

BREAKING NEWS

*Animal Emergencies
on the Rise!*



HORNED GREBE

Hospital Admissions Up 67% Over Last Year

Wildlife Rescue is experiencing a record spring for wildlife emergencies and it's definitely keeping everyone on their toes. Since January, 1,241 animals have been brought to the Wildlife hospital.

When asked why they're seeing so many more animals, Janelle Stephenson, hospital manager, responded that she couldn't say for sure. *"It's likely a combination of factors. Earlier this year, an outbreak of salmonella spread rapidly amongst Pine Siskin flocks and resulted in 248 admissions of the small finch species. As well, changes in human activities during the COVID-19 pandemic have brought people into more contact with wildlife, in both positive and negative ways."*

Animals who live in urban environments face many dangers from humans - like the young raccoon who was brought in recently with a broken back leg from being hit by a car. Or the nest of baby songbirds that was knocked to the ground during spring pruning. Or the Spotted Towhee with lacerations from a cat attack.

Regardless of the reasons, Wildlife Rescue is working hard to provide the best care to every animal - both at the hospital and through its community support services. Programs like wildlife fostering, rooftop rescues, and baby health checks were initially introduced based on rehabilitation research that showed animal babies had more successful outcomes when kept in the wild.

With the current surge of admissions, though, the programs are also enabling hospital staff to direct resources to the animals in most need while ensuring the best outcomes for hundreds more animals who just needed a helping hand.

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Message from the Executive Directors

2021 is here and we thought things were well in hand after the challenges of 2020. The organization responded early and effectively to the pandemic guidelines from government bodies, quickly adapting operating practices, physical work environments, animal welfare and human safety protocols. Where possible, staff were supported in remote work setups, board meetings were moved to Zoom and, in March, we successfully hosted our second AGM entirely through this platform.

Despite all that was thrown at us in 2020, nothing could have prepared us for the astounding rise in animal admissions through the first months of 2021.

Trying to manage this growth month after month has been a logistical challenge. While it can feel overwhelming at times, what keeps us motivated is the amazing hearts and generosity of our wonderful staff, volunteers, and the wildlife community.

The sheer number of animal admissions is just the tip of the iceberg. The more animals that are admitted to the hospital, the more hands are needed to conduct medical procedures, clean, feed, maintain enclosures – the list goes on. And of course, animal care costs go up – veterinary expenses, purchases of medical supplies and medications, food, laundry, cleaning supplies, and hospital staff hours.

The pandemic has created additional complexities around animal care and staffing. Thankfully, the weather has been mild enough that hospital staff are able to conduct meetings, training, and medical rounds outside. Even food preparation, cleaning, and preparing small animal enclosures have been moved outdoors. These adaptations are enabling us to utilize more volunteers and summer job students to help with everything.

With the organization now into the second year of the pandemic, it's important to remember that – just like our animal patients – we are resilient. Together, we can weather these extraordinary times and come out stronger.



Co-Executive Directors

Linda Bakker & Coleen Doucette

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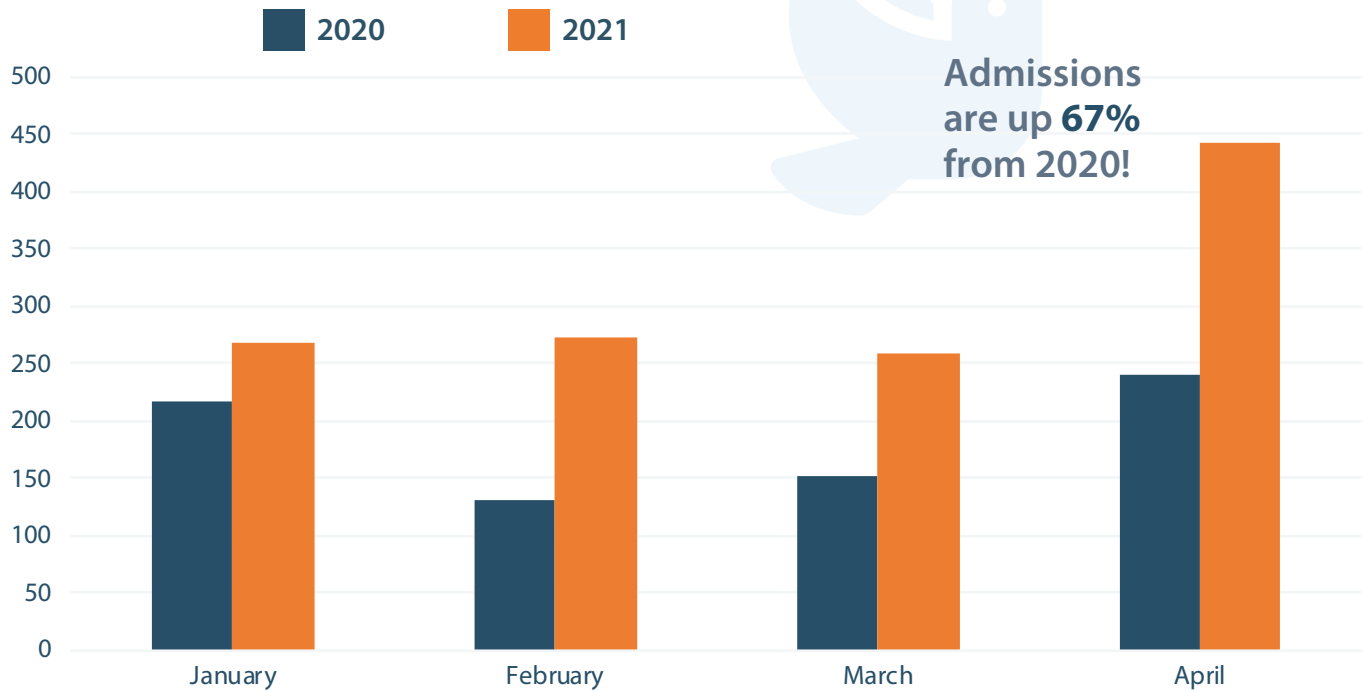
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Hospital Admissions



Red Crossbill recovering from a window strike



Emergency Call Saves Baby Hummingbird

Enjoying nature in your backyard sometimes leads to animal encounters that are unexpected. This was the case for Marilyn in early April.

Relaxing on her small deck in the backyard of her townhome, she was startled to see a tiny bird plummet to the ground and lie unmoving.

At first, Marilyn was unsure what to do. The bird was so small, she thought it must surely be a baby. She didn't want to cause it distress so she quietly watched for a few moments in the hope that it would gather itself and fly off. Instead, the little feathered creature appeared stunned.

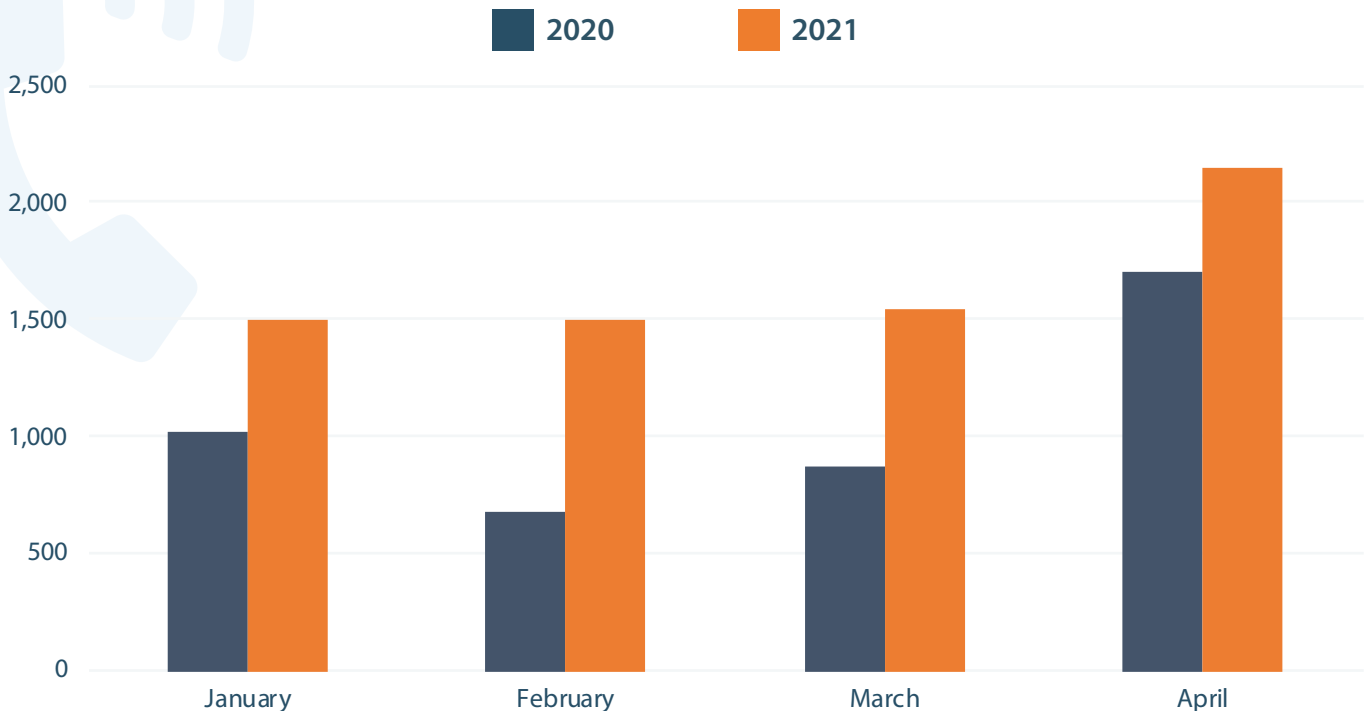
When Marilyn moved closer, she realized the tiny bird was in fact a hummingbird. Concerned now, Marilyn went inside to look up the number for Wildlife Rescue's Support Centre.

With the Wildlife staff member on the phone, Marilyn went back outside to see if the young hummingbird was gone. The smaller the bird species (e.g. hummingbirds, bushtits, or chickadees), the more likely its young will fly within an attempt or two. The fact that this little bird was still on the ground was worrying.

The situation was becoming increasingly urgent. Hummingbirds need to feed almost constantly due to their high metabolism and, if left overnight, the young bird would very likely die. The Support Centre staffer asked Marilyn to look into the branches of the tree to see if she could see a nest and check if the mom was nearby. When Marilyn could see neither, the staffer asked her to contain the baby bird and bring it to the Wildlife hospital for assessment and care overnight.

Continued on page 9

Animal Emergency Calls to the Support Centre



**Wildlife emergencies
can happen at any
time.**

*Help Wildlife Rescue
be prepared.*



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Become a Monthly Freedom Partner

42 years ago, a group of people like you who value wildlife, took action to provide a solution for individual animals that need a helping hand. Today, your wildlife hospital is a leader in rehabilitation in North America.

Wildlife Rescue's goal is to carry on our important work for the next 40 years and beyond. This means strengthening sustainable capacity.

Join the Monthly Freedom Partners!

As little as \$20 a month helps provide complete care for one animal through release. Choose an amount that works with your monthly budget.

*It's easy, and you are saving lives
every single day!*

VISIT

wildliferescue.ca/give

EMAIL

giving@wildliferescue.ca

CALL

(604) 526-2747, ext. 502

Wildlife Rescue - *Building for the Future*

Hospital Project Update

The past few years have been both exciting and challenging. With the unexpected damage to Wildlife Rescue's 30-year-old hospital building in 2017, the organization had to pivot quickly to continue to meet the urgent needs of wildlife. The wildlife community rallied to provide the necessary funds to ensure that the highest level of emergency and rehabilitative care could continue to be provided, with minimal disruption. Smaller buildings on site were rapidly converted for animal treatment and recovery. We also put our full organizational commitment behind the long, complex process to build a new hospital.

With complete transparency, we can say that we initially thought construction would have begun within two years. However, Wildlife Rescue uniquely operates within Metro Vancouver Parks and there are many stages of consultation and approvals that have taken years of hard work. Through this dialogue process, we have made steady progress and are confident that we are moving ever closer to a new building. We want to share a snapshot of what has already been accomplished. Thank you for making this journey with us.

Coleen Doucette Linda Bakker

Animal Care Improvements Made Possible Thanks to the Support of the Wildlife Community

- 2017** An outdoor aviary was converted to an indoor treatment and recovery space.
Staff kitchen in basement of administration building was converted for use as wildlife kitchen.
An outdoor raccoon hut was converted into two spaces – an animal exam and injury treatment room and an isolation room for intensive care patients.
- 2018** Sturdy shed was purchased for supply storage previously located in damaged hospital.
Faulty hot-water boiler was replaced.
- 2019** Primary Medical Treatment Centre was completed.
- 2020** An aquatic rehabilitation pool was purchased and installed for aquatic bird care.

New Medical Treatment Centre



The Medical Treatment Centre project was successfully completed in the Fall of 2019 and has been fully operational since. The treatment centre is used for primary hospital activities such as facilitating multiple examinations, treatments and stabilization procedures (i.e. administering medications, wound management, setting fractures), in-house lab diagnostics (disease and parasite identification), and personnel training.

BEFORE
Food Storage Shed

AFTER
Renovations Completed



Animal Care Improvements

To increase the capacity for aquatic bird rehabilitation, a pool was purchased and installed to accommodate specific needs of waterfowl species. This pool has the ability to provide a warm water environment and includes recirculating of water with filtration.



After Installation - Peli, A. White Pelican



Kitchen Renovated for
Patient Food Preparation



Secondary Treatment
and Recovery Space



Hummingbird Rescue in the Wild

Continued from page 4

Marilyn rushed the young hummingbird to the Wildlife Rescue hospital where wildlife technicians immediately checked her over and were relieved to find her healthy and uninjured. The fledgling was given supportive feeding that evening and was kept in a small, warm enclosure overnight.



First thing the next morning, Emma, one of Wildlife Rescue's senior wildlife technicians, fed the little hummingbird again and drove to Marilyn's home. She would be attempting the painstaking process of reuniting the fledgling with her mom.

The weather was grey and drizzling but Emma came prepared with a raincoat, umbrella, and camp chair. First, she checked for hazards to make sure no cats lurked about. She settled the fledgling in a "baby bird bucket-nest" with pine cones, leaves, and sticks to perch on, then stabilized it on a fence post near a flowering bush. Emma then set up her chair behind a hedge and watched quietly with binoculars. Meanwhile, Marilyn wisely stayed inside her home and kept her fingers crossed.

For the first hour, Emma fed the baby every 15 minutes, then she started to extend the feedings to every 20 minutes to encourage the baby's cries to mom. Emma also played baby hummingbird noises on her smartphone in hopes of attracting the mom. At one point, the fledgling flew off the bucket onto the ground, but landed in a soaking wet area so Emma placed her back into the bucket-nest.

An hour and 45 minutes later, Emma still huddled under her umbrella, hopeful that the mom would return. Amazingly, her perseverance paid off! Almost two hours after the vigil had begun, the little hummingbird's mom arrived and flew straight to her baby in the bucket-nest.

Emma's heart lifted and she didn't move a muscle as she observed the mom feeding her offspring on the branch. She held her breath when the mom flew away, only to see her fly back within a minute to feed the baby again. The baby stayed perched on the side of the bucket, eager for mom's attention.

It was so exciting to see the mom come back and recognize her little fledgling. As the baby didn't seem eager to lift into the air, and the mom appeared comfortable approaching the bucket-nest, Emma left them both there and tip-toed away.

Emma was now confident that the attentive hummingbird mom would take care of her baby until the youngling was ready to use her wings. She gave Marilyn instructions on what to do over the next 24 hours – stay out of the backyard except to monitor, be careful when walking as the baby may fly down to the ground again, and if she had any further concerns or questions, to call the Wildlife Support Centre again.

Emma and Marilyn were both thrilled at this happy ending. Marilyn was especially happy, knowing that she'd had a hand in saving this tiny hummingbird and that she would get to enjoy its company all through the summer.



For over 42 years, we have cared for the largest number of injured animals in Canada! Please include Wildlife Rescue in your estate planning.

Give wildlife a second chance at a natural life.

(604) 526-2747, ext. 502
giving@wildliferescue.ca

CHARITY CAR PROGRAM

Supports Wildlife Rescue Association of BC!

Donate your old vehicle and AA Wong's Towing will recycle it for you.

You will receive a minimum \$100 tax-deductible receipt for the assessed value of your car and net proceeds donated to Wildlife Rescue.

AA Wong's Towing will also donate their administrative fee so that 100% of the proceeds go to Wildlife Rescue.

Call the Donation Hotline at (604) 321-2277
or visit charitycarprogram.ca



ON THE BLOG



Helping Hummingbirds - Proper Feeder Maintenance

While planting a native flowering garden will provide the best natural source of food for hummingbirds, supplementing with a properly maintained hummingbird feeder can provide additional sustenance to local hummingbirds.

In order to help and not harm, you must ensure your feeders are properly maintained.

[Continue reading on the blog!](http://wildliferescue.ca/wildlife-corner-blog)
wildliferescue.ca/wildlife-corner-blog

Follow Wildlife Rescue!

For patient updates, tips, and education on co-existing with wildlife.



Common Questions to the Wildlife Support Centre

By Jackie McQuillan, Support Centre Lead

I found a bird attached to a sticky trap. What should I do?

Contrary to what your instincts are likely telling you, please leave the bird attached to the trap. Place it in a warm, dark, covered box and call us immediately. Our trained wildlife technicians will remove the trap in a way as to not damage the soft tissues or feathers of the bird.

The crows won't leave me alone. They dive at me every time I try to leave my house! Why are they after me?

Crows are some of the BEST parents and they will do anything to keep their little ones safe. Their nesting season is short. Carry an umbrella with you when you are coming and going to stop them from making contact and enjoy their ca-caws from a safe position!



WHITE-CROWNED
SPARROW

One confused bird attacks my windows all day long. What is going on?

It is likely a male robin seeing its own reflection. This time of year, robins become very territorial and try to keep other males away. Try putting Window Alert stickers on your windows to eliminate the reflection and the robin will be on its way.



MALLARDS

A mama duck and her ducklings are in the middle of my urban neighbourhood. What should I do?

If safe to do so, herd mama and her ducklings by walking slowly behind them with a towel or sheet. Walk them to a local park or waterway. By pushing the walk button at street crossings, you may be able to safely get them where they need to go!

If not safe, call the Wildlife Support Centre and we can help.



Wildlife Rescue Association of BC
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2021 Summer Newsletter Inside

Yes! I want to support wildlife rescue and rehabilitation in BC!


Wildlife Rescue Association
Wildlife Rescue Association of BC
5216 Glencarin Drive
Burnaby, BC V5B 3C1

I wish to make a donation:

Single	\$
Monthly	\$

Help animals by giving online

Donating at wildliferescue.ca cuts down on staff processing time and benefits wildlife by directing a greater portion of your gift to patients.

Request for information:

- ☐ Legacy Gifts for Wildlife
- ☐ Volunteer Opportunities
- ☐ Education Programs

WRA is grateful for your support. Thank you.

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To reduce waste and lower our administration costs, tax receipts are issued by email.

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