

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

July 2013

Vol 3:4

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

Wild Baby Season

This has been a wild baby season...in more ways than one! We have been keeping all of our interns, Mark, Sharon and some volunteers busy and even busier. We've remarked several times we don't know how we managed to keep up with patients and do some enclosure construction last year with one less intern.

The fact our patient load this year is running ahead of last year may have something to do with it.

We've admitted 284 to 6/30/13 compared to 258 to the same date last year. Not only have we had more admissions, the delayed spring kept things postponed and then instead of arriving in a normal fashion, everything arrived at once!

Chief Steve Fritz Memorial Poker Run

The weather for the day of the Chief Steve Fritz Memorial Poker run was definitely against us with rain on & off not only during the ride, but during the music/raffles as well.



Dedicated motorcycle enthusiasts line up for lunch

It didn't matter to 50 bike enthusiasts who rode in the rain and then listened to great music in the rain afterwards.

The Newbold Fire Department went above and beyond allowing lunch to be held in the fire barn. They also provided Newbold Fire Dept. volunteers to set up for and clean up after lunch.



Participants enjoyed Ruby, our red-tailed hawk, who made an appearance during lunch.

It was inspiring to see how Newbold, Pine Lake, Pelican, Rothschild as well as other volunteer fire departments as far away as Florida helped support a firefighter brother by donating to the CSFMPR which in turn benefitted Wild Instincts.

Participants had fun despite the weather and are all ready looking forward to next year's event.

The event raised \$3000.00.

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

The [Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin](#) connects generations to the wonders of Wisconsin's lands, waters and wildlife through conservation, education, engagement and giving. We had the privilege of having some of them for a visit during one of their field trips. Thanks to Jeremy Holtz, WDNR Wildlife Biologist, for bringing such a knowledgeable, diverse group to learn about wildlife rehabilitation.



Baby river otter

Remember the cute little baby river otter? She and her foster sister are in their outside pond enclosure now. Clicking [HERE](#) will take you to a video of them catching their first crayfish.



1-day old Eastern Gray Squirrel admitted July 9th

Year of the Loon

This has been a busy few weeks for Common Loon admissions here at Wild Instincts. Here are just a few of the loon cases:

On June 16th an adult loon was found with yards of braided Dacron fishing line hanging out of its mouth.



Look closely and you can see the remaining fishing line in this loon's mouth (Look under the eye)

X-rays revealed not just one, but two fishing hooks similar to what is referred to as a walleye rig. It was unclear as to whether there was also a sinker which could be a source of fatal lead poisoning. The hooks were already deep into the proventriculus which would have made their removal impossible in recent history.



X-ray of the two hooks in the loon.

This time, however, history was made in a ground-breaking procedure. Northwoods Animal Hospital had just received an endoscope unit donated from Marshfield Clinic in Minocqua. It was immediately

decided this loon would be the first patient to benefit from this new equipment. On June 21st, Dr. Mike Franks, a gastroenterologist with Marshfield Clinic, donated his time and expertise to instruct Dr. Dave Theuerkauf, DVM at Northwoods Animal Hospital on the procedure. By the time the endoscopy took place, the hooks and line had migrated together into a ball. It was easily found, hooks cut and removed. The whole procedure took about 10 minutes. Follow up x-rays showed there was no sinker.

Intern Maggie, who was technically off that day, tagged along with Mark to video-taped the ground-breaking procedure. You can click [HERE](#) if you're interested in seeing the inside of a live loon.

That loon was released two days later.



Mark Naniot, Dr. Dave Theuerkauf and Dr. Mike Franks with loon after the first successful loon endoscopy in the Northwoods.

On July 5th another adult loon was admitted with signs of severe lead poisoning. It was extremely critical. Its blood lead level was so high our analyzer couldn't read it. We took it Northern Paws Animal Hospital for immediate x-rays which revealed a sinker. On the way back to Wild Instincts, Mark was calling Dr. Dave asking about the possibility of another endoscopy procedure. Unfortunately, Dr. Franks was out of town and there hadn't been enough time to adequately train Dr. Dave to do the

procedure without him. It would have to wait until after the weekend.

Sharon placed a photo of the loon on our Facebook page. Dr. Franks' sister saw it and alerted Dr. Franks who was in Chicago. At 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 5th, Dr. Franks called to check on the loon. When he was told it was extremely critical, he made some phone calls and enlisted the help of another Marshfield Clinic surgeon, Dr. Tim Phillips.



Loon with in critical condition with severe lead poisoning

Dr. Stephanie, the Northwoods Animal Hospital vet on call, met Mark & Dr. Phillips at the vet clinic at 9:30 p.m. Friday, July 5th for an emergency loon endoscopy.

Unfortunately, this loon passed away on the table just as the toxic lead sinker was being grabbed. Despite the undesirable outcome, the willingness of all involved in this gallant effort is nothing short of remarkable!

Now for the loon orphans:



Very tiny day- old common loon chick

This day-old loon chick weighing only 69 grams was admitted on July 9th. Loon chicks in Northern Wisconsin hatch out at around 94 grams. Unfortunately, this tiny one did not make it.

A week-old loon chick was admitted shortly after. We contacted our loon researcher friends. After some discussion and checking, we were pretty sure we knew which lake this wayward chick was from and who its parents were, but we were not sure why it was by itself. Sometimes they get separated during a storm, but there hadn't been any. Sometimes rival loons or even siblings can drive off chicks. Because we were not sure why it wasn't with its family, we all decided to find it a new family. This is very risky as loons are extremely territorial and have been known to kill chicks not their own; even young chicks will kill other chicks. Thanks to the crew at [The Loon Project](#), we were able to locate a family with a chick of about the same age. Kristin and Jackie with The Loon Project took our chick to one of their monitored loon families. We held our breath. The chick was accepted. Big sigh of relief.

If this is so risky, one may ask why we would even try it. Loons as a rule don't do well in captivity so raising them or keeping them for long periods is risky in itself. Also, our goal is to get animals back to the wild

with the best possible chances of surviving. Try as we might, we cannot teach a loon to be a loon. We cannot duplicate the complicated vocalizations, body language and behavior of an actual loon. Wild loon families can do that. This situation is the best of the best because this family is monitored by the research group every few days so we can keep an eye on what transpires. Since the introduction, the chick separated from the family for a bit and then returned to it. It will continue to be monitored and if need be we can intervene.



Two-day old Killdeer chick. He and his sibling were successfully released to wild foster parents.

Follow us on [facebook](#) for up-to-date photos and stories.



Baby short-tailed weasel. It weighed the same as a quarter in your change purse when it arrived.

Is Your Tackle Box Hiding a Killer?

Our lead analyzer, made possible by a grant from the [Gus Hawthorne Foundation](#), is getting overworked!

It seems like we are running lead tests on loons and eagles several times a week. If we're lucky we can catch it early enough like with the two eagles we are currently treating for lead poisoning.

Lead sinkers are death sentences for many animals, especially loons and eagles.

Eagles get lead poisoning mostly from bioaccumulation. Eating lots of ducks and fish that have lead in them accumulates in the eagle and causes lead poisoning.

Loons ingest small rocks and gravel to help grind up their food. Lead sinkers mix in with the gravel and actually grind away releasing lead into the loon.

Encourage all your friends to use lead-free fishing tackle. Give it as gifts. It's readily available and can save lives.

Also make sure you retrieve any fishing line and make every attempt to recover any lost fishing lures and hooks. We see way too many birds entangled in fishing line. Many times the line entangles the bird and prevents them from being able to get food. Eagles can trail fishing line, get snagged on power lines and transformers and be electrocuted.



This week-old American Kestrel and its 4 siblings were saved by a crew replacing utility poles. Seeing the hole in the pole, they used their boom truck to gently lower it to the ground. Finding the nest, they carefully cross-cut the section out and brought the entire thing to us. Way to go M.J. Electric!

THANK YOU

Special thanks to the staff & patrons of [Flyin' Finn](#) for again including us in donation raffles they held at their establishment. It is always a welcome surprise and very much appreciated. Also a special thanks to Susie C. She's a student who gave up her month of June to sleep on an air mattress and volunteer to clean poop (and some other things). She rocks!



Susie gets to handle Ruby for the first time.

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received
~ In memory of Herm Schwarze

Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs Help You AND Wild Instincts

Many taxpayers who receive taxable distributions also contribute to charitable organizations. Individuals who are at least 70 ½ by the end of 2013 may exclude up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA that would otherwise be included in income. This qualified charitable distribution can satisfy your annual required minimum distribution from your IRA. Please consult with your tax advisor if you are interested in helping Wild Instincts in this manner.

Turtle Attacks

There have been a number of very disturbing attacks on turtles this year all across the state. The vicious June 10th attack of a snapping turtle at the Delavan Golf Course made national news. It appears she was beaten to death with a golf club. There is still a \$10,500 reward being offered for information in that open case.

Wild Instincts admitted a snapping turtle on June 22nd that had been beaten with a skateboard in Bukolt Park in Stevens Point. She suffered severe head trauma in addition to shell damage. She is still in critical condition and prognosis is unknown.



Some of the damage done by a senseless skateboard attack.

At this time to our knowledge, the investigation into her beating is also still on-going.

Let's Talk Turkey

On June 26th, a couple drove to Stevens Point and back after a family member accidentally ran over a wild turkey nest while doing some commercial mowing. They retrieved four eggs which we incubated here at Wild Instincts.

On July 11th, three of the four hatched. The fourth egg never fully developed.

One of the three was born with a birth defect and died a short time later. The other two are doing very well.

If you'd like to watch a video of them catching crickets at five days of age click

[HERE](#).



Wild Turkey starting to emerge



One of the wild turkeys emerging from the egg



Happy Birthday to Me!

WISH LIST and AMAZON

Our [Amazon Wish List](#) is proving to be pretty popular, not only with our supporters but our staff and interns as well.



A simple can opener brightened the day

Just today two can openers arrived that caused a quite a celebration. First of all, it's always fun to get an unexpected package in the mail. Secondly, when we have to wrestle with can openers several times a day the ability to get ones we need and work well just makes it easier for us to help our wild friends.

Everyone was so excited to try out the can openers they opened a can to use for the next feeding. The Ooo's and Ahh's of joy filled the entire building! (Seriously! We wildlife rehab types can find joy in lots of little things.)

In addition to the Amazon Wish List, we still have a complete [Wish List](#) on our website and continue to be humbled by how many generous supporters we have out there looking out for us.

Thank you for helping us help them.

Some select items from our wish list:
~PRODUCE such as Apples, Bananas, Berries (any fresh), Melons (any fresh), Carrots, Potatoes
~Large Rubbermaid Storage Bins
~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)
~Paper Towels
~Folding saw horses

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 10th

Bake Sale at Hodag Farmer's Market
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Rhinelanders

Come to the Hodag Farmer's Market for some delicious baked goods. Ruby, our red-tailed hawk will also be there.

Saturday, September 28th

2nd Annual Walk in the Wild
North Lakeland Discovery Center
Manitowish Waters

Take a "Walk in the Wild" and enjoy the beautiful trails and fall color with your family, friends or leashed dog! New this year is a "Virtual Walk". If you can't join us at the Discovery Center but still want to help raise funds or make a donation, you can participate with a virtual walk.

Raffle prizes, hot cider, bake sale and raffles are all part of the activities.

Registration/pledge forms can be downloaded from our [website](#).



Ruby enjoys her booth at the Country Fair in Presque Isle

Species Total 1/1/13-7/7/13	
American Badger	1
American Crow	2
American Kestrel	11
American Robin	19
Bald Eagle	4
Barred Owl	1
Belted Kingfisher	6
Big Brown Bat	4
Black Bear	6
Black Duck	1
Blue Jay	1
Bobcat	2
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Canada Goose	4
Chipping Sparrow	6
Common Grackle	4
Common Loon	8
Common Raven	1
Common Redpoll	17
Coyote	1
Deer Mouse	7
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Bluebird	2
Eastern Cottontail	38
Eastern Gray Squirrel	16
Eastern Phoebe	4
European Starling	4
Evening Grosbeak	1
Gray Fox	1
Great Blue Heron	1
Great Horned Owl	2
Hairy Woodpecker	6
Hooded Merganser	1
House Finch	6
Killdeer	2
Long-eared Owl	1
Mallard Duck	8
Meadow Vole	3
Merlin	1
Mourning Dove	11
Northern Flicker	2
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Pine Grosbeak	1
Pine Siskin	4
Porcupine	3
Purple Finch	3
Raccoon	21
Red Fox	3
Red Squirrel	6
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Red-winged Blackbird	1
River Otter	2
Rock Dove	4

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4
Sandhill Crane	1
Short-tailed Weasel	4
Snapping Turtle	8
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	2
Turkey Vulture	2
Virginia Opossum	1
Western Fox Snake	2
Western Painted Turtle	11
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
White-tailed Deer	19
White-winged Crossbill	1
Wood Duck	2
Wood Turtle	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1

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Wild Instincts

Thank You for Helping
Us Help Them!



This loon had a non-repairable injury and could not be saved but the band information showed it to be over 25 years old!