

Gala cont'd from p.1

helping AIWC continue the endless rescue and rehabilitation of Alberta's wild lives! All funds raised go directly to the rescue and treatment of injured and/or orphaned native wildlife.



A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event!



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From the archives ...

"It was a spectacular day – warm, sunny with scattered white clouds. The kind of day that makes you glad you are off work! [...] The release site itself was in a beautiful area. Kilometres of flat prairie land bounding the graceful curves of the Bow River below the bluffs; a perfect habitat for Swainson's hawks.

"Mom took the role of photographer while I removed the boxed birds from my car. In quick succession the birds took wing. It was amazing to see them soar above the fields, as if they had already lived a lifetime in the wild! Eventually the female came back to land on a nearby fencepost, but the two males flew ever higher, soaring in huge extended loops, never straying far from each other. "All too soon, they became mere dots against the blue sky. I doubt that they gave us a second thought for they were now in their element. We had given them the best start in life humans could, and now they were back in the wild where they were meant to be."

Robyn Maerz:

Giving Wing to Raptors: A Release Story
Recovery Review, Vol. 10, Issue 3, Nov. 2004

"As I went up to [the skunk], I could see its condensed breath on the inside of the [mayonnaise] jar. I touched it to see whether it was breathing; it was still alive! I tried to pull the jar off, but it wasn't going to come off no matter how hard I pulled. I had to break the glass; it was the only option. I knew I needed to break the glass near the neck of the jar. It worked! Amazingly, the jar broke at the neck and the skunk was free and unhurt! The skunk looked dazed at first, as it stood there and stared at me for several seconds. Before long it regained its strength enough to take the oh-so-familiar 'defence stance.' At this point, I spoke to it softly and backed away slowly. It started to walk away looking back at me one more time as it proudly walked into the nearby bushes."

Janine Makar:

AIWC to the Rescue!
Recovery Review, Vol. 10, Issue 3, Nov. 2004

"I was amazed to find that I had driven a total of 36,089 kilometres and had done 339 rescues from April 26th to December 23rd, 2004. I had driven to Radium (BC), Conrich, Canmore, Exshaw, Morley, Springbank, Cochrane, Bragg Creek, Priddis, Millarville, Spruce Meadows, De Winton, Okotoks, High River, Nanton, Pincher Creek, Langdon, Chestermere, Delacour, Drumheller, Balzac, Beiseker, Airdrie, Carstairs, Didsbury, and Water Valley – as well as all four quadrants of the city of Calgary."

Dan Measor:

Diary of a Mad Rescue Driver
Recovery Review, Vol. 11, Issue 1, Feb. 2005

"Witnessing a fit and healthy animal joyfully regaining its freedom is our greatest reward at AIWC. In the end, we must release an animal that will experience the dance of life and not just the struggle."

Robyn Roper:

The Greatest Reward ... and Responsibility,
The Recovery Review, Vol. 15, Issue 2, Summer 2008

RecoveryReview

Quarterly Bulletin of the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife Conservation through Education & Rehabilitation

**AIWC 20 Year Special Retrospective Edition:
On The Front Lines & In The Field**

AIWC's Volunteer Wildlife Rescue Drivers

Rescue drivers travel thousands of kilometres to rescue wild animals in need of rest, rearing, or medical attention. They also go to great lengths to release rehabilitated wildlife into ideally suited habitats for their long term survival.



"I could see this was not going to be a simple rescue; the owl was so severely twisted around the wire, the only way to disengage him was with a pair of wire cutters. I knew it was essential the wire be cut on either side of the bird's wing and the fence repaired later. Speed was of the essence."

Greta Millenaar:
Raptor Report
Recovery Review
(Vol. 6, Issue 3; Summer 2000)

From the archives ...

Read on to be inspired and amazed by the daring exploits of AIWC's rescue (and release) drivers from past Recovery Review issues that are remembered and recapped throughout these pages.

MOVING? Don't miss out on AIWC news! Please contact us with your new address.

AIWC Wildlife Hotline: 403-946-2361



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www.aiwc.ca

VISION: AIWC strives to enrich the lives of Albertans by nurturing a strong appreciation and respect for wildlife.

MISSION/MANDATE:

To contribute to wildlife conservation in Alberta by:

- Providing comprehensive and humane rehabilitation programs for injured and orphaned wildlife;
- Promoting awareness and encouraging greater stewardship of native wildlife through engaging education programs;
- Researching wildlife issues that improve rehabilitation protocols and support the broader scientific community; and
- Helping people co-exist peacefully with wildlife by providing humane solutions for wildlife 'invasions' on personal and public property.

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Submissions/comments may be sent to the above address.

Call of the Wilds

~ by J. Kaiser

AIWC's sold out Call of the Wilds gala was held April 5th at the Red and White Club and delivered a true celebration of nature!

Three hundred guests helped commemorate AIWC's 20th anniversary and continuing contributions to Alberta wildlife, having rescued over 25,000 lives since first being incorporated in 1993.

Guests were treated to a fabulous evening of dinner, performances, a silent auction, and prizes. Hosted by Global TV's Paul Dunphy, attendees were serenaded by acclaimed local guitarist Joel Fraser and treated to a live painting demonstration by the talented Mark Cromwell that was later auctioned off to one lucky bidder. The Calgary Stampede Band of Outriders brought lively and spirited dinner entertainment. AIWC's own education ambassador, Griffin, even made a guest appearance, helping to auction off the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend a raptor release with AIWC!



The evening's speakers, AIWC founder Dianne Wittner and keynote speaker and



renowned naturalist Brian Keating, informed and entertained, inspiring gala guests to appreciate local wildlife – even if it's as easy as watching beavers from your own back yard, as Keating demonstrated with incredible video

footage that he enthusiastically shared with the audience.



Noting there are currently 686 at-risk species in Canada, the theme of the evening was certainly to encourage everyone to reconnect with nature. Perhaps the most shocking statistic of the evening came from Keating, who pointed out that children currently spend only 5% of their spare time outdoors, a figure that has dropped drastically in recent decades. So whether you go on a local afternoon urban hike or a day trip out to the mountains, every family should take the time to unplug and get outside.

This year's gala raised over \$19,000

See **Gala** continued on p.8



Keep up with the exciting world of wildlife rehabilitation by following AIWC on Facebook and Twitter (@AIWC)!



Our Thanks

...to all the outstanding individuals who generously contributed crucial funds, aiding wildlife in distress!

The individual donor list is calculated cumulatively from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st of each year.

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From the archives ...

Ted described the scene. "We almost missed spotting him in the debris along the Deerfoot median. Finally, just past the Douglasdale turnoff, we saw one little duckling running hell-bent-for-leather next to the fast lane. We just had to attempt his rescue! We were able to cut



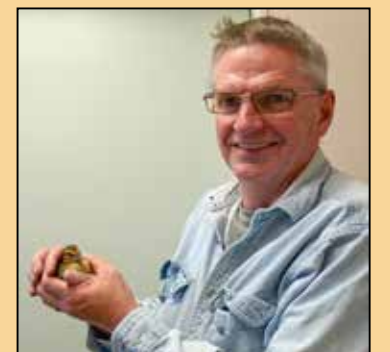
across traffic and park ahead of the poor tiny gupper, on the left-hand shoulder where, fortunately, there was just enough room for the truck. I grabbed a butterfly net and started back along the median.

The poor little duckling would run, run, rest, and run again. All of a sudden, he realized I was in front of him and to my horror, he darted out into traffic! Just at that moment a pick-up truck zoomed by and blew the duckling off his feet. That was my chance! I dropped the net over him and dragged him to safety. I passed him to Katherine who tucked him under her shirt. We were both absolutely shaking from the adrenaline rush!"

One sole survivor, safe and sound. On the phone, Katherine cried out of pride for her husband and concern for the tough little duckling that had survived such a dramatic

ordeal. In thirty minutes, he had lost his mother, all of his siblings, and had run close to three kilometres alongside whizzing traffic... and been rescued!"

**Shannon Bower (with Ted & Katherine):
 The Deerfoot Duckling,
 The Recovery Review,
 Vol. 15, Issue 2, Summer 2008**



Memories...

~ by J. Kozak, L. Forbes & J. So

Animal rescues are almost never easy and come with no shortage of unusual situations. The following stories are just a small sampling of the thousands of AIWC rescue adventures.

How does a goose family nesting on the 11-storey downtown Barron Building find their way to water? They will need plenty of help!

On May 11th, 2013 Wildlife Rescue Drivers Laurie, Dan and Lisa were called into action. The rescue drivers first safely captured the mother, gathered up the goslings, and lured the father goose back for capture.

This may sound simple enough, but rescuing a whole family of healthy geese - including two very protective adults - is not a simple task by any means. AIWC Wildlife Rescue Drivers are experts in the wildlife rescue field, and they are devoted to ensuring and maintaining the well-being of wild animals and their wild families. This family was fortunate to have been captured and relocated together into quiet and natural habitat, free of people and traffic.



After an already LONG day of rescue driving (9 hours and 10 injured critters to AIWC) wildlife rescue drivers Ted and Katherine got a call for a baby moose calf. His mother had been killed. Fish and Wildlife officers prepared the baby for the 1.5 hour drive to AIWC. It was a bit of a harrowing drive with a 65 lb. healthy and long legged baby squirming and crying all the way. AIWC cared

for him until the fall and he was released late October 2007.



Catching a prairie hare in an underground parking garage is like a game of hide-and-seek with a partner most unwilling to be found! After two hours of crouching under every car and checking out all of the storage areas and other possible hiding spots, the hare was finally found under an air ventilation fan. She was surrounded, netted and relocated to a more appropriate green space.



One of the most heartwarming stories was a call to AIWC from an acreage in Conrich. A juvenile mallard duck got trapped under a "wharf" on a man-made pond close to the finder's house. The finder was an eleven-year-old boy, and he paddled his rowboat out to the wharf to save the duck. He was able to

retrieve the duck from under the wharf then noticed it had a cut on its neck (probably from a protruding nail). The boy called AIWC, and while he waited for rescue drivers to get there, administered the best first aid he could; the duck had a bandage on its neck (like the kind used for a cut finger). The duck was released at the end of August after a six week stay at AIWC!

From the archives ...

"One day I volunteered to release a loon and experience the emotion of seeing an animal released for the first time. I watched from a distance while he turned and swam, bobbed and dove in the lake. I thought I had the tears welling up in my throat under control when the loon surfaced with a great splash, facing me, and rose up in the water, beating his wings vigorously. With this majestic gesture, he unleashed the call that is the trademark of his species and haunts the hearts of all who hear it. From the other end of the lake, the answer came! With a jerk of his head, the loon dove in the direction of the reply and I watched him grow smaller and smaller as he swam off, calling out again and again. By now, there were tears pouring down my face which a nearby picnicking family could surely see - but after what I had just participated in, I couldn't have cared less!"

Shannon Bower:
The Heart & Soul of AIWC,
Recovery Review, Vol. 11, Issue 1, Feb. 2005



From the archives ...

"There was no access to the [70 metre ski jump at Canada Olympic Park] from the bottom due to thick, wily bushes, so the only way for [Wildlife Rescue Driver April Norris] to rescue the owl was to climb down from the top of the ski jump. ... The stairs down were rickety, with a rail only present in select places. Norris gives full credit to the finders, since they were incredibly helpful, flanking the owl so Norris could safely get a blanket over her. From that point, Norris was able to get her into a box for transport to AIWC."

Tamara McDougall:
Olympic Owl,
Recovery Review, Vol. 16, Issue 4, Winter 2009/10

"To see a bird knocked out of the air is heartbreaking. To see that same bird recuperate and fly again makes your heart soar!"

Robyn Roper:
Blind-sided: The Impact of Windows on Birds,
Recovery Review, Vol. 13, Issue 2, Summer 2006

"AIWC volunteers are not ones to walk away from a challenge, especially when wild lives are in danger..."

Janna Mariano-Groza:
Elusive Goose Tests AIWC Tenacity,
Recovery Review, Vol. 15, Issue 1, Spring 2008



"Freeing the hawk was a simple matter of lifting it up and over the lightning rod. I easily cradled him in the crook of my left arm, keeping my right arm free. As I turned to make my descent, I realised I couldn't walk down to the bucket; the roof was too steep to attempt such a move without the use of both my hands. Grasping the [metal] cable [running along the peak of the barn] with my right hand (the hawk still safely ensconced in my left), I lay on the roof and stretched full length, reaching for the bucket with my toes. I was about a foot short. Again I had no choice. I let go of the cable and my patient and I slid right into the bucket."

Dianne Wittner:
Daring Rescue Results in Amazing Recovery,
Recovery Review, Vol. 8, Issue 3, Oct 2002

Sponsor a recovering animal!

The hare's ability to camouflage itself is an important adaptation to avoid predation. This adaptation is especially important for young hares. Young hares, called leverets, are born with brown fur which allows them to remain hidden under the tree or bush where they are born. For the majority of the day, a female hare will leave her young hidden in the grass and under bushes so predators are not attracted to their location. The mother hare will return periodically to feed them; leverets are dependent on their mother's milk for the first two weeks of their lives.

Hares have adapted to life within city limits. Urban backyards often offer a wide variety of grasses and bushes to feed on and hares are increasingly taking advantage of this permanent food source. It is becoming common for homeowners to discover leverets hiding in their yards. Each year, AIWC admits many leverets; most have no injuries and were likely kidnapped by a concerned citizen who mistakenly thought that they were abandoned. Although the leverets may seem abandoned, they should never be disturbed unless it appears that they have been injured. Please remember: if you see a baby hare, leave it right there!

All leverets admitted to AIWC will remain in care until they are independent sub-adults. Adopting these babies will help AIWC pay for the expenses associated with their stay.

Adopting any of our wild patients helps AIWC pay for the expenses associated with their rehabilitation.

For more info www.aiwc.ca or 403-946-2361

Each issue of the *Recovery Review* will feature one of AIWC's current patients up for 'adoption'. By donating a fixed amount for a featured animal, donors choose how their money is spent. In return, the donor receives an adoption certificate, a glossy 8x10 photograph, and a tax receipt for the full amount of the donation. AIWC's 'adoption option' is particularly popular as a gift for the animal lover in your life!



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(*Lepus townsendii*)



Bald Eagle



Pygmy Owl



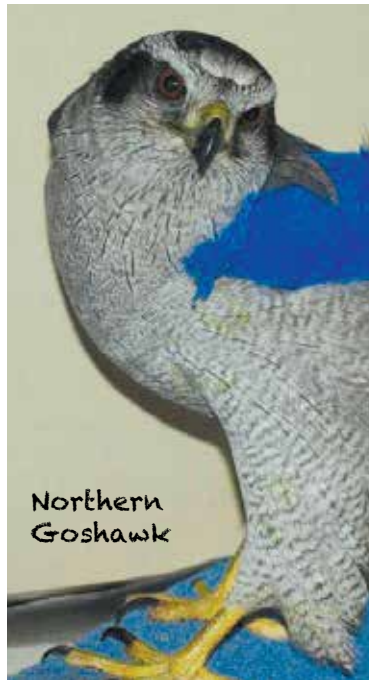
Short-eared Owl



Boreal Owl



Great Grey Owl



Northern Goshawk



Osprey



Ferruginous Hawk



Broad-winged Hawk



Long-eared Owl



Turkey Vulture



Great Horned Owl



Snowy Owl



Golden Eagle



Rough-legged Hawk

Raptors (birds of prey) make up 15% of AIWC's patients Here are just a few...



Northern Hawk Owl



Red-Tailed Hawk



Northern Harrier



Peregrine Falcon



Sharp-shinned Hawk



Merlin



Swainson's Hawk



Barred Owl



American Kestrel



Saw-whet Owl