

Wildlife “Matters”

Do you have a question or concern about wildlife that you would like answered?

If so, please email me at megan@lensc.org or write to Megan Tadiello, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140.

Q: There is a Cardinal that keeps flying into my glass window. It has repeated this about ten times now. Why is it doing this and what can be done to stop it?

A: This is a very common occurrence. It happens for one of two reasons. Birds sometimes cannot see the glass, especially if there are reflections in the window of trees, clouds, etc, or if there are houseplants on the inside of the window. The bird sees either the reflection or the plants and thinks it can continue flying until.... WHAM! it hits the glass. The other reason a bird (usually a bright colored bird) will fly into the glass is during breeding/nesting season. If a bird has built a nest in the area, this is his territory. If that same bird flies by the window and sees the reflection of itself, it will fly into the window at the “other” bird in order to defend its territory. In order to stop this behavior you must reduce the reflective

quality of the window. The best method is to cover the outside of the window with newspaper and leave it in place for a few days. If you have plants near the window, move them temporarily. Silhouettes of hawks or fake owls may work for a day, however if they are not constantly moved, a bird will realize that it poses no danger. If a bird becomes hurt in this process, carefully pick up the bird and place it in a brown paper bag with the top loosely crumpled together and leave it outside. This will protect the bird from predators while the bird is recovering. Once the bird is recovered it will start to bounce around and should be able to fly right out of the bag. If the bird has not left the bag after a couple hours, bring it to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center to be examined.



Reflection of trees in glass window.

Adopt-an-Animal

Adopt one of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center’s animals on a monthly or yearly basis. When you do, your generous donation supports the care and feeding of that animal as well as the other animals at the Center.

Animal Adoptions from April '06 through Sept. '06.

Alexis Millard	Domestic Rabbit	Haley Daniels	Domestic Rabbit	Marilyn & Roger Spence	Domestic Rabbit
Amelia Stalzer	Flying Squirrel	In Memory of Wm. G. Nulty	Red-Tailed Hawk	Michael Bontempo	Bobwhite Quail
Amy & Tom Wittig	Striped Skunk	Jade Peace	Domestic Rabbit	Morgan Marie Way	Tortoise/Box Turtle Exhibit
Anya Burke	Tortoise/Box Turtle Exhibit	Jordan Trunzo	Bobwhite Quail	Morgan Way	Domestic Rabbit
Boy Scouts Pack 300, Den 5	Green Iguana	Josue A. Vega	Flying Squirrel	Mrs. Ronnie Hama	Bobwhite Quail
Breanna Radulovich	Bald Eagle	Julia Swegan	Eastern Screech Owl	Noah Peace	Domestic Rabbit
Breanna Radulovich	Domestic Rabbit	Kate Ramsden	Domestic Rabbit	Noah Ramsden	Red Fox
Breanna Radulovich	Red Fox	Keely & Miya Wotsch	Bobwhite Quail	Olivia Chierici	Domestic Rabbit
Bridget Croniger	Flying Squirrel	Keller, Cassidy	Milk Snake	Paul Bugara	Tortoise/Box Turtle Exhibit
Brooke Daniels	Domestic Rabbit	Bridget Gammons		Rachael, Alec & Evan Kaiser	Domestic Rabbit
Caitie & Megan Roach	Tortoise/Box Turtle Exhibit	Kevin Husky and Alex Colyer	Striped Skunk	Robbie Weideling	Mink
Cathy Family	Domestic Rabbit	Krissy Nelson	Green Iguana	Roger & Marilyn Spence	Domestic Rabbit
Charlotte Rose Weiss	Flying Squirrel	Larry & Sherman Smith	Eastern Screech Owl	Ryan & Claire Davis	Flying Squirrel
Chloe and Sophia Richards	Domestic Rabbit	Lily Jancik	Domestic Rabbit	Spencer Schlott	Domestic Rabbit
Connor Ramsden	Bald Eagle	Linda Hogue	Raccoon	Sue Smith	Raccoon
Dan Poole	Raccoon	Lisa Poole	Tortoise/Box Turtle Exhibit	Tommy Drescher	Red Fox
Elisse Scullin	Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches	Lois Wau	Bald Eagle	Will D. Weideling	Green Iguana
Erin Croniger	Domestic Rabbit	Lydia Moell	Domestic Rabbit	Zachary Wallace	Leopard Gecko
Girl Scout Troop 578, N. Ridgeville	Domestic Rabbit	Margaret E. Seikel	Domestic Rabbit		

The Kenneth A. Scott Wildlife Rehabilitation Program One way you can help is to donate items!

The Kenneth A. Scott Wildlife Rehabilitation Program admits over 1,000 animals annually to be rehabilitated with the hopes of release back into the wild. This service is provided by Lake Erie Nature & Science Center at no cost to the public. In order to continue to provide these animals with the best possible care, we are asking for your help! The following is a list of items used on a daily basis to feed, house, and provide the necessary basic medical care for these animals and the over 200 animals housed at the Center permanently.

Housing Supplies

Pine shavings
Clay cat litter
Pine bark mulch
Cypress mulch
Corn cob bedding
Ceramic pet bowls
Indoor/outdoor carpeting
Plastic terrariums
Reptariums
Ceramic heat bulbs
Straw

Animal First Aid

Vetwrap
Hydrogen Peroxide
Isopropyl Alcohol
Cotton
Bag balm
Rolled gauze (1” or 2” wide)
Rolled cotton
Non-stick bandages
Penlights
Syringes and/or needles
Lab & surgical equipment
Infant incubator
Desitin
KY Jelly

Gift Certificates

Heinen’s
True Value Hardware
Pet Stores
Landmark
Wild Birds Unlimited

Food/Nutritional Supplies

Nutri-cal
Laxatone
Avian hand-rearing formula
Unsalted nuts (in the shell)
Fresh fish
Earthworms
Mealworms
Waxworms
Live feeder fish
Crickets
Game bird feed
Timothy hay
Guinea pig pellets
Rabbit pellets
Lab mice/rats
Frozen ground turkey
Dry dog and cat food
Fresh or frozen vegetables/fruit
Ficus trees

Miscellaneous

Bleach
Laundry detergent
Paper towels
Light bulbs
55 gal. garbage bags
Batteries (AAA)
Masking tape
Duct tape
Scrub brushes
Power washer
Trouble lamps (with dome reflector)
Storage bins and cabinets (all sizes)
Dawn dishwashing soap
Spray bottles



28728 Wolf Road • Bay Village, Ohio 44140

Winter | 2006



A newsletter for wildlife rehabilitation, education and news.

Mission Statement

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates Northeast Ohio children and the community at large through engaging classes, hands-on discovery, specialized planetarium programming and up-close wildlife experiences that inspire appreciation of and responsibility for our natural universe-one participant at a time.

Vision Statement

To become a valued and supported community resource in Northeast Ohio:

- Known for the region’s best nature and science education programs
- Known for inspirational educators, live animals, interactive exhibits, and a world-class planetarium
- Known as one of the region’s “must-see” destinations

Summer Rehabilitation Highlights

This summer was very much like every summer, extremely busy! From March 1 - October 31 we treated 1,472 patients. During this time, we were also presented with 209 healthy baby animals that were mistakenly thought to be orphans. We instructed each individual how to reunite that animal with their family in the wild. These baby animals include mostly: Eastern Fox Squirrels, Eastern Cottontails, and fledgling birds. We are beginning to slow down now but will receive approximately 100 additional animals in November and December, making this our busiest year ever. The wildlife rehabilitation program had some very interesting patients this year.



Long-eared Owl

Birds of Prey

We received a Long-eared Owl in April with head trauma and blood in the left eye. Long-eared Owls are found in Ohio only during the winter months. During the spring and summer they migrate north into southern Canada in order to breed. We wanted to rehabilitate this owl as fast as possible so that it could fly north and not miss its breeding period.

After a few days of anti-inflammatories, the blood dissipated and the owl was hunting live mice. With only seven days of rehabilitation, we were able to release the owl back into the wild.

Reptiles

This was the first year we’ve received an Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle. Unlike other turtles that are covered with bony plates, the Spiny Softshell turtle has a rubbery covering. These turtles are fantastic swimmers and prefer to live in shallow rivers with a sandy or muddy bottom. Here, they will bury themselves completely reaching their long neck and head to the surface to get air. They are very aggressive turtles. This turtle was found with a fishhook through the eye. As you can imagine, the head is very slippery and hard to hold. Also, turtles have an awesome strength that allows them to tuck their head into the shell and not come out. Therefore, we had to anesthetize the turtle in order to even take a look at the situation. Once the

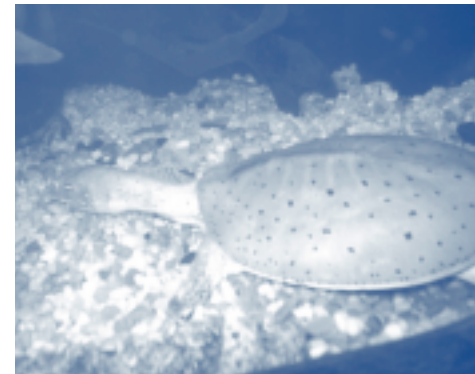


Long-eared Owl being released into the wild.

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(Highlights...continued from page 1)

turtle was relaxed, we were able to pull the head out and see the fishhook, which was carefully removed. To our surprise, the hook was through the eyelid only, causing no damage to the eye itself. The turtle was released two days later.



Eastern Spiny Soft Shell Turtle.

Another interesting reptile we received was an Eastern Milk Snake, commonly found throughout Ohio. Their frequent occurrence in barns led to the tale that they milked the cows at night, giving them their name. Unfortunately, the snake was stuck in a glue trap that was put out to catch mice. Once an animal comes into contact with the glue, it is nearly impossible to get out. We carefully removed the snake using canola oil and then bathed it multiple times in order to remove the oil. The snake was lucky to not have any injuries. After being sure there was no substance left on the snake, it was released to the wild.

Each year we are receiving more and more animals in need of rehabilitation. Although we have only one full-time rehabber and one part-time rehabber, we do our very best to keep up with the increasing number of animals that need our assistance. The increase in animals also means an increase in expenses: medicine, bandaging, food, vet trips, and an increase in staff time. Our

budget and staff numbers have remained the same so we are in need of your help now more than ever. Please bring in an item from our donation list, volunteer your time, or send a monetary donation today to help with medical expenses or to fund another wildlife staff position. Every bit helps!



Eastern Milk Snake stuck in glue trap.

What You Can Do To Help Wildlife

Over 80% of the animals brought in for rehabilitation are injured due to some type of human activity. It may be directly by littering soda cans, fishhooks, or fishing line, or it can be indirectly such as millions of songbirds flying into the huge skyscrapers we construct. There are ways in which we can reduce the chances of wild animals needing rehabilitation.

- Make sure your garbage goes into a secure container. Cut up six pack rings so that they will not become entangled on an animal. Rinse out containers that are recycled. Animals will stick their heads and paws in them to get out that last tasty morsel and the container will often get stuck. Make every effort to collect fishing line and put into a secured garbage can. Animals cannot see the line and become

so tangled they cannot move. Fishhooks are mistaken for edible items and are swallowed only to become lodged into the throat.

- Another injury we see often in rehabilitation is organophosphate poisoning. This is found in fertilizers, weed killers, pesticides, etc. It is often overlooked that when you spray these chemicals on your lawn that you are poisoning insects that are eaten by songbirds and mammals, who are then eaten by other predators. It can continue down the food chain and harm dozens of animals. There are ways to eliminate or reduce the amount of chemicals we put into the earth. Look into organic lawn care, pull weeds by hand, and if you must use chemicals, spot treat instead of treating an entire area.



American Robin with fractured leg after cat attack.



Raccoon with can stuck on paw.

- One of the most common reasons wild animals are brought to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is predation by outdoor cats. We see animals of all ages injured by cats. However, cats prey mostly on young, healthy animals that are not as quick to react as adults. Cats are not a native wild animal and, therefore, not part of a natural ecosystem. It is estimated that cats kill millions of songbirds and billions of mammals each year. Besides the individual animals that cats kill, they also indirectly affect native wildlife in a negative way. Predators such as Red-tailed Hawks and Eastern Screech Owls must compete with cats for prey items. Cats also are not safe outdoors. Studies show that they live shorter lives than indoor cats because they are exposed to traffic, diseases, and

pesticides. If you have an outdoor cat, think about bringing it indoors. It is relatively easy to do and you will not only keep your cat safer, but you will be saving hundreds of wild animals.

We need to understand that our actions have a direct impact on our environment. If every person makes a small change to become more environmentally friendly, we could change the quality of the environment and those that inhabit it in an enormous way. Wildlife serves as an indicator of the condition of our ecosystem. What happens to wildlife could potentially happen to humans.

Announcing an opportunity for businesses and individuals to help us rehabilitate Wildlife!

PARTNERS IN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

For \$500 per year you or your business can be part of this elite group helping us operate our wildlife rehabilitation program. We will receive much needed funds to offset fees for medical services, medical supplies, animal food, and animal care supplies. You will receive a year's worth of advertising exposure to our over 115,000 visitors and to all the readers of our publications. And, of course, the additional benefit of knowing that you are playing a role in the betterment of our community.

Partners in Wildlife Rehabilitation are:

Dr. David Francatti & Dr. Sherry Waters, DDS
Hofmann Plumbing
KeyBank

Cynthia Monjot
Dr. Scott D. Sazima, DDS
State Farm Insurance - Michael D. Farmer

A very large thank you to these businesses and individuals!

If you know of anyone or any business which may be interested in being a part of this program, please contact Director of Wildlife Programs, Dave Wolf, at 440.871.2900 ext. 203

YOUR WILL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

While Lake Erie Nature & Science Center very much needs your support today, we ask you to consider including the Center in your will.

Through your will and other means of planned giving, you can extend your support beyond your lifetime and help ensure adequate financial support for the Center's work well into the future.

If you would like to learn more about opportunities to provide for the Center in your will, please contact Renee Burslem at 440-871-2900 ext. 206.

Meet a Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Resident

Red Fox



Red Fox at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

As you walk amongst the outside animal exhibits at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center you may notice that it smells like a skunk, but it is not our skunk. What you smell is our Red Fox. The urine of foxes is extremely pungent and has an odor similar to that of skunks. A fox uses this scent as a communication tool among other fox to establish its sex, breeding situation and territory. Humans also can utilize fox urine to communicate with unwanted garden pests such as skunks and chipmunks. Since most garden pests view the fox as a predator, the application of fox urine to gardens may discourage animals from inhabiting the area.

Both of our captive Red Fox were captive bred and raised for the pet and fur trade. Although our fox appear very different from each other, they are both Red Foxes. An identifying field mark of the Red Fox is a white tip on their tail, however, their coat can be red, black or silver. The only other fox in Ohio is the Gray Fox, which

does not have a white-tipped tail. At Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, our black-phased Red Fox is a male and the red-phased Red Fox is a female. There is no relationship between the color of the coat and the sex of the fox. While both were born in 1999, we've had the male since 2001 and the female since 2003. Red Fox are not a domestic animal and do not make good pets. They are still wild animals, and even captive bred ones will behave as such.

Red Fox can be found all over Ohio. They breed in the spring, producing a litter of 5-10 pups. Both parents are involved in raising the young who gain independence at 6-9 months. Fox are opportunists that feed mainly on small animals, carrion, insects and fruits. The average Red Fox weighs between 10-15 pounds.

Come take a stroll through our animal garden and meet our Red Foxes. You will probably smell them before you see them!

2006 REHABILITATION VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the following volunteers that put in so much time and energy into rehabilitation this summer. It was a very busy year and I could not have done it without you.

- Bonnie Baird
- Doris Chambers
- Rachael Dabrowski
- Laura Davis
- Katie Doan
- Michelle Epps
- Melinda Foote
- Katie Hertz
- Sue Jachnick
- Elise Lauterbur
- Michelle Peck
- Mary Reese
- Derek Skapes
- Mallory Skapes
- Ashley Stradtman
- Barbara VonBenken
- Natalie Wesley

What is the average cost to rehabilitate a wild animal?

- Each animal we receive in our rehabilitation program requires their own specialized care. No two animals are ever the same. Therefore, the average cost is a general estimate of what we do on a daily basis.
- We receive over 1,000 animals a year.
- At any given time, we can have over 30 animals in rehabilitation a day.

Average Cost

- **Medicine:** \$1.00 per day
- **Caging:** \$1.00 per day
- **Medical Supplies:** \$2.00 per day
- **Food:** \$3.00 per day
- **Time:** \$8.00 per day

TOTAL = \$15.00 PER DAY

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION TODAY!!

We are seeking a sponsor for this publication

One issue sponsorship	\$2,500
One year sponsorship (two issues)	\$5,000

Have your name printed in a box on every page of this newsletter!

REHAB Reviews

Eastern Screech Owl Update

The Eastern Screech Owl from last year was brought in with an infection of the left eye and a fractured left ulna, one of the long bones in the wing. The wing healed perfectly, however the infection in the eye caused it to be permanently damaged resulting in total vision loss in that eye.

Unfortunately, the vision loss impaired the owl's hunting ability, as it would not catch live prey. Not only could the owl not catch its food, it also could not tell depth perception and would fly into walls and perches. As a result, the owl would not be able to survive in the wild and was transferred to French Creek Nature Center in Lorain, Ohio to be an educational ambassador.

"Hooked on Herring Gulls"

A juvenile Herring Gull was brought to us on August 6, 2006. As you can see in the picture, the gull was tangled in fish hooks and fishing line. One end of the lure was hooked through the right eyelid and mouth. The other end was lodged in the muscle of the right wing. Under anesthesia, we searched for the ends of the hooks to see if removal was possible without having to undergo an extensive



Gull after fishhook removal and a swim.



Gull with fishhook through eye, mouth and wing.

surgery. Luckily, we were able to remove all hooks from the gull with very little damage. The gull was on antibiotics for five days and was monitored for any signs of infection. After five days, the gull was doing fantastic and was released back into the wild.