

Wildlife Rescue 2023 Annual Report

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Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Hollinger canoe2@comcast.net

Number of Volunteers: 9 plus many other "one-time" volunteers

Number of Volunteer Hours: 1,185

Number of Miles Driven: 36,270

Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division partners with the Owl Moon Raptor Center to rescue and transport injured hawks, owls and other raptors when needed. Other birds, large and small, and other animals, may need transport to other wildlife rehabilitation facilities as available.

Transportation may require driving to the Capital Beltway to deliver the injured bird to a waiting Owl Moon volunteer, or directly to the Owl Moon Raptor Center in Boyds, MD, or to other rehabilitation centers as determined. Volunteers may also be called upon to help capture or pick up a wounded bird on location.

Volunteers are essentially "on call" from morning until evening.

SKILLS NEEDED

- Ability and willingness to drive to random locations to capture or pick up the injured bird/animal.
- Ability and willingness to drive the beltway to transport injured bird/animal to the Owl Moon Raptor Center, or to other rehabilitation centers as needed.
- Ability to use a cell phone to contact others involved in the capture and transport.
- Ability to use G.P.S. to get to the reported location of an injured bird/animal.
- Ability to transport a box large enough to hold a bird of prey.
- Ability to walk and run through fields, woods, marshes or beaches.
- Ability to safely net and capture injured birds/animals.
- Ability to accurately record data on where the bird/animal was found, and the contact information for those who reported it.
- Ability and willingness to submit the recorded data and the volunteer hours into the Calvert Stewards Volunteer Portal.

VOLUNTEER DUTIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Volunteers may be asked to respond to calls for help in Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles, southern Prince Georges, and Anne Arundel Counties.
- Some locations may expose volunteers to ticks, chiggers and other biting insects, poison ivy and thorny plants.
- A capture and transport effort may take several hours.
- Calls for assistance are random and may come at any time of day or night.
- Volunteers will be handling raptors at their own risk. Thick gloves, nets and towels are recommended equipment.
- Volunteers will coordinate transport with the Owl Moon Raptor Center, or other rehabilitation centers, once the bird/animal is contained.
- Volunteers are expected to enter their effort hours into the Calvert Stewards Portal.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Volunteers are trained on site, with guidance from OMRC and/or BCNC.
- Volunteers are provided with instructions for logging hours into the Calvert Stewards Portal.

SUMMARY OF 2023 ACTIVITIES

- 2023 was a record-breaking year for this project. Volunteers received 227 calls and responded 223 times to help with potentially injured or trapped animals.
- Of the 204 birds recovered, the vast majority were raptors (117) and vultures (32). Followed by various shorebirds & waterbirds (40), small birds (9), crows (5) & landfowl (1).
 - Of the raptors the highest rate of incident occurred with bald eagles (22) and Osprey (19).
- There were 28 non-bird calls, including reptiles (14) and mammals (14) .
- Calls for assistance came primarily from Owl Moon Raptor Center (122), and from local and regional rehabilitators (37). County agencies and animal control services from Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles contacted us 27 times. There were 41 miscellaneous contact sources.
- The majority of efforts required a simple pick up and transport (95). 46 required the volunteer to locate and capture before transporting. In 21 cases, the volunteer was unable to locate the animal once on site, and in 18 cases the animal was located but the volunteer was unable to capture the target. Vultures and geese can be particularly evasive and difficult to catch. Some calls required only advice or referrals (8), and in only 1 case the animal was captured, assessed and released.
- 82 birds were delivered to Owl Moon Raptor Center. 53 were taken to various other licensed rehabbers.
- Some of the more interesting calls the season included:
 - A Great Horned Owl who saw a tasty little rabbit meal in someone's back yard. It's not clear if it got the rabbit or just scared it to death, but the owl ended up in a child's soccer backstop, completely tangled up a few feet away from its intended target. The owl was cut out of the net and taken up to Owl Moon Raptor Center (OMRC) for minor injuries. (The rabbit was donated to feed other raptors in recovery.)
 - A Canada Goose was reported in a community pond with a fishing lure in its neck and some fishing line wrapped around it. Attempts to catch it on land the first night failed. Volunteers returned the next day with kayaks but were never able to catch it. They did however stick around to pull fishing line/hooks/gear off trees and snags before leaving.
 - A kayaker rescued a young osprey from the water near the mouth of the Patuxent River. Volunteers took the osprey to OMRC for examination, revealing no apparent issues. The decision was made to release the Osprey near Drum Point, which was close to the location where it was found. However, the release proved unsuccessful as the osprey flew erratically, attempting to land on a sailboat and eventually returning to the water. Prompt action by the people on the sailboat led to the bird being retrieved from the water, with additional assistance from neighbors on jet skis who transported the osprey back to shore. Following these events, the osprey underwent further observation at the OMRC before being successfully released a few days later.
 - One of the more unique captures this season involved a Virginia Rail that had been seen hanging around the Community Garden at Annmarie Gardens. Regrettably, the rail had sustained both an irreparable broken leg and a wing injury. As a humane decision, the rail was euthanized and subsequently brought back to Annmarie Gardens for taxidermy purposes.

2023 Wildlife Report

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Birds		Mammals	
Barred Owl	13	Rabbit	5
Great Horned Owl	8	Deer	2
Eastern Screech Owl	8	Squirrel	5
Owl (sp ?)	1	Bat	1
Cooper's Hawk	8	Red Fox	1
Red-Shouldered Hawk	12	ALL MAMMALS	14
Red-tailed Hawk	14		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Reptiles	
Hawk (sp ?)	8	Box Turtle	11
Black Vulture	16	Snapping Turtle	1
Turkey Vulture	13	Red-eared slider	1
Vulture (sp ?)	3	Black snake	1
Bald Eagle	22	ALL REPTILES	14
Osprey	19		
American Crow	4		
Fish Crow	1		
Brown Pelican	3		
Cormorant	1		
Great Blue Heron	10		
Canada Goose	4		
Loon	3		
Mallard Duck	2		
Seagull	3		
Herring Gull	2		
Great Black-backed Gull	3		
Laughing Gull	1		
Gull/Tern (sp ?)	1		
Green Heron	1		
Domestic Goose	1		
Red-headed duck	1		
Ring-billed Gull	1		
Virginia Rail	1		
Water Thrush	1		
Wilson's Snipe	1		
House Sparrow	1		
Bluebird	1		
Racing Pigeon	3		
Mourning Dove	1		
Mockingbird	1		
Titmouse	1		
Songbird (sp ?)	1		
Peacock	1		
ALL BIRDS	190		

2023 Incoming Report		Disposition	
Owl Moon Raptor Center	122	Owl Moon Raptor Center	83
Direct Contact	34	Unable to Locate	21
Blue Angel Wildlife Rescue	27	Released	19
Calvert County Gov (CCPR, Sheriff Dept, Animal Control)	18	Unable to Capture	18
FB Referral	6	Friskies Wildlife	12
St. Mary's Animal Cntl	4	Phoenix Wildlife Center	11
Carol van Wie	3	Tri-State	11
Town of North Beach	3	No action required	11
American Chestnut Land Trust	2	DOA	8
Flip Flops Animal Sanctuary	2	Blue Angel Wildlife Rescue	7
St. Leonard VFD	1	Calvert County Animal Control	5
SPOT	1	Second Chance	5
Maryland Dept of Natural Resources	1	Dallas Wright	2
MATTS	1	Failed Release	2
Andy Brown	1	Lea Prouty	2
All Kinds Vet Ctr	1	MD Dept of Natural Resources	2
TOTAL	227	All Kinds Vet Clinic	1
		Chadwell Animal Hospital	1
		Escaped	1
		Euthanized on Location	1
		Gentle Hands	1
		Referral	1
		Solomons Vet Clinic	1
		Treated & released	1
		TOTAL	227

FUTURE PLANS

- We will continue to transport most birds to Owl Moon Raptor Center, and non-raptors to local or regional rehabilitators.
- Provide Wawa gift cards to volunteers as a token of appreciation for their dedication and efforts.
- Continue to promote and highlight wildlife rescue and wildlife hazards in social media posts.

Supporting Calvert County's nature parks and natural spaces



CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A partnership between Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

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CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
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Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources

