Wildlife in Crisis Year-End Newsletter 2015

Barred Owl Release 2015
WIC receives over 5,000 injured, orphaned and ill wild animals each year from concerned citizens, veterinarians, and law enforcement. And WIC answers over 20,000 phone calls, providing guidance to those seeking help with wildlife issues.

Thank you for your generous support!

We received a record number of birds of prey and aquatic birds last winter due to the bitter cold. These birds were brought to Wildlife in Crisis emaciated and injured. Many of these birds needed to be kept for nearly a year to gain the necessary weight and strength for release. We released 5 barred owls at our October benefit this year. The one in the photo above was emaciated, barely clinging to life when she arrived at WIC last February after being struck by a car. She spent months of intensive care inside our clinic and spent the summer in our large flight cage with other barred owls in preparation for release—their second chance at life in the wild. Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NALGoIFWlo

We would not be able to provide care for over 200 species of native birds, mammals,
In order to give each species the specialized care they need it is imperative that we restrict the amount of human contact they receive at WIC. It is a delicate balance of nurturing and seclusion that allows us to successfully rehabilitate our patients. Wounded wildlife must be kept quite and calm throughout their recovery. Each orphaned baby must be raised with others of their own species for proper socialization and receive minimal human contact during their stay at WIC. We achieve this through our resident intern program. WIC interns are assigned specific species to care for in order to provide necessary continuity of care. And our local volunteers assist with our permanent resident animals who require careful care, monitoring and enrichment.

Each patient at Wildlife in Crisis has their very own story of survival to tell. Here are just a few of those stories from 2015:

**Endangered and Threatened species at Wildlife in Crisis:**

**American Kestrel**

Each year WIC receives many threatened, endangered and species of special concern in need of care. This smallest of falcons in North America was brought to WIC entangled in a mylar balloon and string. We were able to remove the offending balloon and string, but it took over a year for this bird to recover from her injuries. She sustained a leg fracture and diminished blood flow in one wing due to the strangling string. This spring she was released into an appropriate habitat. A significant outcome, especially for this species of special
Balloons are a serious threat to all types of wildlife. Please refrain from "releasing" balloons of any kind.

**Endangered and Threatened species at WIC**

**Little Brown Bat**

This once abundant bat species is now an endangered species thanks to white-nose syndrome. This deadly fungal disease has been killing bats by the millions over the past decade. This little guy was found with an injured forearm. After several months of recuperation at WIC, he was released. An important outcome considering the decline of this beneficial species. A single little brown bat can consume 1,000 mosquitoes an hour! Like other North American bats, little brown bats are nocturnal. They live in hollow trees, caves and attics. We hope over time that these precious, vital little animals can rebound and overcome the devastation that white-nose syndrome has caused.

**Broad-winged Hawks**

This trio of hawks are all recuperating at Wildlife in Crisis from various injuries and exposure to toxins and will be spending the winter at WIC. The hawks in the foreground and middle were hit by cars. The hawk in the rear is suffering from rodenticide poisoning. Broad-winged hawks are small Buteo hawks who live in the forest interior. They are a species of special concern in Connecticut due to diminishing habitat. These hawks migrate to South America in flocks each fall. We are hopeful that all three of these hawks will eventually be releasable. In the meantime, they are enjoying the company of one another in their private habitat at WIC.
Baby Red Fox--"Roxy"

Roxy was found alone in the snow on a cold February day. She was brought to Wildlife in Crisis where we gently bathed her emaciated, hypothermic little body with warm water and placed her in an incubator. Once warmed, we administered subcutaneous fluids a little at a time until she was strong enough to swallow KMR, a milk replacement formula which we fed every hour. Day after day, week after week she grew stronger, until finally we could place her with other orphaned baby fox with similar harrowing histories. After several months of meticulous care, she was placed in our large outdoor habitat in preparation for release. After 8 months, she was released with her "siblings" for a second chance at life in the wild.
Orphans at Wildlife in Crisis

Fawns

Like all of the orphaned babies at Wildlife in Crisis, fawns are raised in groups and given specialized care from a single caregiver during their stay at WIC to prevent imprinting. Orphaned fawns are brought to Wildlife in Crisis for many reasons, including...
car strikes to mother and/or fawns, dog attacks, impaled or stuck in fences, gunshot, arrows and pesticide poisoning. One case scenario that we try very hard to prevent is the unnecessary taking of wildlife from their parents. Often people think that fawns are orphans when they are not. Mother deer only return to their fawns a few times a day, so if you see a fawn alone it does not mean that it is an orphan. There are many answers to frequently asked questions like these on the WIC website. wildlifeincrisis.org
Just a few of the charismatic 2015 Orphans at WIC representing over 200 species.

Ravens, Songbirds, Woodchucks, Squirrels, Opossums, Owls, Fox, Bunnies, Gulls

All of these babies and many thousands more were cared for at Wildlife in Crisis during 2015. All have their own important story to tell and all are equally precious to all of those who care for them at WIC. Each is raised with others of their own species and nurtured with appropriate diets and housing needed for proper growth. These are all “after” photos. These animals arrive at WIC in very rough shape and it takes many months to get them to the point where they are ready for release.

DONATE NOW

Resident Interns at Wildlife in Crisis:

The Resident Interns at Wildlife in Crisis work 14 hours per day caring for our patients. They are dedicated, compassionate young biologists who take meticulous care of species ranging from hummingbirds and bats to fox and white-tailed deer at WIC.
Volunteers at Wildlife in Crisis:
As a volunteer-run hospital, we count on volunteers for everything from fundraising, carpentry, plumbing, landscaping, laundry, web design, education, animal transport and assisting interns with patient care and facility maintenance at WIC. The dedicated volunteers at WIC are very special people with love in their hearts for wildlife in need.

Wildlife in Crisis is a volunteer run, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to wildlife preservation and land conservation.

WIC was founded in 1988 and each year WIC cares for over 5,000 injured and orphaned wild animals. WIC relies entirely on donations to care for debilitated wildlife.

For more information about WIC and for answers to frequently asked questions about wildlife visit our website at: www.wildlifeincrisis.org.

To see heartwarming stories of the animals cared for at WIC visit www.facebook.com/wildlifeincrisis.

Please like WIC on Facebook!

To see daily photos of wildlife recuperating at WIC follow us on Instagram.

Wildlife in Crisis
P.O. Box 1246
Weston, CT 06883

203-544-9913
wildlifeincrisis@snet.net
wildlifeincrisis.org
facebook.com/wildlifeincrisis

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We deeply appreciate your support!
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Please ask your employer about matching funds and please remember WIC in your will and trusts.

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