

TO THE RESCUE

Wildlife Rescue
ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER



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Dear Wildlife Friend,

After ringing in the new year, many of us have been reflecting on ways to create positive change—for ourselves and the world around us. One powerful resolution we can make together is to support the wildlife that enriches our local communities.

A recent assessment by Environment Canada and Birds Canada revealed a staggering 36 percent decline in bird species in Canada over the past 50 years. This alarming statistic highlights the critical need for wildlife conservation and rehabilitation. The delicate balance of our ecosystems is at risk, jeopardizing the animals we cherish and the health of our planet.



Statistics like these can feel discouraging, but the sense of community and compassion we've experienced firsthand at Wildlife Rescue over the past 45 years gives us immense hope! We trust that, together, we can help protect the earth's incredible biodiversity and give our wild neighbours a second chance to thrive despite the many challenges.

We invite you to join us in giving wildlife the support they need, month after month. By considering a monthly donation and becoming a Freedom Partner, you're supporting individual animals in distress and contributing to sustainable conservation and rehabilitation efforts year-round. Together, we can make a lasting impact this year and beyond.

We are so excited for the future! Thank you for being part of this journey. Here's to a new year filled with hope and second chances for wildlife.

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

Coleen Doucette Linda Bakker

Join
FREEDOM PARTNERS
today!



Set up your monthly gift today and receive a **FREE 2025 Wildlife Calendar** as a thank you!

Head to wildliferescue.ca/give or scan here:



Stranded but Resilient:

Red-Necked Grebe Makes a Full Recovery



Last October, a Coquitlam resident was surprised to find a Red-necked Grebe on their doorstep! Since grebes are rarely seen on land, this raised significant concern. During their fall migration to the BC coast, the bird had likely mistaken the dark, wet asphalt for water and attempted to land, only to become stranded.

The grebe was rescued and brought to Wildlife Rescue, where medical staff discovered painful sores on the bird's feet, which were treated with a soothing gel. The boldly plumaged waterbird was then housed in an enclosure specifically designed for diving birds.

The enclosure featured a deep pool and a soft resting area to protect the grebe's delicate feet and legs.

After a few days of rest and recuperation, the Red-necked Grebe was back diving and thriving in the open waters of the West Coast!



Did You Know?

Some birds are so well-adapted to life on the water that their legs are unsuitable for walking on land. Aquatic birds like this grebe have their legs positioned far back on their bodies, which helps them propel efficiently in the water.

This adaptation makes them remarkable swimmers and divers, but it poses challenges when they find themselves out of the water.

How to Protect Wintering Backyard Birds

Diseases can easily spread among birds sharing feeders because feeders attract large numbers of birds to one location. With various avian diseases more prevalent in winter, it's important to be mindful about offering food in a safe way to protect backyard birds. Ultimately, the goal is to do what is best for wildlife!

If you choose to offer a feeder, please take the following steps to help protect wild birds.

Daily Maintenance

Remove all seeds from the ground daily to prevent contamination. If left on the ground, seeds become wet, promoting the growth of bacteria and mold and attracting rodents.

Bi-weekly Cleaning

- 1.** Discard any remaining seed in your feeder and wash your feeder with hot, soapy water.
- 2.** Then, rinse the feeder thoroughly and disinfect it using a solution of one part household bleach and nine parts water.
- 3.** After disinfecting your feeder, ensure that it is thoroughly rinsed and fully dried before refilling with fresh food.

We can't ask a sick bird not to come to the buffet, so sometimes it's best to postpone the dinner party before anyone else gets sick.

If you notice sick birds in your backyard, it's recommended that you clean your feeders and **put them away for at least four weeks** until the sick birds are no longer present. This will help minimize the spread of avian diseases.

Signs of Illness:

- Puffiness and drowsiness (they may sleep on the feeder)
- Lack of alertness or inactivity
- Seeds all over their beak
- Swollen or abnormal eyes
- Seeking warmth up against buildings

Found a sick or injured bird?

Reach out to Wildlife Rescue for guidance at wildliferescue.ca/report-an-emergency or scan here:



Hummingbird Feeders

Proper maintenance of hummingbird feeders is critical to preventing deadly diseases like **candidiasis**, a fungal infection that causes a hummingbird's tongue to swell, making it impossible for them to eat.

Recommended Cleaning Schedule

Every three to five days, wash out all parts of the feeder (including flower ports) with hot water and a bottle brush.

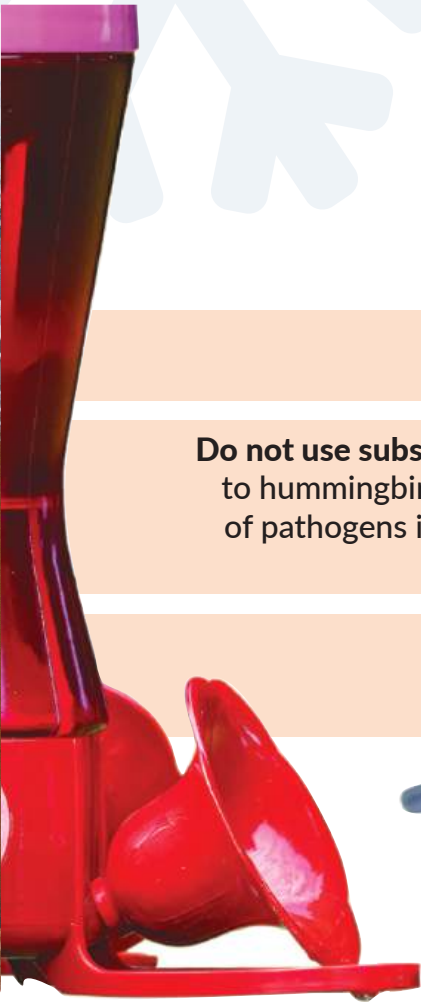
Once a week, clean with a solution of nine parts water and one part bleach. Rinse thoroughly and let dry fully before refilling.

Refilling Your Feeder

Stick to the recipe of **one part refined white sugar to four parts boiled water**.

Do not use substitutes like honey or brown sugar. Honey contains sugars that are less palatable to hummingbirds. It also ferments rapidly when diluted in water, which causes a rapid build-up of pathogens in your nectar. Brown sugar contains molasses and has five times more iron than white sugar. This amount of iron can be toxic to hummingbirds.

Never add red dye! Hummingbirds are attracted to the feeder itself, and red dye can cause harm.



Caution During Cold Weather!

When temperatures drop, it's essential to monitor your feeders for frost—keeping your hummingbird feeder thawed is crucial to prevent injuries to delicate hummingbird tongues.

Tips and Tricks

- **Insulation:** To prevent your feeder from freezing, you can use a feeder heater, hand warmers, wool socks, or incandescent Christmas lights.
- **Monitor feeding channels:** Check feeding channels diligently and take down feeders with ice crystals to avoid injury.
- **Location is critical:** A covered porch or windbreak offers protection from the elements. Keep the feeder close to your home for warmth and easier monitoring.
- **Avoid metal parts:** Hummingbird tongues can freeze to cold metal.
- **Use multiple feeders:** Keep one indoors and rotate when ice starts to form.

Fall & Winter Highlights

921 Patients Admitted from September through December



135 volunteers logged hours with a total of **4,996** hours donated

Finalist for Burnaby Non-Profit of The Year

We're thrilled to share that Wildlife Rescue was nominated for Non-Profit of the Year at the Burnaby Board of Trade Awards and named a finalist! Thank you to the Burnaby Board of Trade and the Burnaby community for this incredible recognition.



Thank you, Rotary Club Burnaby!

A heartfelt thank you to the Rotary Club of Burnaby for raising \$2,560 for wildlife! This generous contribution is making a significant difference, helping us provide essential resources like specialized diets, life-saving medication, and critical medical supplies for the wildlife in our care.

Invisible Threat: How Window Collisions Endanger Birds Worldwide



389

window strike
victims admitted in
2024

25 Million
casualties annually
in Canada

Thousands of birds migrate south every fall to spend the winter in warmer climates. Travelling mostly at night, these birds often become disoriented by city lights and reflective surfaces. Glass windows and railings appear invisible to them and pose a significant risk, often leading to life-threatening collisions.

One of the window strike victims admitted to the Wildlife Rescue hospital this fall was a Common Nighthawk. This species is of special concern in Canada, as its numbers have dwindled due to the use of insecticides, habitat loss, and agricultural development.

The injured nighthawk was found upside down on a driveway in Delta. An intense collision with a window left her with severe eye and head trauma and painful bruising. Thankfully, with plenty of rest, the community's support, and expert care, she recovered in time to join the migrating flocks!

What to do when a bird hits your window?

If you encounter a bird that has collided with a window, it's important to seek help from a trained wildlife rehabilitator immediately. Contact our Support Centre for assistance at wildliferescue.ca/report-an-emergency.

Learn even more about
window strikes and how to
prevent them here:



Wildlife Rescue
Preventing Window Strikes

<p>PATTERN</p> <p>Use small pieces of tape to make a grid pattern on the outside of your window.</p> <p>Leave no gaps bigger than 5 x 5 cm.</p>	<p>BLINDS</p> <p>During the day, when light is shining directly on your window and at night, when lights are turned on indoors, pull your blinds down.</p>
<p>SOAP</p> <p>Coat the outside of your window with soap for an inexpensive and temporary solution.</p>	<p>STICKERS</p> <p>Decorate the outside of your window with all kinds of decals.</p>



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We are thrilled to welcome Stantec as a new partner in our mission to protect and rehabilitate British Columbia's wildlife!

The company's generous support comes at a pivotal time as Wildlife Rescue celebrates 45 years of care, having assisted over 140,000 wild animals and supported thousands more through public education and outreach.

Stantec's sponsorship helps ensure we can continue providing life-saving care for wildlife in their most vulnerable moments and expand our community support and educational initiatives.

With wildlife facing growing threats from urban development, pollution, and habitat loss, partners like Stantec make a critical difference in our ability to respond and create lasting change.

Thank you, Stantec, for standing with us to build a brighter future for BC's wildlife!



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 an additional 140,000 injured animals. We are here to assist with any questions you may have.

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

Take a Drive for Wildlife

Patients are in need of transport to Wildlife Rescue for care and treatment. Additionally, animals need rides to other centres, clinics and back to the wild.

Will you be their chauffeur? Become a Transport Volunteer today! Apply at wildliferescue.ca/volunteering or scan the code on the car.

