

# TO THE RESCUE

NEWSLETTER

*Wildlife Rescue*  
ASSOCIATION

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*Rehabilitated Gull Reappears • Best Bird in BC 2025 Winner Crowned*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Friend to Wildlife,

From just one Mallard duckling on April 10 to fifty by the end of the following week, we have seen hundreds of wild babies admitted this spring. We are preparing for hundreds more this summer.

From ducklings seeking warmth after losing their mother to a tragic vehicle accident, to baby birds requiring dawn-to-dusk feeding — whenever wild animals are in trouble, Wildlife Rescue staff and volunteers show up. The hospital team is working tirelessly to provide these little ones with the lifesaving care they require. The goal is always the same: to relieve suffering and return these babies home to the wild.

Meanwhile, in the Support Centre, the Helpline is ringing off the hook and emails are flooding in. Our dedicated team answers hundreds of wildlife inquiries every day, helping concerned citizens and promoting peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife through education.

All of this vital work is possible because of people like you. Your commitment to our mission touches our hearts, and the lives of countless wild animals you help save.

We continue our busy season knowing you stand behind both current and future generations of wildlife.

Thank you for your continued support for wildlife,

*Coleen Doucette Linda Bakker*

Coleen Doucette & Linda Bakker  
Co-Executive Directors  
Wildlife Rescue Association



## Let your legacy be wild!

For over 45 years, the compassion of legacy donors has alleviated the suffering of more than 140,000 wild animals. How you plan your legacy can make a lifesaving difference to the next 140,000 injured animals.

Contact us today to learn more about your lasting impact on future generations of wildlife. We are here to answer any questions you may have.

(604) 526-2747, ext 517 | [giftplanning@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:giftplanning@wildliferescue.ca)



# Winter & Spring Highlights

## 722 Patients Admitted from January through April

Silver-haired Bat



Long-tailed Duck



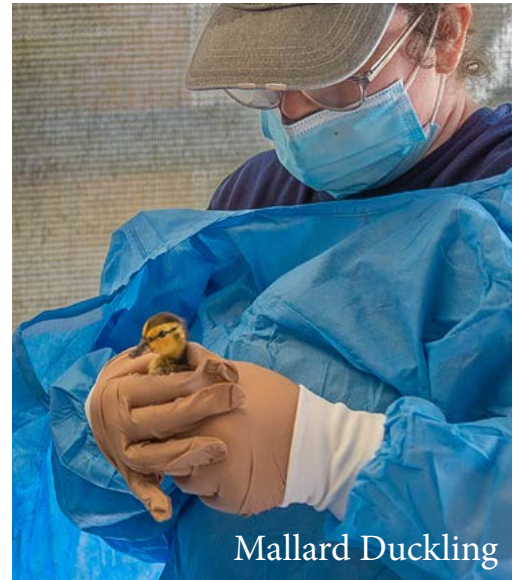
Rufous Hummingbird



Common Raven



Mallard Duckling



113 volunteers logged hours with a total of 4,451 hours donated

## And the Winner is...

After the Anna's Hummingbird soared to victory in the inaugural edition of the Best Bird in BC competition, we felt it was only fair to the hundreds of other unique birds in the province to have a chance at a rematch. So, our bracket competition returned to crown the Best Bird in BC 2025, this time in the form of a Songbird Sing-off!

We put 32 of the most talented natural vocalists in the province beak-to-beak in this just-for-fun campaign. As people from all over BC rallied for their favourite songbirds, the Song Sparrow and Black-capped Chickadee faced each other in the thrilling finale.

With 51% of the final votes, the crowd favourite Black-capped Chickadee, eventually took the crown. Congratulations to this worthy bird and everyone who voted for them!



# 24 Years Later: Rehabilitated Gull Makes a Reappearance



Watching an animal arrive at the Wildlife Hospital in critical condition, recover, and return to the wild is one of the most rewarding parts of wildlife rehabilitation. Occasionally, we're treated to something even more special: hearing that a past patient is not just surviving but thriving, even decades later!

In August of the year 2000, a young Glaucous-winged Gull was found orphaned in Vancouver and brought to Wildlife Rescue by a worried wildlife friend. Thanks to the community's support, the gull received a second chance and was raised at our rehabilitation centre. The bird learned how to swim and forage, and received expert care to grow into a healthy, strong juvenile. After a month in care, the gull had developed all the critical skills needed to survive in the wild.

Just prior to being successfully released at Belcarra's shoreline, the bird was banded by Master Bander Liz Thunstrom. The purpose of banding is to gain knowledge about the survival rate of birds treated in care after being released into their natural habitats. It helps researchers understand how well orphaned birds raised in captivity adapt to life in the wild, and how those that have recovered from ailments go on to succeed in the wild.

Fast forward to February 2024: the now mature gull was recaptured in White Rock by researchers from

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as part of their Salish Sea Gull Project.\* The bird was fitted with several new coloured bands to make them easily identifiable from a distance and was spotted in White Rock again in September.

*"I was very surprised and pleased to hear of this recapture report after 24 years! This more than exceeded my hopes for its future when the bird was originally released back into the wild after banding," said Thunstrom. "It would be interesting to know what experiences the bird had in those years and how many young it produced in that time, but most satisfying is that it survived and did so well!"*

The Salish Sea Gull Project is an integral part of the Salish Sea Marine Bird Monitoring and Conservation Program. This five-year initiative is especially significant as gull species are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1994 and have been identified as a stewardship priority by ECCC.

*"[We are] conducting research on Glaucous-winged Gulls as indicators of the health of the Salish Sea, the idea being that if the ocean is healthy, the birds will be healthy," said Dr. Mark Hipfner, ECCC Research Scientist. "As part of the larger project, we are banding gulls with unique combinations of colour bands to quantify age-specific survival rates. This individual confirms for us that these gulls can live good, long lives."*

*\*This research project was conducted under the appropriate permits.*







Glaucous-winged Gull Nestling

Urban development has led to many bird species, including gulls, nesting on rooftops and patios. Each year, many young gulls are admitted to Wildlife Rescue after prematurely jumping from their nests and landing on busy roadways. They are also highly vulnerable to intense heat events on these exposed surfaces.

At our rehabilitation centre, they develop critical survival skills and receive the care and nourishment they need during this critical developmental period to grow up and survive on their own in the wild.



Juvenile Glaucous-winged Gull



Adult Glaucous-winged Gull

Once the animals are able to fly and forage for natural food on their own, they are carefully released back into the wild where they can thrive in their natural habitat.

ENCOUNTER WILDLIFE IN DISTRESS?  
HEAD TO [WILDLIFERESCUE.CA](https://www.wildliferescue.ca) / REPORT  
-AN-EMERGENCY

OR CONTACT OUR  
SUPPORT CENTRE HERE:



HAVE YOU SEEN A BANDED GULL? YOUR SIGHTING  
COULD HELP CONSERVATION EFFORTS! REPORT  
COLOUR-BANDED GULLS TO THE SALISH SEA GULL  
PROJECT AND CONTRIBUTE TO ONGOING RESEARCH

SCAN HERE TO  
REPORT SIGHTINGS:



## IN MEMORIAL:

# Kate Allen

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Kate Allen, a truly one-of-a-kind individual and cherished Wildlife Rescue volunteer. Known fondly as a “Jill of all trades”, Kate dedicated twelve remarkable years to supporting wildlife.

Whether she was transporting animals in distress, tending to the gardens, or using her professional skills to paint buildings, Kate’s commitment knew no bounds. To prevent dirty dishes from piling up in the Wildlife Kitchen, she would often spend her entire shift (and then some) ensuring every dish was spotlessly clean.

While Kate could seem reserved at first, those lucky enough to earn her trust would discover some of her endless repertoire of fascinating stories from her life - like the one about the dress that made her feel like a princess. She made a valuable impact, not just on the wildlife we care for, but also on the people blessed to know her.

Kate, you will be deeply missed, but your memory will live on in all the lives you touched, human and wildlife alike.

— The Wildlife Rescue Team





# Keep Wildlife in Mind When Venturing Outdoors!

## Fishing This Summer? Avoid Entanglement:

Discard broken lines and hooks in the  
designated recycling bins.

See wildlife entangled in fishing gear?  
Reach out to a local wildlife rehabilitator.

## Let Wildlife Find Their Own Food:

Allowing wildlife to find their own food will prevent  
them from becoming dependent on humans and  
ensure their natural foraging skills remain strong.

Bread, and other human food, is not nutritionally  
balanced for wildlife and can cause deformities and  
poor feather quality in rapidly growing youngsters.  
These issues negatively impact their survival in the wild.

## Litter Leaves a Lasting Legacy:

Litter can injure or trap wildlife.

Dispose of waste properly or take it home.

For your own outdoor space...  
plant native trees and plants to  
create a wildlife-friendly garden!

Not sure what to plant? Head to  
our website for more information:





## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

*Do you want to be directly involved in making a difference for wildlife?*

Apply to be Wildlife Rescue's Wildlife Kitchen Coordinator! In this seasonal role, you will ensure the Wildlife Kitchen works as a well-oiled machine. From keeping the wildlife kitchen clean and organized to preparing diets for wildlife patients, you play a critical part in supporting the care of BC's wildlife.

Responsibilities include:

- Dishwashing, following specific protocols
- Cleaning kitchen surfaces, high touch surfaces and storage bins
- Removing garbage, sweeping and mopping the kitchen and downstairs space
- Food preparation, if applicable
- And more!

Apply today via [wildliferescue.ca/volunteering](http://wildliferescue.ca/volunteering)

## Wildlife emergencies can happen at any time.

Your monthly donation ensures the needs of wildlife are met all year round. For the price of your favourite streaming service, you can help wildlife in distress when they need it most.

Head to [wildliferescue.ca/give](http://wildliferescue.ca/give) to set up your monthly gift today.

join  
**FREEDOM  
PARTNERS**  
today!



## YOU'RE INVITED TO WILDLIFE RESCUE'S BABY SHOWER!



Over a hundred young animals come through the doors of the Wildlife Rescue each week, seeking life-saving support.

These wild baby patients need your help. Whether it's a cozy nest, a nutritious meal, or a dose of healing medicine, every gift you donate goes directly to giving these little ones a fighting chance.

TAKE A  
LOOK AT THE  
REGISTRY  
HERE!

