

WILDWOODS 501(c)(3)

The Northland's regional wildlife rehabilitation facility

Dear Wildwoods Friends and Family,

Similar to last year, our baby season started early! This looks to be the new normal, and like other rehabilitators across the country, we will adapt. Breeding in animals is triggered not only by longer days, but by warmer temperatures. Milder winters can spur early breeding in animals such as the eastern gray squirrel, and we receive a lot of those babies in the spring! This change in climate also impacts the early appearance of insects and other foods that animals rely on for their babies, another reason for early breeding.

In order to handle early spring babies, our Wildwoods staff and volunteers really step up. For our staff, this means coming in early and staying late; for our volunteers, this means many an evening at Wildwoods for weeks on end. It is through sheer dedication on their parts that we are able to handle this impact of our changing climate. **Kudos to the Wildwoods animal care team and our volunteers!**

An important piece of our work which we don't focus enough on is our summer internship program. When these folks show up at the end of May, they are our lifesavers. Our interns bring with them an excitement and passion for this field that is invigorating; they help to remind us why we do this work; and they bring life to our building! **We are proud to play a role in their development as they are the new leaders who will be shaping the world to come.**

As of the end of July we have admitted **754 animals representing 101 species. 612 people have brought animals to us, and we have assisted an additional 775 people with animal inquiries** that we were able to resolve on the phone.

Please enjoy the stories highlighted in this newsletter. You will note the informal theme of community; informal in the sense that people stepped up, individually, to work together on a common cause. Wild animals are in growing need of support, and it is going to take all of us.

Thank you for everything you are doing 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.

Thank you!

Jessica LaBumbard
Executive Director



EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL



MALE AMERICAN KESTREL



AMERICAN ROBIN NESTLING



TURKEY VULTURE



RED FOX KITS



WOODCHUCK

Renesting a Bald Eaglet

In early May, we had a first at Wildwoods! The MN DOT called us, letting us know that a tree that had an eagle's nest in it had blown down and that there were eaglets on the ground. Wildwoods staff went to investigate, and sure enough, there were two eaglets on the ground, buried under branches and other nesting materials.

Coincidentally, the Medical Director at The Raptor Center (TRC) was driving through Duluth, so she stopped by and helped us with an initial exam, and then took them with her for more in-depth evaluation.

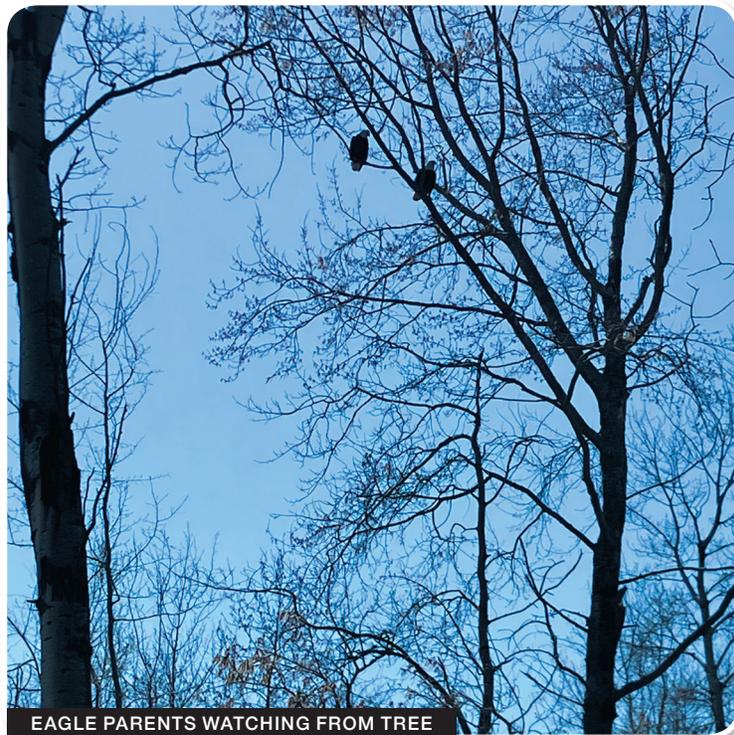


BALD EAGLET

Unfortunately, one of the eaglets had irreparable injuries from the fall and was humanely euthanized. The Raptor Center sent the surviving eaglet back to Wildwoods, along with a nesting platform so that we could renest the eaglet.

Wildwoods staff, a volunteer from TRC, and a MN DOT employee worked together to build the eaglet a new nest at the site of the blown down tree. As you can see in the photo, the parents watched us the entire time.

Once we had secured the nest, we placed the eaglet in the nest. The eaglet immediately assumed a submissive position, which was to be expected.



EAGLE PARENTS WATCHING FROM TREE

We left a couple of fish on the edge of the nest for the parents so they would have immediate access to food for the eaglet, and left!

We waited 24 hours to ensure that the parents and the eaglet were undisturbed, and then went back to see if all was well. We were very excited to see that the parents were still there! In fact, one of the parents flew up from the nest when we arrived and proceeded to yell at us. We were able to see that the fish had been eaten and the nest improved (!!) by the parents, and found a healthy eaglet.

With the confirmation that we and The Raptor Center had done all we could for this family, we left them alone and did not return. It is now up to the family and nature to proceed.



BALD EAGLET RENESTED

American Crow Nestlings

This spring, we had fierce winds for a couple of days. An equally fierce advocate (Michael) found these two nestling crows who had been blown from their tree during the high winds, along with a third sibling who perished. Michael brought the crows to Wildwoods where we examined them and cared for them through the night. They needed to be re-nested as quickly as possible once we had them warmed, fed, and hydrated.



AMERICAN CROW NESTLINGS

Michael returned the following morning, having handmade this beautiful nest that they are sitting in in this photos. He took the nestlings back to the same tree from which they fell, put this new nest up, and spent the entire day watching to ensure that the parents would return and resume care for them.

Crows do not like change, and re-nesting can be very difficult if the nestlings are not returned to their same nest. While the parents approached the birds, they maintained a distance of about ten feet for the day and made no effort to care for the nestlings.

Michael brought the nestlings back to Wildwoods, and we ultimately transferred them to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Animals need to be raised with other animals of their species whenever possible, and crows need a family. Since their transfer, they are being raised with other crows and they will all be released together, to embark on their future with their new family.

White-tailed Deer Fawn



WHITE-TAILED DEER FAWN

Every year we are inundated with calls regarding white-tailed deer fawns. In the vast majority of cases, the fawns are perfectly fine. Does will leave their fawns in what they perceive to be a safe place, and will return once or twice a day to feed the fawn. Once the fawn is old enough to keep up with the doe, they will travel together. It is therefore common in the spring to see fawns that one may think are abandoned, but are in fact doing exactly what their mother told them to do.

This fawn, however, needed help. The finder heard crying coming from the swamp behind her home during the night. The next morning when she went to her barn, she heard the crying again. She followed the noise into the swamp and found this fawn stuck in mud and tangled in some tree branches. After we received the fawn from her, we provided much needed warmth, hydration, and sustenance. After a day and night of care, this fawn was in great condition! We transferred her to Wild and Free where she is being raised for release with other fawns.



WHITE-TAILED DEER FAWN



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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
10 am - 4 pm
(By scheduled drop off only)

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who support this work.*

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