

# Wildlife Tracks

Connecting People and Wildlife Through Rehabilitation and Education



2014 Issue 2

## Wildlife In Need Center

W349 SI 480 S.Waterville Rd.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

VISIT US AT:

[www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org)

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WINC's Mission: EDUCATION

## Orphan or Not? by Leslie Kiehl



*Weaned juvenile Eastern Cottontail – measures 4"*

Infant animals can evoke a strong response from human beings. We tend to assume, when we see a young bird or rabbit by itself, that it is ill, injured or orphaned and in need of our assistance. Each spring and summer, we receive hundreds of infant mammals and birds brought in by well-meaning people who have uncovered nests of cottontails or found fledglings in the yard. People mistakenly believe that these “abandoned babies” need human attention, when in most instances they do not. Parent animals rarely abandon healthy offspring.

How can you distinguish between those animals who truly do need human intervention and those who should be left alone? What follows are a few helpful hints.

Before you scoop up that baby bird to help, take a few minutes to determine if it is a nestling or a fledgling. A nestling appears naked, has its eyes closed and is dependent on the parent. If you find one that is cold to the touch, warm it up by gently holding it in your hands, and replace in the nest. Mom will remove the replaced nestling if its body temperature is colder than other nestlings. (*Do not worry about human scent; birds have a poor sense of smell.*) A fledgling or brancher is a feathered, juvenile bird that has fledged

WINC's Mission: EDUCATION

## Orphan or Not? *(continued)*



### ***Fledgling American Robin kidnapped out of nest***

out of the nest and is just a few days away from being able to fly. Unless it appears obviously ill or injured, leave it alone. The parent will continue to care for it on the ground until it takes flight. Fledglings can be moved to a nearby bush or low branch to prevent injury.

Baby cottontails are on their own and independent from their mother at the tender age of 3-4 weeks and look about 4 inches long from nose to tail. If the nest does get disturbed, put the healthy bunnies back in the nest, cover with nesting materials or grass and monitor nest. Mom comes only at dawn and dusk to feed babies. Injured bunnies should be placed in a cardboard box and kept warm and quiet until transferred to the Center.

If you know that a parent animal is dead, clearly the baby animal(s) will require assistance in order to survive. Most baby wild animals need intense, time-consuming care. **DO NOT** give them milk. We use nutritionally designed formulas made specifically for wildlife. Milk used by humans or domestic pets can kill a wildlife baby.

Call the Wildlife In Need Center before you intervene or kidnap any wildlife. Your call allows us to get a better idea of the situation. We can help make it a safe re-nesting or rescue. You can help us save lives!

More information can be found on our website or contact us for a presentation of our educational program "Call Before You Kidnap". This public awareness program is designed to give the public more knowledge about what to do when you find injured or orphaned wildlife.

"Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace."

Albert Schweitzer

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## WHAT'S THE BUZZ

### development

#### Remembering Special People

During the past year, donors have made gifts to WINC in memory of special people in their lives. This issue of WILDLIFE TRACKS recognizes these very special gifts.

#### **In memory of Betty Branna**

Todd Kroscher

#### **In memory of Esther Bruce**

Robert and Cheryl Lurvey

#### **In memory of Arlene Gazvoda**

John Gazvoda

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Dennis and Janet Prox  
Margaret Scandura Engdahl  
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Jim and Jill Simaras

#### **In memory of Rosalind Kapusta**

Jacqueline Lyons  
Harry and Barbara Muir  
Charles and Debra Myrhum  
Jim and Brenda Peterson  
Dr. Tom and Mary Roberts  
Al and Joan Rudnitzki  
Greg and Holly Schlenvogt  
Daniel and Patricia Stotmeister  
Douglas and Lynn Wilde

#### **In memory of Roxanne Layman**

Shelley Adrian

#### **In memory of John W. Schneider**

Scott and Jane Shevey  
Marta and John Walejewski

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Award Winning WINC by joan RUDNITZKI



We are pleased to announce that WINC has been the recipient of two awards this year. The book that we published last year, "Connecting With Wisconsin Wildlife", has received a prestigious Preferred Choice Award in the Children's Category from Creative Child Magazine. This magazine is a national bi-monthly publication that provides parents with the latest information on how to nurture children's creativity. We owe special thanks to our authors, Rebecca Seymour and Rebecca Mattano, for their

hours of dedication and commitment to making the book such a success. The authors have been joining our Education Coordinator, Leslie Kiehl, with Dakota at book signings to discuss the book and how it relates to WINC's education programs. During its development process, the book was evaluated by area teachers who gave the book high ratings for its classroom value.

In addition to receiving the book award, we are also very proud to announce that we have been the recipient of the 2014 Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association's (WLCA) Day of Service. WLCA is dedicated to promoting professional, responsible landscaping and giving back to the community. Over a dozen WLCA members spent April 22nd, Earth Day, at the Center. The result of their efforts was the construction of an "Education Station", an outdoor classroom that will be used for environmental presentations by the Wildlife In Need Center and the UW Field Station staff.

Milwaukee chapter WLCA president Dean Pipito is a long time supporter of WINC and feels that the relationship between the WLCA and WINC is a perfect partnership. Volunteers and members of the local WLCA chapter include: Damion Draeger (*Aquatica*), Bill Trapp (*Plant Transplant*), Sam Adams (*Reinders*), Greg Crouse (*Brick Yard*), Todd Buran (*Aquatica*), Dean Pipito (*Aquatica*), Marlin Johnson (*UWW*), Dr. Tom Roberts (*WINC*), Crawford Tree Service personnel, Brad Mayer (*Mayer Landscapes*), Dan Sengpiel (*Mayer Landscapes*), and Tom Ball (*Ground Affects Landscaping*).

The finished project is a naturally landscaped Unilock patio approximately 400 square feet in size with seating constructed using field stone from the site and native trees including ironwood and muscle wood to provide shade and bird habitat. All the material used to construct the patio has been donated by WLCA members including *Oconomowoc Landscape Supply, Aquatica, The Brickyard, Reinders, Unilock, Johnson's Nursery, Plant Transplant (Bill Trapp), and Radtkes (George Radtke)*.

Thanks so much for all your support!

*Joan Rudnitzki*

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide wildlife rehabilitation to Wisconsin wildlife with the intent to release back to the native habitat, conduct research designed to further the positive impact of rehabilitation, and provide quality community education programs and services.

WINC's Mission: ANIMAL CARE

## A Patriotic Rescue by mandy FEAVEL

**O**n the morning of Friday, July 4th, 2014, we got a call that there was a Bald Eagle down in a field in Ixonia. I couldn't imagine passing up that kind of rescue, especially on July 4th.

Once we got to the field I saw that the young, two-year-old Bald Eagle was not moving much and she did not try to run or fly as I approached. We found out later that she had flown into a neighboring farmer's open manure pit and her feathers became so matted and dirty that she couldn't fly – a very similar situation to what happens to birds during an oil spill.

We took the Bald Eagle to our vet Dr. Mueller at Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital and Exotic Care to get full radiographs and blood work done.

*On the day of the release Mandy, Animal Care Manager, posed for a picture before sending the eagle back into the skies.*



*After several days of preening, post-bath, the Eagle took her first flight in our flight enclosure.*



*Bald Eagle in flight just after being released.*

## WINC's Mission: ANIMAL CARE

### **Patriotic Rescue** *(continued)*

Fortunately, we discovered the eagle had no serious injuries; she just needed a really good bath. Longtime center volunteers Lynn Rice and Becca Richards joined animal care staff, Jen Brei and I, in the daunting task of giving the Bald Eagle a Dawn bath.

We wrapped the bird's talons to protect us and covered her head for her safety to prevent stress. We put her in the first tub of water with Dawn soap and began to scrub her feathers. We had two other tubs of water ready for the rinsing process. Rinsing off the soap can be just as, if not more important than, the washing itself. Leaving soap behind can damage the feathers. The whole bath took about 20-30 minutes, which was followed by a thorough towel drying. With wet, non-waterproof feathers, birds cannot thermo-regulate properly. In order for her feathers to be in good, clean condition she needed to preen them into place. We put a heat lamp in her enclosure to encourage preening. In just a couple of days, she no longer had matted dirty feathers and was able to fly in our flight enclosure. Once she was back to flying, we arranged her release to prevent further stress in captivity.

We released her close to where she was found along the Rock River in Ixonia. The release went beautifully as she took flight once again.



*This close up of the Bald Eagle was taken the day before she was released, showing her now clean feathers.*

## **VISION STATEMENT**

It is the vision of the Wildlife In Need Center to become a nationally recognized Wildlife Rehabilitation Center that serves as a hub for other satellite facilities and is financially stable. WINC will work in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha and the University of Wisconsin Colleges and Extensions to be identified as the number one resource in the community that promotes an ethic of care and respect for the natural world.

## WINC's Mission: RESEARCH

### **Healthy Swallows**

by **mandy FEAVEL**

In the past, our orphaned Swallows had developed an eye infection from an unknown cause. With all of our swallows staying pretty healthy these last two summers we have not had to do any testing as we reported in our previous newsletters. From previous years of testing, we discovered their diet may have had the biggest affect on the cause of the infection. After some slight changes in the Swallows diet, we have seen a big improvement in their overall condition. Increasing their Vitamin A intake and getting them into outdoor enclosures to soak up Vitamin D sooner seems to have really helped. We hope our adjustments will continue to work for the health of the swallows.

### **Older than 18 and Interested in Volunteering at our Center?**

Although our baby bird feeding season is coming to a close, we are always looking for adult volunteers in both our animal care and office departments. Volunteer shifts are once a week and usually last about four hours. To learn more about volunteering at WINC, sign up for a volunteer orientation. Orientations occur monthly, and all are held at the Wildlife In Need Center.

#### **UPCOMING DATES ARE:**

**Monday, September 29**  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 28**  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Call (262) 965-3090 to sign up for an orientation today!



## The Dakota Society Breakfast

**Saturday, November 8, 2014**

**10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

10:00 - 10:30 a.m., *Coffee and breakfast*

10:30 - 11:15 a.m., *Program with an appearance by Dakota*

11:15 - 11:30 a.m., *Q&A and more hospitality*

Please join us for a continental breakfast to learn about providing for your pets should you pass away and leave them behind. Attorney Mark Rogers will give a short presentation about including provisions in your will to provide for the care of your pet when you are no longer able to do so. Dakota will make a short appearance and a staff member will explain how to become a member of the Dakota Society. The Dakota Society was formed last fall to recognize and thank those donors who, during their life-times, remember WINC in their will or with some other type of legacy gift. Some of the most common gifts of this type are bequests (being remembered in someone's will) or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. This program is free but seating is limited. Please RSVP to Joan at 262-965-3090 x104 or [jrudnitzki@helpingwildlife.org](mailto:jrudnitzki@helpingwildlife.org).



## DAPHNE'S DISPATCH

### Internship Component of WINC's Educational Mission

Wildlife In Need Center provides internships to individuals looking to fulfill their college internship requirements or wishing to expand their classroom knowledge to include hands-on experience. Facilities offering opportunities to work with native Wisconsin wildlife are limited, so WINC internships are sought after opportunities. Full-time Animal Care Internships are offered in summer. We offer more opportunities including part-time Animal Care, Marketing, and Education Internships year-round. With prior notice, internships can be tailored to fulfill course credit or research projects.

This great group of college interns has been learning about rehabilitating Wisconsin wildlife.

- Emily Calbaum – *UW-Madison - Animal Sciences*
- Sarah Gorgol – *Carroll University - Animal Behavior*
- Emma Johnson – *University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana - Veterinary School*
- Allison Huebner – *UW-Green Bay - Biology*
- Sam Kasprzak – *Alverno College - Biology Pre-Vet focus*
- Alex Lemmer – *Carthage College - Environmental Science*
- Molly Mertens – *UW-Oshkosh - Biology*
- Mitch Ruiz – *Carroll University - Biology & Psychology with an emphasis on Animal Behavior*
- Marcus Schmidt – *Carroll University - Accounting*

The interns said crows, raccoons, flying and gray squirrels, and raptors have been their favorite patients to work with this summer. Personal learning experiences mentioned include handling techniques for the safety of the patient and handler, how to gavage (insert and feed via a stomach tube), and turtle husbandry. Natural history information included learning that diurnal bird metabolisms slow in the dark. The interns have seen first-hand to "Call Before You Kidnap" because many wild babies people find are being cared for by parents and should be left alone. Interns get hands-on experience learning wildlife rehabilitation and WINC gets a lot of helping hands during our busy summer season - a great partnership to the benefit of the animals.



**Sam and Emily feeding infant Eastern Gray Squirrels in our mammal nursery.**



**Sam and Alex treating a wound on a Great Horned Owl**



**Marcus preparing a new enclosure for a Common Snapping Turtle**

## VOLUNTEERS

## Baby Birds + Summer Students = Great WINC Teamwork

by lisa ROWE

Wildlife In Need admits hundreds of hungry orphaned baby birds from May to September. Our baby bird feeding volunteers clean these babies, make replacement nests for them, prepare food, and feed the babies every 30 or 60 minutes while charting their progress. It takes a lot of time and patience to work with these tiny birds. Students 12 and 13 years old who want to team up with an adult, students 14 years and older on their own, or adults who are interested in birds help provide the care that each bird needs to return it to the wild. Bird watchers don't often get to observe the quantities and species of native songbird infants you can see in one room here at WINC.

These volunteers help during one 4 ½ hour shift each week for 8-12 weeks. This summer, we had 109 Baby Bird Feeding volunteers! By the time you read this article our volunteers will have gone back to school and our baby bird patients will have flown the nest. Our website will list orientations in May 2015 and we will be taking applications next spring for a fun season of feeding baby birds. Our baby bird feeders do a wonderful job of raising birds every year and WINC and the baby birds thank them.



**Baby bird feeder Benjamin Marn feeding an infant Red-Headed Woodpecker.**



**Lauren Achtenhagen, feeding fledglings EVO cat food and berries in our reptarium.**



**Bethany Cavness and her grandfather, Albert Swain, feeding a multitude of infant birds in one of our incubators.**

## An Evening in Italy

Fine Wine & Dine for WINC

October 3, 2014

*Historic Elm Grove Woman's Club*

Event committee members Kim Banach, Abby Lorenz and Sandy Harsh hope you will join them for this delightful evening of fine food and wine to benefit WINC. Focusing on the wines of Italy, this wine dinner is appropriately themed "An Evening in Italy". An elegant five course dinner prepared by *Lee Johns Catering* will be deliciously complemented with wines selected by *Ava Wine + Spirits* and *Spirits on Main* in West Bend. The historic Elm Grove Woman's Club provides a classic setting for this elegant event. A blind auction of wine and wine related items will round out the festivities. If you are not a wine lover but want to enjoy the fabulous dinner, a cash bar will be available. The ticket cost is \$175.00 per person with at least \$85.00 of each ticket going directly to support the care of the animals at WINC. Invitations will be mailed in August. This event is a fabulous way to enjoy a wonderful dinner and great wines, and support WINC all at the same time!





Wildlife In Need Center  
W349 S1480 S.Waterville Road, Suite B  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

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## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

#### 13 SATURDAY

**Hibernating Animals Program**  
**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
OTTAWA CAMPGROUND  
AMPHITHEATRE

Waldo the woodchuck and our snakes will make an appearance to help teach you about animals that cope with Wisconsin's harsh winters by hibernating at this FREE event!

#### 14 SUNDAY

**North Prairie Harvest Festival**  
**1:30-2:30 p.m.**  
NORTH PRAIRIE VETERAN'S PARK  
Come learn about our educational ambassadors at this FREE event!

#### 29 MONDAY

**Adult Volunteer Orientation**  
**6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**  
Call (262) 965-3090 to register  
WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

### OCTOBER

#### 3 FRIDAY

**Fine Wine and Dine**  
**A Night in Italy**  
**6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**  
ELM GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB

#### 4 SATURDAY

**Blessing of the Animals**  
**1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**  
ST.THERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

### NOVEMBER

#### 23 SUNDAY - 26 WEDNESDAY

**Christmas Cookie Drop Off**  
**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

Drop off Christmas cookies at Wildlife In Need Center for our booth at the World's Greatest Cookie Sale held on Friday, November 28th. We need volunteers to make their fanciest Christmas treats and drop them off at WINC.

#### 27 THURSDAY

WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER  
**for Thanksgiving**  
**WINC-- will be CLOSED**

#### 28 FRIDAY

**World's Greatest Cookie Sale!**  
**12:00 Noon - 4:00 p.m.**  
COUNTRY SPRINGS HOTEL  
2810 Golf Road, Pewaukee, WI 53072

Shop at the Wildlife in Need Center's booth at The World's Greatest Cookie Sale! This event features home-made holiday cookies and baked goods in every variety imaginable from over 25 participating non-profit organizations. All proceeds benefit the specific non-profit groups you purchase from. The event also features holiday musical performances, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, magic shows, and cupcake decorating. Enjoy a wonderful event for the whole family while you support your favorite causes!

### DECEMBER

#### 6 SATURDAY

**Holiday Meet & Greet**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER