



Annual Report

2025



TABLE OF
CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. 2025 Updates**
- 3. Wildlife Admissions**
- 4. Program Updates**
- 5. Our Research**
- 6. Financials**
- 7. The Team**



Introduction

A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends of City Wildlife,

We are proud to share what your support made possible this year. In a city where people and wildlife live side by side—and everyday human activity can put wild animals at risk—our work has never been more urgent. As Washington, DC’s only wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center, we remain committed to rescuing and caring for sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals, and returning them to the wild where they belong.

This year, thanks to our dedicated staff, interns and volunteers, and to our generous supporters and partners, City Wildlife provided critical care to 1,857 wild animals and 121 different species. Every patient, whether an injured bird, box turtle, squirrel, or raptor received expert treatment and daily care with one goal: a safe return to the wild.

Beyond the center, we supported the DC community through thousands of calls and emails, helping residents respond to wildlife issues compassionately and with confidence. Often, a little guidance prevents unnecessary “rescues” and keeps families of animals together, one of the most meaningful outcomes of our work.

2025 also brought important progress at our center—from improvements to our indoor rehabilitation spaces and completing our outside enclosures, and expanding education efforts that help build a culture of coexistence across the District. And as always, it is the patient stories that stayed with us: a mother opossum with 10 joeys that were successfully released into a safe habitat, the red-tailed hawk we returned to the Mall where he was found; the animals brought in by caring neighbors, the long recoveries, and the quiet, hopeful moments when a patient is finally ready to return to the wild. There were heartbreaks too, when some didn’t survive—and we carry those animals with us, always.

As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with deep gratitude for the people who call, transport, advocate, donate, and volunteer and for our partners across the District; and for our extraordinary team, who show up every day for animals who have nowhere else to go. Thank you for being part of this work. Together, we are building a safer, more humane city for wildlife in Washington, DC.

With gratitude,



Lorraine Docherty, PhD

Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Docherty".



April Linton

President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "April Linton".



2025 Updates



The Outdoor Pre-Release Enclosures Are Finished

AND YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

Thanks to our incredible community of supporters, City Wildlife has made a major upgrade: we now have permanent outdoor enclosures for our patients that are ready for release.

These new spaces give recovering animals enriched, naturalistic spaces, closer to the sights, sounds, and conditions they will need to navigate when they return to the wild. It's more than fresh air; it's an important step in helping them rebuild strength, confidence, and the natural behaviors that set them up for a successful release.

We're already seeing the impact. Our temporary resident groundhog is benefiting in a big way. In this more natural setting, he is showing healthy, normal behaviors we didn't see while he needed more intensive indoor care—sniffing, foraging, and settling in the way a wild groundhog should. We have also been able to add lots of natural nesting materials so that he can burrow, tuck in, and keep warm in a space that feels safe and familiar.

And our winter residents are loving it too. Some of our squirrels will be staying with us through the cold months before release in the spring, and these new enclosures are giving them the chance to build strength and confidence in a more natural environment. We have created cozy hiding spaces and enrichment using donated Christmas trees yes, really!—which gives them branches to climb, cover to dart through, and places to perch and feel secure. Add in plenty of natural nesting materials, and you can see their instincts kick right in: gathering, making nests, and settling as they would outdoors. It's exactly the kind of “practice” they need before they head back into the wild.

This project has been a true community effort—made possible through thoughtful planning and, most importantly, the steadfast support of our loyal donors—and we're so grateful to see the difference you're making every single day.



ABOVE: Progression of the outdoor deck build over the winter

BELOW: A few patients that we were able to successfully overwinter outdoors with us



PARTNERSHIP WITH GREEN LANDING NURSERY

This fall, with help from Green Landing Nursery, we installed native plant beds lining the outside of our new decks. They have agreed to continue to supply us with plants every season!



FIGS DONATION

Thanks to the generous donation of high-quality scrubs from FIGS, our staff are now able to work in comfort and style. We are deeply grateful for this support. This gift ensures our team has consistent, dependable workwear each day, helping them stay safe, professional, and ready to care for our wild neighbors.



COMPANION ANIMAL HEALTH LASER TREATMENT DONATION

At City Wildlife, we continually seek innovative ways to enhance care for our wild patients. Thanks to an in-kind donation of a therapeutic laser from Enovis, we are now able to provide laser therapy to support wound healing, reduce inflammation, and improve recovery times—advancing the quality of care we deliver every day.





Wildlife Admissions

TOTAL PATIENT ADMISSIONS IN 2025

Birds

Acadian Flycatcher	2
American Black Duck	1
American Coot	1
American Crow	57
American Goldfinch	7
American Robin	76
American Woodcock	16
Barn Swallow	1
Belted Kingfisher	1
Black-and-white Warbler	2
Blackpoll Warbler	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2
Blue Jay	13
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Blue-headed Vireo	1
Brown Creeper	2
Brown Thrasher	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Canada Goose	9
Canada Warbler	1
Cape May Warbler	1
Carolina Wren	12
Cedar Waxwing	1
Chimney Swift	13
Chipping Sparrow	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Common Grackle	27
Common Raven	1
Common Yellowthroat	23
Cooper's Hawk	8
Dark-eyed Junco	5
Domestic Duck	2
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Bluebird	1
Eastern Towhee	2
European Starling	141
Fancy Pigeon	1
Fish Crow	28
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Gray Catbird	31
Great Blue Heron	2
Greater Black-backed Gull	2
Hermit Thrush	4
House Finch	6
House Sparrow	179
Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Magnolia Warbler	8
Mallard	115
Mallard Hybrid	4
Merlin	2
Mourning Dove	80
Mourning Warbler	1
Northern Cardinal	23
Northern Flicker	13
Northern Mockingbird	16
Northern Parula	4
Northern Waterthrush	1
Ovenbird	11
Palm Warbler	2
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6
Ring-billed Gull	5
Rock Pigeon	231
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5
Ruddy Duck	1
Song Sparrow	2
Swainson's Thrush	1
Swamp Sparrow	8
Tennessee Warbler	2

Tufted Titmouse	4
Unidentified Baby Bird	16
Veery	2
Virginia Rail	3
White-footed Mouse	15
White-throated Sparrow	21
Wild Turkey	1
Willow Flycatcher	1
Wood Duck	20
Wood Thrush	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3
Yellow-breasted Chat	1

Raptors

Barred Owl	5
Black Vulture	3
Eastern Screech Owl	2
Osprey	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	8
Red-tailed Hawk	7
Sharp-shinned hawk	1
Short-eared Owl	1
Turkey Vulture	1

Mammals

Eastern Cottontail	77
Eastern Chipmunk	5
Eastern Grey Squirrel	226
Groundhog	4
House Mouse	21
North American Beaver	1
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	1
Norway Rat	40
Virginia Opossum	22

Unidentified Bat Species	1
Big Brown Bat	3
Silver-haired Bat	4
Eastern Red Bat	7
Little Brown Bat	1

Amphibian

American Toad	5
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Reptiles

Common Snapping Turtle	41
Dekay's Brown Snake	1
Eastern Box Turtle	24
Eastern Ratsnake	2
Painted Turtle	1
Green Anole	1
Red-eared Slider	1
Unidentified Map Turtle	1

Insects

Eastern Monarch	1
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The green highlighted rows represent the patients we received that are listed on the **D.C. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)** list. This list was established as a part of the **Wildlife Action Plan** that prioritizes species for conservation due to habitat loss and environmental threats.

The selected species are based on wildlife inventory and monitoring projects and gets updated every 10 years. The species highlighted for our 2025 report fall into the list that was established in 2015. The new D.C. SGCN list will be updated and published in 2026.

1,857

Total Intakes

121
TOTAL SPECIES

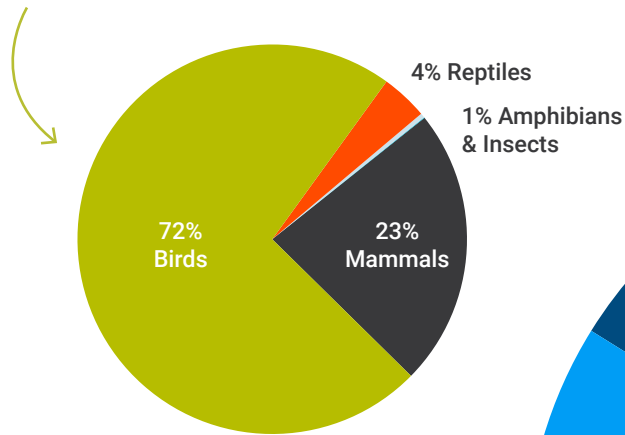
276 PATIENTS
ON THE SPECIES OF GREATEST NEED LIST

3,000+
PHONE CALLS

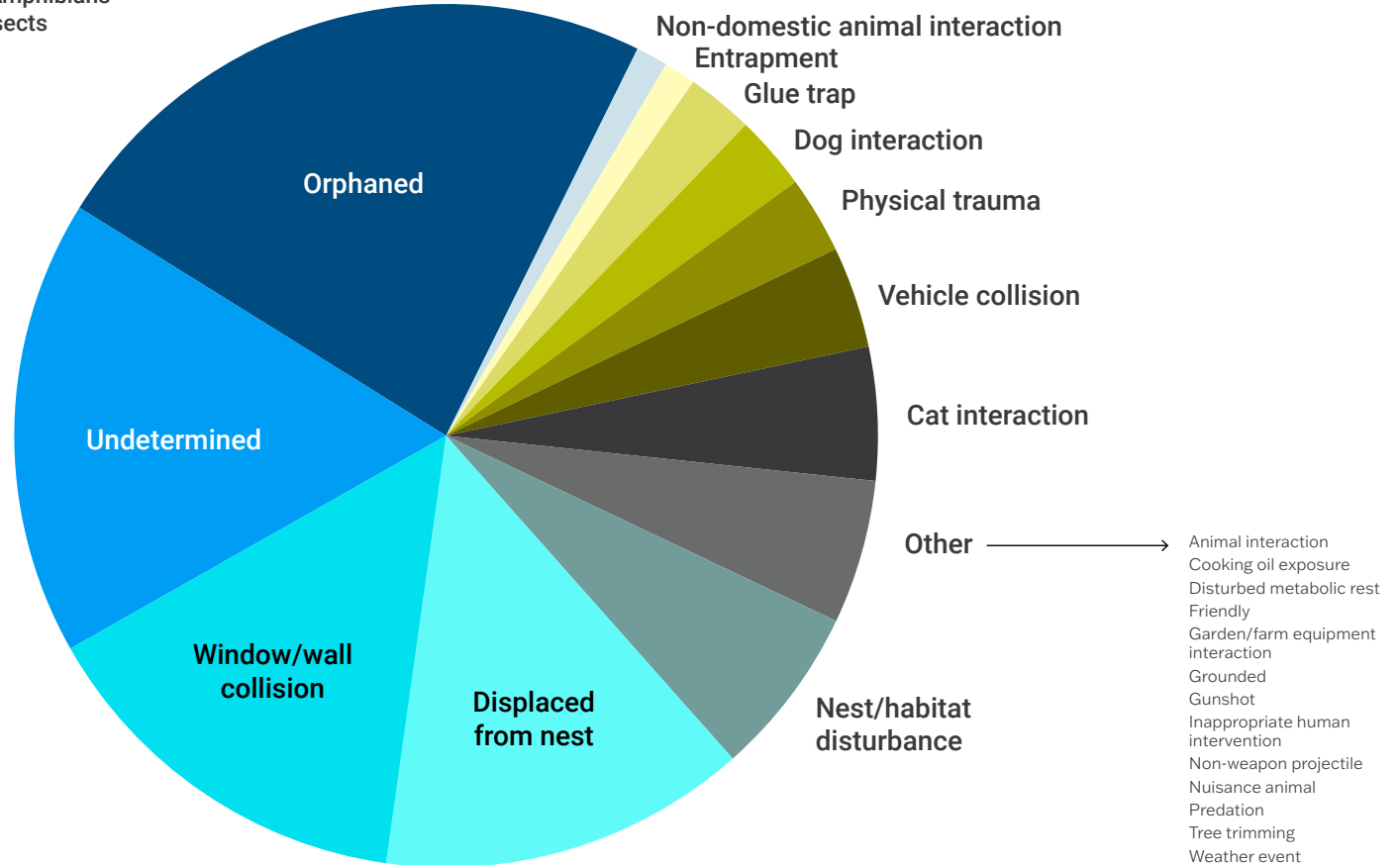
508 RELEASES
BACK TO THE WILD

119 TRANSFERS
TO REHAB FACILITIES

Patient species breakdown

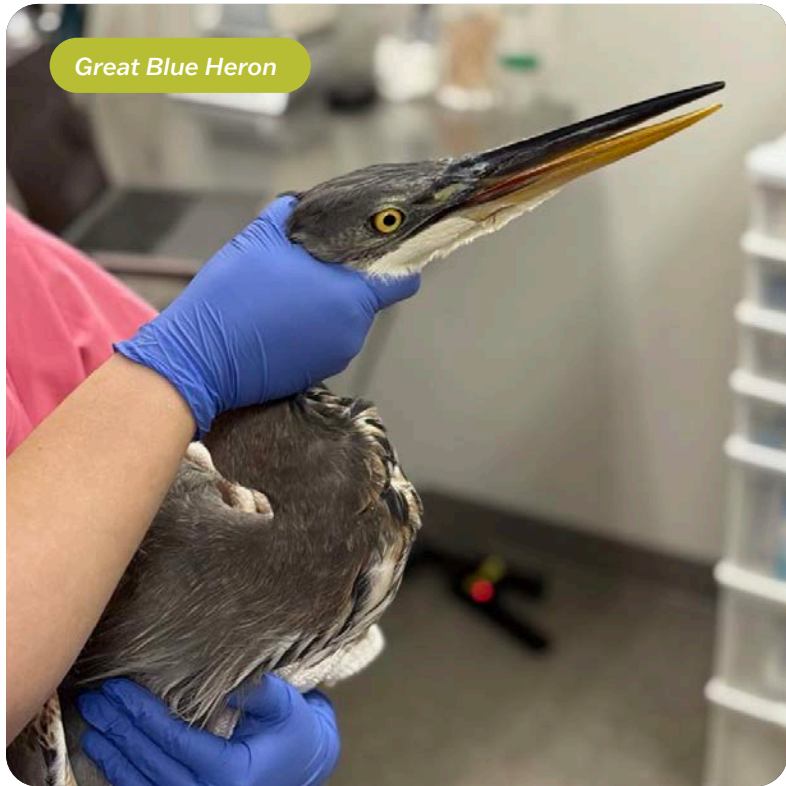


Reasons for patient admission breakdown



- Animal interaction
- Cooking oil exposure
- Disturbed metabolic rest
- Friendly
- Garden/farm equipment interaction
- Grounded
- Gunshot
- Inappropriate human intervention
- Non-weapon projectile
- Nuisance animal
- Predation
- Tree trimming
- Weather event

WILDLIFE ADMISSIONS



Great Blue Heron



Blue Jay Nestlings



Eastern Chipmunk



Eastern Red Bat



Barred Owl



American Toad

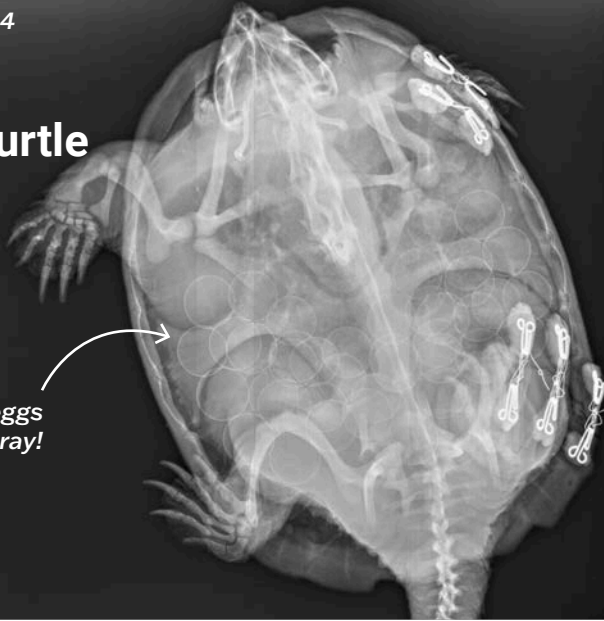


Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Meet patient #25-614

Common Snapping Turtle

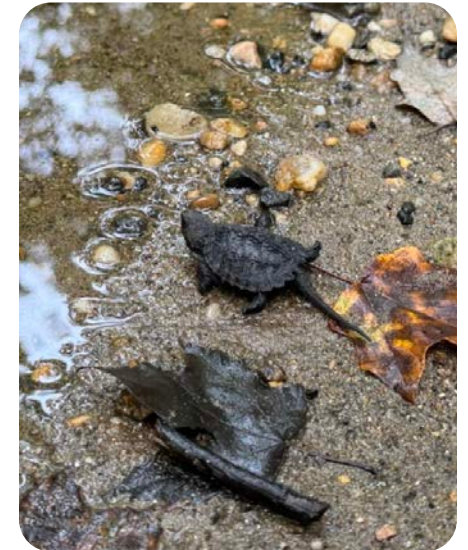
Over 30 eggs visible in her x-ray!



During the summer, this snapping turtle was brought to us with multiple shell fractures from a vehicle collision near the Rock Creek Park area. While she was in our care, we took x-rays to assess the extent of the damage, and discovered she had a secret - she had eggs! Over the course of a week she was able to lay nearly 40 eggs in her enclosure. However, her road to recovery remained rocky, and despite our efforts to stabilize her shell fractures and provide care, she unfortunately was unable to survive her injuries.

We kept her eggs to incubate for 3 months, and in late September they began to hatch! In total, 39 baby snapping turtles successfully hatched and started exploring. As they grew, we built enclosures to suit their needs. Before the weather got too cold in the fall, we were able to successfully release about 15 that were ready back into the wild. The remaining babies overwintered with us and have continued to grow. Once the weather warms again this spring, they will join their siblings in Rock Creek Park!

[Click here](#) to see an overview of the babies' story



The above images show snapshots from the incubation and hatching process, as well as the first batch of babies that were released into Rock Creek Park!



One morning in April there were reports of a lost wild turkey running loose in the middle of downtown D.C.! While it may come as a surprise that there are wild turkey populations in the District, they are not unusual residents, but they usually do not venture farther than green areas like Rock Creek Park or the National Arboretum. That afternoon, Animal Control retrieved her from downtown and transported her to us. She was a young, female that was likely in the process of looking for a mate. She was a victim of a window stike and trapped inside a glass lobby, and later seen running panicked through traffic.

Despite her stressful experience, she only had minor abrasions and respiratory stress. After just 2 days of recovery with us at our clinic, she was transported and released in an area of the National Arbortum where there were known wild turkey populations!

[Click here](#) to see an overview of this wild turkey rescue and release!





Program Updates

Duck Watch

In 2025 we dealt with 763 waterfowl young. Species included both Mallards and Wood ducks, ducklings and Canada Goose goslings.

Two of the Mallard nests we monitored in 2025 were at museums! In early April, staff at Planet Word discovered a mother duck brooding eggs on their fifth-story terrace. They named her “Emily Duckinson.” The museum enlisted Duck Watch to install barriers to keep ducklings from falling off the roof. Their website soon featured a “duck cam.” After the much-anticipated hatching event, Duck Watch relocated the whole family to appropriate habitat at Constitution Gardens.

[Click here](#) to see the **Planet Word Instagram** post about these nests

Towards the end of April, a Mallard mom nested in a planter outside the National Children’s Museum (see photos to the right). Staff contacted City Wildlife right away, concerned because so many people – many of them children – pass by the planter. In consultation with Duck Watch, they set up a rope barrier and posted a sign to help visitors respectfully observe “Suzie Q” incubating her eggs. Duck Watch and museum staff were there to monitor on the afternoon Suzie’s ducklings hatched, and to move them to Constitution Gardens early the next morning.

[Click here](#) to see the **Children’s Museum Instagram** post about these ducks

90

Nests identified
(40 were on roof-tops or balconies)



670

Ducklings/goslings safely with mom



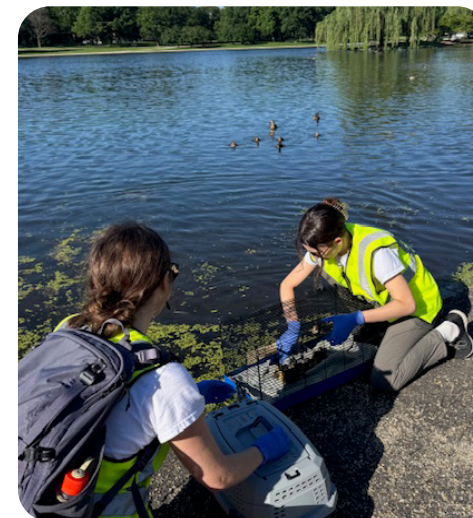
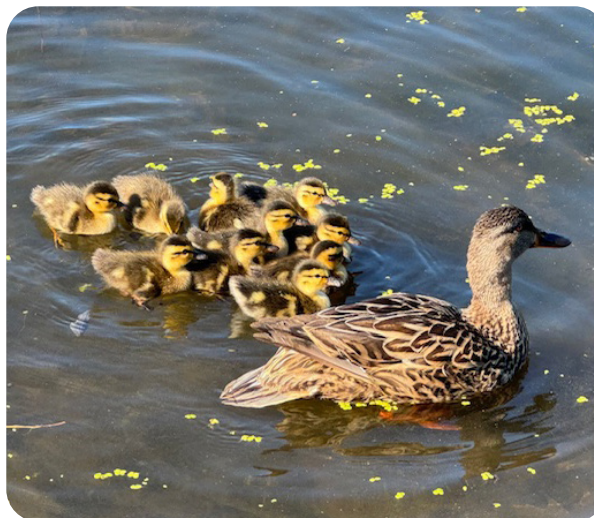
596

Entries in duck watch log



67

Orphan ducklings/goslings raised and released



Images above show Emily Duckinson and her nest at the Planet Word Museum, and their relocation journey to a safer habitat at the Constituion Gardens!

Lights Out DC

During spring and fall migratory seasons, Lights Out DC volunteers walk several routes in downtown Washington, DC, to inspect buildings and collect dead or injured migratory birds that have collided with glass. Injured birds are taken to City Wildlife's rehabilitation center. Dead birds are logged, tagged, and donated to scientific organizations like the Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. The statistics LODC records are used to convince building owners and managers to adopt light abatement procedures and glass mitigation measures for the sake of migrating birds.

In April 2025, LODC to launched a dedicated website with resources, research, and a growing community pledge to turn out commercial and residential lights during migration peaks!



[Click here](#) to see the LODC website.

150

window strike birds brought to City Wildlife



49

different species found



41

birds fell under the DC SGCN list

13

Interns

with interns present at the center during every season for the first time since 2022.



35

Volunteers

with 30 of those returning for a second year in a row.





Ava

SUMMER INTERN

I chose to apply for an internship with City Wildlife because I've always been interested in working with wildlife. Like many pre-vet students, gaining hands-on experience with different species is incredibly important, and City Wildlife offered so many unique learning opportunities.

I especially enjoyed learning from Dr. Sarah during veterinary shadow days and developing new skills, like gavage feeding different bird species. My favorite memory was helping return a possum joey to its mother's pouch!



Kathleen

VOLUNTEER

Initially I wanted to volunteer so I could work with wildlife. Over my time as a volunteer I've learned about many aspects of animal care including turtle physical therapy, applying ointment to an opossum, how to hold a raptor, and feeding many babies.

It is gratifying to see patients recover and return to the wild. One fascinating aspect to this work is finding that many of the hazards faced by animals also impact humans. We're all in this together!



Our Research

Rodenticide Monitoring

City Wildlife continued our commitment to evidence-based advocacy by systematically monitoring patients for the presence of anticoagulant rodenticides. By documenting exposure in the wildlife we treat, we are building a critical dataset that reveals the hidden impact of these poisons on birds of prey, mammals, and other urban wildlife. In collaboration with DC Voters for Animals, we are using this data to inform policy-makers and advocate for stronger, science-based legislation to reduce rodenticide use and protect wildlife across Washington, DC, through our coalition, DC Responsible Rat Management.

Seed Dispersal in Migratory Birds

In collaboration with Dr. Doug Levey, Lights Out DC (LODC), and curators at the National Museum of Natural History, we are exploring whether migrating birds carry viable seeds during their nighttime journeys. Fall migration coincides with peak fruit production along the East Coast, when many migratory birds shift from insect-based diets to energy-dense fruits that provide critical fuel for long-distance travel. While it is well established that birds consume fruit at stopover sites and likely deposit most seeds before continuing their journey, many of the birds recovered by LODC volunteers were actively migrating at the time of window collisions. This partnership presents an important opportunity to examine fecal samples and gastrointestinal contents to better understand the role migrating birds may play in seed dispersal during active migration.

Cestode Research in Migratory Birds

The Department of Invertebrate Zoology at the National Museum of Natural History reached out to us with new research they were interested in performing to understand the anatomy of a class of parasites called cestodes, also known as tapeworms. There is very limited information on what species of tapeworms infect our North American songbirds, though we know that they infect 1 in 7 birds. When we are trying to treat parasites in our songbirds, we are often working with limited scientific evidence, and contributing to this work could make a big difference for the

future of avian parasite prevention and treatment. Through LODC and the clinic at City Wildlife, we have been contributing meaningful samples to this work, and also making it possible to do this research without removing healthy birds from the population, which is how these studies have been done in the past.

On-going Surveillance of West Nile in Crows

City Wildlife is partnering with the DC Department of Health to inform healthcare providers about recent detections of West Nile virus in wild birds across the District. Through this collaboration, we are sharing timely guidance to support the diagnosis, testing, and reporting of West Nile virus infections in patients, strengthening coordinated surveillance between wildlife and human health sectors. In 2025, our surveillance lead to a health alert notice for DC's healthcare providers to alert them to the volume of positive avian patients we received. The DOH generally relies on mosquito testing and human clinical cases to develop these notices, but often avian cases peak sooner, and advanced notice can save lives. We also use this information to inform the public about how they can help reduce mosquito populations and keep themselves, their pets, and wildlife safe.

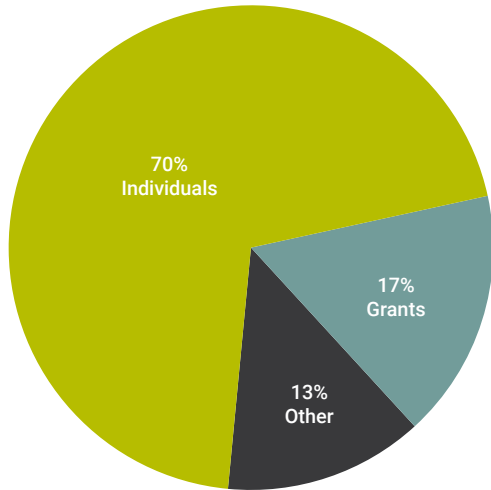
Covid Antibody Surveillance in North American Mammals

City Wildlife participated in a national surveillance study in collaboration with the Translational Genomics Research Institute and the University of Florida to research the distribution of SARS-CoV-2 in wildlife presented to rehabilitation centers. Their objectives are to gather insight on the range of wildlife species susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 or that may be carrying the disease asymptotically, as well as to help rehabilitation centers assess the need for changes in biosecurity to prevent intra- and interspecies transmission of disease. In 2026, the focus of this work will switch to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus surveillance. Historically, it has been costly and complicated to submit samples to HPAI testing, and this opportunity will provide much-needed insight into our local population and the diseases they may encounter.



Financials

2024 Revenues

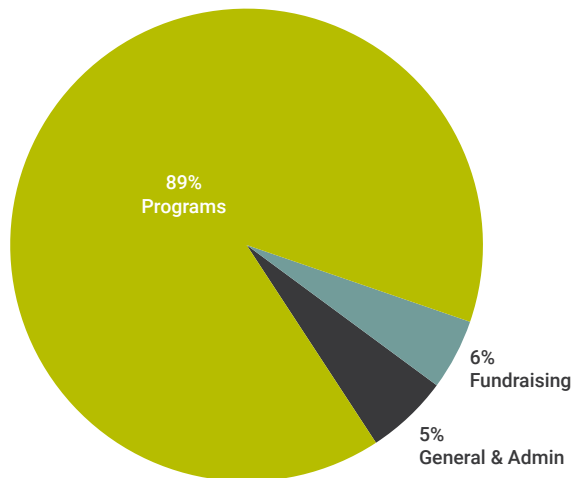


Item	Amount
Individuals	842,802
Grants	200,000
Other	160,278
Total	1,203,080

Proud to be effective!
We've earned a

★ ★ ★ ★
+ **FOUR-STAR RATING** +
from
Charity Navigator

2024 Expenditures



Item	Amount
Programs	747,909
General and Admin	40,498
Fundraising	47,321
Total	835,728

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

Statement of Activities For The Year Ended September 30, 2025

With Comparative Totals For The Year Ended September 30, 2024

	2025			2024
	Without Donor Restrictions (\$)	With Donor Restrictions (\$)	Total (\$)	Total (\$)
Support and Revenues				
Contributions and Grants	623,016	-	623,016	573,962
Government Grants	200,000	-	200,000	200,000
Donated Stock	219,786	-	219,786	49,624
In-Kind Contributions	-	-	-	79,372
Sales, Net Cost of Sales	641	-	641	381
Other Revenue	750	-	750	-
Investment Income - Net	15,387	-	15,387	8,004
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	143,500	143,500	-	-
Total Support and Revenues	1,203,080	143,500	1,059,580	911,343
Expenses	-	-	-	-
Program Services	747,909	-	747,909	597,739
Supporting Services	-	-	-	-
General and Administrative	40,498	-	40,498	54,105
Fundraising	47,321	-	47,321	34,733
Total Supporting Services Expense	87,819	-	87,819	88,838
Total Expenses	835,728	-	835,728	686,577
Change in Net Assets	367,352	(143,500)	223,852	224,766
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	586,584	143,500	730,084	505,318
Net Assets, End of Year	953,936	-	953,936	730,084



Our Team



OUR TEAM

Our team has a diverse knowledge base, we're always learning and evolving. As a small nonprofit, our staff often wears multiple hats to help City Wildlife continue to grow!



Lorraine Docherty, PhD
Executive Director



Sarah Sirica, DVM, MPH
Clinic Director, CWR



Diana Fuentes
Animal Care Manager, CWR



Chris-Ann Burton
Outreach & Intake Manager +
Social Media Team



Susan Chase
Clinic Assistant, CWR +
Volunteer Coordinator



Stephanie Fosburg
Clinic Assistant + Animal Care
Tech



Sara Dollen
Animal Care Tech, CWR +
Education Coordinator +
Social Media Team



Caitlin Cunningham
Animal Care Tech + Social
Media Team



Emily Tiemeyer
Animal Care Tech + Graphic
Designer + Social Media Team



Domi Long
Animal Care Tech, CWR

CWR = Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator

Stay up to date with news from our center.



Sign me up!






Your generosity
keeps our doors open.

All donations go directly toward animal care and the funding of our education and outreach programs.



15 Oglethorpe St NW,
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 882-1000
info@citywildlife.org

Follow us on social media to stay up to date
on our patients and other City Wildlife news!

 @dccitywildlife  @DCCityWildlife  @dccitywildlife
 /CityWildlife  @dccitywildlife.bsky.social