

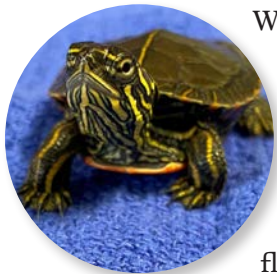


WILDWOODS 501(c)(3)

The Northland's regional wildlife rehabilitation facility

Dear Wildwoods Friends and Family,

Each time I sit down to write to you, our community of people who care about each other, the wildlife in our midst, and our relationship to this natural world, I feel hope. I am not a pessimist by nature, but the obstacles that we humans have created for each other and for flora and fauna alike can make even the most upbeat person slip under a small shadow. We are presented with the challenge of caring for the natural world in an epoch where this is not a priority of many, but our unity in caring for and striving to improve our relationship with the natural world is the driving force for Wildwoods' existence.

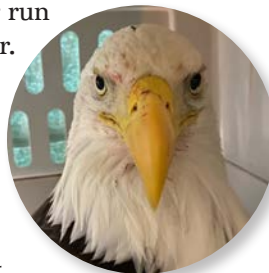


With your support in 2021, we had the amazing opportunity of working with **1,308 animals representing 126 species, and providing support to 2,362 people.** When I first started this work, I could not have imagined that I would see this many animals

fly, waddle, stride, crawl, glide, and swim past me on their road to recovery and release. I also did not imagine that I would see bald eagles suffer so egregiously from lead poisoning, meet porcupines that were injured by cars, or run into raccoons suffering from distemper.

In each of these cases, we are reminded of what it means to be human. The majority of animals that cross our threshold are here because of an interaction with a person, whether it be in the form of losing a home to a cut down tree, losing a mother rabbit to a pet, or being hit by a vehicle on the road. Most people don't intentionally hurt animals – they really don't. But in this society, we lack the ability to generalize. If we see one animal on the ground, we cannot conceive of the fact that there are 100 more on the ground somewhere else for the very same reason.

Thanks to you and all of your efforts, we are there to shed light on those 100 animals that want nothing more than the opportunity to have a chance at life. And we give that to them. We also care for animals that just can't fly or walk another day, relieving them from their pain and fear.



Advances in 2021...

In addition to the support we provided to both animals and humans, two long-planned projects came to fruition!

- We migrated to an online medical database. This database is not only a timesaver for us, but it allows us to collect and share data that is relevant not only to Wildwoods, but to the wildlife rehabilitation field as a whole.
- We secured enough funding to expand our outdoor cage area! **Funding from Partners for Wildlife and The Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation** will allow us to more than double our existing outdoor cage area. This will be a two-stage process with the expansion happening in June, and the rebuilding of cages in the fall.

...And surprises in 2022!

We could not be more excited to share with you that we expect to have our **general permit** by this summer. You stood beside us when we lost our permit in 2019, and then when we gained our novice permit in 2020, and we cannot wait to celebrate this next milestone with all of you this year!

We will be having a **belated 15-year anniversary celebration!** Keep an eye on your e-mail and our website and Facebook pages. We don't want to miss you!

Our Community of Supporters

Wildwoods cannot exist without our community. **Please look at our financials in this report to see just how you fit in. Individual donors are responsible for 73 percent of our revenue.** Each dollar that you put into an envelope, leave in our mailbox, or donate online makes up a portion of that 73 percent. Your dollars, words of encouragement, volunteer hours, care for the animals, and spreading the word on how to share space with nature and her wildlife are inextricably linked to our successes here at Wildwoods.



Dear Wildwoods Supporters continued from previous page



Wildlife rehabilitation centers have new challenges to confront in 2022. Across the country, we are preparing for two diseases that may have a potentially devastating impact on some of the species that we serve.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Type 2 (RHDV2), a fatal disease in rabbits affecting both domestic and wild rabbits, has been detected in two domestic rabbits in Minnesota, and is likely already present in wild rabbits here. *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, H5N1*, is making its way across the country and has been detected

in 24 states as of this writing. We can expect H5N1 to spread through spring migration. In response to these diseases, Wildwoods is creating new protocols, admittance procedures, and quarantine areas, and increasing our biosecurity to prevent these deadly diseases from arriving in our facility, or spreading in our facility.

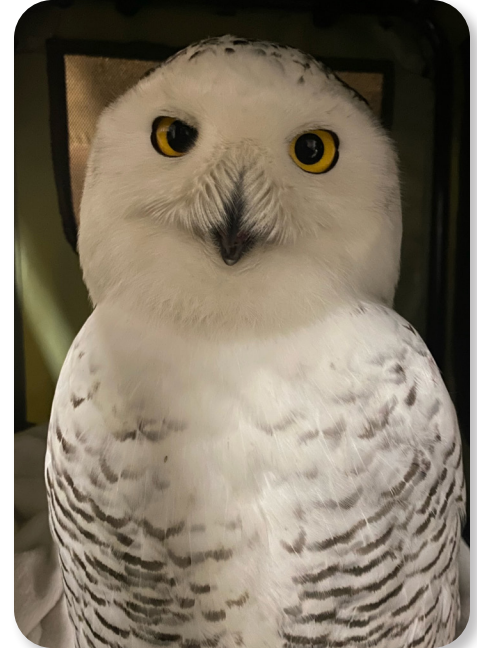
Even as we face these challenges, I continue to be impressed by our staff, our volunteers, and our community that come together to support and guide our work as we care for the animals that share this world with us. **This tremendous effort that our staff is undertaking is a costly effort and we ask you to consider increasing your support as we navigate these deadly diseases.**



Please support us in our efforts so that we can continue to be there for you, and for the animals that enrichen our lives.

Kind regards,

Jessica LaBumbard, Executive Director

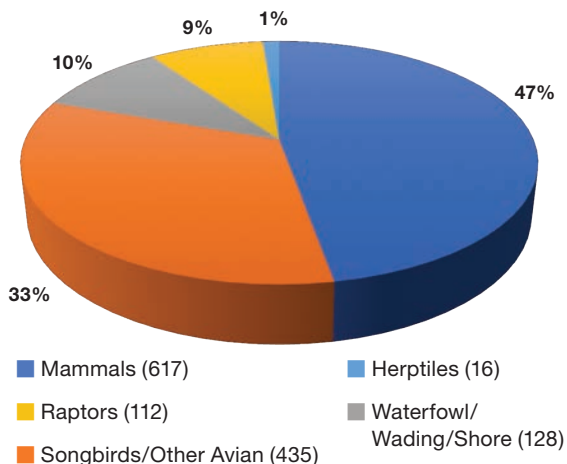


2021 Stats

Animals Served

In 2021, we admitted **1,308 animal patients from 126 species**. The eastern cottontail rabbit topped the list (328) followed by the rock pigeon (124), eastern gray squirrel (94) the mallard (35), and the bald eagle (30). The list continues with coyote pups, foxes, fawns, ruby-throated hummingbirds, common nighthawks, ring-billed gulls, American robins, several species of owls, western painted-turtles, and many others!

PATIENTS

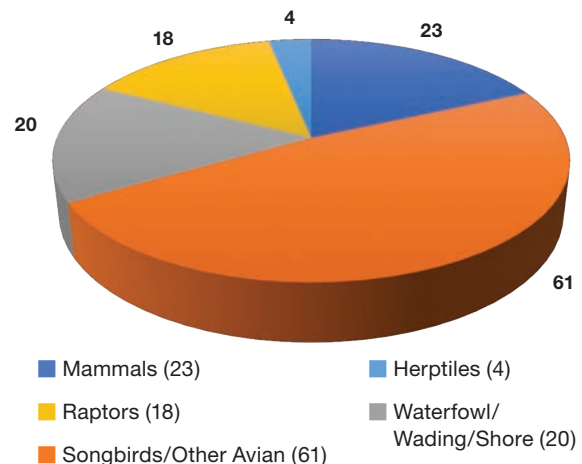


People Served

Wildwoods served 2,362 people in 2020:

- 1,018 people brought in animals for care.
- 1,216 people called with animal concerns and questions, with most calls resulting in the animal being left safely in place.
- 128 people participated in our educational programs.

NUMBER OF SPECIES BY ANIMAL GROUPS



Is that a wolf or a coyote?



Yeah, this can be a tough one and I've known wildlife biologists to argue whether or not a grainy, nighttime trail camera picture shows a wolf or a coyote. The range of coyotes in Minnesota and Wisconsin is much greater than that of wolves, but it's quite possible to encounter both in many parts of these two states. Grey wolves (or timber wolves if you prefer) and coyotes (sometimes called brush wolves) are closely related members of the genus *Canis*. The scientific classification of wolves is *Canis lupus* while coyotes are *Canis latrans*. Just to confuse things, eastern coyotes are mostly coyote, but wolf and domestic dog genes are blended in there as well. I'd love to take you down the rabbit hole of canine hybridization, but it's off topic and my editor is limiting me to 900 words.

Wolves and coyotes often overlap and share similar habitats. While wolves generally leave the much smaller red fox alone, they're known to kill coyotes, so coyotes have to use extra caution in wolf country. One way to avoid wolves is to stick close to people. With their smaller size and a flexible diet of small animals, insects, and even our garbage, coyotes are often found living in



Wolf in the summer



Coyote in the fall

closer proximity to people than wolves are. Conversely, wolves are bigger, usually a bit shyer, and need larger prey animals. It's not 100 percent, as there are a lot of places where it could be either, but if you saw the animal deep in the woods, it was more likely a wolf. If you saw the animal in town or in a heavily agricultural area, it was probably a coyote.

Wolves have much bigger feet than coyotes do and consequently leave a bigger footprint. An adult wolf track will run 4 or more inches long and 3 or more inches wide. A coyote's track is closer to 2"x2". We've bred dogs in all different shapes and sizes, so in areas where dogs, coyotes, and wolves overlap (such as the

Cloquet Forestry Center or Jay Cooke State Park) it can be tough to separate them. If you have a line of tracks to follow in the snow, the animal's behavior can help. Wolves and coyotes often travel down a forest road or a snowmobile trail in more or less a straight line - like they know where they're

continued on next page

Is that a wolf or a coyote?

going and mean to get there. Dogs are out having fun, and are more likely ranging back and forth from one side to the other. And there's usually a human track with them.

Scat (poop) is another way to try and tell wolves and coyotes apart, although if you've spent any time observing and picking apart poop (drives my wife nuts), you'll realize poop identification is not an exact science either. Generally, wolf scat will run larger, and they're more likely than coyotes to be feeding on adult deer. If it's 6" or so in size and full of large, hollow deer hair, odds are it was a wolf. Closer to 4" in size and composed of the finer hairs from rabbit or mice, odds are more likely coyote. Both wolf and coyote scat quickly turn white as they dry out due to all the ground up bone in them. Dogs are usually not consuming hair or bone in their diet, so their poop won't show these things.

Although coyotes may run a little more towards yellow or red, both wolves and coyotes in our area are predominately a shade of grey, so you can't normally use color to separate the two. The best way to differentiate between wolves and coyotes are their voices as well as their size and shape. Coyotes make high pitched howls, barks, and yelps, while the howl and bark of an adult wolf is much deeper in tone.



Wolf in the winter



Coyote in the winter

Our upper Midwest coyotes run 20-30 pounds and about 4 feet in total length from the tip of their nose to the end of their tail, and 1.5-2 feet tall at the shoulder. Adult wolves run 50-100 pounds and closer to 5 feet in total length and 2.5 feet tall at the shoulder. Coyotes are slender with a more pointed face and muzzle than wolves. To me, when compared to wolves, coyotes almost

look delicate. Wolves have a broader muzzle and head, and their legs are proportionally much longer than coyotes' are compared to their body size. I've included two sets of side-by-side photos from the same locations of a wolf and a coyote to help with identification. Note

the comparatively larger size as well as the long legs and blockier head and muzzle of the wolf as compared to the proportionally shorter legs and narrow muzzle and face of the smaller coyote.

Hopefully this helps to address one of the frequent questions we get at Wildwoods!

Mike Schrage
Wildlife Biologist
Wildwoods Board Chair

Thank you to our donors for making 2021 a success!

Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation

Chair Kickers' Union

Cloquet Riverside Recycling

Four Cedars Environmental Fund of the
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation

Hegardt Family Foundation

Mike Mayou Photography

Minnesota Power Foundation

Partners 4 Wildlife

And a heartfelt thanks to the more than 800 individuals who have donated to us!



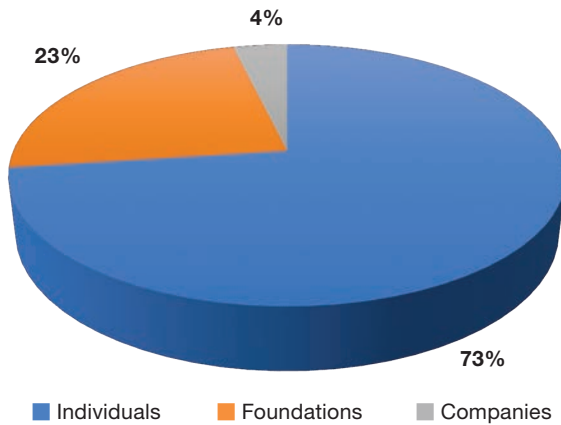
2021 Financials

January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

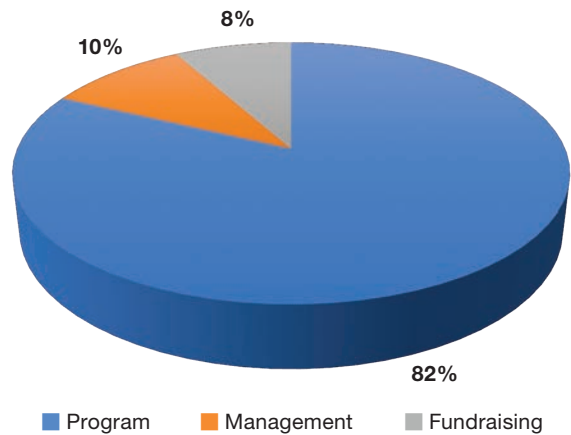
Revenue: \$192,491

Expenses: \$179,659

2021 DONATIONS BY SOURCE



2021 EXPENDITURES



Baby Shower 2022!

It is time for our annual baby shower as we prepare for the arrival of spring babies. Please visit our website at <https://wildwoodsrehab.org/support-wildwoods/donate-items/> to find the link to our baby registry.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are several things you can do to support our work!

- **Make a donation** using the enclosed envelope! Your funds go a long way to helping us provide this care and support to our local wildlife.
- **Use Amazon Smile** for your online purchases, and name Wildwoods as your charity of choice for donations!
- **Order some Wildwoods swag here:**
<https://wildwoods.itemorder.com/sale>, A portion of the proceeds goes to us.
- **Save those aluminum cans!** You can drop them off at Wildwoods, B&B Market in Cloquet, or Cloquet Riverside Recycling. Proceeds from these cans benefit Wildwoods!
- **We are always looking for transport volunteers.** Let us know if you can give a lift to a sick or injured animal that needs to go to another rehabber.





Wildwoods
4009 W. Arrowhead Rd
Duluth, MN 55811

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Your support makes our work possible!

Donate online at www.wildwoodsrehab.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope.

Thank you!



Wildwoods is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Duluth, MN, that accepts orphaned, injured, and sick wildlife.

We rehabilitate orphaned wildlife and return them to the wild while providing emergency stabilization and transfer of injured and sick wildlife to other rehabilitation centers in the state.

Open 365 days a year
9 am - 6 pm
(By scheduled drop off only)

www.wildwoodsrehab.org

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