
BIRD NOTES

AVIAN WILDLIFE CENTER, a New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation is dedicated to the conservation of native bird species through public education, field research, and wildlife rehabilitation.



2019 brought more birds to our door than any previous year in our 29 years of operation. We admitted 735 birds. The majority of these were received from May through August. Nesting season is the peak time for our rehabilitation work and the most labor intensive. We may be feeding as many as 200 nestlings every hour during the day in addition to caring for injured adults. We do this with the help of interns and volunteers and appreciate the people that dedicate their time to help with the care.

The young barred owl pictured above was found on the ground. Our foster barred owls raised the nestling, so it could be returned to the wild.

Advice Line for the Public The number of calls received far outnumber the birds actually brought to the Avian Wildlife Center. We often field questions from other states and sometimes other countries. We estimate we answered over 6,000 wildlife questions in 2019. Many times we can offer advice on how to resolve a problem with wildlife, so the animal does not need to go to

**735 birds
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a rehabilitator. Do not hesitate to call with any wildlife related question.

Presentations Increasing awareness of our natural world is a priority. In 2019 we presented 114 programs reaching over 5,700 people. Sharing the stories of our resident birds and giving everyone an eye to eye look at a great horned owl or watching the antics of a blue jay looking for a tasty treat helps people better relate to birds they have only seen from a distance and creates a memorable experience.



Eastern Kingbird

We were honored in 2019 with the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey Women & Wildlife Education Award and the D.A.R. Conservation Award for outstanding achievement in environmental awareness.

Research Part of the mission of the Avian Wildlife Center is to support projects that further our understanding of birds. We work with volunteers and coordinate with government and private, non-profit agencies to study raptor migration in New Jersey, record data on nesting birds, observe wintering eagle populations, and detect lead toxicity in birds.



Releasing banded red-tailed hawk to learn more about migration

Facility Updates Through generous donations and support from businesses we have been able to advance the care offered at our rehabilitation facility. Our [incubator](#) has saved the lives of several dozen birds that were brought still in the egg. Through the Baby Warm website and fundraising by the Warm Hearts Warm Lives 4-H club we were able to purchase two new [intensive care units](#). With a generous donation we purchased a Lead Analyzer to test birds for the toxin. Wantage Veterinary

Hospital introduced a new treatment for injuries using magnetism and contacted Respond Systems on our behalf. The company donated a [PEMF Therapy Bed](#) to relieve pain and treat trauma in the birds.



Katie Besbris and E. Screech Owl

Volunteers Our work is accomplished with dedicated volunteers. Thanks to the people that helped with the endless cleaning, keeping birds fed, rescuing injured birds, and assisting with programs: Katie Besbris, Ruth Campo, Allison Orsi, Jayson Hajek, Darby Kolb, Liz Muller, Dan Ramos, William Smisko, Judith Steffener, Jason Vidal, and our 2019 intern Brooke Goodman. We rely on them to keep everything working.

Volunteers and Donors are vital to the Avian Wildlife Center's Work.

BIRD STORIES

When you are a wildlife rehabilitator, boredom is not part of your vocabulary. Every year brings interesting cases and new situations. A call came in after midnight during last summer. It was a crew member of a tugboat in the New York harbor. He reported a falcon had landed on the deck and had remained perched on the edge for two hours. The photo sent confirmed it was a young peregrine falcon, still showing down feathers on its head. It had probably dropped down from a nest on one of the bridges. To make things more complicated the tugboat was heading to South Carolina in a few hours. I had to talk the man through the procedure of capturing this bird while being careful not to frighten it overboard into the water. We contacted the Coast Guard to help with transporting, a box was readied to hold the falcon, and I waited on the phone while he attempted the capture. As he approached the bird, the peregrine took flight, circled around the boat twice and took off into the night.



Window Collisions

One of the most common reasons we get calls about an injured bird is that it hit a window. We always advise people to put the bird in a covered box and give it an hour or two to recover. If they cannot fly out of the box after that amount of time, then a rehabilitator needs to see the bird.

There are ways to avoid this problem. Putting something on the outside of the window can be effective. The Avian Wildlife Center is selling WindowAlert stickers and CollidEscape Tapes this year as part of our Fundraiser.



WindowAlert pack of 4 stickers sells for \$6.50.

CollidEscape 3/4" X 40 foot roll of clear or white tape sells for \$20.00



Thank You to the Businesses and People that Support our Work

Our work is accomplished through the contributions of individuals and businesses. The Avian Wildlife Center is licensed by the state and federal government, but does not receive any funding from the government. Support comes through donations.

We want to thank Dr. Karen Bullock and her staff at **Wantage Veterinary Hospital** for providing the excellent medical support needed to treat the birds in our care. Thanks to **Brodhecker Farm** for helping us with the sunflower seed fundraiser every year. Thank you to **Farmside Supplies** for donating food and **Sussex Rural Electric** for their donation.



Skylands Dulcimer String Band and Lori Space Day provided the entertainment for our fall fundraiser. Many people came to enjoy the music, comedy, and support the Avian Wildlife Center. A special thank you to Donna Traylor who organized the event for us and Crystal Springs Nature Club members who volunteered that day.

Thank you to all of you who have donated generously and provided the funds to keep the birds fed, treated, and housed at the Avian Wildlife Center in 2019. You helped save hundreds of lives with your gifts.

Plans for the Future

We are planning a much needed expansion to accommodate the growing number of patients. We have started a fund to construct a barn to house our patients and create more space for volunteers to help. Every nestling season our numbers swell to over 200 hundred birds in-house that need intensive care.

Ways to Help

Create a safe and healthy environment in your yard for you and the birds. Donations are always welcome.

