



OTTAWA VALLEY  
WILD BIRD  
CARE CENTRE

# Annual Report

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022



## About

The Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre is a registered Canadian charity and is licensed by Federal and Provincial governments. As a licensed rehabilitator, the Centre is exclusively dedicated to wild bird rehabilitation, providing emergency critical care to thousands of birds each year.



Northern Cardinal

## Mission & Values

Our primary mission is to provide care to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds with the goal of releasing them back into their natural habitat where they can continue to play an important role within the environment. We also provide educational services to people of all ages, giving them an opportunity to learn about wild birds, their habitats and conservation.

Every bird deserves our compassion. We believe that responsible stewardship includes trying to fix and reduce some of the damage humans have caused to wildlife. A bird saved and released can make a difference in our environment and to the survival of its own species. One bird's life really does matter!

## Message of Appreciation

Our life-saving work is made possible with the support of our generous donors like you. On behalf of the leadership team at the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to our 1600+ contributors who helped us provide emergency and lifesaving services for thousands of injured, orphaned and ill wild birds in 2022. Thank you!

We are also most grateful for the grants received from the Ottawa Community Foundation, Eco-Canada, the Ottawa Humane Society, Nature Canada, Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, Vortex Canada, and the Canada Summer Jobs program, amongst others. A warm thanks also goes to our corporate partners, especially Wild Birds Unlimited, Always an Adventure and Otto's Subaru. A very special thank you goes to Lynwood Animal Hospital: we couldn't keep doing what we do without you!

We also wish to thank all our volunteers who have contributed countless hours of work supporting our staff in many ways, as well as our deeply committed Board of Directors who go above and beyond to make our work possible.

*Thank you for caring about the birds!*

## Message from Our Leadership Team

After getting settled into our interim facility in 2021, and with the help of grants and the kindness of donors, we were able to further enhance our standard of care by providing skills development, and purchasing new supplies and equipment such as incubators, enclosures and much-needed medical equipment. We saw a 9% increase in survival rates over the first 24 hours, a critical time period. Overall, we also saw speedier recoveries, which meant more expedient releases back into the wild.

Even with Covid-19 restrictions easing in 2022, the effects of the pandemic continued to impact the Centre. Still operating with fewer volunteers than usual, additional staff members were hired to compensate. The largest impact on our operations came about as a result of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) which was spreading in wild bird populations, including in Ontario. Some species were identified as being more susceptible to the disease, sometimes carrying the disease *asymptotically*. To keep our birds in care safe, we were required to implement enhanced biosecurity measures at our facility, over and above what was already in place and made some difficult decisions regarding species intake at our current location. In accordance with government guidelines and considering our interim facility's limitations, we were unable to accept aquatic bird species at our current location safely. This is, however, a temporary situation which will be resolved with the construction of the new facility.

With some pandemic restrictions slowly relaxing in 2022, the Centre was able to provide more in-person presentations/activities, including activities through Nature Canada's Naturehood Program, aimed at connecting kids, families, newcomers, and marginalized communities to nearby nature. We are proud to have partnered with Nature Canada in this endeavor.

The 2023 Giving Report published by CanadaHelps indicated that in 2022, 29% of Canadians would need to cut back on basic needs, and 82% expected to have their finances negatively affected by inflation. With many individuals giving less, and so many noble causes to support, many charities have experienced difficulties in raising funds and delivering their programs. However, thanks to our generous supporters and grants received, the Centre was fortunate to end the year with a surplus. The additional funds raised in 2022 will provide a much-needed buffer for the following year.

We were excited to welcome a new treasurer to our Board of Directors, Jeff Rowsell, CPA, CA. Having worked with clients in the charitable/non-profit sector, Jeff's expertise and experience will be invaluable as we continue to grow. We also said farewell to one of our Directors, Barbara Adams who volunteered prior to joining the board in 2015. We wish to thank her for her service, and all her contributions over the years.

As we continue to grow and look forward to the construction of our new advanced care facility, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our supporters who have made our work possible.



*Juliette Marczuk*  
Chair, Board of Directors



*Sandra Sawers*  
Executive Director

## Admissions

**3,030** Admissions  
**136** Unique species  
**34** Individuals listed  
 as a Species at Risk  
 (Ontario)

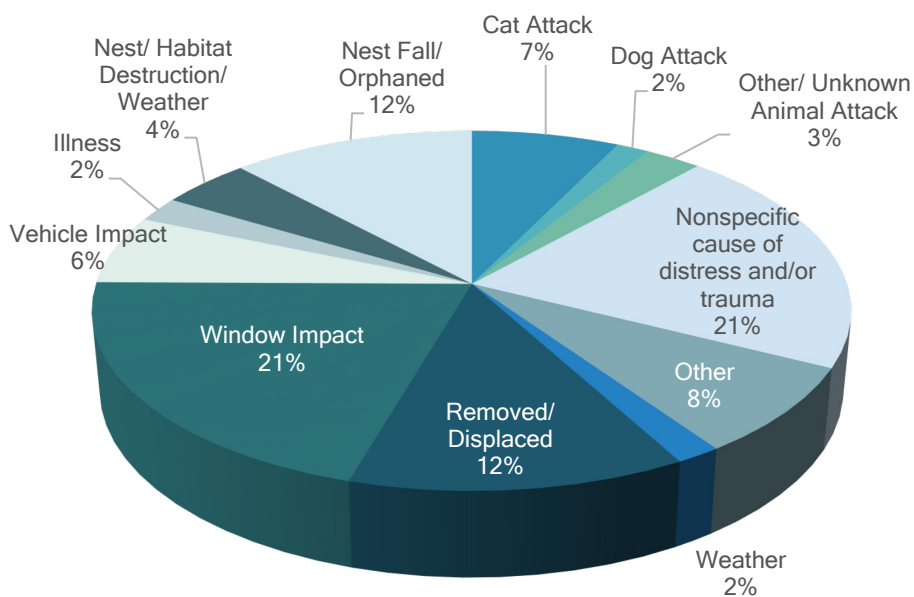
### Admitted Species at Risk in Ontario:

- Bald Eagle
- Peregrine Falcon
- Barn Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Common Nighthawk
- Chimney Swift
- Wood Thrush
- Evening Grosbeak



Top left to right: Eastern Phoebes, Barn & Bank Swallows, Saw-whet Owl  
 Center: Magnolia Warbler  
 Bottom left to right: Eastern Bluebird, Common Yellowthroat, Brown Thrasher

## Reasons For Admission



## Powerful Storm

Already in a busy baby bird season, a powerful Derecho storm hit the Ottawa region on May 21, 2022. The following day, 51 birds were admitted! There were 30 crows admitted within 48 hours.



## Bird Story Highlights of 2022

### Owls

The Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza affected many of our rehabilitation partners, and our ability to transfer raptor patients to these specialized facilities. Finding creative ways to help these particular patients thrive, we had great success reuniting nestlings and fledglings with their families, providing advanced medical care,



modifying our enclosures to decrease stress, and taking necessary steps to avoid imprinting in order to keep them wild and increase their chances for survival after release. In 2022 we only transferred two owls and were successful rehabilitating 26 owls from 4 different species. That's a 94% average success rate after the first 24 hours!

### Peregrine Falcon

Brought to the Centre by Ontario Power Generation, this Peregrine Falcon received emergency care for injuries consistent with a vehicular collision. After an extended stay, it was ready for release. Thanks to our friends at the Innis Point Bird Observatory and the Canadian Peregrine Falcon Foundation, this young bird was banded with one silver coloured identification band and a second black band to help protect him from falconry in North America. It truly took a team of passionate individuals to give this beautiful bird a second chance at life!



### Swallow Success

It is not uncommon for the Centre to see a number of swallows each year, but in 2022, the staff had not one, but four different species of swallows at the same time! Over the course of the summer, the Centre was able to successfully rehabilitate and release seven swallows, four Barn Swallows, one

each of Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow and Cliff Swallow. Learning more about the natural history of each species also allowed our team to appreciate the unique characteristics that made each species so special.

### Common Redpoll

This Common Redpoll arrived on March 8th after colliding with a window which resulted in a serious concussion and damaged wing. This feisty little one was not about to give up! After its initial treatment, it was moved to one of our larger flight enclosures to build strength before being released.



## Evening Grosbeak

On her way from her breeding area in the north while looking for food, this female Evening Grosbeak encountered new dangers in the city, and like many others, found herself at the Wild Bird Care Centre. She was one of the lucky ones. She received immediate critical care at the Wild Bird Care Centre for a fractured beak and internal injuries sustained from a window collision. It took several weeks of rest and recuperation after which time she was successfully released.



## Oiled Chickadee

While we may be far away from oceans and busy shipping corridors, each year the Centre receives many birds that are covered in oil-based substances from small spills, construction areas, uncovered garbage, and everyday household products like glue. This tiny Chickadee was brought to the Centre after becoming entangled in fly tape glue. Fast and gentle removal of these substances is vital to the survival of



these birds! [Please do not try this at home!] With delicate care, the oil was successfully removed, and the Chickadee was released.



## Our Future Centre

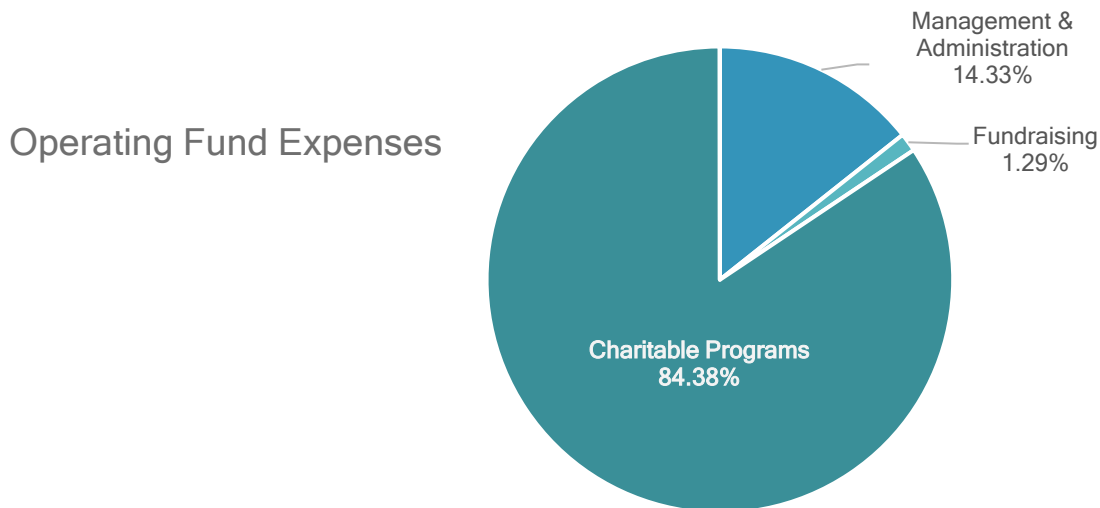
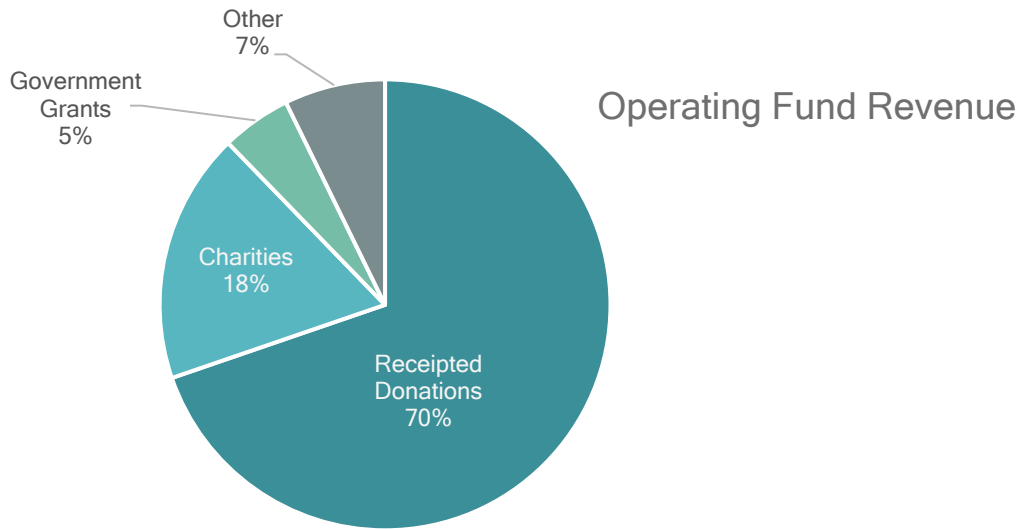
The initial process and documentation for the construction of our new advanced care facility began in 2019. While our first site plan was submitted that summer, the project is still in the site plan approval stage, going through another review at the time of this writing. In 2022, some of our documentation required another two

additional resubmissions. We are optimistic about finally resolving any outstanding items and receiving approval of our site plan in late 2023. With a construction company already chosen to build the facility, we are in a position to break ground once the appropriate approvals and permits have been obtained.

Under the direction of our Chair, Juliette Marczuk, the building campaign target of \$1.7M was surpassed in 2022. A total of just over \$384,000 of the building funds have been spent on the project thus far, including for the initial land purchase, well drilling, and required related documentation/applications. As inflation has driven costs significantly higher since the project was first budgeted in 2019, it is expected that additional funds will be needed. Naming opportunities are still available for this once-in-a-lifetime project and will help cover a significant portion of the increased costs expected.

## Financial Summary

	Operating Fund	Building Fund <sup>1</sup>	Total 2022	Total 2021
Revenue <sup>2</sup>	752,992	190,644	943,636	1,119,807
Expenses	626,989	7	626,996	605,101
Excess revenue over expenses	126,003	190,637	316,640	514,706
Total Investment Income (loss) <sup>3</sup>	1,678	21,350	23,028	(76,763)
Excess revenue over expenses	127,681	211,987	339,668	437,943



<sup>1</sup> Building Funds are reserved for the building of the Centre's new facility, invested until needed. Cumulative contributions up to and including December 31, 2022 were approximately \$1,257,000. As of December 31, 2022, Building Fund net assets amounted to approximately \$1,837,000.

<sup>2</sup> Received donations include planned giving donations. Funds received from charities include individual donations, as well as donor-advised funds and grants from charities.

<sup>3</sup> Includes gain/loss investments and loss on disposal of capital assets.

## Our Leadership Team (2022)

### **Board of Directors**

Chair	Juliette Marczuk
Vice-Chair	Ted Yuzyk
Secretary	Susan Phillips
Treasurer	Jeff Rowsell
Director	Eric Garrison
Director	Robert Burns
Director	Murray Kronick
Director	Christina Zeigler

### **Staff**

Executive Director	Sandra Sawers
Avian Care Manager	Maia O'Sullivan
Education Program Manager	Patty McLaughlin

## Our Donors & Supporters

Our work is only made possible with the help of our generous community. Individual donors continue to provide the bulk of our funding. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of our supporters. Thank you for your support!

## Our Building Fund Donors & Supporters

We wish to extend a very special thank you to all our donors who contributed to the building fund, especially those who chose to name a space at the new facility. You are helping to ensure that there will be an emergency advanced care facility in the Ottawa Region for many years to come! The donor honour roll for the Building Fund may be found here: <https://wildbirdcarecentre.org/building-fund-contributors>.



Charitable Registration: 893401380RR0002

Visit our website to find out more about how you can help: <https://wildbirdcarecentre.org>

Donate online: <https://wildbirdcarecentre.org/donate>