

Welcome to INSTINCTS

Jan 2015

Vol 5:1

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

2014 in Review

When the year comes to an end, it's time for the almost endless pile of annual reports to the State & Feds. It's a good time to give a report to our supporters, too. That would be the person reading these words, YOU! We admitted 615 patients of 92 different species from 36 different counties in 2014. For a complete listing of the breakdown, see the last page of this newsletter. We keep track of some fun statistics, too. For instance, the first orphan of 2014 was a black bear cub admitted on April 11th. Even though wildlife rehab follows seasonal patterns, there are exceptions and surprises-much like unusual weather patterns. The winter of 2013-2014 really affected the composition of our admissions. We only admitted a handful of orphan songbirds instead of the normal full nursery. The weather affected their nest success and there just weren't baby songbirds out there to get into trouble. Some species were harder hit than others. We didn't even see an Eastern Phoebe. We also saw a record number of starving juvenile bald eagles. It makes sense that multiple factors involving the long cold affected nesting success and also fishing success afterwards. We are hoping we get back to a more normal weather pattern for everyone's sake, animals and people alike. We keep statistics on more than just patients. Volunteers make Wild Instincts run.

In 2014, we logged 568 volunteer hours (not including Mark & Sharon). Rescue & Transport Drivers drove over 13,150 miles to get wild animals in need to help. Ruby & Amelia also presented education programs to almost 2250 people with our staff doing a handful of programs without them.

We're FOUR!

On January 25th, 2011, Wild Instincts was incorporated. On January 28th, 2011, 17 acres was purchased to house the new wildlife rehabilitation center and we were off and running helping The Wild Things Heal. Of the 12,730 wild animals Mark & Sharon have been personally responsible for treating since 1998, 2100 of them have been treated here at Wild Instincts. The only reason we can still be here is thanks to great supporters like you! You helped over two thousand wild animals get help! You deserve a pat on the back. We could not do any of this without you so enjoy a piece of birthday cake because you deserve it!



In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

- ~In Memory of Pam Meinke
- ~In Memory of Ron Brekke
- ~In Memory of Shirley & John Newkirk
- ~In Memory of "Bother" Faber, a much-loved feline companion
- ~In Memory of Bernie Bitney
- ~In Memory of Don Buttke
- ~In Honor of Marsha Jones' sister & brother-in-law
- ~In Memory of Sheryl Spencer, may her spirit soar

You DO NOT have to be member of Facebook to follow us on Facebook. You can follow all our stories, photos and videos without joining Facebook. You simply can't comment on them unless you are a member of Facebook.

Click on the box to see for yourself.



BAT UPDATES

Wisconsin has eight species of bats. They are often split into two groups: "cave bats" and "tree bats". Cave bats are species that hibernate over winter in caves and mines (and sometimes houses). Tree bats are species that migrate south for the winter. In Wisconsin, the little brown bat, big brown bat, northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat and Eastern pipistrelle are all classified as cave bats. This silver-haired bat, Eastern red bat and hoary bats are classified as tree bats.

With the discovery of White-nose Syndrome in Grant County in March 2014, cave bat rehabilitation came to a stand still. In fact, at one point we were told to tell people to put any found bat basically back where they found it and let nature take its course. That was extremely frustrating to us, taking an

animal on the threatened/endanger list and not helping it.

We are extremely happy to announce cave bat rehab is back up and running.

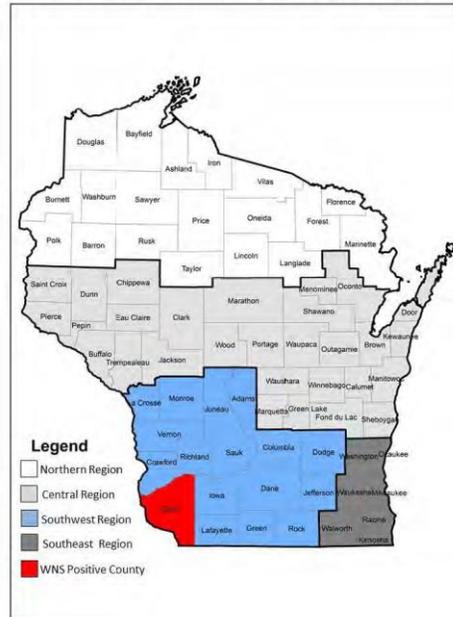
As is often the case, there are new, stricter rules-many of them.

The rule that will affect you, the reader, most is the new regions.

The state has been divided into four bat rehabilitation regions. Bats need to stay within their regions.

In the past, we were able to admit bats from Marathon County. We are no longer able to do so.

Wisconsin Bat Rehabilitator Regions



We can only admit cave bats from the Northern Region.

If you find a bat in a different region, you can contact your local WDNR office for help in finding a bat rehabber in that region.

In November, 2014, early winter surveillance discovered the fungus responsible for the disease in swabs of two Eastern pipistrelles in Dane County, adding both a new county and a new species to the WNS bats of Wisconsin. Dane county will now be added to the list of WNS Positive

Counties banned from rehab in an effort to slow the spread of the disease. Bats are an important part of the ecosystem. For ways you can help Wisconsin bats, click [HERE](#)



Big Brown Bat. If a bat is found hibernating in a building Wisconsin in the winter, it is most likely a big brown.

Christmas for the Critters

Thanks to the efforts of one of our supporters, Tera F., a wonderful fundraiser concert took place on December 12, 2014. Christmas for the Critters featured renowned Northwoods musician, [Tuck Pence](#) who was joined up and coming renowned Northwoods musician Scott Kirby. Pat's Tavern in downtown Rhinelander was PACKED with people enjoying the music. There were lots of wonderful raffle prizes and baked goods. The event raised over \$2000.00 to help us help them.



Mark & Tuck



Raffle prizes and people enjoying helping the animals.



So many great choices!



Scott Kirby & Tuck Pence wowing the crowd with their talent.

WISH LIST and AMAZON

We are continually amazed and blessed by all those generous folks out there who take the time to check our list and go shopping. We'd like to say a big THANK YOU for helping us help them, no matter who you are out there.

Some even see a need and just respond without giving us a chance to list it on our wish list. Every time we receive an item to help our mission it gives us a great feeling. We cannot do this without you and your help.

Some select items from our wish list:

- ~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets
- ~Venison
- ~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)
- ~Paper Towels
- ~Liquid Hand Soap
- ~Dish Soap

Here's a link to our [Amazon Wish List](#) if you'd like to go wild shopping ☺

Looking Forward in 2015

We started this newsletter reflecting upon 2014. It's only fair to balance it by looking ahead to 2015.

In 2015 we hope to purchase an adjacent property to enable us to expand a nature center with more educational programs. The intern quarters needs a new roof and new siding. The garage needs a new roof. The eagle enclosure roof needs updating. There are also several raptor flight enclosures that need finishing. Not to mention the aquatic bird enclosures and the aquatic mammal enclosures.

No need to look back for long. There's enough ahead to keep us more than busy. All these items will need revenue. If you would like to donate to a specific project, please let us know.

Likewise, if you'd like to organize a fundraiser in general or for a specific project, we'd also like to hear from you.

Expanding Volunteer Program

Volunteers are a huge part of Wild Instincts and we couldn't operate without them. In 2015, volunteers logged in over 568 hours of service, up from 406 in 2014. Whether it's helping with animal care, construction of enclosures, fundraising, transporting or mopping the floor it is ALL important!

In 2014, our patients came from 36 different counties! Because we are the only center in WI permitted to treat ALL species, our patients come from a great geographic area. Our transport drivers log 13-14,000 miles annually between them.

We answer questions from people wanting to become a volunteer at Wild Instincts almost weekly. To help us operate more efficiently, we will be offering some formal volunteer informational meetings and training sessions.

If you are interested in becoming one of these dedicated volunteers, attend one of the upcoming sessions.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a general volunteer, two identical volunteer informational meetings will be held at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 20th. One will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The other will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Having two identical sessions will allow you to attend the one that fits better into your schedule.

We will provide detailed information about what opportunities Wild Instincts has for those interested in volunteering, what is expected of volunteers as well as what is not allowed.

Rescue and Transport Drivers are a huge link in getting injured animals to the care they need. We are one of the few centers in the state permitted to treat all animals so our patients come from a wide geographic region. In 2012, we admitted patients from 28 different counties; in 2013 from 27 different counties; in 2014 from 36 different counties.

If you're interested in more information on joining our team of drivers, attend one of the two identical driver trainer sessions at Wild Instincts. One will be held on Thurs, March 12 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The other will be Saturday, March 21 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Please attend whichever session best fits your schedule.



One of the chores to be done after a heavy snowfall is snow removal from enclosure roofs. The eagle enclosure is 20' high which makes for tired arms! The eagles are content to perch until we get a little too close, then they simply fly to perches on the other end.

Species 1/1/14-12/31/14

American Badger	1
American Goldfinch	6
American Robin	25
American Toad	1
American Woodcock	3
Bald Eagle	35
Baltimore Oriole	3
Barn Swallow	1
Beaver	2
Belted Kingfisher	4
Big Brown Bat	10
Black Bear	16
Black-and-White Warbler	2
Black-capped Chickadee	4
Blue Jay	2
Blue-spotted Salamander	1
Bobcat	4
Broad-winged Hawk	6
Brown Thrasher	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Canada Goose	10
Chipping Sparrow	6
Common Grackle	5
Common Loon	3
Common Nighthawk	1
Cooper's Hawk	2
Coyote	4

Dark-eyed Junco	1
Deer Mouse	21
Downy Woodpecker	4
Eastern Bluebird	2
Eastern Chipmunk	5
Eastern Cottontail	90
Eastern Gray Squirrel	30
Gray Fox	2
Great Blue Heron	3
Great Horned Owl	5
Green Frog	1
Green Heron	1
Hairy Woodpecker	4
Hermit Thrush	1
Herring Gull	1
Hooded Merganser	5
House Finch	1
Indigo Bunting	1
Least Flycatcher	1
Little Brown Bat	1
Mallard Duck	27
Merlin	5
Mourning Dove	13
Muskrat	1
Northern Flicker	9
Northern Harrier	1
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Pine Siskin	1
Porcupine	1
Purple Finch	1
Raccoon	41
Red Fox	4
Red Squirrel	15
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Red-tailed Hawk	4
Ring-billed Gull	2
Ring-necked Duck	1
River Otter	2
Rock Dove	10
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Ruffed Grouse	6
Sandhill Crane	1
Short-tailed Weasel	2
Snapping Turtle	24
Song Sparrow	2
Southern Flying Squirrel	2
Striped Skunk	1
Swainson's Thrush	2

Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	12
Turkey Vulture	3
Unknown	5
Western Painted Turtle	14
White-tailed Deer	35
White-throated Sparrow	1
Wild Turkey	1
Wood Duck	7
Wood Turtle	1
Woodchuck	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Total	615



Yet another bald eagle suffering from lead poisoning. Get the lead out of your sporting goods. No lead ammunition and no lead fishing tackle. This is preventable!

To see a video of her starting to improve and eat solids from tweezers, click [HERE](#).

Thank You for Helping
Us Help Them!

Events Calendar

Volunteer Informational Meeting at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 19th @ 10:30 a.m.

Volunteer Informational Meeting at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 19th @ 6:30 p.m.

Rescue & Transport Driver Training at Wild Instincts on Mon, March 12th from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Rescue & Transport Driver Training at Wild Instincts on Sat, March 21st from 10:00-11:00 a.m.



This short-tailed weasel was admitted with severe head injuries after being hit by a car.

Often times in their white winter fur they are referred to as ermine.