

Wildlife Rescue Program

2022 Annual Report

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Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division partner 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
- Ability and willingness to drive the beltway to transport injured bird 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
- Ability to accurately record data on where the bird 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
- 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 once the bird 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 2022 ACTIVITIES

- Volunteers responded 181 times to help with potentially injured or trapped animals.
- Of the 162 birds rescued, the vast majority were raptors (103), followed by vultures and crows (32), various shorebirds (14) and small birds (13). Of the raptors, 32 were Barred Owls, 23 were Osprey and 14 Red-shouldered Hawks. There were 13 non-birds, including 10 turtles, a fawn, rabbit and skunk.
- Calls for assistance came primarily from Owl Moon Raptor Center (95), and from local and regional rehabilitators (39). County animal control services from Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles contacted us 11 times. There were 39 miscellaneous contact sources.
- The majority of efforts required a simple pick up and transport (74). 40 required the volunteer to locate and capture before transporting. In 13 cases, the volunteer was unable to locate the bird once on site, and in 12 efforts, failed to capture the target. Vultures and geese can be particularly evasive and difficult to catch. Some calls required only advice or referrals (13), and in 5 cases the animal was captured, assessed and released on site.
- We delivered 97 birds to Owl Moon Raptor Center. 30 more were taken to various other licensed rehabbers.

Some of the more interesting calls included: an Eastern Screech Owl who flew into a home while the owners were installing Christmas lights, and took up residence in one of the bedrooms; an osprey who landed on a narrow balcony of an apartment building in North Beach and could not fly out; and our favorite, a mostly white skunk, who somehow fell into a deep well around an office building in Dunkirk, and could not get out. The Owl and skunk were captured and released. The osprey was taken to Owl Moon to check for injuries, and released within a few days.

FUTURE PLANS

- We will continue to transport most birds to Owl Moon Raptor Center, and non-raptors to local or regional rehabilitators
- We will continue to investigate other rehabilitation options for non-raptors, especially for box turtles
- Review the Calvert Nature Society webpage information on injured wildlife and update as needed

Birds		Reptiles	
Barred Owl	32	Box Turtle	6
Osprey	23	Snapping Turtle	2
Black Vulture	14	Painted Turtle	1
Red-Shouldered Hawk	14	Redbellied Cooter	1
Turkey Vulture	13		10
Bald Eagle	11	Mammals	
Red-tailed Hawk	7	Deer	1
Great Horned Owl	4	Rabbit	1
Eastern Screech Owl	7	Skunk	1
Seagull	3		3
Vulture	3		
Canada Goose	2	Grand total	175
Great Blue Heron	2		
Owl	2		
American Crow	1		
Blackbird	1		
Blue Jay	1		
Bluebird	1		
Broadwing Hawk	1		
Brown Pelican	1		
Carolina Wren	1		
Cooper's Hawk	1		
Cormorant	1		
Crow	1		
Grackle	1		
Great Black-backed Gull	1		
Herring Gull	1		
House Sparrow	1		
Hummingbird	1		
Kildeer	1		
Least Bittern	1		
Mourning Dove	1		
Pelican	1		
Pine Warbler	1		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		
small bird	1		
Wood Duck	1		
Wren	1		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		
	162		

Incoming Rept from		Disposition	
OMRC	95	OMRC	97
Carol van Wie	24	Carol van Wie	8
Direct Contact	19	Blue Angel Wildlife Rehabilitation	6
Blue Angel Wildlife Rescue	9	Tri-State	5
Calvert County Animal Cntl	9	Phoenix Wildlife Center	3
Battle Creek Nature Ctr	5	Dallas Wright	2
Dallas Wright	2	Potomac Animal Wellness Services	2
Chas County Emer Services	1	Chadwell Anumal Hospital	1
Flip Flop Animal Sanctuary	1	Friskies	1
Mary Martin, Back to the Wild	1	MATTS	1
MATTS	1	Second Chance	1
Patuxent River Park	1	Total to other rehabbers	30
Phoenix Wildlife	1		
St Mary's Animal Cntl	1		
Other	14		
	184		

*requests may come from multiple sources

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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Date of Issue March 2023

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

