



Fall Newsletter

CALGARY WILDLIFE



Message From The Executive Director

As the seasons change, I want to take a moment to reflect on the whirlwind of activity we experienced this summer at Calgary Wildlife. Between June and August, 1,233 patients came through our doors—an incredible demonstration of the demand for wildlife rehabilitation in our community. June 11th marked our busiest day, with 35 patients arriving for treatment in just 24 hours.

A particularly memorable day was August 6th, following the devastating hailstorm. We admitted 15 different species that day, all suffering from trauma-related injuries caused by the storm. Our patients ranged from a Great Blue Heron and a Great Horned Owl to Swainson's Hawks and even a Scaup. This day was a stark reminder of the unpredictable challenges wildlife face and why our work is so vital.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible dedication of our staff and volunteers. The hard work and tireless efforts of our team over the past three months ensured that every patient received the care they needed. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our passionate team for their commitment to Calgary Wildlife and the animals we serve.

As we transition into fall, we look forward to continuing our work and facing whatever challenges come our way, knowing we have an incredible team supporting us.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Beki Hunt
Executive Director





New Strategic Plan Complete

After nearly a year of collaboration with our Board of Directors, leadership team, and our partners at [Habitus Collective](#), and with generous support from the Calgary Foundation, we are excited to be finished our newest strategic plan, which will guide us through to 2030!

As part of this process, we have also updated and revitalized our [mission, vision and core pillars](#).

Our New Mission:

Keeping communities wild through education and expert, compassionate care for injured and orphaned wildlife.

Our New Vision:

Human and wildlife coexistence.

Our New Pillars:

Care, Educate and Connect.
([view the detailed pillars here](#)).

New Wildlife Admission Trailer

Our newest addition, the wildlife admission trailer, is finally finished with a gorgeous deck and brand new coat of paint to match the others.

Shout out to [Tim at Home Improvement Services](#) for building us the deck and [Eddie at Mars Pontiac](#) for donating the paint to us!

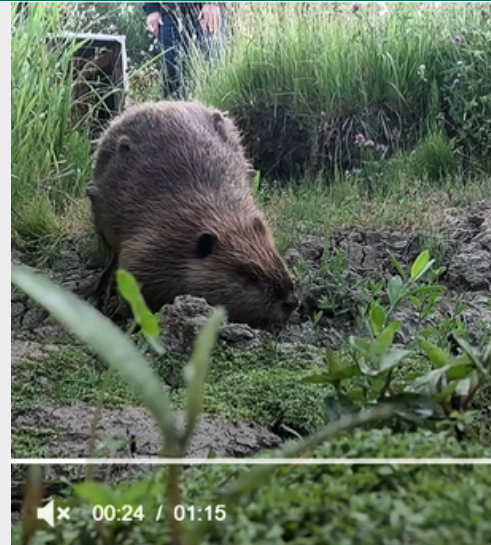
TSB
HOME IMPROVEMENT
SERVICES



Beaver Release

In July, we were thrilled to find the perfect release site for one of our long-term patients at **Beaver Mines**, located 200 km south of Calgary. The landowner was keen to have beavers reintroduced to the area to help restore water tables, mitigate drought, and protect against wildfires.

During our most recent visit, we were delighted to see that our beaver patient had been, quite literally, busy as a beaver, diligently building up her den in preparation for winter! [See more here.](#)



Corporate Volunteers for the Win

We've had a busy season with corporate volunteers this year. We are so fortunate to have so many companies wanting to give back and help out. Over the past 3 months we've had the teams at [Amazon](#), [Aerotek](#) and [Modern Niagara](#) come out to help with a variety of projects, from gardening, fall cleanups, to building.

Special shout out to the **Modern Niagara** team who braved awfully cold and wet weather to help us finish our outdoor projects!



Exciting Visitors

Over the past few months, we have been delighted to welcome **Calgary-Foothills MLA Ellingson** and **Ward 2 Councillor Wyness** for visits to our facility. During their time with us, they were able to witness firsthand the critical work we do at Calgary Wildlife to protect and rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife. Their interest and support mean a great deal to us, and we are grateful for their recognition of the value of wildlife conservation in our community.

Both **MLA Ellingson** and **Councillor Wyness** expressed their strong support for our mission, and we are excited about the potential collaborations that could further enhance our efforts to educate the public and provide expert, compassionate care to the wildlife that call Calgary home.

Their involvement underscores the importance of building partnerships with local leaders to ensure we can continue this vital work well into the future.



New Education Program Alert!

We're excited to announce our newest education program called **The Marvelous Marmot**, featuring our education ambassador, Marmalade the Marmot.

This program is timed around Marmalade's hibernation schedule so she's already booked up for 2024.

Check out [next year's schedule here](#).

For those who missed the chance to book this time around, we've got something special for you. **We're offering 50% off our Brainy Birds Wild Wise program** when you book another Wild Wise program at the regular price.

Take advantage of this great deal and learn [more here](#).



Patient News - Northern Saw-whet Owl

Arrived April 5, 2024

Released September 1, 2024

Total Days in Care: 149

This little **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was brought into care after a concerned citizen spotted them huddled near a house one evening. By the next morning, the owl was partially buried in snow and appeared unusually quiet, making it easy to contain—a behavior not typical of these feisty little raptors. Despite their small stature, Northern Saw-whet Owls are known for their fierce nature, often clacking their beaks and striking with their talons when threatened.

Upon intake, our team suspected the owl had suffered a window strike, given its dazed demeanor, uneven pupils, and difficulty staying upright without support. Following standard protocol for birds of prey, the owl was placed in isolation in a small kennel equipped with a supportive nest. We administered warmed fluids and prescribed pain medication to address potential eye trauma, and so began the road to recovery.

Initially, the owl refused to self-feed. Although they would swallow food placed in their mouth, they made no effort to pick it up on their own. Over time, they gained the strength to sit upright and perch on branches in their kennel. Their eye issue resolved after treatment, but the owl still showed no interest in feeding independently and struggled to fly. Though capable of flapping, it would inevitably end up on the ground.

Radiographs revealed no skeletal damage to the wing, though it sagged slightly when the owl perched. A subtle tremor also appeared during rest following failed flight attempts, prompting our veterinarian to extend the anti-inflammatory medication. Once the owl completed its quarantine, it was moved to a small outdoor enclosure in hopes that fresh air and space might encourage self-feeding and flight practice.

After a few days outdoors, the owl began feeding independently and maintaining weight, but flight remained a challenge. Despite these difficulties, the owl adapted well to its new surroundings and even managed to reach the highest perches when it was time for weighing!

As their flight skills began to improve, the owl was moved to a larger enclosure filled with various perches for short flights. Slowly but surely, their flying ability advanced—they began silently gliding from perch to perch, practicing camouflage and evasion. Eventually, their flight maneuverability became excellent, and the team tested their hunting abilities, which proved to be exceptional as well. Though the occasional wing droop persisted, the owl demonstrated that it could thrive in the wild.

After 149 days in our care, this resilient little owl was ready to return home. At dusk, it was released back into the wild at the location where it had been found. Without hesitation, it took off into the night and never looked back!



Calgary Fall Bird Migrations

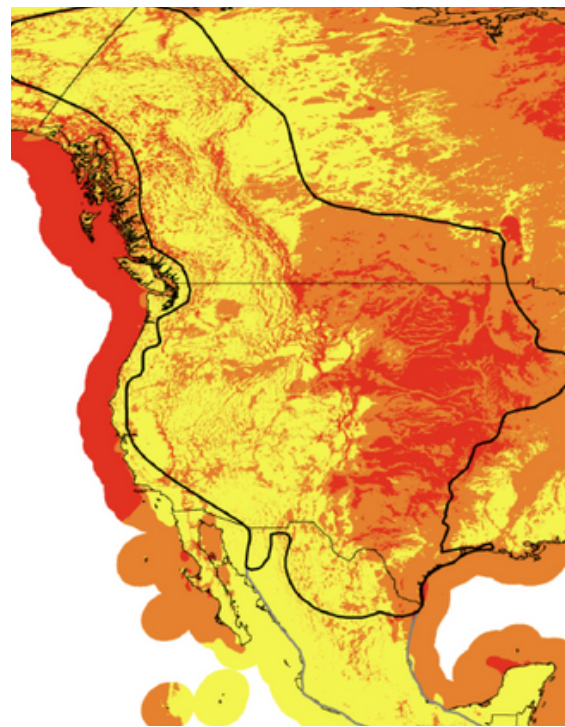
The air chills, and the warbling calls of songbirds disappear. Telephone poles and fenceposts, once common perches for raptors, sit empty. Where have these birds gone? And why? Let's talk about bird migration!

Many bird species in Calgary escape the harsh winter by heading south. Alberta is a major hub for migrating birds, with two significant flyways: the Pacific Flyway and the Central Flyway. During the migratory season, hundreds of species and millions of birds pass through Alberta. In the fall, most of this migration occurs from August to October. Some birds, like the **Swainson's Hawk**, travel an astounding 4,800 kilometers! But what drives them to embark on such epic journeys, and how do they manage to navigate?

For many birds, migration is all about survival. Their diets range from seeds, fruit, and nectar to insects, small mammals, amphibians, and plants—resources that become scarce in the winter. This lack of food is a primary reason birds migrate.

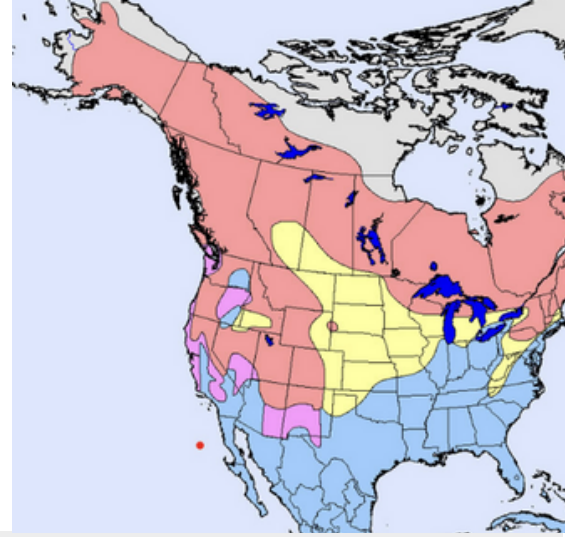
Different birds have unique migration styles. Large raptors, like the Swainson's Hawk with its impressive 46-54 cm wingspan, soar gracefully through the skies, while smaller birds, like the **Yellow-rumped Warbler** with a wingspan of 18-23 cm, flap their way through migration. Raptors such as the Swainson's Hawk take advantage of thermals—rising air currents created by the sun—to gain altitude during the day, making them daytime migrants. On the other hand, flapping birds like the Yellow-rumped Warbler often migrate at night, likely to avoid predators. **Reducing artificial lighting at night** also **helps** these nocturnal migrants avoid building collisions, a common hazard for birds. **Window treatments can further prevent strikes**, as birds often mistake reflections of trees or the sky for real space. Treatments that break up these reflections create safer flight paths!

Fall migration also brings new faces—or feathers—to the Calgary area. Birds from the North following the flyways often stop over in or near Calgary. **Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**, **Weaselhead Flats Park**, and **Fish Creek Park** provide critical rest stops for these travelers. Protecting our waterways and green spaces is essential for supporting migrating birds on their long journeys.



But how do birds navigate such complex migrations, sometimes even in the dark? Research suggests they use a combination of cues: orienting themselves by the sun or stars, using landmarks, or even sensing the Earth's magnetic field through specialized cells in their eyes.

While many birds migrate south for the winter, others migrate to Calgary! Birds like the Snowy Owl travel from the far north to spend their winter here. So, while some species leave, others make Calgary their seasonal home.



Wildlife Challenge: Who Migrates?



Migration is one way to adapt to the challenges of winter conditions. Some animals travel enormous distances to find suitable habitat during the winter! See if you can identify the species who migrate:



1. Great Horned Owl



5. Snowy Owl



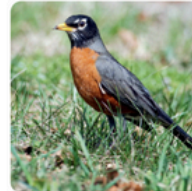
9. Silver-haired Bat



2. Canada Goose



6. Big Brown Bat



10. American Robin



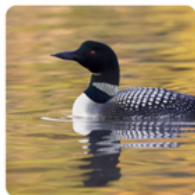
3. Black-billed Magpie



7. Mountain Bluebird



11. Prairie Hare



4. The Common Loon



8. Ruby-throated Hummingbird



12. Osprey

Found injured or orphaned wildlife? Please call Calgary Wildlife at 403-214-1312.

*some migrate, but some stay

Answers: 1.No 2.Yes* 3.No 4.Yes 5.Yes 6.No 7.No 8.Yes 9.Yes 10.Yes 11.No 12.Yes

**Take the
Wildlife
Challenge:
Who Migrates?**

**A fun activity
for the whole
family!**

**The next time
you are
outdoors, see
how many
migrating
animals you
can spot.**

Volunteer Spotlight: Jill

Q & A with Jill

How long have you been with Calgary Wildlife?

I started at Calgary Wildlife in February 2024.

What roles have you had as a volunteer?

I am on the clinic, education and events teams, but most of my hours have been with the Education team, working specifically with the fabulous Marmalade, our newest Education Ambassador.

In your opinion, what is the most important work that Calgary Wildlife does?

I firmly believe that all the work that Calgary Wildlife does is incredibly important. Education helps build awareness, prevents well-intentioned kidnappings of baby wildlife, and helps build a new generation of wildlife lovers. Rescue, rehabilitation and release are integral to the wildlife you assist as well as the environmental and societal blueprints of our community.

What is your favorite animal and why?

My two favorites are both Canadian wild animals, the sea otter and the polar bear. I've loved all animals since childhood and very early on I became concerned about animal welfare and endangered species. Both came to my attention in elementary school; and I have been fascinated by both their beauty and importance as keystone species to their ecosystems. If I had to pick from the wildlife in Alberta I'd say the elusive Pika and the Hoary Marmot.

Do you have an anecdote about a wild animal encounter that really moved you?

I have taken trips to see both the sea otters and the polar bears in the wild; and seeing both of them in their natural environments were both bucket list adventures for me. My most incredible encounter, however, was one that was not planned. While on holidays on the island of Maui my wife and I were just getting set up in our



beach spot for the day when one of our friends pointed out to the ocean and asked "are those sharks?". We quickly dropped all our belongings and dove out to sea to spend over 45 minutes swimming with a huge pod of spinner dolphins. They were playing in the waves and loved swimming under us and leaping above us over and over again. It was incredible and something I was so blessed to experience!

What has been the biggest surprise about volunteering with Calgary Wildlife?

When I started volunteering I was just about to retire from a 34 year career as a speech-language pathologist working with children. I had been planning to volunteer with the organization for several years and saw it as moving from one passion to another. My biggest surprise was that Marmalade the marmot in residence was just starting her new adventure as an education ambassador and I would be one of the lucky volunteers working with her and Calgary Wildlife's amazing Education Coordinator, Deborah Edgett. This has been an absolute dream come true for me!

If you could encourage someone else to volunteer at Calgary Wildlife, what would you say?

I would say if you have a passion for animals and time to dedicate to volunteering to take a look at Calgary Wildlife. It is an incredible organization with so many caring and dedicated staff to work with. There are many volunteer roles to choose from, all of them necessary for the vital work Calgary Wildlife does on a daily basis.

Upcoming Events



Annual Holiday Campaign - Launching Soon!

We are excitedly preparing our annual year-end fundraising campaign and can't wait to reveal what we have planned! Stay tuned for some EXCITING new opportunities to engage and support wildlife rehabilitation in southern Alberta. From a massive 50/50 raffle to an incredible silent auction featuring items that will astonish you, there's much to look forward to! Keep an eye on your inbox this November for all the details on how you can make a significant difference!

Donor Spotlight



Interview With Cotton Carrier

Tell us a bit about Cotton Carrier.

[Cotton Carrier is a family run business based out of North Vancouver B.C. Canada.](#)

We produce and sell technical camera carrying systems for all photographers. The name Cotton, is the family name meaning at-cotum, meaning cottages, people living around lakes, rivers, and forests.

As avid outdoors people and photographers ourselves we invented systems to suite our own needs, thus Cotton Carrier was born.

Why did you decide to join the 1% For The Planet campaign?

We realized as a business in the 21st century that we all have to do our part to protect the environment. Joining 1% for the planet was the next obvious step to assure that the wonders of the natural world are protected for everyone to enjoy. Donating part of our revenue each month is our way of giving back with the resources we have to offer

What made you choose to donate to Calgary Wildlife?

As a Canadian business we look within our nation to find partners doing essential work protecting natural environments. Calgary Wildlife was a perfect choice as their direct action style of protecting the environment

is something we love to see and support.

With the wilderness at our doorsteps here in Canada, we know all too well that sometimes the meeting of metropolitan areas and wild environments can be challenging, having resources to mitigate these challenges is an essential service.

Any tips or advice for other for profit companies interested in the 1% for the planet campaign?

Some advice would be: if you feel like giving back with your business and build further affinity with your business, employees, community and planet then go for it!

It may seem daunting but with time the donations become a normal part of your finances. It only provides further pride in maintaining an ethical brand and business. Over the years the amount adds up, and everyone doing their part is essential in the process.



COTTON

Ways to Help

Sign Up As A Monthly Donor and Join The Wild Hearts Club!

Become a vital part of wildlife rehabilitation by joining our community of monthly donors! Your consistent support ensures that injured and orphaned animals receive expert care, rehabilitation, and a second chance at life. With your monthly gift, you'll not only help us plan ahead and provide lifesaving care year-round, but you'll also become a Wild Hearts Club member and will receive quarterly messages just for you- including special behind the scenes videos and member discounts!

Every month, you'll be making a lasting impact on the wild animals who need it most. **Sign up today and be a hero for wildlife!**



1% For The Planet

Are you a for profit business that cares about giving back? Then 1% For The Planet is for you! Not only will you be donating to wildlife rehabilitation and urban wildlife coexistence education programs, you'll be joining a network of other like minded businesses.

A few more reasons to consider it:

- **23% increase in consumer cart completion** when engaging consumers with 1% for the Planet membership at checkout
- **17% increase in employee retention** since joining 1% for the Planet and announcing membership internally
- **110% increase in social media engagement** since announcing 1% for the Planet membership publicly.

[Learn more here](#)



Donate your bottles, electronics, and old clothing!

Got bottles and cans? Why not download the Skip The Depot app and have them come pick up right from your door? They will donate the refund back to us! Just make sure you choose Calgary Wildlife at checkout. Skip The Depot also accepts old clothes and electronics, saving them from the landfill!

[Donate with Skip the Depot to Calgary Wildlife](#)



Donate with
SkipTheDepot





Invite Calgary Wildlife to Speak in Your Community

Calgary Wildlife offers more than just education programs for schools and children's groups—we also provide an engaging **About Calgary Wildlife** presentation for audiences of all ages. This presentation covers our organization's history, the essential work we do, practical steps you can take to prevent urban wildlife injuries and reduce human-wildlife conflict, and real-life wildlife rehabilitation case studies. We wrap up each session with a hands-on experience, featuring fascinating biofacts like sharp talons, soft feathers, and even giant wings for an up-close look.

Book a presentation for your church group, community organization, or club today, and discover how you can make a difference for local wildlife! [Learn more here.](#)

Our Wish List

If you'd like to donate a product to us, or hold a fundraising event to purchase a more expensive item, take a look at some of the [items on our wishlist.](#) Please reach out to admin@calgarywildlife.org with questions.



Bleach

The cleaning never ends in wildlife rehab! Unscented please.



Printer Paper

8"x10" Printer Paper for all of our printing needs. We use this for patient documents, signage and more.

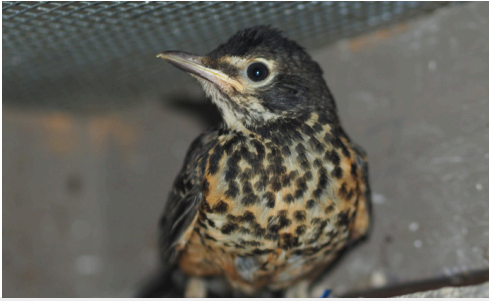
View them on our shopping list [here.](#)



Flat Sheets

Used for the inside and outside of our patient's cages and enclosures while in treatment. We always need more!

Patient Gallery



American Robin
20 Days in care



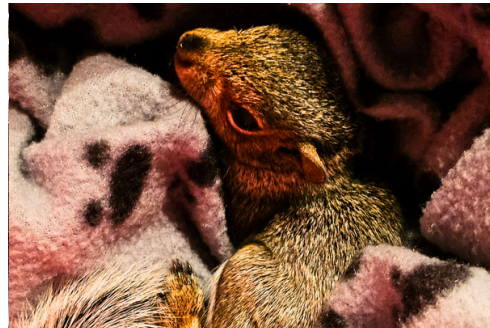
American Crow
32 days in care



Common Grackle
25 days in care



Cedar Waxwing
29 Days in care



Eastern Grey Squirrel
Currently in care



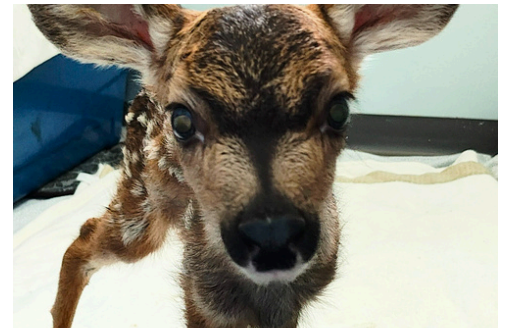
Great Horned Owl
14 Days in care



Least Weasel
13 Days in care



Little Brown Bat
18 Days in care



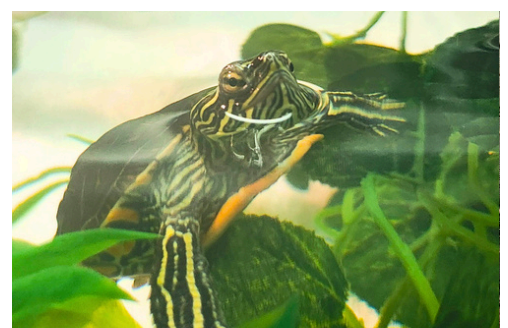
Mule Deer Fawn
Currently in care



Red Fox
19 days in care



Swainson's Hawk
46 Days in care



Western Painted Turtle
Currently in care

Special Thank You's

Our Donors

A special thank you to our Wild Hearts Club members for helping injured and orphaned wildlife every month. Thank you also to all of our one-time donors. It's because of your continued support we are able to treat and rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife, as well as deliver important education programs across the City to help prevent human-wildlife conflict. Interested in joining the Wild Hearts Club? [Learn more here.](#)

Our Volunteers

A giant thank you to all our fantastic volunteers! From our social media volunteers, to our pick up drivers, to our maintenance, wildlife clinic support, and education volunteers, because of you Calgary Wildlife is able to help more wildlife in need. We couldn't do what we do without your support.

Special Thanks To

Alberta Infrastructure, The City of Calgary, The Calgary Foundation, Al Gajdostik, All Things Jill, Ann Boerner, B. Stefanich Foundation, Benefaction, Brenda Brzak, Brian Cervi, Brian Lavergne, Blush Lane, Carole Peteherych, Calgary Costco Sarcee Trail NW, Clayton and Roxanne Sissons, Cotton Carrier Ltd, Dianne Leonhardt, Donald Sabo, Estate of Susan Anne Barnfield, Galvin Family Fund c/o Calgary Foundation, Government of Canada Canada Summer Jobs, Hillhurst School, Jack William Cates, Joe and Diana Horler John Bowlen Legacy Flow Through Fund 1 @ Calgary Foundation, Jonathan and Amy Hak, Karen Zutter, Kimberly Verrier, Libby Alger, Lowry Family Fund via Calgary Foundation, M A Stanfield, Mark Congram & Lorie Anne Woloschuk, Maryann Bredin, MEG Energy, Meghan Hockaday, New West Public Affairs, Nickle Family Foundation, Nielsen Family Wildlife Fund, Oliver Family Foundation, Olympia Charitable Foundation, Patricia Robertson, Patricia Rudneu, Perlette Fund, Philip Rosso, Robert & Barbara Shaunessy, Sheelagh Mercer and Henry Schultz, Shelly Anderson, Sponsor Energy, Susan E Beirsto, Susan Holt, Susan Wight, Taisa Ference, Tak Wong, Teine Energy Ltd., The Silk Road Spice Merchant, TOR WILLIAMS, Virginia Kelly, Wayne Truscott

and finally thank you to all our hard-working staff and board of directors!

For Your Viewing Pleasure



Check Out our Hungry Bat Video!

For your viewing pleasure: [Check out the video here](#)

