

## A Pair of A-Moosing Patients

*By J. Kaiser*

For the second summer in a row, AIWC has admitted two moose calf patients into care, and also for the second year in a row, AIWC will be over-wintering these long-term patients until their eventual release in spring 2021.

This year's moose calf patients are a pair of siblings from north of Edmonton who were admitted in June after their mother was hit by a car.

The brother and sister were approximately two weeks old when they were orphaned, and were understandably under a lot of stress upon admission, though otherwise healthy. Of course, at that age, they would not survive alone in the wild without their mother; moose in the wild stay with their mothers at least until the next spring when she calves again.

The moose were started on a diet of species-appropriate formula and were both big eaters right away. This is expected, since, during their first five months, moose calves will grow to more than ten times their birth weight, and can gain over 2 kg per day during that time. They both almost immediately showed interest in solid foods as well, which is typical for their species.

From their first day, the calves were housed in AIWC's outdoor corral enclosure for large mammals in order to provide them with an abundance of outdoor space and privacy to keep stress factors to a minimum. With patients like these, AIWC staff do all of their primary care directly to limit human interaction and monitor them closely.

By the time December comes, the moose will each weigh more than 250 kg (500 lbs) and rely heavily on a diet of willow, birch, and aspen browse. AIWC is incredibly thankful for those in our community who are able to help us meet the demand of these patients with donations of these browse to help meet their growing appetites!



*Moose calf siblings*



*Moose calf enjoying her browse*

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MISSION:

AIWC is committed to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured and orphaned wildlife. We provide expert advice and education that fosters an appreciation of wildlife.

Our Vision:

Preserving the legacy of wildlife.

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## Executive Director Update

*By Holly Lillie, Executive Director*

2020 has been a year none of us will forget. There has been sadness, confusion, and loss. There has also been joy, and hope for a better future.

None of us knew what it meant earlier this year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Alberta. At AIWC, we questioned if we would be forced to close due to the government restrictions. If not, would we even have the funds to stay open?

We did not anticipate seeing such a surge of injured and orphaned wild animals brought to AIWC for care. By August 2020, we had already cared for more animals this year than in all of 2019. We will care for over 2,000 animals this year, compared to 1,481 in 2019.

Much of this increase we attribute to Albertans staying close to home and finding animals that would not have otherwise been found. Additionally, awareness of AIWC has grown part in thanks to our reach on social media and in the news.

It has been a whirlwind of a year. From caring for hundreds of more animals, to staff and volunteers pivoting to provide programming and special events online.

Thanks to you, our loyal and dedicated community of donors and supporters, AIWC has managed to so far survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

We ask that this Christmas season, you please consider including AIWC as part of your Christmas giving. This will help ensure that wildlife have a place to go to today when in need, but also in the future. We know the demand for our services is increasing, and wildlife needs our help.

Thank you for your support of Alberta's wildlife. We could not live out our mission without your support, and are so grateful to you.

I hope you and yours remain safe and well. Season's Greetings from all of us at AIWC.

Sincerely,

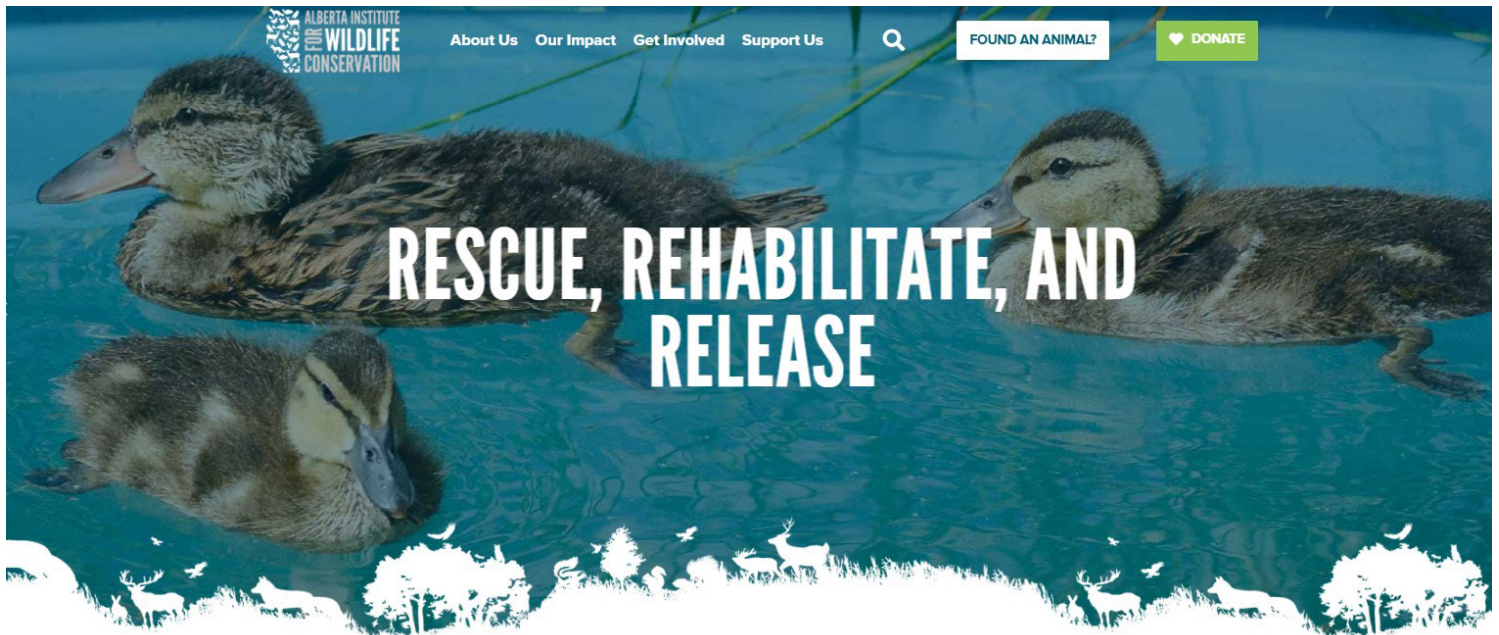
Holly Lillie

Executive Director



## AIWC.CA Has a New Look!

Check out our new website for more information on AIWC, including upcoming events, newsletter archives, easy ways to shop, donate, volunteer, or book an education program, and so much more!



## Eastern Kingbird Flies Free!

By K. Pederson

AIWC has admitted only eleven Eastern Kingbirds in the last five years. Alberta is a summer home for both Eastern and Western Kingbirds, with the western species found only in the South East of the province.

Patient #1361 in 2020 was admitted as a fledgling Eastern Kingbird on July 27th. It appeared that he had fallen from his nest and sustained subcutaneous emphysema (which is when air is trapped under the skin creating what looks like a bubble) upon landing on the ground.

Since these birds are insectivores in their summer habitat, our dedicated staff tweezer-fed the young bird mealworms every 20 minutes at first, gradually increasing the time intervals as he grew up. Eventually they were able to transition him to be self-feeding in an outside enclosure. He also received antibiotics and pain medication for his injury.

Three weeks later, when he was fully self-feeding, he was successfully released at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary in Calgary, where there was a large population of Eastern Kingbirds. Each little bird makes a difference; it is thanks to your donations this uncommon patient was saved!



*Eastern Kingbird in outdoor enclosure*



## Education Update: Calgary Library Virtual Programming

By K. Terrill, AIWC Community Engagement Manager

While COVID-19 continues to put a damper on in-person education programming, we have teamed up with the Calgary Library to keep wildlife education safe and accessible for all. In a bid to keep the public learning and engaged during these uncertain times, the Calgary Library has been hosting a wide variety of free online programs each month. AIWC is one of the main partners of this initiative; in fact, between July – September we presented 7 programs and reached over 200 children online!

and see if they can spot some of the things we talk about in their own neighbourhoods. We've even had parents who overhear the presentation jump in to ask their own questions, and request more information about when other programs are on offer.



*Mallard duckling enjoying a swim in an AIWC pool enclosure*



*Silicon animal poop collection*

One of the most rewarding experiences in doing these online education programs has been hearing and seeing the excitement of the children when they learn something new. The “Chat” function we use fills up quickly with messages such as “that’s so cool!” “I never knew that” and, in a few memorable cases “EWWWW” (like when we show off our silicon animal poops).

While we aren’t able to see them in person, all of the online program participants are encouraged to go out

With so many people now working from home, folks have a much greater chance of spotting injured and orphaned wildlife in their neighbourhoods. 2020 has been one of our busiest years ever, so reaching new audiences and teaching them what to do when they spot an animal in trouble is even more vital. We are so happy to have the support of the Calgary Library in our public outreach efforts, and look forward to continuing this partnership throughout the fall and winter months!

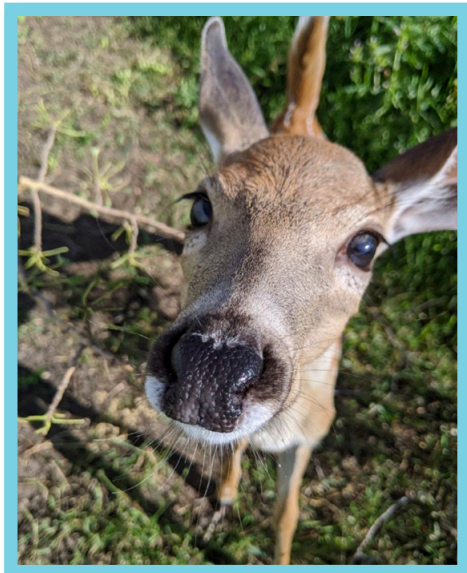
If you’re a Calgary Library member already, all of their online programs are free to sign up for! Simply head to <https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/> to register for virtual wildlife education programs and other presentations.

**Book your wildlife education program or virtual presentation today!**

**<https://www.aiwc.ca/get-involved/wildlife-education/>**

## Three Little Deer

By J. Kozak



*Mule Deer fawn*

Towards the end of May this year, a male White-tailed Deer was admitted to AIWC for care. He showed signs of severe dehydration, and weighed only 1.9 kg, making him the smallest fawn ever admitted to AIWC. His location of origin was uncertain as he was dropped off at a vet clinic. His hooves were caked in mud and clay. Staff took steps to correct his hydration deficit, starting with bottle feeding, and leading to browse feeding later on.

Following this, about a month later in late June, a second male White-tailed Deer was admitted for care. He arrived weak, underweight, and had severe bloating, coupled with high volumes of diarrhea. Once admitted, staff were able to correct his hydration and nutrition deficits, gradually introducing him to a normal diet as his recovery progressed.

Then, in early August, a third deer was admitted. This time a Mule Deer, who suffered from severe head trauma and several wounds, symptoms consistent with having been hit by a car. At the time of

admission, he was barely responsive and had shallow breathing. Staff were quick to provide oxygen, pain medication, antibiotics, and fluids.

Happily, through the support of donors, and the efforts of our passionate staff, all three of these deer have shown great improvement while in care, and have recovered from their illness and injuries. They are now able to spend time in AIWC's outdoor enclosures as they prepare for their returns to the wild.



*White-tailed Deer fawn*

### Follow AIWC online!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@AIWC) and Instagram (@albertawildlife)!



### GO GREEN FOR 2021!

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To add yourself to the email distribution list, please send an email to [info@aiwc.ca](mailto:info@aiwc.ca)



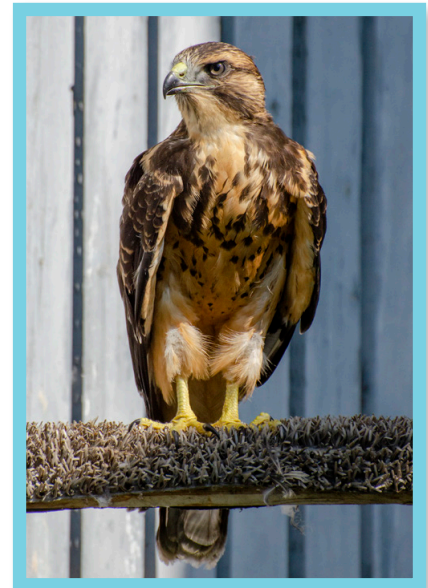
## Adopt a Raptor: Help them soar in the skies once again!

By J. Carlielle

Raptors (owls, eagles, hawks, vultures, and falcons) are predatory birds with hooked beaks, strong grasping feet, and sharp talons. They look beautiful, ferocious and indestructible, but at AIWC we see them at their most vulnerable. They frequently are admitted to AIWC with broken legs or wings, concussion, internal bleeding, or after eating poisoned prey. Raptors face many dangers in nature, but humans have added many more. Vehicles, windows, transmission lines, cats and dogs, and environmental toxins can all be lethal. The good news is that with specialized treatment and care, injured raptors are given their best chance at survival. We need your help to make this happen.

This young Swainson's Hawk came to AIWC with a broken upper wing bone (humerus). She was given pain medication and her wing was stabilized. Twenty-four hours later, after x-rays, a pin was surgically inserted and the wing held in place. The pin will be removed later and physical therapy will be given to regain movement. She will be placed in an outside enclosure for flight wing-muscle therapy. Since Swainson's Hawks migrate all the way to Argentina, her recovery and release depends on whether or not she is strong enough to make the trip when migration begins. If not, she will overwinter at AIWC, as she will not survive in the wild. In that case, she will be released in the spring of 2021 when the other Swainson's Hawks return from migration.

It takes many resources to treat, feed, and provide a healthy environment for injured raptors. AIWC's adoption program gives animals a second chance for a life in the wild. Your gift of adoption truly will help!



*Swainson's Hawk in outdoor enclosure*

Adopting this hawk patient, or any other current AIWC patient you see in the newsletter or on social media, helps with the costs directly associated with their care and rehabilitation. As part of your adoption, you will receive a certificate, a glossy 8×10 photograph of your patient, and a tax receipt for the full amount of the adoption. Thank you for helping us to keep them forever wild!

Adopt a patient online by visiting <https://aiwc.ca>

## Masters of the Twilight – Little Brown Bat Patients

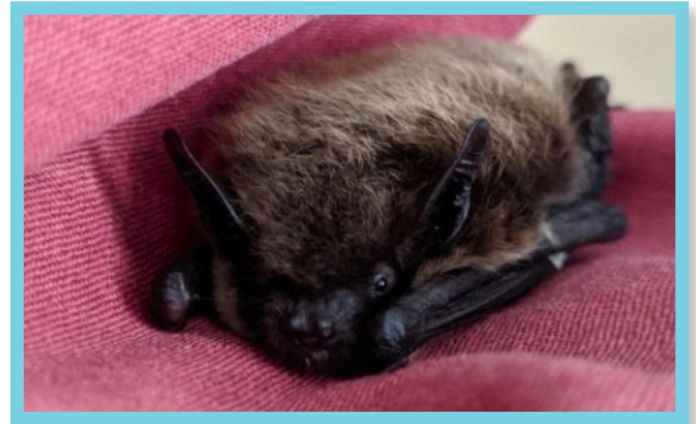
By C. Bogstie

Using echolocation to hunt and navigate their nocturnal lifestyle, bats are the only true flying mammals. The Little Brown Bats are true to their name: they measure only between 8 to 10 cm, have brown fur, and small, rounded ears. Found in every province and territory – with the exception of Nunavut – the Little Brown Bat has the largest distribution of all bat species in Canada. While they do not migrate per se, the Little Brown Bat is known to travel distances as great as 1,000 km in order to move from their summer roosts to their winter hibernation homes, which are often abandoned caves and mines. Despite the myth that bats are blind, Little Brown Bats actually have very good sight, which aids in their long-distance travels.

Little Brown Bats have a fairly predictable diet of small flying insects, including mayflies, midges, and mosquitoes, all which have an aquatic larval stage. Although they are found widely across Canada, the Little Brown Bat is recognized as an endangered species largely due to widespread fatalities from white-nose syndrome.

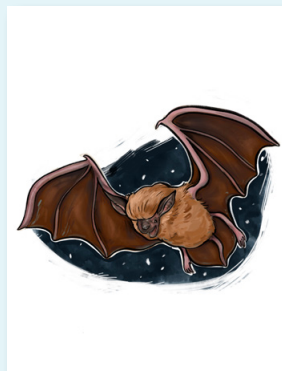
Currently, two Little Brown Bat patients are in care at AIWC. An adult female was discovered with two fractures and several injuries from bites after a domestic cat brought her home. One injury was a large one-inch tear in the wing membrane. She was splinted and given pain medication as well as antibiotics. She will be healing over the winter in care at AIWC.

The second patient, an adult male, was brought in due to odd grounded behaviour, despite having the opportunity for flight. Bats have a complicated metabolism and as such, it often takes a while for injuries to present themselves. He ended up developing scabbing and bruising around his muzzle, indicating he likely sustained an impact of some sort, but, as is often the case with AIWC patients, no cause could be firmly determined. He has improved immensely through treatments consisting of antibiotics, pain medication, and physical rehabilitation. He's doing well in care, with planned release for spring 2021. As these bats play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem, rehabilitation for these small creatures is essential, whenever possible.



*Little Brown Bat patient*

## Shop Online With AIWC This Holiday Season!



<https://aiwc.shop>

Playful and charming, Crystal Driedger's original acrylic and oil paintings feature vibrant colours, enchanting textures and gentle, whimsical shapes. Crystal, full-time artist and illustrator, has created beautiful artwork pieces to highlight a few of the animals AIWC has cared for in 2020. For this collection, we are featuring a Black Bear, Big Brown Bat, and Wilson's Snipe. The artwork of each animal has been created on a fine-art print, enamel pin, enamel keychain, and sticker.

To shop this collection, please visit [www.aiwc.shop](http://www.aiwc.shop).  
Proceeds from this collection will go to where it's needed most: caring for injured and orphaned wildlife.



