

A Word from the Clinic

Greetings Bird Center
Supporters,

As the days grow longer and the air fills with the tunes of returning songbirds, we're busy with injured adult migrants and the beginning of baby season. Here at the Bird Center of Michigan, spring has brought a flurry of activity and exciting improvements to our facility.

You may have noticed some changes around the Center, and we're eager to tell you all about them. We've given our cleaning station a makeover, complete with a roof extension over the back patio area. Rain or shine, our dedicated staff and volunteers have a sheltered space to ensure our facility remains spick and span for our avian patients. Plus, we are in the process of adding water lines to our cleaning station and pole barn. With the addition of water hydrants and proper drainage, maintaining a clean and hygienic environment has never been simpler.



And speaking of environments, we're thrilled to share the latest enhancement to our Waterfowl Wonderland: in-ground ponds for our ducklings! These natural habitats provide a safe and enriching space for our young waterfowl to thrive and grow, while allowing a more natural water source than our previously above ground kiddie pools. In addition to the upgrades to our Waterfowl Wonderland flight pens, we are going to get running water in our pole barn, including a washer and dryer, this summer.

None of these improvements would be possible without the incredible support of our community. From volunteers lending a hand to donors opening their hearts, each of you plays a vital role in our mission to provide compassionate care, education, and advocacy for birds in need.

As we embark on this new season, we're filled with gratitude for your continued support. Together, we're making a real difference in the lives of our feathered friends.

Marissa Jardine
BCM Clinic Manager

Crow's Recovery Takes Flight



We've been nurturing this American Crow since November, when he arrived at the BCM unable to fly. As we proceeded with treatment, apprehensions arose over his slow recovery, prompting discussions on his prospects for reintroduction to the wild. Despite our uncertainties, we persisted with treatment.

After 130 days, many deworming medications, and probiotic supplements, the crow showed tremendous progress not only in improved balance but also in his flight. Although practice is still needed, his weight gain of over 30 grams in the past month signifies ongoing wing strengthening.

Your generous donations allow us to give birds like this crow a second chance. With your continued support, we can help birds return to the wild where they belong. Please consider donating today and help us continue our vital work.

[Donate Here](#)

A Different Kind of Call for Action

The ***Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act*** was signed into law on April 24, 2024 as [Public Law No: 118-51](#). If you're reading this newsletter, it's a safe bet that you see this as a positive development. Just consider its name. "Migratory Birds of

the Americas" indicates the measure is broad in scope. The terms "Conservation" and "Enhancements" imply that it will have a positive impact.

The law renews funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, a little-known [grant program administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service](#). Since 2002, the program has:

...provided more than \$89 million in grants to support 717 projects in 43 countries. These projects have positively affected more than 5 million acres of bird habitat and spurred partnerships on multiple levels contributing an additional \$346 million. The networks that have developed as a result of NMBCA funding have evolved into powerful conservation alliance.

There's reason for hope that our country's leaders can come together around the need to protect birds and the challenges of ensuring that migratory birds not only survive but thrive. The new law not only reauthorizes funding for the program through FY2028 (September 2029), but also increases the cap on the federal share of project costs. There was strong bi-partisan support for the bill, demonstrated by the fact it passed on a voice vote in both the House and Senate. It moved quickly, passing the House and the Senate, and was signed by the President, all within 15 days.

This article was meant to be a "call to action" message to urge passage of the bill. Instead, we ask you to call your two U.S. Senators and your U.S. Representative ([find their contact information here](#)) and thank them for passing this bill. And then spend some time just celebrating.

AT THE SECOND SESSION
*Began and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,
the third day of January, two thousand and twenty-four*

An Act

To amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 5(e)(1) of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6104(e)(1)) is amended by striking “25 percent” and inserting “33.3 percent”.

(b) COOPERATION.—Section 7 of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6106) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the implementation of subsection (b) by the Secretary, which shall include, if applicable, a description of the composition of the advisory group convened under paragraph (1) of that subsection.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6109(a)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2028”.

(d) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6103) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively.

(2) COOPERATION.—Section 7(b)(1) of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6106(b)(1)) is amended in the second sentence by adding a period at the end.

Attest:

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

New T-Shirt Designs

We're so excited to reveal not one, not two, but THREE new t-shirt designs now available in our Bonfire store! The Northern Flicker and Orchard Oriole designs were created by the partner of our rehab assistant, Annabelle, and the "It's a Good Day to Save Songbirds" design was created by our clinic manager, Marissa.

Check out our Baby Season Sale! For a limited time, enter the code **HATCHLING10** to save 10% on your order. Thank you for supporting our feathered friends!



Bird Center of Michigan | Official Merchandise | Bonfire

A percentage of your purchase from our Bonfire store will directly benefit the Bird Center of Michigan and the songbirds in our care.

[Shop Now](#)

Orphaned Doves Find Hope

It's baby season, and we have two precious new arrivals: Doves 107 and 108. Sadly, these tiny doves lost their mother to a hawk attack when they were just 1-3 days old. Look closely at their beaks - that tiny white dot is their "egg tooth," used to hatch from their shell. It will fall off soon, showing they've just joined the world.

At the Bird Center, they'll get the specialized care they need to survive. Every donation helps us provide vital food, warmth, and medical attention to orphaned chicks like Doves 107 and 108. Please consider donating today and give these vulnerable babies a fighting chance.



Bluebird Escapes Hot Spot

This poor Eastern Bluebird somehow found themselves inside a lit wood stove, leaving almost all of their feathers singed. Thankfully, the rescuer was able to launch into action and bring the bird to the BCM. On intake, we assessed for any severe burns; thankfully there were minimal wounds and little-to-no respiratory distress. While it may be common in areas with wildfires, it's uncommon for us to receive burn patients into our care.

After several days of treatment, any burns sustained from the accident have healed, but it may be a long while before this beautiful bird is able to get back to the wild. With such severe feather damage, they will either need to wait until a full molt, or they will need to go through the process of feather imping. Learn more about this ancient art of feather mending at <https://www.audubon.org/news/an-introduction-imping-ancient-art-feather-mending>.



Finch Eye Syndrome on the Rise

We currently have two patients in care with symptoms of Finch Eye Syndrome (FES), a

conjunctivitis caused in finches by a highly contagious mycoplasma bacterium. Typically only found in finch populations during the fall and winter months, we've been seeing increasing numbers of cases throughout the year, including in baby birds this past summer season.

To help prevent the spread of this highly contagious - and deadly if untreated - disease, please make sure to clean your bird feeders regularly with a **one-part bleach, ten-part water** solution throughout the year. With more of our birds returning from their overwintering areas in the south, there will be increased traffic at feeders and more opportunities for FES and other diseases to spread.

Help slow the spread of avian disease by cleaning your feeders every two weeks:



- 1) Empty and dismantle your feeder.
- 2) Scrub with gentle soap and warm water, then rinse.
- 3) Soak feeder in 1:10 bleach solution for 10 minutes.
- 4) Rinse and let dry completely, then refill!

bc
birdcentermi.org

A Dove's Second Chance

This adult Mourning Dove was brought to the Bird Center with extensive wounds to her back and sides due to a suspected hawk attack. On intake, the dove was immediately triaged and treated with pain medications and oxygen therapy. When her condition stabilized and the pain meds began to take effect, staff performed a thorough examination and flushing of her wounds. As animal-caught wounds tend to lead to infection, the first step in prevention is to flush the wounds thoroughly and make sure they are free of debris. Once the wounds were thoroughly cleaned, we were able to see that one of the two skin tears was down to the muscle.

Over the course of three weeks with pain meds, antibiotics, and routine wound cleaning and management, we were able to get her wounds healed up wonderfully! We now wait for the feathers to return, as she is quite bald in



certain areas. In the meantime, this brave dove is in a heated outdoor flight cage with others who need feather regrowth for similar injuries. Once the feathers are fully grown in, she'll be released back into the wild!



To help us rehabilitate and return injured songbirds like this Mourning Dove back into the wild, please consider donating toward their care.

[Donate Here](#)

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/>



Before you go...

We're thrilled to announce that Bird Center of Michigan is now on TikTok!

Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at our daily rescues, rehabilitation efforts, and heartwarming success stories. From adorable baby birds to injured adults, our TikTok page will showcase the incredible work our team does to care for Michigan's precious birds.

Give us a follow and share our page with your friends to spread the word about our mission to protect and rehabilitate birds in need. Together, let's make a difference for our feathered friends!

Follow us on TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@birdcentermi>



We appreciate your support!

Mailing Address: PO Box 3718 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Clinic Location: 7800 Platt Road • Saline, MI 48176

Phone: 734.761.9640

Website: birdcentermi.org

Donate: birdcentermi.org/donate



Bird Center of Michigan | P.O. Box 3718 | Ann Arbor, MI 48106 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!