



Montana Wild Wings Recovery Center
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GREETINGS

2022 presented the challenge of Avian Influenza. Unfortunately we received many birds with the disease including three Bald Eagles, several Red Tail Hawks and several Great Horn Owls that all succumbed to the disease. Many Canada Geese and other waterfowl were also victims. As a rehabber it is difficult to take in injured and sick birds but when you have no treatment to offer and the birds all die it is particularly difficult. It was extremely difficult to find a way to evaluate birds safely so as not to spread the disease to our education birds yet do what we could to keep the sick birds comfortable. We are still seeing cases and they are wide spread over western Montana and unfortunately don't seem to be waning.

We took in 98 birds this year representing 17 species. Unfortunately we had to turn away many birds due to their symptoms of Avian Influenza and not wanting to contaminate our facility and risk spreading it to our resident education birds. This year has been hard on Bald Eagles and we took in 25 eagles, car strikes and lead poisoning were the leading causes.

We have been fortunate to receive a large grant from the Cadeau Fondation that will enable us to start construction on our medical building. The building will have separate areas for our sick and injured birds and a treatment room in which to do our initial exams and lab work. The plans have been drawn up by volunteer Jim Barrus and will be put out for bid early this spring. This building has been in the plan for many years but always got put aside to build more housing for the birds.

We curtailed many of our education programs due to Avian Influenza and not wanting to expose the birds to possible infection. We tried to do programs inside instead of outside where infected wild birds could have been. We managed to do 117 programs reaching 2,720 adults and 3,879 kids.

As always a big thank you for all your support and contributions which enable us to continue providing care for the birds and bring our education programs to the public.

Beth Benjamin Watne
Executive Director

MWWRC is a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, providing wildlife rescue, rehabilitation & education.
We rely on donations from the public to help provide for the injured and orphaned wildlife.