

TO THE RESCUE

Wildlife Rescue
ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Baby Birds of Summer - Extreme Weather Impacts



A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

This summer has been like nothing we've ever seen before. Extreme heat has ravaged the province. It has officially been the worst wildfire season on record and animals in BC have been impacted severely. Climate change and human intervention are taking their toll on our wildlife.

Despite the mounting odds against them, your support is making a huge difference. In the past few months, thousands of animals have received another chance for survival at Wildlife Rescue thanks to you. Over 2,600 patients were admitted to the Hospital during this time, and thousands more were supported in the field or by calls to the Helpline.

The team of wildlife technicians has almost doubled as seasonal staff help to meet the increased patient cases. We've seen thousands of babies grow up into healthy adults and successfully returned to the wild. Hundreds of pounds of fish, berries, mealworms, lettuce, and other species-specific foods have been gobbled up. The extra resources that your support provides to our wild patients have been essential.

Summer is a challenging time for wildlife. Your continued support is making it possible to meet these challenges head on.

Thank you for giving every injured, orphaned, and pollution-impacted animal a second chance at a wild life.

Warmly,

Coleen Doucette & Linda Bakker



LET YOUR LEGACY

BE WILD

For over 43 years, we have cared for the largest number of injured wild animals in Western Canada! Please consider including Wildlife Rescue in your legacy gift planning.

Give wildlife a second chance at a natural life.

(604) 526-2747, ext 517 | giftplanning@wildliferescue.ca

BABIES OF ALL SHAPES

Summer at Wildlife Rescue is always a time filled with baby birds from dozens of different species.



From swimming baby Wood Ducks, to precious little Hummingbirds, to hungry Northern Flickers, to a surprising nest of Black-billed Magpies from Calgary, Wildlife Rescue volunteers cared for hundreds and hundreds of baby birds this summer!

If you think you'd be a great fit to volunteer with us and would like to see our current openings, visit our website at:

wildliferescue.ca/volunteering





THE IMPACT OF EXTREME WEATHER

In the fall of 2021, a Spotted Bat was rescued and brought into care at Wildlife Rescue. The bat was dehydrated and underweight. Sadly, that wasn't the unusual part of this story.

Why is this remarkable? This rare bat, named for the three large spots across its shoulders was a unique visitor to the lower mainland. Spotted bats are rare, and this one was far from its typical home, the dry interior valleys of British Columbia. Extreme weather events may force wildlife like this Spotted Bat into new unfamiliar territories. Wildlife Rescue is the only organization in the Lower Mainland that treats and rehabilitates bats.

Jackie McQuillan, Manager of Wildlife Rescue's Support Centre explains "We are seeing a rise in heat-impacted animals. This

was never something that was on our radar a couple of decades ago. Now we see it every summer. We get many calls about baby gulls overheating on rooftops, baby bats ejecting from colonies, and many other animals struggling to find water and shade during extreme heat events."

The more gradual warming of our climate combined with these extreme weather events are endangering wildlife and the habitats they live in. Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing wildlife worldwide. It is happening twice as fast in Canada compared to the global average.

Although heat waves and weather events have always happened, it is the severity and frequency that they are occurring at now that



Spotted Bat

Here are some of the effects extreme weather has on wildlife in BC:

- **Heatwaves:** Intense temperatures can lead to dehydration and heat stress in animals, and animals in crisis behave differently. Heatwaves can also cause wildfires, which can kill animals directly, or indirectly. Wildfires destroy habitats and force animals to flee which puts them in danger. Fleeing animals are forced to compete for fewer resources and are at greater risk of predation or conflict with humans.
- **Changing Migration Patterns:** Migratory species have had their patterns disrupted and rerouted due to extreme weather events, unusually mild winters, and severely cold winters. Bird migration patterns have been moving north in recent decades. Climate change may be accelerating this process leaving birds vulnerable to the extreme temperatures in new locations.
- **Loss of Habitat:** Severe weather events like wildfires can destroy large areas of habitat. As habitats shrink and animals move to avoid serious weather events, their populations become fragmented. If an already small population is further fragmented, it may lack the genetic diversity it needs for the population to be sustainable over the long term. Species may become further at risk.

is the cause for concern. Donations help provide critical medical support to help a struggling animal recover.

The Spotted Bat mentioned earlier stayed in Wildlife Rescue care for 19 days. We're happy to say it was successfully released back into the wild. Tragically, we are seeing increasing patient numbers and new challenges due to climate change. All around the province, compassionate people like you, dear reader, call Wildlife Rescue to report animal emergencies due to wildfires and extreme heat.

Wildlife Rescue needs your support to be there when lives are at stake. The situation that wildlife is facing is urgent. Friend, together with your help, we can expand our resources and capacity to save more lives.

You can help animals impacted by the effects of climate change and extreme weather events at wildliferescue.ca/give-to-wildlife

TURTLES OF BC

Red-Eared Slider *Invasive*

Red head spot



Native to the Southern US, Mexico and Central America

Transfers diseases and parasites to the native turtles

Outcompete our native turtles for food and habitat

Western Painted Turtle *Native*



Red belly

Threatened by loss of wetland habitat, roadways, and competition with non-native species

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Spring and Summer Highlights

2754 Patients from March to August



Black-headed Grosbeak



Prothonotary Warbler



Steller's Jay



Golden-crowned Kinglet



Garter Snake

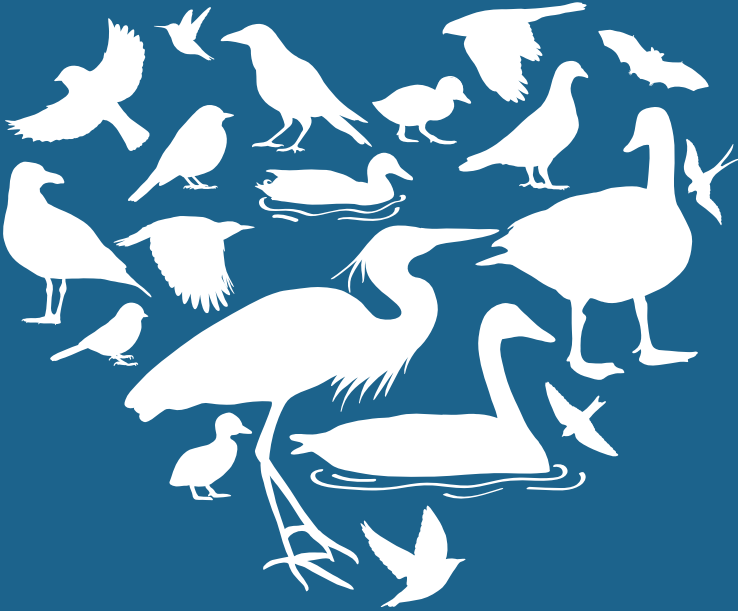


35 New Volunteers



Loads of sunshine!

Follow Wildlife Rescue!



For patient updates,
helpful tips and videos of
rehabilitated animals being
released to the wild.



linktr.ee/WildlifeRescueBC

YES! I'LL GIVE TO PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING SUPPORT TO ANIMALS THIS WINTER!

I would like to make a one-time gift of:

- \$30 to support injured wildlife
- \$55 to support injured wildlife
- \$125 to support injured wildlife
- \$250 to support injured wildlife
- \$_____ to provide medical treatment to as many animals as possible!

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Visa MasterCard Amex Enclosed Cheque

Credit Card#: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name: _____ Signature _____

Address: _____

Email*: _____ Tel: _____

Thank you! To reduce waste and lower administration costs, official tax receipts are issued by email, unless otherwise requested.

PRE-AUTHORIZED MONTHLY GIFT OPTION

YES! I wish to support local wildlife through an ongoing monthly gift to Wildlife Rescue's Freedom Partners Program:

- \$15/month to support wildlife in need
- \$25/month to support wildlife in need
- \$35/month to support wildlife in need
- \$55/month to support wildlife in need
- \$_____/month to help as many animals as possible!

Please debit my bank account (attach VOID cheque) OR charge my provided credit card monthly. Wildlife Rescue will process your first credit card payment or reach out to verify bank account by the email provided within 2-4 weeks.

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Wildlife Rescue Association of BC
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Burnaby, BC V5B 3C1

*Email is required for pre-authorized monthly gifts

Wildlife Rescue Association of BC respects the support of all our donors. We do not trade or sell donors' names. Donations and Memberships are tax deductible.