

A Word from the Clinic

With the New Year come and gone, we reflect fondly on 2023 and all the memorable cases we rehabilitated at the Center, as well as all the improvements that have occurred. With your support, we added another six new flight cages to the Bird Center of Michigan property for a total of 16 flight cages now on property. We are so excited to be able to have these additional flight enclosures for our growing number of intakes each year.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM THE BIRD CENTER OF MICHIGAN



In addition to more flight cages, we have expanded the current medical care we can provide, including the purchase of an x-ray system and an isoflurane dispenser to provide the highest quality of care possible to our patients. This was done with the incredibly generous support of Dave Arney and Christine Kuzma.

We have also been in the long process of upgrading our pole barn outbuilding to more efficiently rehabilitate high-risk HPAI species like waterfowl. With the help of John Mathey, we have been able to add more flight cages, new brooders, rehab supplies, and a special high-risk HPAI outbuilding for intake, triage, and more. By the summer, we anticipate having waterlines run out to the pole barn so that we have running water. With HPAI, this improved building allows us to provide optimal care to shorebirds, waterfowl, and songbirds alike - all while helping to prevent the spread of avian influenza.

Not only was 2023 an exciting year for building improvements, but for rehabilitation cases as well. The Center raised the largest number of Eastern Bluebirds it's ever had, raised five young Belted Kingfishers, and was able to rehabilitate numerous injured adult geese and Mallards. Our number of intakes for the year held strong at around 1700, and we had the pleasure of working with 90 bird species. Thanks to continuing education in the rehab field and the expansion of protocols, we had another record year for release numbers. During the off-season, the Bird Center staff has been busy working on protocol enhancements as well as creating new and expanded volunteer programs - more information to come soon!

We thank you for your continued support. The rehabilitation of Michigan's birds would not be possible without your help. Happy New Year from the Bird Center of Michigan! □

Marissa Jardine

Clinic Manager

Bird Center of Michigan

In Loving Memory of Colette Slade

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Colette Slade, wildlife rehabber and board member at the Bird Center of Michigan. Colette began her generous work with us as a volunteer in 2018 and then joined our team of interns in 2022. Colette was a shining light at the Center, and she will be deeply missed.

If you had the honor of knowing Colette, you got to know her thoughtful and kindhearted personality and were able to witness her passion for rehabbing wildlife. Though Colette was only with the Bird Center for a few years, her impact will last far beyond. She was able to help us accomplish so much and she cared deeply for both the animals involved in wildlife rehab as well as the people.



The BCM's wonderful volunteer mentor and Colette's friend, Gaia, has organized a meal train to ease the Slade family's burden, while Colette's daughter Adria has set up a GoFundMe to provide financial support for her family during this difficult transition. If you're able, please consider signing up for the meal train or contributing to the GoFundMe. Every act of kindness, however small, will help the Slade family navigate this unimaginable grief.

[**Sign up for Meal
Train**](#)

[**Donate to GoFundMe**](#)

Colette had a beautiful soul and we are so lucky to have known her. Please keep her family in your thoughts through this difficult time.



Advocacy in Action: What's in a Name?

Several recent developments in the birding world may challenge the sentiment expressed by Juliet in Shakespeare's famous play, when she declared that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

After much deliberation, Detroit Audubon announced in October that it would change its name to [Detroit Bird Alliance](#) effective this month. Detroit joins Chicago and Madison, WI, in adopting the name.



"It was important for us to collaborate with other Audubon chapters - especially those in our region - in adopting a name that unifies our members and unifies us as organizations," Gretchen Abrams, executive director of the Detroit chapter, said in [a press release](#). "Following serious consideration of John James Audubon's legacy, and the harm and barriers his name created among many community members, several chapters decided to drop the 'Audubon' name."

The National Audubon Society will retain its name. [Announcing the decision in March 2023](#), Dr. Elizabeth Gray, its CEO said: "We are at a pivotal moment as an organization and as a conservation movement. The urgency of our climate and biodiversity crises compels us to marshal our resources toward the areas of greatest impact for birds and people. This means centering equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging values into our programmatic work, as well as our internal operations, and implementing our new five-year Strategic Plan. Regardless of the name we use, this organization must and will address the inequalities and injustices that have historically existed within the conservation movement. I am confident that, like birds, the Audubon of tomorrow can be a powerful unifier and force for conservation."

Birds' names themselves also are undergoing review. The American Ornithological

Society's English Bird Names Committee announced this fall that it will change the English names of bird species named after people. (The two-word scientific names will not be changed). The Society is the accepted authority on English bird names in the Americas and its predecessor organization was formed in 1886.

Judith Scarl, Ph.D., AOS Executive Director and CEO [commented](#): "As scientists, we work to eliminate bias in science. But there has been historic bias in how birds are named, and who might have a bird named in their honor. Exclusionary naming conventions developed in the 1800s, clouded by racism and misogyny, don't work for us today, and the time has come for us to transform this process and redirect the focus to the birds, where it belongs".

North America has [lost nearly 3 billion birds](#) since 1970. Says Scarl, "To reverse these alarming bird population declines, we need as many people as possible to get excited about birds and unite to protect them."

Decisions to re-name or not to re-name already are generating controversy. What these decisions have in common, however, is that they were reached by a deliberative process, they rely on science, acknowledge that the field has not been welcoming to all, and, crucially, that the current crisis facing birds requires the engagement of *all* of us. We believe that people of good faith can come to different conclusions. We prefer to focus on the commonalities and the universal recognition that the existential problems require an "all-hands-on-deck" approach, and not one that focuses on divisiveness.

Thick-billed Longspur image: [John Carlson/USFWS](#)

In 2020, the McCown's Longspur was renamed the Thick-billed Longspur. The bird was originally named after John P. McCown, a Confederate general who also fought against native tribes.

Now Accepting Intern Applications



The Bird Center of Michigan is now accepting intern applications for the 2024 baby season!

In 2023, the Bird Center of Michigan operated safely throughout the season and admitted over 1700 songbirds. Our mission is to rehabilitate and release songbirds back into their natural habitat while also educating the public.

Full-time and part-time positions are available with a stipend. Must be 18 or older to apply. Prior experience with animals is preferred but not required.

Intern duties include but are not limited to feeding baby and adult songbirds, cleaning bird enclosures, administering medications and other treatments to injured birds, completing exams of birds on intake, answering phone calls, and accepting birds from the public.

Interning at the Bird Center of Michigan is a great opportunity where you will learn all aspects of songbird wildlife rehabilitation, including bird anatomy, proper housing and diets for various species, signs of illness in birds, parasitology, head injuries, and much more!

To apply, return the application linked below, along with your resume, to clinic@birdcentermi.org:

BCM Internship Application

Final day to apply is March 1st, 2024. Applicants are reviewed and interviewed on a rolling basis. For more information, check out the internships page on our website: <https://birdcentermi.org/internships/>.

From Hooked to Healed

This Canada Goose came into our care after a large fishing hook had been pierced through their bill. Discarded fishing equipment is extremely dangerous to wildlife – not just the hooks! Fishing line is a common cause of entanglement as well. When participating in sports like fishing, please be sure to properly dispose of any waste to not put any wildlife at risk.

The goose was brought to us after they were found unable to fly and because of what the rescuer thought was a possibly broken neck. It turned out that the weight and line of the fishing hook was wrapped tightly around their leg with the hook pierced through the beak, causing the goose to be in an awkward and permanently crouched position.

Thankfully, our dedicated staff was able to cut the line and get circulation back in the leg, and our friends at [Countryside Veterinary Clinic](#) were able to quickly get the goose in to remove the hook from their beak. We are very thankful to the rescuer and Countryside for being able to act quickly and help this brave goose.

After a full course of antibiotics and other treatments, this feisty goose was more than ready to be released back into a large gathering of geese near their rescue location so they could resume their migration. After wandering from group to group, they were welcomed into a gaggle and began foraging together.

Sadly, this Canada Goose's story is not an isolated incident. Discarded fishing equipment remains a serious threat to wildlife. Your generous support will help us not only treat injured birds but also raise awareness about responsible fishing practices.



[Donate Here](#)

Tiny Patients, Tiny Tech

Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful donors, we've received funding to purchase our very first X-ray machine! This portable machine may look small, but it's a huge milestone that will significantly improve our staff's ability to diagnose and treat our feathered friends.

Clinic manager Marissa and rehabilitation supervisor Maria are taking radiographs of a Mourning Dove who came in due to a suspected hawk attack. While the inflammation in the wing was too severe to palpate any definite breaks, the radiograph taken will provide a much clearer view of the injury.



Snack Time!

Can you tell what Blue's favorite snack is? She can hold up to three pistachios in her mouth at once! These unsalted nuts provide great enrichment for her, not only as a tasty snack but also as a puzzle with food as a reward. She will often hold the nut under her foot while using her beak to hammer away the shell. Watch Blue carefully pick through her dish to find the perfect nut to crack!



Pesky Parasites

When birds have a seemingly unexplainable decline in health, intestinal parasites are often the hidden ailment behind it. An American Crow, who was brought to us last month after being found in a ditch, was unable to regain weight or their ability to fly, but did not have any visible physical injuries holding them back.

After running a fecal flotation test, we were able to find not just one but three different intestinal parasites. A parasitic infestation can produce all sorts of symptoms, and even lead to death when untreated. Coccidia, Capillaria, and Tapeworm oocytes are found scattered across this microscope slide.

Your donations empower our skilled staff to diagnose and treat hidden illnesses, giving hope to every feathered friend in our care. We appreciate your support!



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/>

We appreciate your support!



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Website: birdcentermi.org

Donate: birdcentermi.org/donate



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