

Wild Bird Rehabilitation
9624 Midland Blvd
Overland, MO 63114



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Help Birds
During this Virtual Community Fundraiser
at www.givestl.org Early giving begins April 4!



Save the Date!
Trivia Night & Silent Auction
October 22, 2021
Additional information and registration
will be available on our website
www.wildbirdrehab.org during June. This
is WBR's major fundraiser. If you would
like to help with silent auction items or
sponsorships contact
wbrtrivia@gmail.com or call
(314) 426-6400.



Wild Bird Chatter

Newsletter of Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Spring 2021

Wild Bird Rehabilitation

9624 Midland Blvd
Overland, Mo 63114
(314) 426-6400

*Please call before you bring
in a bird*

Hours of Operation
Daily
7 am – 7 pm

www.wildbirdrehab.org



Wild Bird Rehabilitation's mission is to ensure survival of native songbirds through professional medical care and education regarding their value and needs.

It's a Bird's Life!

One of the most exciting aspects of spring is the new life all around us! We don't have to live in a remote area to see deer, chipmunks and squirrels teaching their children the ways of the world. But at WBR we witness the development of baby birds from hatchling to almost-adult. Here's an overview of the stages of bird development.

Hatchling

This term refers to the bird immediately after it hatches. Normally the bird does not have feathers and its eyes are closed.



American Robin hatchlings ready for a feeding!

Nestling

At this stage the bird is developing in the nest, but cannot fly. The nestling is growing feathers, but totally dependent for food. In some species both Mom & Dad share this duty and in others only one parent brings food back to the nest. At WBR we feed the

hatchlings and nestlings from dawn to dusk at 15-20 minute intervals. They remain in the Incubator for warmth until they are feathered. In the nest they would be cuddling with their siblings to stay warm.

Fledgling/Juvenile

Now the bird is ready to venture out of the nest with parental guidance! The bird has feathers and is learning to fly. Often you see them hopping around on the ground in your yard. At this point they are very vulnerable to pets and predators – their flight skills are not developed enough to escape.

Though the parents are usually nearby they are unlikely to be of any assistance in a crisis. Contrary to the cartoon image of mama bird rescuing baby – that does not happen and the parent is often a victim in this type of encounter. Most often you won't know whether a parent is nearby since they stay out of sight. To determine if the fledgling is being

fed or has been abandoned, observe the fledgling from a distance for one hour.

Back to the Wild?

At WBR, birds are grouped with other birds -usually of the same species and/or temperament to provide a competitive environment where they may learn some life skills. Life is tough out there!

To determine whether the bird is ready to be released they must be

self-feeding and able to achieve and maintain flight height. WBR's goal is to provide a situation which provides the best possible outcome for the baby bird. Mom nurtures them and teaches them critical life skills and we want to maintain

Blue Jay nestlings - feed me, feed me!



that bond, if

possible. If you encounter a bird that needs assistance, contact WBR and a member of our *Phone Team* will

discuss the situation with you and determine the best possible plan of action!

Referenced Birds & Blooms Magazine July Extra 2020

In Honor of...In Memory of

In Honor of Renee Pajda – "Blue Birder"

Charlotte & Bob Evans

In Honor of Nelson & Leslie Wainwright

David & Royal Robbins

In Honor of my cousin

Jennifer Ward Fowler

In Honor of Robbie Lucas

Suzanne Lucas

In Honor of Kathi Butts at Wild Birds Unlimited

Gloria Meyer

In Honor of Al Nash

Blanche Nash

In Honor of Carrie Luttermann

The Starr Family

In Honor of Nathan Paul

Rafia Zafar

In Honor of Tom Feiner

Mary Alice Feiner

In Honor of Janet Schneider

Peggy Browne

In Honor of Cate Cody

Juliet Clarke

In Honor of Lisa Dazey

Linda Dazey

In Honor of Olive & Eloise Landesman

Gigi Reither

In Honor of Alice Bluefront Amazon

Mitch Sanders

In Honor of Gracie, the cockatiel

Jean Harmon

In Honor of Robbie/Baby Robin

Suzanne Lucas

In Memory of Margaret Giblin

Daryl Giblin

In Memory of David Faintich

Carol Faintich

In Memory of Virgene Gilkerson

Joan & Paul Gilkerson

In Memory of Maria Blest

Cindy Blest

In Memory of Lily

Kathy Dannegger

In Memory of Norma Frank

Robert Blankmann

In Memory of Ray Karpowicz

Nancy Karpowicz

In Memory of Fezzik, the lil' piggy

Jack & Kathie Pryer

In Memory of Skeeter

Catherine Mizerany

In Memory of Arsenio, Pitufa,

Hans, Walter JR

Jan Barton

In Memory of All our Family Pets

Paul Corley

In Memory of Peaches

Debra Holz

In Memory of Ajax, the songbird

Daniel Keith

In Memory of Trigger, my buddy

Sharen Hopen



WBR native plant garden in full bloom!

In Memory of Nighat Hameed

Danish Jabbar, MD

In Memory of my Brother,

Glenn Lindberg

Christina Lindberg

In Memory of Doris Fortner

Walter Fortner

In Memory of Marian Graman

Judy & Steve Graman

In Memory of Myron & Sue Dmytryszyn

Patrick Gadell

In Memory of Naomi Davis

Barbara Unser

In Memory of Forest

Sally McLees

In Memory of Gerry Bickel

William Bickel

Volunteer Corner

Susan Pang, a Master Gardener and WBR supporter, created the native plant gardens surrounding Wild Bird Rehabilitation. She used plants from her own landscape and personally designed and executed the garden plan. Her work was recognized by the St. Louis Audubon Society for using native plants that produce food sources for pollinators and wild birds and WBR was awarded a platinum certification by the **Bring Conservation Home** project.

This year, with a generous grant from the Ladue Garden Club, our WBR Garden Club will be able to maintain and improve the quality of the green spaces and outdoor aviaries. Our objective is to incorporate additional native plants and hardscape to improve the natural aesthetic and ecological abundance around the grounds as well as the landscape outside of the aviaries to provide seclusion and privacy for the birds in recovery. If you would like to join us and become a member of the WBR Garden Club please contact Denise White at wbr.schedulehelp@gmail.com for more information and the upcoming work schedule. To learn about Bring Conservation Home and how they can guide you in establishing a native plant garden, visit <https://stlouisaudubon.org/bch/>.

A Quiet Spring

We all searched for comfort during the stress of 2020. Many people found it in the spring songs of migrating and nesting birds. I was not sure how the pandemic shutdowns would affect the number of birds brought to our center. At first, I thought since people would not be traveling around their communities, they would not see the injured and orphaned birds. It appears the exact opposite happened. 2020 was the busiest year in Wild Bird Rehabilitation's 30 years of operation. People were obviously more aware of their surroundings and had more time to observe wildlife.

Scientific observations varied during the U.S. shutdown. Many studies were put on hold, but some studies looked closer at habitats which normally had significant human infringement, such as beaches and national parks. According to Science Magazine one study showed that many songbird songs recovered acoustic qualities that were missing for a decade while our cities were considerably quieter. While, we stayed home and factories shutdown, birds did not have to be as loud. Some birds reduced their volume by 30% last summer, yet they could communicate with each other twice as far as the previous years. Birds use their songs to deter rivals and communicate with their mates. With decreased noise pollution some birds nested quicker and had fewer territorial disputes, because their rivals heard their claims and didn't accidentally approach their area. Thus, there was less energy spent on fighting and more on breeding.



American Robins recovering from a cat attack this winter.

Many cities have started a "lights out" program during migration to limit the window strikes of night time migratory birds. I propose we consider a "silent spring initiative" during late spring and early summer when birds have been found to be the most verbally active. If we would all quiet down and listen, we all might fight less and put more of our energy toward the things we love.

Joe Hoffmann, Executive Director

Some of the ways you can help WBR!

You can **donate** on our website www.wildbirdrehab.org or send a check to WBR. You now have the ability set up a recurring donation from our website donation page if you would like to schedule a monthly or quarterly gift. If your workplace matches your donations, this is a great way to double your help for the birds! Your donations are critical.

Share your love of birds with your friends by hosting a **Facebook Fundraiser!** Facebook handles everything! Just select WBR as your charity. Wild Bird Rehabilitation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency funded totally by donations from individuals and businesses. **Shop** with *Amazon Smile* and designate Wild Bird Rehabilitation as your charity.

Wish List – everyday items used at WBR: These items are used throughout the year and are particularly needed during the spring and summer months: • Select-a-size paper towels • Unscented toilet paper • Bleach • Dawn (blue only) • Unscented laundry detergent • 13 gallon trash bags • Printer paper • Puppy training pads • Distilled Water • Gift cards for: Walmart, Petco, Lowes, Home Depot.

Calendar of Events

Give STL Day, Thursday, May 6, midnight-to-midnight, online at www.givestlday.org. Join the St. Louis Community Foundation for the biggest online giving event in St. Louis and support WBR at this critical time of the year.

Trivia Night & Silent Auction, Friday, October 22, Kirkwood Community Center. Save the date for this annual event which is WBR's major fundraiser of the year. You can help! Silent auction items and sponsorships are critical to the event's success! Contact wbrtrivia@gmail.com or call 314-426-6400.

Take a hike!

This is a great time of the year to take a hike, go birding or just enjoy our beautiful parks! You'll find a list of parks & conservation areas nearby (within 50 miles) at <https://stlouisaudubon.org/stl-area-birding-hot-spots/>. Interested in a new pair of binoculars? For selection tips see www.audubon.org/news/how-choose-your-binoculars.