



Summer 2024 Newsletter

WILDWOODS 501(c)(3)

The Northland's regional wildlife rehabilitation facility

Dear Wildwoods Friends and Family,

It's been a wild ride this summer! The babies started arriving at the end of April, and they are still coming! This is the busiest and longest baby season at Wildwoods that we can remember. **A huge thank you and kudos to our incredible staff and volunteers who have given so much of themselves to the animals, and to our community who support us!**

As of early August, we have admitted **724 animals representing 99 species. 600 people have brought animals to us**, and we have **assisted an additional 780 people with animal inquiries** that we were able to resolve on the phone.

Enjoy this newsletter of animal stories. Even though the species of animals are quite varied, their reasons for coming to Wildwoods follow the general trend of having had a negative interaction with a human. These interactions can include striking the windows of a house, being hit by a car, having their home tree cut down, pet attacks, and even folks digging in their gardens. Simple changes (driving slower, waiting to trim trees, pets on leashes) can have a huge impact on these animals.

Our summer is not over yet, babies are still coming, and then we move into migration season. Our work continues year-round, and we rely on you to make sure that we are here for the long haul.

Thank you for everything you did to make this a successful summer for the animals in our care, and for helping us to provide an oasis for these animals in need. We can only do what we do because of your commitment to this work.

Happy fall!

Jessica LaBumbard
Executive Director



ANIMAL TALES



This *Nestling Merlin* was out and about, running around a neighborhood until he exhausted himself and huddled up next to a house where we found him. We could hear a parent in a nearby tree, but we were unable to locate a nest. We brought the little guy to Wildwoods for food and hydration and made plans to renest him with a nest that we constructed.

The following day we placed the new nest and the merlin in a tree, while his parents yelled at us from a nearby tree. This was an excellent sign! True to young life, the merlin did not stay put in his nest and was soon

standing on the edge. We left him there, hoping he'd stay near the nest and the parents would come to him; animals are best raised by their wild parents, and we do everything we can to make sure they stay with their parents.



We checked on him that evening, found him on the ground, and renested him for a second time. The following day, neighbors called and advised us that he had once again left the nest. When we checked on him, he did not look good. We brought him back to Wildwoods where we discovered he'd lost weight and was dehydrated. For whatever reason, the parents decided to no longer care for him, even though they were present. After hydration and feeding, the merlin spent the night with us, and we then transferred him to The Raptor Center. He is doing well and will be released back to the wild as soon as he is old enough.



This hatch-year *Northern Saw-Whet Owl* means business. He was brought to us because he was unable to fly. No longer a fledgling, this owl should have been able to take flight. We gave him supportive care for 24 hours, until we could find him a ride to The Raptor Center. He is in excellent hands, and we hope for the best for this fella!

We've had a couple of new animals this year! This *Big Brown Bat Pup* is one of them, and was found by himself, hungry and dehydrated. Crevice bats require special care, but we were heartened because he showed a lot of spunk even though he was not looking too well. We kept this guy for several days and then sent him to a private rehabber so he could join other pups! We do everything we can to ensure that no baby animals are raised alone; they need to be with their own species.



These two *Cedar Waxwings* were each found on the ground, unable to fly, by the Duluth airport. We suspect that they had struck windows and were suffering from head trauma. As they are flock birds, we were able to treat them together even though they arrived separately. They spent significant time in our oxygen chamber and received supportive care and meds. After a couple of days, we gave them a clean bill of health and they were released together!

ANIMAL TALES



So many **Robins** this year! The one in the forefront is our mascot for this summer's power outage caused by storms. She was barely a nestling (almost a hatchling!) when she came to us and staff took her home in a portable incubator while our power was temporarily out. She was successfully raised and released along with the robins behind her.

These are before and after shots of a **Rock Pigeon** who is now fully healed and back in the wild. This poor pigeon was brought to us by a kind soul who found her with the full length of her body stuck to a foot long sticky fly-trap roll. She was almost completely immobile, with only her feet being able to move. We have seen so many animals caught on sticky paper, and it is a terrible way for the animals to die (please do not use sticky traps!). Unless there is intervention, they die of stress, emaciation, and dehydration, and their death does not come quickly. We can do better.



We are so pleased that with our new quarantine room, we were able to start taking **Ducklings** again! They thrived in their new indoor brooders and fell in love with our new outdoor enclosures. The photo on the front page shows these ducklings after they were grown and released.

What would spring be without **White-Tailed Deer Fawns**? Of the more than 150 calls we received regarding fawns, only 11 came into care. Wildwoods supporters all over the area did an excellent job of sharing the message to *leave fawns be*. It takes all of us!



These **Franklin's Ground Squirrels** were likely flooded out of their nest, and they were found in a puddle! By the time they came to us, most of them had aspirated water and suffered from raspy and shallow breathing. It took a lot of sensitive, time-consuming care to bring these babies back to health. We are so pleased that after four weeks in care, they were all released together!

Year-round, we admit a variety of turtle species who have been hit by cars. This **Western Painted Turtle** is one of many that we saw. We are pleased to say that these injuries were not as severe as some we see, and we hope for a full recovery for her. Please slow down and watch for animals on our roadways.





Wildwoods
4009 W. Arrowhead Rd
Duluth, MN 55811

Your support makes our work possible!

Donate online at
www.wildwoodsrehab.org
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
9am - 5pm (10am - 6pm in the summer)
(By scheduled drop off only)

4009 W. Arrowhead Rd
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thanks for all you do to make sure we can continue this work.

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