



He who feeds a sparrow..

Dear Friends of Wildlife:

These are uncertain times.

But then, aren't all times uncertain? Is there really any certainty in life, other than uncertainty?

Uncertainty motivates us to look deeper for meaning; to search for timelessness; to discover values that endure; and that sustain and comfort us.

Recognition of life's uncertainty makes us human and has given us our most powerful stories. It's no surprise, at least to me (and I suspect to you as well), that many of these compelling stories use animal imagery.

From the lions astride a doorway to protect the Buddha, to the Native American Coyote that uses pranks to help people learn from their mistakes or to laugh at themselves, to the symbolic sacrifice of Abraham, animals have been used by all cultures to guide our way through uncertain times.

In the Hindu tradition, animals are conduits of unity and love; they inspire growth and are symbols of Indian culture. Mohammad declared that "whoever is kind to the creatures of God, is kind to himself." Throughout history animals have been used to refract human experience and make it meaningful.

The lesson in our modern age is not that we need these myths to *explain* our world, but that we need them to renew a sense of the sacred to *preserve* our world. And we need to protect the legacy of our ancestors. Even in our scientific age of reasoning and skepticism, we have yet to discover the depth of animal feelings. Our beliefs are based on the depth of our feelings; and to believe is a distinctly human characteristic.

At our best we share a sense of awe and a sense of empathy for our fellow inhabitants. We also share the certain knowledge that seasons change, plants, people and animals all grow, thrive and die.



The spiritual power of the image on this field provided more protection than the actual rawhide. Image courtesy of MIA.



Rehabilitated Pileated Woodpecker at release

Yes, these are uncertain times. But it's unworthy of us to not examine what we value. We should recognize and celebrate timeless themes that have guided people for centuries.

We don't have to look very far for inspiration. During the depths of the depression in the mid 1930s, the Carter Family found their inspiration in an old African-American spiritual based on a Bible verse and sang, "he who feeds a sparrow stands nearer to God." That song and the inspiration they shared stays with me today.

Please generously support WRC this year-end. No matter what shape your beliefs take, your support embodies the wisdom of the ancients and declares you to be special for your compassion and concern for animals of all kinds.

Warm holiday wishes,

Philip M. Jenni
Executive Director



Meet our patients: they thank you for supporting their care

Blanding's Turtle

One of the largest Blanding's we've seen, this turtle was brought in by a Good Samaritan who found it injured on the side of the road. The injury wasn't typical of a run-in with a car, but rather was a deep wound on the top of its shell. Turtle's shells are made of bone material so they'll actually re-knit with time. We're always careful to release Blanding's, and other adult animals, back to their original territory. Blanding's are a threatened species in Minnesota and we received eight of them in 2008, six of which we were able to release.



Bonaparte's Gull

This diminutive gull travels all the way from the Canadian taiga and boreal forest regions to the Gulf Coast and Caribbean where it winters. Unlike many gulls, the Bonaparte's feeds primarily on insects, with some fish and invertebrates to round out its diet. It skims them from the water and will also catch them in flight (on the wing) the way swallows do. For fish, they'll skim along the water and dive if needed. It is the only gull to nest in trees. We wish the photo could show you how cute this little bird is. Ring-billed Gulls (your typical fast food gull) are 17-21" tall. This little bird measures only 12". And no, it's not named for Napoleon Bonaparte, but rather Charles Lucien Bonaparte, an ornithologist who made many contributions to the field in the early 1800s.



Our Nurseries...

Nearly half of all our admits arrive between early April and mid-August as orphans or injured juveniles. A large part of our mission is to keep animals that are healthy and just appear to be orphaned with their moms - they stand a better chance (especially at a very young age) of maturing into a healthy animal if they're raised by their natural parent. More than 3,000 animals find their way into the Mammal Nursery each year, nearly 1,200 into the Avian Nursery and more than 900 into the Waterfowl Nursery.

Seasonal volunteer opportunities are available in the nurseries - it's our only relatively short-term volunteer position and one for which you do not need the rabies vaccine.

We also offer more than 40 intense, hands-on internships for pre-vet, biology and wildlife resource students in our nurseries. For more info on working in these seasonal nurseries, visit the Volunteer section of our Web site.



Trumpeter Swan

Perhaps Minnesota's greatest recovery story, Trumpeter Swans have rebounded from near extinction in the state to more than 2,000 individual birds. We work with the MNDNR in caring for and releasing Trumpeter Swans. Those that cannot be released into the wild (due to an eye injury, permanent wing injury, etc.) usually go to a breeding program where their young are then released. Since its first release of 34 birds in 1987, the DNR has released more than 350 swans. The leading ailment we treat is lead poisoning, resulting from the swans ingesting the lead shot found at the bottom of our lakes and rivers. A lead-poisoned swan (or any waterfowl for that matter) will lose its balance, its appetite and its strength. The one shown at right was found frozen in ice. A healthy waterfowl will rarely allow itself to freeze like this. Birds that become trapped in ice are usually old, emaciated or suffering from lead poisoning or another injury. Swan care is expensive: they consume a lot of food (mainly fresh greens) and as you can imagine the long-term care typically required to treat the lead poisoning quickly adds up. In the last two years, we've spent more than \$100,000 for their care. We receive no operating funds from the State or the DNR for our work with the swans - you, as caring individuals, support this incredible bird's care. Thank you.



Removing a Trumpeter Swan from encasing ice. The bird was rescued by citizens who removed the bird from the river by cutting around the bird in the ice and bringing the entire unit to WRC.

Providing for our Patients

Brig O'Doon - A tribute to Jon and Susan Campbell

This year's annual fund raising event, Brig O'Doon, was held on September 27 in Medina. Despite the gloomy market conditions that week, the event turned out to be our best as we raised approximately \$75,000. The Scottish-themed event was a lot of fun - from the spectacular Minnesota Pipe Band to so many men wearing kilts. About 250 people took part in the live and silent auctions, enjoyed wonderful food and a great dance band. Best of all, it gave us a chance to honor Jon and Susan Campbell for their contributions to WRC, and their critical role in launching this successful event six years ago.



Babs Koch, Susan and Jon Campbell at Brig O' Doon

There are a variety of vehicles in which to make a planned gift, from a simple bequest to Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts. Please contact Phil Jenni at 651-486-9410, x115 or email Phil at pjenni@wrcmn.org for more information.

Annual Giving Made Easy

Why not spread your giving out over the entire year? If a lump sum

sounds like too much now, how about pledging a certain amount each month. We can set it up in a variety of ways. You might be able to actually increase your gift, feel it less and help more wildlife. If you are interested in more information or setting up a plan, please contact Lynnette Scott at 651-486-9410, x113.

Holiday Gifts and Honorarium

With a tight economy and a focus back to the basics, many people are giving gifts that in turn, help others this year. Why not give a gift of helping a wild animal this year? You can give it in someone's name (we'll even send them a thank-you card recognizing the gift) or you can give one in your name. What a wonderful way to share the gift of giving.

Matching Gifts

Corporate matching gifts are a great way to double your gift. Simply ask your company if has a program and if you need a form. Send it to us with your contribution and we'll do the rest.



Every animal that comes through our doors receives the medical attention of a licensed veterinarian. The majority of our staff are medical (3 vets, 2 certified vet techs). Your tax-deductible contributions make providing this top quality medical care possible.

or that such gifts need to be large; it simply describes any property, money or belongings that you own.

Planned Giving

Year-end giving is also a good time to evaluate your own financial and charitable goals. You can give yourself a wonderful year-end gift by thinking about your estate planning. Doing so might provide important benefits today while helping support an organization in the future. "Estate" planning does not mean you have lots of money,

Twice the Gift Program: Give the Gift of Helping Others

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center has been chosen to be among 50 Twin Cities nonprofit organizations to participate in Twice the Gift, a unique downtown Minneapolis shop that showcases the products and services of area non-profits. At Twice the Gift, shoppers can select a meaningful gift for loved ones and/or business associates that will benefit others in the community. It's a wonderful way to share the spirit of giving while helping local nonprofits (100% of the proceeds go back to the participating nonprofits!).

At Twice the Gift, you'll find gifts for all ages including "Gift Cards." A Gift Card honors the recipient by supporting specific services or items needed by a specific nonprofit. Gift Cards underwrite everything from artists in residence at public schools to providing daily care for animals at WRC. We also have notecards and clothing available in our area.

Twice the Gift is open Nov. 21- Dec. 31: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Mon. - Fri.; 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat.; and 12- 5 p.m. on Sun. The store is located in Gaviidae II - 2nd floor/Skyway Level, 555 Nicollet Mall, Suite 295 in Minneapolis. Twice the Gift is underwritten by the Pohlad Family Foundation.



In 2008 we cared for...

American Coot
American Crow
American Goldfinch
American Redstart
American Robin
American Toad
American Tree Sparrow
American White Pelican (4)
American Woodcock (5)



juvenile Common Loon

Baltimore Oriole
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Barred Owl*
Bay-breasted Warbler
Belted Kingfisher
Big Brown Bat
Black-and-white Warbler*
Black-capped Chickadee
Blanding's Turtle (8)
Blank
Blue Jay
Blue-spotted Salamander (1st one in history)
Blue-winged Teal*
Blue-winged Warbler*
Bobolink*



Blue-spotted Salamander next to ink pen

Bonaparte's Gull* (2)
Brown Creeper
Brown-headed Cowbird
Bufflehead
Canada Goose
Caspian Tern* (1)
Cedar Waxwing
Chimney Swift
Chipping Sparrow
Chukar*
Cliff Swallow
Common Grackle
Common Loon
Common Merganser*
Common Nighthawk
Common Raven*

Common Snapping Turtle
Common Snipe*
Common Yellowthroat (warbler) (16)
Connecticut Warbler*
Cooper's Hawk
Coyote

Dark-eyed Junco
Deer Mouse
Double-crested Cormorant
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Bluebird
Eastern Chipmunk
Eastern Cottontail
Eastern Garter Snake
Eastern Gray Squirrel (966)
Eastern Gray Squirrel-albino (8)
Eastern Gray Squirrel-melanistic (6)
Eastern Kingbird
Eastern Mole
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Spiny Softshell*
Eastern Tiger Salamander*
European Starling
Fox Sparrow
Golden-crowned Kinglet*
Gray Catbird
Gray Fox (7)
Gray Tree Frog
Great Blue Heron
Great Crested Flycatcher
Great Egret
Great Horned Owl
Green Heron
Hairy Woodpecker
Harris' Sparrow*
Hermit Thrush
Herring Gull
Hooded Merganser
Horned Grebe*
Horned Lark*
House Finch
House Mouse
House Sparrow
House Wren
Indigo Bunting
Killdeer
Lark Sparrow*
Least Bittern*
Least Flycatcher*
Little Brown
Myotis
Magnolia
Warbler
Mallard
Marbled Godwit*
Marsh Wren*
Meadow Vole
Mink
Mourning Dove
Mourning Warbler
Muskrat
Nashville Warbler (9)
Northern Cardinal
Northern Flicker
Northern Flying Squirrel (2)



Northern Parula (warbler)

Northern Leopard Frog
Northern Parula*
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Northern Shrike*
Northern Waterthrush
Orange-crowned Warbler
Ovenbird
Palm Warbler*
Peregrine Falcon*
Pied-billed Grebe
Pileated Woodpecker (8)



wrapping a Pileated Woodpecker's wing

Pine Siskin*
Pine Warbler*
Plains Pocket Gopher*
Purple Martin
Raccoon
Red Bat (2)
Red Fox (6)
Red Squirrel (95)
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-eyed Vireo
Red-tailed Hawk*
Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull
Ring-necked Pheasant
River Otter*
Rock Pigeon
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Ruddy Duck*
Ruffed Grouse*
Sandhill Crane
Scarlet Tanager
Shorttail Weasel*
Shorttail Shrew
Silver-haired Bat
Snowy Owl*
Solitary Sandpiper*
Song Sparrow
Sora
Southern Flying Squirrel
Spotted Sandpiper
Swainson's Thrush
Swamp Sparrow
Tennessee Warbler
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel

Tree Swallow
Trumpeter Swan



baby woodchucks

Upland Sandpiper*
Virginia Opossum
Western Grebe
Western Painted Turtle
White-breasted Nuthatch
White-crowned Sparrow
White-footed Mouse
White-throated Sparrow
Whitetail Deer
Wild Turkey (28)
Winter Wren*
Wood Duck
Woodchuck (27)
Yellow Rail*
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler*



Yellow Rail

Of interest, we received 175 different species, of which 42 were new this year (compared to last year - indicated by *). Along the same lines, we treated 27 species in 2007 that we did not admit in 2008 (green-winged teal, kestrel, Blackpoll Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Brown Thrasher, Bullfrog, Bull Snake, Cackling Goose, Canada Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Common Moorhen, fox squirrel, Eastern Wood Pewee, Franklin Gull, Hoary Bat, Lincoln's Sparrow, bob-white, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Redhead Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Snowshoe Hare, Spotted Salamander, Tundra Swan, Veery, Virginia Rail, Western Chorus Frog)



Give Wings to this Piece!

Many of you have made a contribution to WRC already this year - thank you for supporting our Mission. If you decide not to contribute at year-end, we urge you to pass this on to a friend, family member or colleague. It's actually cheaper and more efficient for us to mail this year-end appeal to our entire mailing list. You can help us spread the word to even more people.

Want to learn more?

WRC's Web site is a great place to start learning more about our Mission, patients, news and ways you can join us in caring for Minnesota's wildlife. You can even donate online. We're in the process of creating an email mailing list which we hope to use to keep you informed on unique admits, interesting cases and special event notices such as our Open House and bird releases.

To register for the email list, send an email to tvogel@wrcmn.org with the subject line "EMAIL LIST." We're also hoping to launch a new Web site in 2009 with better tools to share our patients' stories with you. If you are a Web designer and are interesting in donating your services as an in-kind gift, please contact Tami.

We look forward to a great 2009 and thank you for all your support in 2008!

www.WRCMN.org