



Spring Newsletter

CALGARY WILDLIFE



Message From The Executive Director

As you may have seen in our recent press release, we are **facing unprecedented financial challenges in 2024** that threaten our ability to continue our critical mission of caring for injured and orphaned wildlife in our region. **If you missed it, watch CTV coverage here.**

The escalating costs associated with wildlife care, compounded by increased regulatory pressures, have led to a **staggering 30% increase in our expenses**. To make matters worse, we have experienced a troubling 40% decline in contributions during the first quarter of this year. This combination of rising costs and reduced funding has placed immense strain on our resources, leaving us in a precarious position.

In response to these challenges, we have been forced to implement measures to reduce costs, including limiting the number of patients we can accommodate and reducing our operating hours. These decisions were not made lightly, but they are necessary to ensure our organization's sustainability in the face of financial uncertainty.

As **we approach the busy season** when injured and orphaned babies start coming into our center, the strain on our resources will only grow. Now, more than ever, we need the support of our community to continue providing the necessary care for these vulnerable animals.

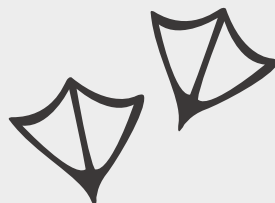
We are **deeply grateful for the unwavering support** we have received from our community over the years. Now, we appeal to your generosity once again. Whether you are an individual, a business, or a philanthropic organization, your contribution, no matter the size, will make a meaningful difference in safeguarding the welfare of wildlife in the Calgary area.

If 500 wildlife lovers could commit to a regular monthly donation of \$25, the price of four coffees, it would help immensely. Every donation counts, and every dollar goes directly towards supporting our operations and ensuring that injured and orphaned wildlife receive the care they desperately need.

Please consider making a donation today to help us continue our crucial work of rehabilitating and releasing injured and orphaned wildlife back into their natural habitats. Together, we can make a difference. **Thank you for your unwavering support.**

Beki 

Beki Hunt
Executive Director





New Admissions Trailer and Staff/Volunteer Break Room

Thank you, thank you, thank you! To everyone who donated to our GoFundMe for our new spaces, we were blown away by how quickly you helped us raise funds.

Our new admissions trailer has been up and running for a few weeks and we're already seeing the benefits of having patients dropped off next to our isolation trailer where exams take place.

We are also so happy that we finally have a space where our hard-working staff and volunteers can sit down to have a proper break in our **newly designed break room!**



Calgary Winter Club

We were incredibly excited to receive an invitation to present our **All About Calgary Wildlife program** at the Calgary Winter Club. The program is designed for young adults and adults, and it covers topics such as wildlife rehabilitation in Alberta, some of our case studies, and practical everyday actions that people can take to prevent wildlife injuries caused by humans.



Supply Drive Success

Huge shout out to Allison Rhodes and team for organizing a hugely successful supply drive. They were able to bring us a truckload of much needed supplies, from dish soap, to first aid supplies, to feeders!

If your community group, school, or organization would like to organize a supply drive, please reach out to admin@calgarywildlife.org

Red Earth Uncovered

We were honoured to be contacted by Red Earth Covered, a youth documentary series where a host explores the connections between Indigenous heritage, archaeological findings and ancient myths, to help dispel myths about owls. Our retired great-horned owl Ophelia and education volunteer Gayleen were interviewed and touched upon topics such as owl traits and behaviours, what can make owls appear so mysterious, and native owls to Alberta.

Keep your eyes peeled for the finished episode sometime in the fall of 2024. <https://redearth.tv/episodes/>



Country For Critters

We are thrilled to be one of Sponsor Energy's **official charities** at their Country For Critters fundraising event. Dinner, music, and raffles, all for a good cause! What could be better?

For more information visit <https://countryforcritters.eventbrite.ca>

Tickets will be available via **Eventbrite** and customers can either **join the LIVESTREAM** concert (by donation) or pay \$29 for an in-person ticket to the live concert at Ranchman's (full event)

Event Details (Virtual and In-Person)

DATE: April 28th 2024

TIME: 5:30PM - 9:30PM

VIRTUAL LIVESTREAM:

Instructions to join livestream are provided via confirmation of livestream ticket donation at

Country for Critters

In-Person: Ranchman's Cookhouse & Dancehall

9615 Macleod Trail S

Calgary, AB T2J 0P



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (**HPAI**) has once again raised concerns as it continues to impact various bird and mammal species across the country. With its ability to rapidly spread among avian populations, HPAI continues to pose significant threats to both wild bird and mammal populations.

There is a large number of species affected by HPAI and they range from dolphins to pigeons. Efforts continue to be underway to trace and contain outbreaks, but the dynamic nature of avian migration patterns presents ongoing challenges.

At Calgary Wildlife **we take our biosecurity very seriously**, making sure patients are examined away from our general population and quarantined when needed. Our team always wears head to toe PPE and changes out that PPE for each new patient, preventing the spread of disease. Although these measures require extra time and money, we always follow our biosecurity protocols to keep everyone safe. The public can help stop the spread by continuing to be vigilant about reporting sick and dead animals, practicing biosecurity when visiting wetland areas, and keeping bird feeders clean by washing them with hot soapy water regularly.



Help!



OUR WASHER/DRYER HAS DIED, AGAIN!
Doing laundry is a full time job, can you help?

The Curse of Wildlife Rehab and Electronics!

Our dryer has died again and our washing machine is on its last legs. Ahead of the busy season, we'll need to purchase new units, as second hand units don't last long for us due to the frequency of use.

Our friends at **Bowest Appliances** have the exact model we need, and have generously offered to sell it to us at a very hefty discount! **We've set up a GoFundMe** for this item and hope to have it on site within the next few weeks.

Please take a look and share with your wildlife loving friends!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/wildlife-rehabilitation-washer-dryer-set>

Patient News - Bald Eagle

On March 5th Calgary Wildlife received a call about a **Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* - subspecies *washingtoniensis*) in distress east of Okotoks. A farmer had noticed the eagle down in the snow. On further inspection, he discovered that the eagle was on his back and frozen in the snow at the base of a tree. The farmer contacted our hotline, and we set into motion a plan to get this bird to the clinic for assessment.

The farmer managed to contain the eagle and got the bird into his vehicle to try and warm him while waiting for our team to arrive. Upon arrival at the clinic, the eagle was taken directly to our isolation trailer for an exam. He was very quiet with his head down; the back of his wings were wet and the skin was quite red. Only two other things were noted on his exam, his right foot was very swollen, and he had one wound on the inside of his left wing. Otherwise, he appeared to be quite healthy. We administered some under-the-skin fluids to help warm him and support for shock.

Our vet did a comprehensive exam, bloodwork, radiographs, and lead testing. All results came back as within normal ranges and there was no sign of fractures, dislocation, or foreign bodies on his radiographs. He was placed in isolation, and we began to monitor him for any developing signs or symptoms of something more insidious such as neurological signs, systemic infections, or worsening condition overall.

Due to the inflammation in his foot and wound on the underside of his wing, we started him on a course of anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. Once he dried off, it was clear he had beautiful feathers and he regained his strength quickly with some assisted feeding in a quiet, warm place to recover.

After his quarantine was completed, he was moved to our large flight pen to begin conditioning his flight muscles for release. He was a bit weak the first day, but immediately stretched his wings and after a few steps flew up onto a perch. As a tribute to his species and their reputation as strong and stoic creatures, he quickly regained strength and beautiful flight.

Bald Eagles are often thought of as fishing birds, but they also live inland near lakes, marshes and wetlands, and hunt small rodents, hares, and birds as well as feed on carrion (leftovers) from other carnivores. They require large stands of coniferous or hardwood trees, the taller the better for building their massive nests...



... In the wild this incredible species can live 20-30 years, is monogamous, and begins reproductive life at around 5 years. Although the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) currently lists bald eagles as Not at Risk, they are still a protected species across Canada due to their vulnerability to habitat loss, rodenticide and pesticide use and the important role they play in our ecosystem.

This eagle patient was recently released back into the area where he was found and flew away without a second glance at the team. At Calgary Wildlife, our goal is to release as many of our patients as possible back to their original habitats. This allows them to be in a familiar environment, find their mates or families, and maintain the balance of the ecosystem they were a part of.

Check out our videos, available on our socials:

[Facebook Video](#)

[Instagram Video](#)

[X Video](#)



Education



Calgary Nests

It's April and baby birds are on their way. Bird parents are busy preparing, or already rearing these newbie birds. The bird life cycle, which includes laying an egg and incubating it, has led to some interesting adaptive behaviour: nest making! What types of bird nests might be seen in Calgary? How does nest type relate to different bird species?

There are many types of nests! Try matching bird species to their nest in the **"Whose Nest?" Wildlife Challenge!** This article will cover several that are common around the Calgary area: cup nests, platform nests, cavity nests, and floating nests.

Types of Nests

Cup nests:

The American robin and the ruby-throated hummingbird are examples of bird species that build cup nests. The American robin usually picks a secluded spot along a branch fork in the lower canopy of a tree to make its nest. They can also make nests on light fixtures or other human-made structures! The male robin will bring materials to the female, and she will build the nest by pressing grasses into a cup shape using her wrist (joint along wing). Grasses are woven first to create the outer shell followed by a mud cup and finished with a soft layer of grasses. Nest building for robins can take a few days to several weeks depending on mud availability (they might have to wait on some rain). The finished nest is usually about five to eight inches long, with an inner cup roughly equivalent to a small cup of coffee.

In contrast, the ruby-throated hummingbird's cup nest is tiny compared to the robin's nest. The finished nest may only be about two inches wide, with an inner cup the size of a large thimble. Ruby-throated hummingbirds take about ten days to make their nest which is usually situated on the downward sloping branches of a tree or shrub. The nest is made from grasses and plant materials, lined with thistle and dandelion down and spider silk. Lichen, moss and dead leaves are placed on the outside, to help camouflage the nest. The base of the nest is sturdy, with flexible sides that stretch as the chicks grow.



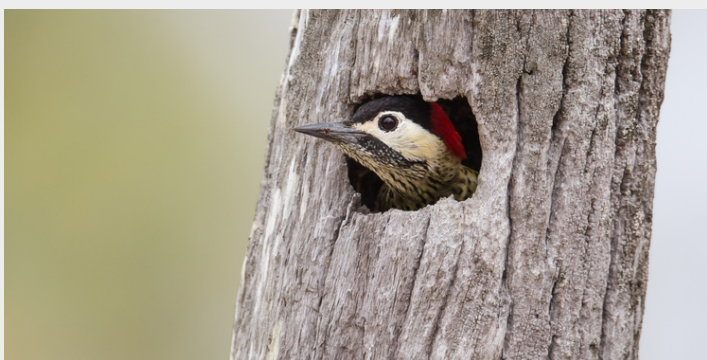
Platform Nests:

The osprey is an example of a bird that builds platform nests. Ospreys require nest sites with a sturdy base and an open and accessible landing area. Nests are often built on dead trees or elevated platforms, sometimes provided by humans! Osprey males carry branches in their talons to the nest site, and the female osprey builds the nest. Nest materials are mostly large twigs and branches but can include a variety of materials. Ospreys mate for life and return to the same nest site each year. Their first nest is often small, around 2.5 feet in diameter, but over the years it can grow to be over 10 feet wide!

Cavity Nests:

The northern flicker and the black-capped chickadee are examples of birds who use cavity nests. Both the male and female northern flicker help to excavate a hole in a tree (often aspen). The entrance is usually about three inches wide, with the cavity a bit more than a foot deep where the eggs will be laid. Once the young are old enough, they will cling to the inside walls of the cavity nest, poking their heads out to be fed.

Black-capped chickadees are another example of a cavity nester however, unlike the northern flicker, they add an extra cup nest inside the cavity they excavate. A black-capped chickadee pair works together to excavate the cavity.



Later, the female builds the cup nest inside the cavity using mosses and other soft materials. Both the black-capped chickadee and northern flicker will sometimes reuse their old nests, nests built by other birds, or use nest-boxes.

Floating Nests:

The common loon is an example of a bird who builds floating nests or nests found along the shorelines of bodies of water. Loons are adapted to swimming and diving and cannot easily walk on land. Nests are built with a deep drop-off so the loons can easily enter and leave. Nests are also located on islands, or on floating debris secured to vegetation that naturally grow in the water. Both parents help build the nest, which is assembled from dead vegetation. In recent years, artificial loon nesting platforms, "nest rafts" have been developed. Nesting platforms provide safe and sheltered alternate nesting sites to loons who are unable to use shorelines due to an increase in shoreline development and activity by people and industry.

The migratory bird act protects nests that are occupied or contain viable eggs. Please do not disturb an active nest. Leaving bird nests up after the breeding season is important because some species re-use abandoned bird nests, and some species return to the same nest each year. Breeding season for bird species generally happens between March through to August in Calgary. **What bird nests are being built in your neighbourhood?**

Wildlife Challenge: Whose Nest? 

Match the nest with the bird species!

	A 	B 	
2. Canada Goose	C 	D 	6. Osprey
3. Black-billed Magpie	E 	F 	7. Ruby-throated hummingbird
4. Common Loon	G 	H 	8. Black-capped chickadee

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

Answers: 1A 2E 3B 4F 5D or G 6C 7. H 8. D or G

**Take the
Wildlife
Challenge:
Whose Nest?**

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

**The next time
you are
outdoors, see
how many
types of nests
you can find.**

SEE A HARE, LEAVE IT THERE!

-Hares are born with fur, their eyes open & can hop within hours of birth.

-They are nearly scentless and their markings allow them to camouflage in their surroundings.

-Mother hares leave their young for hours at a time, this is a normal way to protect their babies from predators. They come back at dusk and dawn to feed their young.

-Baby hares will 'freeze' in place when threatened, this is normal behaviour, and does not mean they need help.

-If a baby hare is bleeding, has an eye injury, or has been attacked by pets, then it needs help from a professional.



**Please contact
Calgary Wildlife
at 403-214-1312 for help.
www.calgarywildlife.org**



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CHECK BEFORE YOU CHOP!

-Squirrel nests can be found in sheds, garages, tree cavities, and dried leaf balls on tree tops

-If you've found a baby somewhere safe (shed/garage), leave it for mom to come get it. If mom doesn't come back, call your local wildlife rehabilitator

-If you've found a baby squirrel somewhere unsafe, place it in a box with a towel and place under the nest, watch and wait. If mom doesn't come back after 4-6 hours, call your local wildlife rehabilitator

-Before cutting back trees in the spring, check all cavities and leaf balls before chopping, as you could be cutting down a nest.

-Baby squirrels, just like any mammal, need milk every few hours, and because of this will always do better in the care of their mothers.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jean K



Q & A with Jean

How long have you been with Calgary Wildlife?

I've been volunteering at Calgary Wildlife since December 2022.

What roles have you had as a volunteer?

I've worked in both clinic support and food preparation roles.

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

I feel Calgary Wildlife provides a very important role for both the public and the wildlife. I think anyone who has found an injured animal or bird can't help but be immensely grateful that Calgary Wildlife is there to provide advice and rescue. They give the animals all the support and care they need to go back into the wild, and they have the expertise to know when they are ready.

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

I've been surprised at the variety of different animals that come in. For example, I didn't realize salamanders were common in the area until my first winter at Calgary Wildlife and there were two in care.

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

I'd encourage anyone with an interest in animals to look into volunteering with Calgary Wildlife. The shifts may not always be glamorous (there tends to be a lot of cleaning involved!) but you'll definitely feel you are part of the team.

You'll see first hand the wide range of animals that call Alberta home. It's also rewarding to find ways that you can use your skills and experience to assist Calgary Wildlife with their rehabilitation efforts.

Upcoming Events

Lots of Events Coming Up!

We've got a ton of great events coming up in the next few months where we will be selling our merch, educating about living in harmony with urban wildlife, and giving away stickers and cartoons!

Make sure to add these events to your calendar and come say hello!

April 13th & 14th- Arbour Lake Craft Fair

April 19th- Bow Habitat Station

May 12th- Farmer's Market West

June 2nd- Lilac Fest

June 4th & 5th- Mayor's Expo

Get all of the info here: <https://www.calgarywildlife.org/events>



EYE FOR THE WILD 2024

CALGARY WILDLIFE'S 6TH ANNUAL AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Eye for the Wild Photography Contest

Our annual amateur photography contest is **open until April 15th**.

Winners will not only be featured in our 2025 calendar, but will also win some great prizes from our sponsors **The Wild Bird Store, Vistek Calgary, Donna Mac, and My Fave Straps!**

Enter today: <https://www.calgarywildlife.org/eye-for-the-wild>

Official Sponsor:



Sponsored by:



#WWD2024 #WWD #WorldWildlifeDay

Baby Shower

Baby season is upon us, which means our annual baby shower is right around the corner! As always, we'll be holding our baby showers **live on Facebook** so you can view our wild babies in real time up close. Our annual baby shower is one of **our most important fundraisers**, as it helps us raise much needed funds for our busy season, when we see the majority of our patients come to us. **Stay tuned for dates and more!**

YOU'RE INVITED
TO A
BABY
SHOWER

Ways to Help



Sponsor Energy Gives Back

Did you know that Sponsor Energy is the fastest-growing Alberta-based energy retailer? Did you know they offer competitive rates and great customer service? Did you also know, that if you switch from your current provider, they will donate to Calgary Wildlife? With the high cost of energy, why not consider switching to save a bit of money AND know your switch means a donation to wildlife rehabilitation?

[See Sponsor Energy for more information](#)

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



Would You Consider Hosting a Local **WILDLIFE REHAB** Supply Drive?

Wands for Wildlife provides a complete toolkit to run a successful but low-effort Wildlife Rehabilitation Supply Drive - from email templates, to posters to social media posts! Scan the QR code to request a toolkit!



Brought to you by:

WANDS FOR
WILDLIFE

Requested by:

Contact:



Host a Supply Drive

Calgary Wildlife is always in need of items to assist in its rehabilitation efforts, from patient food, to cleaning supplies, to office supplies.

Check out Wands for Wildlife's simple instruction guide on how to get started.

<https://www.wandsforwildlife.org/host-a-supply-drive>

WANDS FOR
WILDLIFE

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.



Storage Totes - Several

We use these heavy duty tubs to store everything from food supplies, to linen and more. We use all different sizes and love that they stack.

View them on our shopping list: **10 and 14 gallon totes**

Heavy Duty Spin Dry Mop/Bucket Set- We need 2

Mop and bucket sets are used everyday, multiple times a day to keep the centre clean and sanitized. Believe it or not, the Vileda spin dry mops work just as well as those big industrial mops!

View them on our shopping list **here**.



Stethoscope - We need 2

We use pediatric stethoscopes for our smallest patients. Small patients require more specialized equipment to provide the best care possible.

View them on our shopping list: **Pediatric stethoscope**



Heavy Duty Rubber Tubs - Several

We use these heavy duty tubs for a variety of things around the centre. From feeding ducks, to small bathing tubs and more.

View them on our shopping list: **15 gallon** , **6.5 gallon** , **3 gallon**



Patient Gallery



White Tailed Prairie Hare
40 Days in care



Striped Skunk Family
24 days in care



Bald Eagle
23 days in care



Big Brown Bat
115 days in care



Beaver
Currently in care



Bohemian Waxwing
15 days in care

Special Thank You

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, Calgary Costco Sarcee Trail NW, Blush Lane, Sponsor Energy, Ann Boerner, Maryann Bredin, Jack Cates, Al Gajdostik, Karen Zutter and finally thank you to all our hard-working staff and board of directors!

For Your Viewing Pleasure



Check Out our Northern Flicker Video!

In this close up of a Northern Flicker, you will see that a few of their body contour feathers transition from polka dots to hearts.

[Check out the video here](#)

