



## **CITY WILDLIFE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

The goals of City Wildlife are to rescue sick, orphaned, and injured wild animals and return them to the wild; to promote the enjoyment of and harmonious co-existence with native wildlife; and to protect the District of Columbia's wild places for animal habitats. In this report, we highlight strides made in achieving these goals through four distinct City Wildlife efforts: the Rehabilitation Center, *Lights Out DC*, *Duck Watch*, and community outreach.

## The Rehabilitation Center: Caring for Urban Wildlife



City Wildlife’s rehabilitation center at 15 Oglethorpe Street, NW, the District of Columbia’s first and only such facility, has been treating injured, ill, and orphaned wild animals every day since it opened in 2013. In 2021, our center took in 2,132 patients, the largest number of animals ever.

Nearly every one of our patients’ problems stem from something humans have done to alter the environment to make life more convenient and attractive for our species — roads, large windows, poisons, at-large pets, lawn mowers, chain saws, and the like — but which makes survival perilous for the wild animals who share our communities. City Wildlife feels we owe it to the animals to help them heal and return to the wild.

At City Wildlife, the animals’ care is overseen by a veterinarian who specializes in treating wild animals and works in a modern surgical suite equipped with digital radiograph, blood analysis machines, surgical and anesthesia apparatuses, and a comprehensive veterinary pharmacy. As they recover or grow up in our care, the animals’ basic needs — housing, food, medicines, and enrichment — are met by trained animal care technicians. Their efforts are supplemented by scores of volunteers, who in 2021 began to return to the center after the covid pandemic closed the volunteer program in 2020.

The center does not have a permit to handle rabies vector species (raccoons, foxes, bats, skunks, and coyotes), nor do we handle mice, rats, bear or deer. We do handle all species of birds, most native small mammals and reptiles and amphibians, and many of the center’s patients are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) by DC’s Wildlife Action Plan. In 2021 we helped 265 SGCN, representing 17 species of birds, three species of reptiles and amphibians, and four species of mammals.

Of note during 2021 was City Wildlife’s role in detecting, documenting, and monitoring an outbreak of a mysterious avian disease that appears to have originated in the Washington, DC, area. City Wildlife took the lead role in organizing a network of various governmental agencies to investigate the disease, an effort that is still ongoing as the laboratories that are testing infecting birds have yet to conclusively identify the disease.

2021 Animal Intake: 2,132	
Waterfowl	197
Perching birds	1,364
Raptors	58
Other birds	49
Squirrels	245
Opossums	67
Eastern Cottontails	71
Other mammals	37
Reptiles & amphibians	44

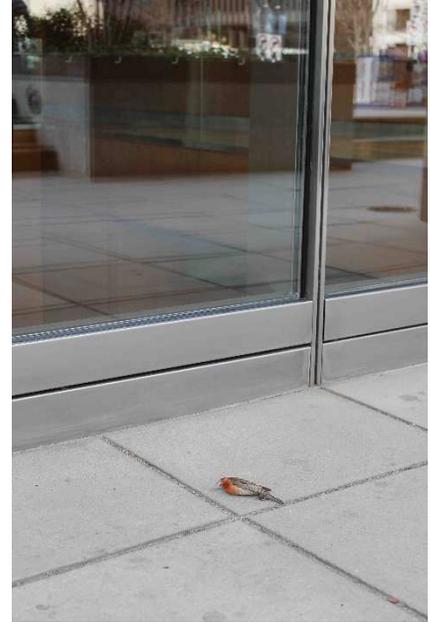
**In November, we admitted an American Toad after a woman accidentally hurt her while digging in the garden with a shovel. Our veterinarian had to amputate an arm, but toads can manage the loss of a front leg. The toad spent the winter healing at the center and was released in the spring of 2022.**



## Citizen Science Programs: Engaging the Public in Protecting Wildlife

### ***Lights Out DC***

In the spring and fall of 2021, for the twelfth consecutive year, City Wildlife's *Lights Out DC* volunteers monitored two established routes in downtown Washington in the early mornings, looking for migratory birds who had collided with windows. They picked up more than 700 birds, bringing the number found since the program was established in 2010 to more than 4,400. Injured birds were brought to the rehabilitation center for treatment. Both live and dead birds were cataloged, and the data was distributed to city officials, property managers, and the general public along with information about making windows safer for migrating birds. Also, with ten years' worth of data in hand, *Lights Out DC* approached the Council of the District of Columbia to encourage them to consider legislation that would mandate bird-friendly standards for most new buildings constructed in Washington, DC.



### ***Duck Watch***



Mother ducks nest throughout the city and they sometimes find that, once their eggs hatch, the ducklings cannot follow them to the body of water they have chosen for raising their broods. Instead the ducklings may be stuck in courtyards, stranded by traffic, unable to reach the ground from a nest on a balcony or roof, or otherwise trapped. *Duck Watch* volunteers, who have been monitoring the nests, help the young families descend from high nests, exit courtyards, cross streets, climb over curbs, and get to water. In the 2021 breeding season, these volunteers assisted more than

450 individual Mallard and Wood Duck ducklings. The *Duck Watch* program also installed custom-built ramps and floats in the Washington Channel so that mother ducks can lead their young into and out of the water where seawalls otherwise prevent that.

## Community Engagement



Not all of the distressed animals that City Wildlife hears about need to come into the center for treatment. In almost half of the cases, the problem can be resolved over the telephone, once enough questions are asked and the natural history of the animal involved is explained to the caller. But the person on the City Wildlife end of the call needs to be highly knowledgeable about wildlife and their ways. Our staff is, we believe, especially good at this work, and as a consequence, calls come in to our center from all over the Washington region and even further afield. In 2021, we responded to 3,949 telephone requests for information on helping wild animals and advice on mitigating conflicts with wild animals in an effective and humane manner. This represented a fifty-three percent increase in call volume compared with the previous year.

City Wildlife considers public education about wildlife to be an essential part of its mission. To that end, it holds numerous events throughout the year on a variety of topics concerning wildlife and their protection. The ongoing covid pandemic has meant that these events are nearly inevitably held online in the form of webinars or virtual center tours. One particularly popular event featured Nancy Lawson, “The Humane Gardener”, who spoke about putting our gardens to work providing shelter and food for wild animals. In addition to the events we hosted, City Wildlife participated in numerous events held by other organizations. Finally, regular posts on City Wildlife’s busy website and social media accounts showcased the work of our various programs, provided practical information on helping wild animals and solving conflicts with them humanely and effectively, and promoted the enjoyment of wildlife and nature in the city.



City Wildlife’s outreach to the press was important to inform the public about the avian epidemic. Articles in response to our press release appeared in The Washington Post, The New York Times, National Geographic online, virtually every local television and news radio station, and a host of smaller online and traditional media outlets.



In 2021, City Wildlife continued working with other environmental organizations — DC Audubon, the Anacostia Watershed Society, DC Environmental Network, The American Bird Conservancy, and others — to preserve valuable wildlife habitat in Kenilworth Park, to restore former effective provisions to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, to alter the city’s plan for street lighting to reduce light pollution, and to preserve the region’s Patuxent Research Refuge from the threat of a high-speed train.

***Despite the pandemic, City Wildlife held ten online, virtual educational events in our fiscal year 2021. City Wildlife’s programs targeted at youth reached 420 young people.***

## Financial Statement

In all aspects of its operation — animal care, finances and accounting, fundraising, and equity among staff, volunteers, and public — City Wildlife, a registered nonprofit charity, embraces the highest standards.

- Charity Navigator, the world’s largest and most-utilized independent charity evaluator, has given City Wildlife its highest rating: 100 out of 100.
- GuideStar, the world’s leading source of information on nonprofit organizations has awarded City Wildlife platinum status, its highest rating.
- After a rigorous review process conducted by a team of more than 150 local experts in nonprofit management and finance, the Catalogue for Philanthropy of Greater Washington selected City Wildlife to be one of the well-run nonprofits they recommend to donors as sound community investments.

### Statement of Financial Position (FY2021)

Assets		
	Total current assets	208,129
	Property and equipment (equipment and leasehold improvements less accumulated depreciation)	20,819
	Other assets	1,683
	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>230,631</b>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
	Current liabilities	14,949
	Net assets (unrestricted)	214,809
	Net assets (temporarily restricted)	873
	<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>230,631</b>

### Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets (FY2021)

Support and Revenue		
	Contributions	320,127
	Government grants	205,000
	Donated stock	20,136
	Product sales - net	1,113
	Miscellaneous income	(582)
	Net assets released from donor restrictions	300
	<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>557,389</b>
Expenses		
	Program services (Rehabilitation Center)	495,943
	Management and general	27,763
	Fundraising	34,782
	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>558,488</b>
	Change in net assets	(1,099)
	Net assets at beginning of year	216,781
	<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>215,682</b>

A complete audit, prepared by Linton Shafer Warfield & Garrett, P.A., can be requested by writing to City Wildlife, PO Box 60078, Washington, DC 20039.

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**Open every day of the year from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**