animal. We are so thankful for all of our wonderful staff and interns! Rehabbing over 1500 birds these past few months wouldn't have been possible without them.



On Sunday, September 17th, the rain held off as we celebrated our incredible volunteers at our annual volunteer appreciation party. The Bird Center simply couldn't operate without the generosity and hard work of our volunteers. Whether they are providing a safe, clean space for injured birds to heal, whipping up yummy snacks for hungry patients, or getting their hands dirty with outdoor work, their help is appreciated more than words can say. We ☐ our volunteers!

If you're interested in sharing your time with the Bird Center in 2024, visit our website at <https://birdcentermi.org/volunteer/> to learn more about volunteering with us.



A Sticky Situation



This juvenile Red-winged Blackbird was brought to the Bird Center covered in a thick Gorilla Glue-based adhesive. So stuck together that he was only able to lay on his back, our dedicated staff was able to carefully remove enough adhesive to allow him to stand again. His feathers are damaged and he will need additional treatment, but he is feisty and eating on his own, which is a great sign!

This is a perfect example of the importance of being aware of anything you are leaving open to the wild. This little guy didn't stumble into a typical sticky trap but found his way into a

window-sealing Gorilla Glue mixture. This isn't the first time we've taken in a patient covered in sticky adhesives - we've also seen birds covered in painters' caulk and sidewalk sealants. While it may take a little extra time, it's worth barricading work areas as projects dry and closing any open containers to help save wild lives.



AFTER!

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Check Your Seasonal Decorations

Wildlife rehabilitators receive numerous calls during the month of October regarding animals trapped or tangled in seasonal decorations. If you're decorating your home for the spooky season, please remember to check your webbed decorations frequently for trapped animals.

While faux spider webbing is a fun way to decorate your home for Halloween festivities, this type of decoration can actually be quite dangerous for all wildlife. If you happen to find a tangled critter, be sure to contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, even if the animal seems to have recovered.



Bath Time!

Our Eastern Meadowlark is all grown up, self-feeding, and now outside in a flight cage. He enjoys eating crickets and bathing in his water dish, and he has lots of foliage in his enclosure to better reflect his natural habitat. This little guy will be released back to the wild very soon!



These boots were made for walkin'...



...and that's just what they'll do for this young Common Grackle who came in with malformed feet.

Feet abnormalities can occur for a variety of reasons, including an inadequate diet or a congenital issue. With boots and vitamin supplements, we are hopeful that his malformed toes can be corrected and he can be released back to the wild.

In the meantime, he is eating a nutrient-packed diet and spending time with other grackles his age.

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Contact Info

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

Clinic Phone: 734.761.9640

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

admin@birdcentermi.org

For volunteer opportunities, contact our volunteer email:

volunteer@birdcentermi.org



To check on a bird you rescued, please email intakes@birdcentermi.org with the bird's ID number and date of rescue.

For a list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators in Michigan, please visit the Michigan DNR Website: <https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dlr/>

Some fun before you go...

Bad hair day? More like FAB hair day! Our educational ambassador Blue has entered the bald stage of her molt, but she always looks fabulous to us!

Blue Jays and Northern Cardinals go through a "bald stage" of their molt in which all feathers on the head, known as capital-tract feathers, are dropped nearly simultaneously, resulting in the bird being nearly bald for about a week as new feathers grow in.



We appreciate your support!



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