

Fall/Winter 2020-2021



**Number of Wildlife Patients
Treated since 2009: > 27,350**

No Words....

Except, THANK YOU!

We believe that every business must have feared how 2020 was going to affect them. Especially, those of us in the nonprofit world. What did we learn about YOU in the process?

We learned that you consider WRCNU to be an essential and important part of our community. While many were (understandably) not in a place to show their appreciation financially, those of you who still could, did!

Thanks to your unselfish support, we have learned that we can endure such economic uncertainty. In fact, it is interesting to remember, that Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah was literally born from the ashes of the 2008 stock market crash, the final straw in what is now called *"The Great Recession"*.

As long as there are individuals who believe in the humane treatment of animals, especially the humane treatment of *human impacted* wildlife, WRCNU and other Rehabilitation facilities across the nation will receive the sustaining support they need.

Speaking of "sustaining", we must give a **"SPECIAL SHOUT OUT"** to all of our WRCNU Sustainers. While we did lose a couple due to financial difficulties, we were so fortunate that so many were able to continue their essential support.

Bottom line, WE MADE IT and it was most definitely a TEAM EFFORT—THANK YOU ALL, a MILLION times over!

For ways to become a Sustainer see the "Join Our Group of WRCNU Sustainers" ad on page 7 or visit our website at WWW.WRCNU.ORG

Swift or Swallow?

Each year at WRCNU it seems that we end up with different, unique groups of patients – one year it may be many Bald Eagles, the next it may be White-Faced Ibis, the following year we may see a lot of Pelicans or Sandhill Cranes. This year it was an abundance of Swallows (Barn, Cliff, and Tree) and Swifts. Both are amazing acrobats in the air as they hunt insects for their next meal but that is where the similarity ends!

A Couple of Fun Facts:

- Swallows are in the family Hirundinidae while Swifts fall under the family Apodidae. Swifts are related to hummingbirds.
- Swallows have three toes pointing forwards and one toe pointing backwards, allowing them to perch. Swifts feet are adapted for lateral grasping, allowing all four toes to point forward, they can cling, but not perch.
- Because Swifts cannot perch, many species (especially if they are migrating) may sleep, eat and drink while they are flying.
- Swallows tend to build their nests from mud or nest in holes in trees. Swifts tend to build their nests under eaves or under ledges on cliff faces by gluing feathers or sticks together using their sticky saliva.
- Swifts are usually black and white (or grey.) Swallows usually have blue iridescence (particularly on their wings and backs) and often have russet coloring on the heads, throats or rumps.

So, Swift or Swallow?



← Left:
Barn Swallow



Right: →
White-throated Swift



In Memory Of ...

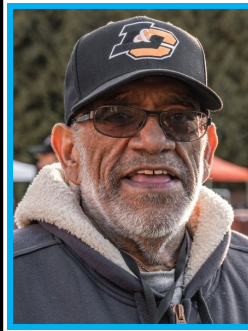


Clay Reynolds:



WRCNU lost one of their own this September. Clay, a bright young man, gone too soon. Clay loved the outdoors and was passionate about building and launching his rockets; he is missed.

Michael Palau:



Volunteer and husband of Board Member Shellie Palau. *"Anyone who knew Mike, knew that he never met at stranger. He had the amazing gift of gab. ...always willing to help a friend no matter what the circumstance."*

Volunteer Highlight



Rachel Limb came to us May 2018 as an animal lover and student looking for a possible internship position ... over 580 hours later she is one of our "Regulars!" Learning new things, with a smile on her face, she is a welcome addition to our team. Thank You Rachel! 💜

Your 2020 Tax Deductible Donations & Required Documentation

Please, if you have questions regarding your tax deductible donations we advise you to seek your tax advisor for answers. You may also locate many answers to your questions by searching IRS "Publication 526" (March 20, 2020) at [IRS.GOV/PUB](https://www.irs.gov/pub). Here are the Basics:

Cash Contributions—Individual (separate) Contributions, Less than \$250

NOTE: You may give more than \$250 over an entire year, but if "each individual" contribution is less than \$250 the following substantiation is all that is required by the IRS as proof:

- A bank record that shows the name of the qualified organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution. Bank records may include: a canceled check, a bank/credit union statement, a credit card statement, an electronic fund transfer receipt, or a scanned image of both sides of a canceled check obtained from a bank or credit union website.
- A receipt (i.e. WRCNU cash register receipt)
- The payroll deduction records (Pay Stub, Form W-2 or other furnished by your employer)



Cash Contributions—Individual (separate) Contributions, \$250 or More

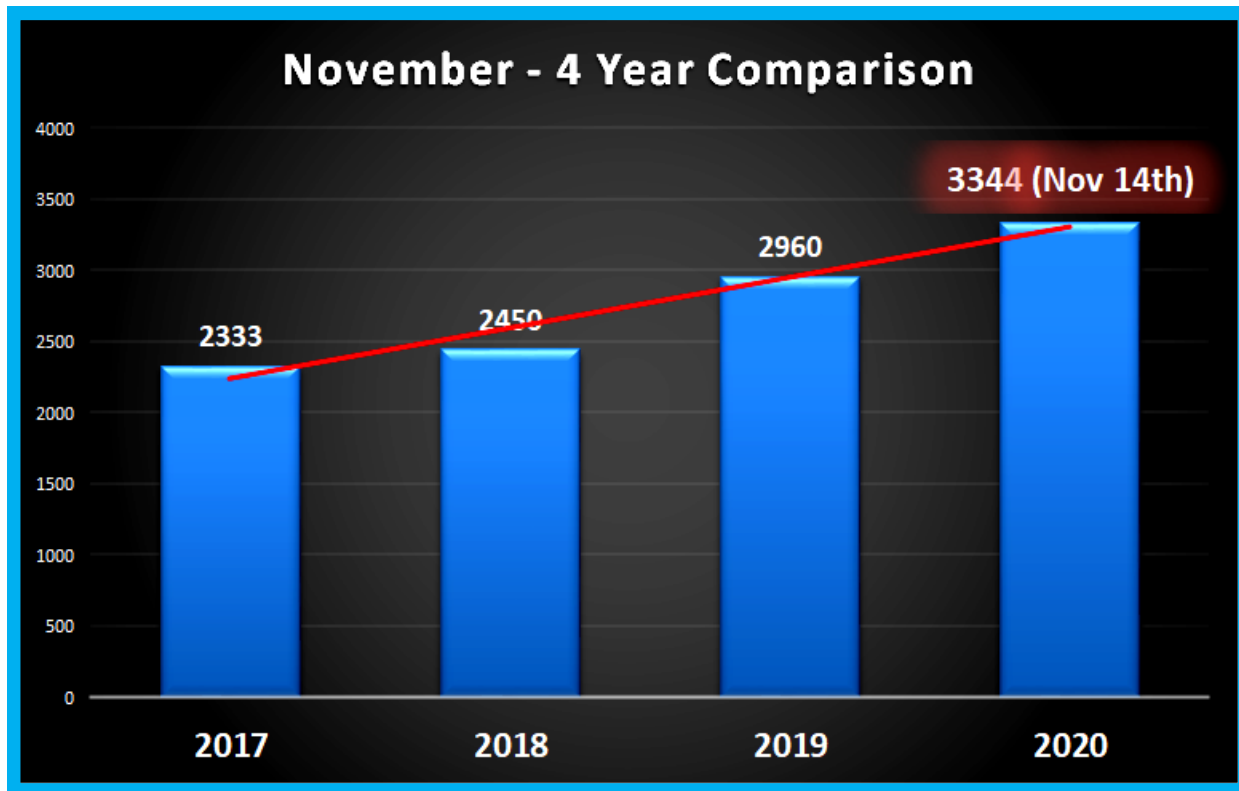
For those whom we have sufficient records, we will mail out your donation acknowledgement (receipt) at some point prior to January 31st each year. If you have questions please email us at info@wrcnu.org

NOTE: We unequivocally appreciate your donations and support, but to *save on time and mailing costs we do not mail unnecessary receipts to each individual. We provide cash register receipts for cash donations made at the Center and ask that you retain those as proof of donation. We also ask that you keep your personal records (listed above) in the case you are ever audited—this is all that is required to claim your deduction.*

If you still absolutely feel you need a letter from WRCNU, we ask that you email us at info@wrcnu.org with your request. As long as we can verify your donation/request, we will then email your receipt back to you as quickly as possible.

Patient Number Snapshot!

At print time, we were sitting at 3,344 Patients for 2020—a **33.1%** increase over 2018's total (2,513) and 336 more patients than 2019's end-of-year high of 3,008. Below are November numbers for comparison.



We won't know the total patient intake numbers for another couple of months but with the "Baby Season" behind us, we have finally been able to breathe a collective sigh of relief after an unprecedented year. This sigh is actually usually a cheer of, "We Made It!" but this year it will be different and will be more along the lines of, "What Just Happened?"

As we tried our best to manage the surge of patients in the Spring and Summer the most common question that our rescuers asked was, "Why are you seeing so many more animals this year?"

The answer is multi-faceted but can really be boiled down to one thing – as employers and schools moved to remote work/ learning and many of us were working from home, we began paying more attention to nature around us. Whether we were spending more time in our own backyards enjoying a barbeque or taking walks in local parks, we became more aware of the wildlife that makes up our world.

In some cases, the human impact was negative as we tackled those landscape projects that we had put off for a long time – we had the time now, the weather was great and pruning and chopping was a great stress relief! Unfortunately, the nests and babies that we unknowingly displaced ended up being the downside. Being home more also meant that we could let our pets spend more time outside and the numbers of cat and dog injuries on wildlife reflected that.

On the positive side, with less cars on the road we saw less animal/vehicle conflicts. Also, during a crisis situation, deep down in our constitutions we want to do more, whether it is to help a friend impacted by a job loss or call a Wildlife Rehabilitator about an animal that we may see injured.

As we tally up the numbers from this year and our world slowly returns to "normal" we CAN give ourselves that pat on the back and cheer, "We Made It!" We hope that through our work we have also done a good job educating the public and have helped foster a broader awareness of the wildlife that surrounds us each and every day. The wildlife patients that you entrusted us to care for say, "Thank You!"

2020 Wildlife Patients

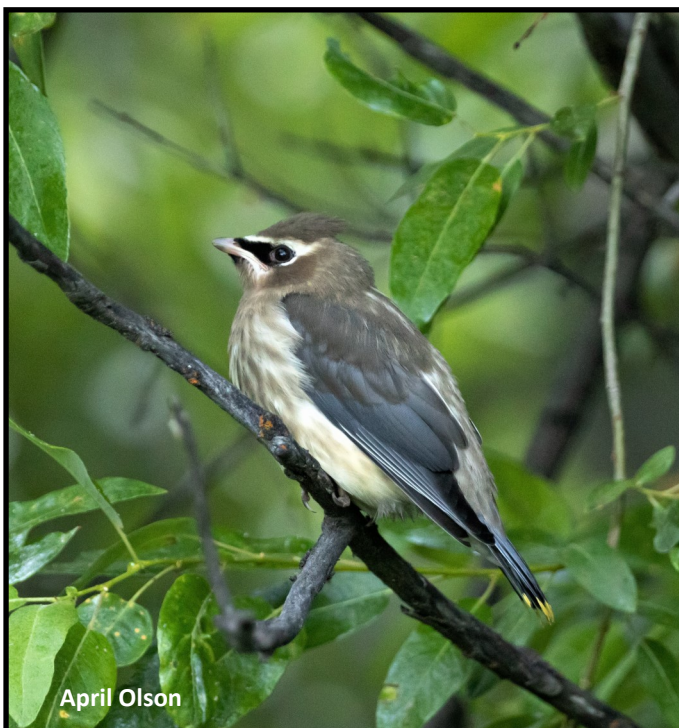
Below: This healthy little NA Porcupine was a “quick turn.” After a few nights at the infamous WRC B&B he was off on a new adventure—See our video of his release on our FB page or on our WRCNU You Tube channel at <https://youtu.be/mE2j0tDhCDk>



Above: Our National Symbol, hit by a “*Human Impact Triple Whammy!*” Sadly this beauty could not be saved. A victim of “trash entanglement” (fishing line) causing loss of her tongue, she was also positive for both Lead and West Nile Virus—PLEASE: “Pack it in/pack it out” and consider non-lead alternatives to hunting ammo and fishing tackle. 🇺🇸



Above: Yes, not our first butterfly! This beautiful Monarch was saved from frigid temps during a week in October and later given a second chance when a short warm spell came through.



Left: A juvenile Cedar Waxwing, received by WRC in June as a nestling; it and its siblings were released the end of July.

2020 Wildlife Patients



Above: 1st Baby of 2020. This nestling Western Screech Owl was joined with several others "HOO" arrived shortly after and all are now released back into the wild.



Above: A juvenile Double-crested Cormorant temporarily lost his way and should now be back on track after a short stay at WRCNU.



Left: A male American Robin shortly after his release from care at WRCNU.



Left: A young orphaned Pied-billed Grebe chick at WRCNU.



Right: This Sora, a small type of Rail, was released at the end of August after a short stay at WRCNU. Soras are freshwater marsh birds normally found in dense, marshy vegetation.

2020 Wildlife Patients



Above: A juvenile American White Pelican is released at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge after a brief stay at the WRC "B&B".



Left: A "bird deterrent" "GOO" product was used to try and keep pigeons off a building. Sadly, these products, touted as "humane" and "safe" are anything but. They don't target specific species and even if they did, they are not "humane". This Northern Saw-whet Owl's feathers were ruined and she was starving; unable to fly or keep herself warm.



Left: This Lesser Scaup arrived early November. Our region is in the Scaup's northern winter range, so it looks good that he will soon be back out with a break in the weather. 🙌



Below: A file photo of what this owl SHOULD look like.

Reasons to Donate Your Vehicle

No matter your reason, donating your vehicle is as easy as pie.

[Donate Today](#)

Do You Wish that Clunker was GONE?

WRCNU's nonprofit partner CARS will take it off your hands and it will not cost you a penny; get a tax deduction AND an empty spot for your current vehicle or more storage space.

Simply go to our [Donate](#) page at www.wrcnu.org and click on the "[Vehicle Donations for Wildlife](#)" link or call 855-500-7433 and leave the heavy lifting to our Nonprofit Partner "CARS".

Don't live in Utah?
Vehicle donations are accepted in all 50 states!

Welcome to
amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Ways to support WRCNU without additional cost to you!

Smith's
INSPIRING DONATIONS

Our website (www.wrcnu.org) is a perfect place for one-stop shopping. Go to our "Donate" page for many ideas, including links to our [Amazon Wish List](#), [Smith's Rewards Card](#), [Needs List](#), [vehicle donations](#), etc.

Increase your support without additional costs: If you shop on Amazon it's EASY. If you have a Smith's Market Rewards card, it's EASY. Go to wrcnu.org/donate and drop down to the "[While Shopping ...](#)" section. Click on the **AmazonSmile** and **Smith's Inspiring Donations** logos to link your accounts to WRCNU. When you spend, Amazon and Smith's donates to WRCNU at no cost to you!

Keeping Decorations Delightful

By Elizabeth La Madeleine

As the holiday season begins, many of us enjoy transforming our yards into magical landscapes. As always, it's important to remember that when we step out of our houses, we step into the homes of wildlife. As respectful neighbors, we can consider their perspective when choosing and placing outdoor decorations.

Imagine living in your yard. Where do you find food and water? Where do you hide from danger? Bushes and trees are essential protection and shelter to many animals. Covering bushes, for example, with giant fabric webs, can prove as deadly as the huge spiders we pretend spun them. As with bird netting, avians, snakes, and other small creatures can become tangled and die from exposure and stress. Be sure not to spray or paint pumpkins with anything toxic, especially if you plan to leave them outside. Animals such as squirrels and even moose will view them as a tasty and nutritional treat! Instead of decorating outdoor trees with large, shiny ornaments, which can deter birds, create wildlife friendly, edible stars, bells, and other fun shapes and enjoy nature's colors and carols! Twinkling lights and bright wreaths are lovely, but don't forget to take them down before the warmer months, or you may have finches or even hummingbirds using the tiny "branches" as an anchor for nests. Many kids love to leave food for Santa's reindeer, just chose a wildlife friendly recipe, and avoid potentially harmful ingredients like glitter.

As you gather with loved ones around the fire and enjoy your favorite holiday meals, remember that our wild friends are working hard to survive the cold and barren winter season, so let's do our best to help and not hinder them. May your holiday season be full of wonder and delight!



"Keep Holidays Safe for Wildlife!"

"Halloween, Christmas, and other holidays for which people decorate the exteriors of their homes are particularly dangerous times for wildlife. Anything that dangles, loops or flutters is a potential hazard." "This little Western Screech Owl (pictured above) was caught in a fake spiderweb decoration a few years ago (he survived and was later released)". Every year WRCNU treats many patients for entanglement injuries. Sadly, not all survive ——— Quotes taken from WildCare; Photo/Artwork credit to Dave Stapp/Marin Humane

Join our group of WRCNU Sustainers!

Make a "Pledge" to support our work into the future.

In uncertain times, you can be part of the growing number of supporters who help remove the uncertainty. For as little as \$8 or more each month, **YOU** can become a **WRCNU Sustainer**. Here's how it works:

Monthly donations. Starting as low as \$8/month to *"The sky is the limit!"* Make these donations by check, credit/debit card or through your PayPal account.

The Easiest Way? ... is Through Automatic Recurring Payments! You'll never miss it!

We are happy to help you setup Automatic monthly credit/debit card donations. For more Info on recurring Sustainer payments by credit/debit go to www.wrcnu.org/become-a-sustainer or email us at info@wrcnu.org

NOTE: If monthly doesn't work, we do also recognize "Annual Sustainers" with a minimum total annual donation over consecutive years; Questions? Email us at info@wrcnu.org



@ Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah



Juvenile Lesser Goldfinch

Hopefully the LAST fledgling of 2020 and by FAR the latest ever received here at the Center—November 9th.

Utah had a hotter than normal summer that decided to linger longer than we are used to. We think this youngster's parents figured they should try and squeeze in *"just one more clutch"* before the cold set in.

Not sure what happened to mom and dad, but this little one was found perched on a windowsill calling for its parents to "COME FEED ME!"

Sadly, there was no response and he was brought to WRCNU for treatment and eventual release.

WRCNU



Female Downy Woodpecker Patient Released



April Olson

www.WRCNU.ORG

3127 N Pelican Drive
Farr West, UT 84404

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



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