

# TO THE RESCUE

NEWSLETTER

*Wildlife Rescue*  
ASSOCIATION

VOL. 47 NO. 2  
WILDLIFERESCUE.CA | SPRING 2026

DONATE TO SUPPORT  
INJURED AND  
ORPHANED WILDLIFE



**Two Swans  
Return Home**  
*A magical winter*

**Hummingbird  
Reunite**  
*Baby returns to  
their family*

**Crow Nesting  
Season**  
*What you need  
to know*



# Winter & Spring Highlights

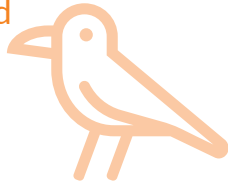
*From December until March...*

**673**

Patients Admitted

**73**

Unique Species



**4,706**

Volunteer Hours Donated

**3,246**

Hospital

**871**

Support Centre

**264**

Rescue, Transport, Release

**325**

Other

**Top 5 Reasons  
for Admission**

**165**

Trauma

**121**

Hit by  
Car

**90**

Window  
Strike

**69**

Predator  
Attack

**67**

Disease  
Symptoms

## Thanks to You: Waterfowl Pens Restored

Last fall, some of our most critical wildlife enclosures were in rough shape due to weather wear. Worn out materials and rotting wood had turned safe recovery spaces into risky environments for staff, volunteers, and patients.

Then you stepped up! Your generous support during Giving Tuesday made it possible to restore these essential waterfowl pens with sturdy new structures and fresh gravel surfaces. Because of you, these spaces are now safe, secure, and ready for the busiest season of animal care.

From all of us (feathered and human alike), thank you for giving wild animals a second chance at life.



COMING SOON...

## Wildlife in Your World

PHOTO CONTEST



From June 15 to 29, submit your best wildlife photos for a chance to be featured in the 2027 Wildlife Calendar!

Scan here to  
learn more



Or head to  
[www.gogophotocontest.com/wildliferescue](http://www.gogophotocontest.com/wildliferescue)



# Two Swans Returned Home This Winter

We were graced with an unexpectedly swan-themed winter at Wildlife Rescue. Not one, but two of these magnificent birds made their way to the centre, each arriving with their own story of struggle and resilience.



TUNDRA SWAN

## Tundra Swan from Fort Nelson

A Tundra Swan was found exhausted and completely alone in an open field all the way in Fort Nelson. A group of dedicated locals spotted the bird and refused to look the other way, rallying together to ensure the bird reached safety. Volunteer pilots stepped up to fly the swan to the Lower Mainland, bridging the distance between a cold, lonely field and the specialized treatment waiting at Wildlife Rescue.

On arrival, the exhausted patient was diagnosed with damaged air sacs, multiple wounds, and significant fatigue. With gentle daily wound care, a calm space to rest undisturbed, and a nourishing diet to rebuild their strength, slowly but surely the bird began to turn a corner.

Three weeks later, the injured swan that had arrived was back to their energetic, feisty self - ready to return to the wild and join a new flock.



TRUMPETER SWAN

## Stranded Trumpeter Swan

A Deroche resident was surprised to find a wounded Trumpeter Swan in their backyard. Thankfully, the swan was transferred to Wildlife Rescue for help. Likely suffering an unfortunate encounter with an eagle, the swan was left with a wing injury and head trauma.

Over the following days, staff watched with delight as the bird grew stronger and returned to their normal, wild self. With the devoted care of the rehabilitation team, this swan made a remarkable recovery. After five days of rest and recuperation, the bird was ready to return to the wild.

On a crisp winter morning in Delta, the carrier door swung open, and the swan took to the sky without hesitation. A wonderful outcome for this very resilient bird and a great reminder of the difference your support makes.

## Why We Use They/Them Pronouns for Animals

Many of the animals we care for lack easily identifiable physical differences between males and females, making it difficult to determine their sex without extensive resources. To communicate about our patients respectfully and inclusively, we have chosen to use the gender-neutral pronouns "they/them." This approach avoids the formality of "he or she" and the impersonal tone of "it," while highlighting that every animal in our care is a valued, living being.

# Baby Hummingbird Reunited with Family

On a cool Thursday in early spring, a Vancouver resident found a young Anna's Hummingbird on the ground in the cold rain, lethargic and barely moving. Concerned, the resident kept a watchful eye on the tiny bird before reaching out to Wildlife Rescue. After a thorough conversation describing the situation, the hummingbird was brought to the centre for a health check.

During the assessment, the medical team determined the hummingbird was a very healthy fledgling – and able to fully fly! The team even observed signs the baby had been actively cared for by a parent.

The fledgling was given some nectar to restore their energy. Meanwhile, the Support Centre team reached back out to the kind resident, who brought great news from their backyard: the mother hummingbird was still there, waiting. A family reunion was within reach!

But these reunions are never simple. Support Centre Coordinator Anika took the young hummingbird back to where they were found. Knowing the mother had been regularly visiting the exact spot where the fledgling was discovered, Anika placed the bird – still inside a mesh-lidded bucket – on the patio. The mesh was key, as it allowed the mother to see and hear her baby without the risk of the fledgling flying off on their own, or falling prey to a passing predator.



The wait began. Within 20 minutes, the mother appeared. She landed on top of the mesh lid, hovering and investigating, frantically trying to find a way in.

After about 10 minutes, the mother flew off to find food. Anika seized the opportunity and removed the lid. When the mother returned, she flew straight into the bucket to feed her baby. For Anika, it was an unforgettable sight.

**"She immediately took care of her baby, and the baby called out for her. The baby started chirping loudly the second we got to the patio, and every time the mom left to get more food." - Anika, Support Centre Coordinator**

From there, it became a careful, patient dance. Each time the mother left, Anika made small moves – first placing the fledgling in the little crocheted nest outside the bucket, then gradually shifting the nest closer to a nearby tree, inch by inch, visit by visit. Hummingbird mothers can frighten easily, so Anika had to stay hidden whenever the mother was present.

**"It's not as simple as a regular release, or putting a nestling back in the nest. You have to make sure the mom can find the baby, and that the baby can get somewhere safe while the mom is away finding food." - Anika, Support Centre Coordinator**

After about an hour and a half, the fledgling had gained enough confidence to flutter up into the branches of the nearby tree. With the mother returning consistently to feed and check in, Anika felt confident it was time to step back and let the family be.

It was a long and patient process, but it's your support that makes these moments possible. Thanks to a compassionate resident, a dedicated team, and one determined mother hummingbird, this tiny fledgling had everything needed to thrive.



**Found wildlife in distress? Contact our Support Centre team for guidance via [wildliferescue.ca/report-an-emergency](https://wildliferescue.ca/report-an-emergency)**



# Journey of A Baby Songbird in Care

## Young Nestling

When a baby songbird comes in as a tiny, vulnerable nestling, it's all hands on deck! They are fed every 15 minutes to promote their rapid growth and development. In the busy nursery, a dedicated volunteer becomes their personal chef from dawn-to-dusk. Bird sounds are played all day long for enrichment.

## Dark-eyed Junco

*Baby Shower Gift:  
Cozy Baby Nest*



## Young Fledgling

As they grow, the hand-feeding increments grow with them, from 30 minutes to 45 to 60 minutes. Now that they've grown some feathers and confidence, our young nestling graduates to a bigger space. Here, they practice balancing on perches, preening to keep their feathers in top shape, and building those flying muscles. Regular health checks are done to make sure their wings are waterproof, their instincts are sharp, and they're developing just as they should.



*Baby Shower Gift:  
Wildlife Feeding  
Essentials*



## Fledgling

The bird moves to a spacious aviary, where hopping, fluttering, and perching become daily adventures. They start testing their wings and practicing flight. After weeks of depending on their human chefs, the young bird now prefers to dine solo and develops a bit of an attitude, which is the best sign of all: they're wild at heart and not too fond of people (just as they should be!).

*Baby Shower Gift:  
Fledgling Flight  
Conditioning*



## Juvenile

Now we've reached the final chapter: the teenager phase of birdhood! Volunteers and staff keep a close eye on their flying skills, evasion, waterproofing, and feeding to be sure everything is in top shape and the bird is prepared to survive on their own in the wild. When every test is passed with flying colours, it's time for the big moment – release day!



*Baby Shower Gift:  
Sponsor the Release  
of a Wild Patient*



*Your baby shower gifts provide wild babies with a second chance at life this spring. Head to to <https://shop.wrabc.ca/collections/baby-shower> for the full gift list and help young wildlife thrive this spring!*

**Wild and Free!**

# Crow Nesting Season

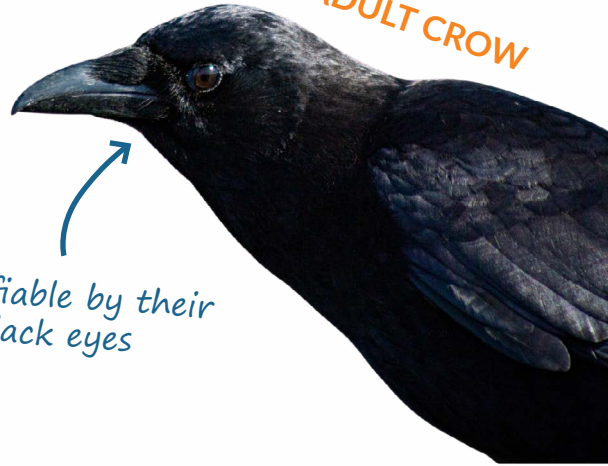
FLEDGLING CROW



Identifiable by their  
blue or grey eyes



ADULT CROW



Identifiable by their  
black eyes



## I am being dive-bombed by crows. Why is this happening, and what can I do about it?

April to July is crow nesting season, a vulnerable time for babies and parents, with eggs and young chicks at high risk of predation. Anxious, protective bird parents are out in full force protecting their young. If you get too close, you risk getting dive-bombed.

To protect yourself, alter your travel routes and keep your distance from known nest sites. It can be helpful to post warning signs in the area to let others know that a crow is nesting close by. You can also carry an umbrella, as a portable visual barrier, and to add a little extra distance between you and the concerned parents.

## Why is this crow not flying and not walking away from me when I approach?

Once young crows leave the nest, they will spend approximately 1-2 weeks on the ground as they build up their strength for full flight. They are a bit naïve at this time and may not react as people and pets come near. Don't worry, their parents are still nearby offering protection.

## How can I tell if a baby crow is being cared for?

Fledglings rely heavily on their parents to keep them safe as they hop around on the ground, unable to fly. If the young crow is alert, active, and defecating, these are all signs that the bird is being cared for and fed.

## When should I be concerned?

If the fledgling is in immediate danger, it is okay to gently pick them up and place them in a nearby bush or tree. Monitor the young crow to ensure that their parents can see them. Make sure you use an umbrella overhead though, as crow parents don't know that you are helping!

Are you concerned the young crow is orphaned? Watch for parents feeding the baby over the span of 2-4 hours.

If the crow is not yet fully feathered, has an obvious injury such as a drooping wing or blood, is covered in flies or there are no signs of parents over the span of four hours, contact Wildlife Rescue at [wildliferescue.ca/report-an-emergency/](https://wildliferescue.ca/report-an-emergency/).

WEBINAR

June 9, 2026  
6:00 PM (PDT)

## BABY BIRD BEHAVIOUR

Want to learn more about crows, ravens, and other corvids? Sign up and join us for the free webinar!

Scan here  
to register:



Or head to <https://hello.wrabc.ca/baby-bird-corvids>

# How One Small Act Became a Lasting Legacy

In the spring of 2024, Saba Fatemi found a small, injured chickadee outside her home in Coquitlam. Without hesitation, she contacted Wildlife Rescue for guidance, who quickly confirmed the bird needed help. Shortly after that, a transport volunteer arrived to pick up the distressed animal. Watching the tiny patient leave for medical assistance, Saba felt a wave of gratitude and a spark of inspiration. She realized just how powerful one person's action can be in protecting local wildlife.

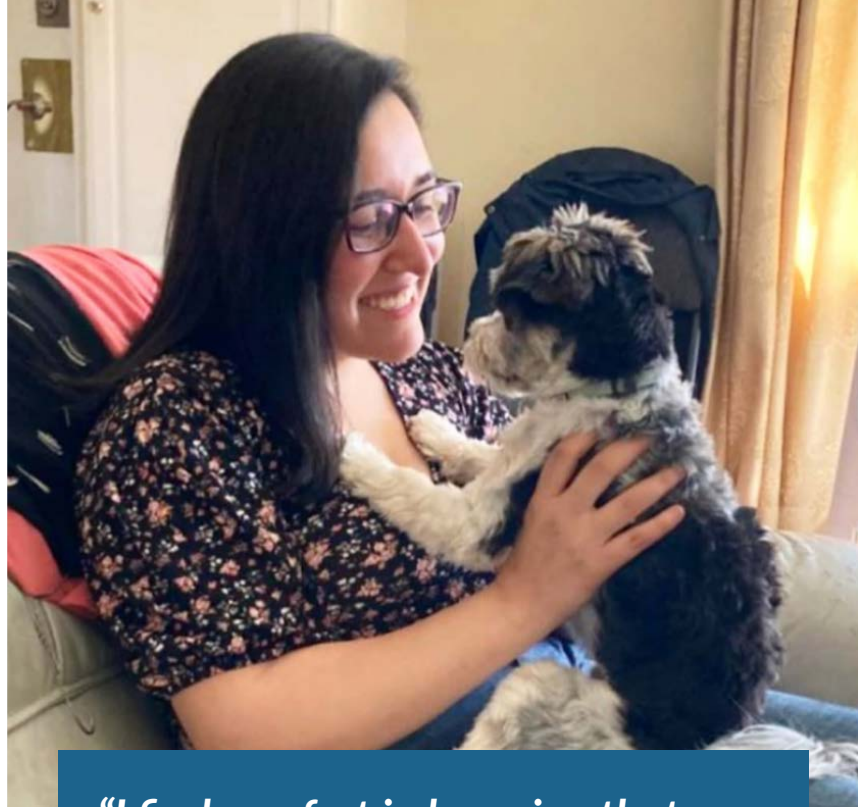
This experience stayed with her. Guided by her lifelong love for animals and her strong sense of responsibility for their well-being, Saba decided to get directly involved. She became a Transport Volunteer, driving injured wildlife to safety and, once they had recovered, joyfully releasing them back into their natural homes.

"It makes me genuinely happy to know that I can contribute, even in a small way, to improving an animal's life. When combined with the efforts of others who share the same passion, our overall impact becomes powerful."

Through volunteering, Saba developed a deeper appreciation for everything that is happening behind the scenes. She says that being part of a community of compassionate and dedicated volunteers and staff was meaningful and eye-opening.

Over time, Saba found herself thinking about how to make sure animals would still be looked after when she was no longer around. Including Wildlife Rescue in her will, she says, gives her peace of mind.

Looking ahead, Saba knows her support will strengthen future efforts to care for and advocate for wildlife. Her vision for the future is simple, yet profound: a world where people of all ages value wildlife, treat animals with empathy, and take actions that genuinely support the needs of our wild neighbours and shared natural world.



*"I find comfort in knowing that even after I am gone, I can continue supporting the animals and causes that matter deeply to me."*

SABA FATEMI

Saba's legacy provides wildlife with a natural future for generations to come – and yours can too! A gift in your will is one of the most powerful ways to protect the animals you love far beyond your lifetime. Your will planning ensures that injured, orphaned, and vulnerable wildlife in BC will always have a place to heal and the chance to return home.

What gift opportunities do you have available?

- A Gift in Your Will (Specific, Residual, Contingent)
- Publicly Listed Securities
- Life Insurance Policies (LIPs)
- Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA's)
- Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs)
- Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs)
- Real Estate
- Living Trust and Endowments
- Charitable Gift Annuities

Connect with Sheila to build a legacy of life today!

[yourlegacy@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:yourlegacy@wildliferescue.ca)  
604-526-2747 Ext. 517



## Business Spotlight

**Christine, owner of Vancouver-based Chickadee Chocolate, is making a sweet difference for local wildlife through her business. With a shared love of birds and a commitment to the environment, supporting Wildlife Rescue felt like a natural partnership for her.**

### **What led you to support Wildlife Rescue through your business?**

"During the pandemic, I volunteered at the Reifel Bird Sanctuary and dropped off a few injured birds at Wildlife Rescue. I would sometimes poke around and ask questions about what was happening behind the scenes, which led me to learn how extensive your work is and how much funding is needed to keep everything running!"

### **How does giving back to wildlife connect to your business values?**

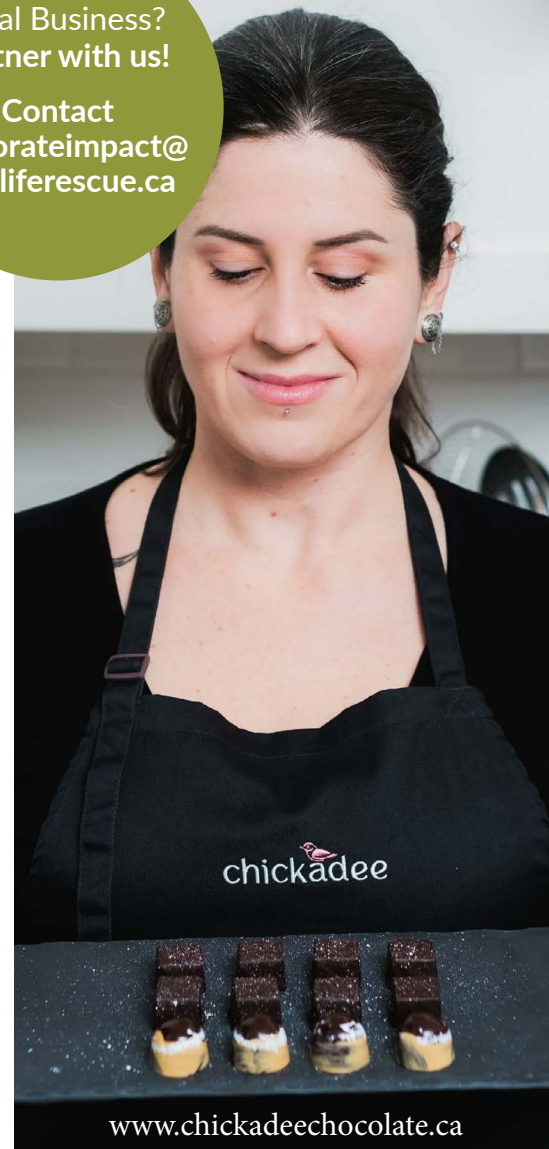
"Chickadee Chocolate is a business that aims to focus more and more on sustainability and locality as it grows. Chocolate isn't grown here, but sourcing ingredients like dairy, nuts, and fruit from local businesses helps reduce Chickadee's carbon footprint - and that, in turn, helps protect our environment and everything that thrives in the natural world (especially birds)!"

### **What made you decide to support Wildlife Rescue on a monthly basis through your business?**

"Supporting Wildlife Rescue feels like a natural choice for Chickadee Chocolate - not only to protect its namesake, but also to give to an organization that helps all the little lives around us. Doing so promotes community and ensures that our feathered and furry friends have a safe future."

Local Business?  
Partner with us!

Contact  
[corporateimpact@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:corporateimpact@wildliferescue.ca)



[www.chickadeechocolate.ca](http://www.chickadeechocolate.ca)



## **DP World in Canada Partners with Wildlife Rescue**

We are delighted to announce that DP World in Canada has partnered with Wildlife Rescue to support our aquatic wildlife care and response work!

This generous funding will strengthen care for aquatic and seabird patients by supporting improvements to the purpose-built spaces and infrastructure that make wildlife rehabilitation possible.

DP World's commitment will help ensure injured and pollution-affected wildlife receive the urgent, specialized care they need to recover, regain their strength, and return to the wild.

Thank you, DP World, for your generous support!

