



Helping Sick, Injured and Orphaned Birds of Prey

TWC Final Report to Ontario Wildlife Foundation

September 2017 - August 2018



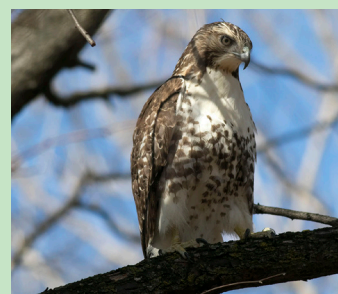
Toronto Wildlife Centre is so grateful for Ontario Wildlife Foundation's generous donation in 2017. This year, you helped create the capacity to provide medical and rehabilitative care to many birds of prey that were admitted to our centre. Since we submitted our Interim Report to you in March 2018, **57 more adult birds of prey from 9 species** have received care. During this time, your gift helped:



1 broad-winged hawk



17 Cooper's hawks



20 red-tailed hawks



2 Eastern screech owls



1 great-horned owl



5 snowy owls



1 merlin



6 Peregrine falcons



4 American kestrels

This report summarizes the ways in which your donation directly impacted the lives of these patients, and the opportunities it gave us for deepened engagement through wildlife education and outreach. We are so happy to share their stories with you—stories of hope and recovery that you made possible!

It takes a community...

In giving birds of prey a second chance at life in the wild, your support enabled a community of like-minded individuals and groups to work together. Organizations like The Owl Foundation, Canada Peregrine Foundation, and several animal control agencies rely on TWC for the vital medical and rehabilitative care we provide to sick and injured birds of prey. Like this short-eared owl, who was brought to us by The Owl Foundation for a specialized surgical procedure that they knew TWC's expert veterinary staff could perform. This is his story:



Nevin, a resident of Grimsby, Ontario, found this owl one morning, lying on its back with one wing out of place. Seeing the bird in obvious pain and unable to move, he knew it needed help. He rushed the bird to The Owl Foundation. They noticed that the poor creature had a fracture in his right wing, probably from having flown into a window. It was an injury that needed immediate treatment, and would require a complex surgery. As they had done before, they reached out to TWC, and we were happy to open our doors to this wild patient in need.



TWC veterinarians performed a challenging surgical procedure, in which they inserted a metal pin into the owl's wing, to help align and set the fractured bone. He was closely monitored over the next few days as he recovered in post-operative care. Much to our joy and relief, the surgery was a success, and the bird was making a steady recovery.

1. After putting the patient under anesthesia, TWC veterinarians start the delicate surgery.
2. An external fixator holds the pin in place while the owl recovers after the surgery.
3. Having made a remarkable recovery, the owl is ready to be transferred to The Owl Foundation—one step closer to his wild home.

After spending over two months under the watchful care of rehabilitation staff, his fractured bone healed. Not long after, he was transferred back to The Owl Foundation where he could continue his recovery and rebuild his flight muscles, before finally being released back into the wild.

This short-eared owl is one of so many wild patients who were able to receive life-saving medical treatment because of kind donors like you. You are helping our wild community thrive, one precious (wild) life at a time!

Helping birds of prey, every step of the way

Whether they were making a slow recovery from extensive surgery or simply needed a few days to recuperate, your support played a crucial role in meeting the diverse rehabilitation needs of raptor patients. From ensuring that they had their distinct dietary requirements met, to enabling their recovery in specially-designed species-specific enclosures, to providing individualized daily medical care, each admitted patient was given every opportunity to heal and grow strong once again.

When this juvenile Cooper's hawk was admitted, he was so weak and dehydrated that he could not eat. He had an injury on his foot that made it difficult for him to stand up straight. During his first few weeks at TWC, he was housed in the Intensive Care Unit, and was given daily pain medications and electrolytic fluids. A hand-fed diet of quail meat provided much-needed nutrition. His muscles recuperated and the injury healed over the next three weeks, until he was finally strong enough to eat by himself. TWC staff were thrilled to see his 'wild' side again...he was strong, alert and eager to fly!

When he was ready, he was taken back to the location where he was found, and released back to his home!



This snowy owl was found one cold winter's day trapped on the balcony of an apartment building. She was suffering from head wounds and had ulcers in both eyes—an unfortunate but common consequence of window strikes. Eye ulcers can be painful and greatly hinder vision, an important faculty for these keen hunters. Her condition would have worsened if she did not receive immediate medical attention. Luckily, she was brought in to our centre, just in time.



Her daily medication and monitoring plan included a thorough eye exam and administering of eye drops. Over the next few weeks, she recovered in the safe and secure environment of our rehabilitation facility. As the ulcers cleared, she was able to eat on her own and fly with confidence once more.

Your support ensured that patients with eye injuries, like this snowy owl, were able to return to the wild with their remarkable vision restored. OWF, here's looking at you!

Engaging our community

A key component of TWC's work is promoting peaceful co-existence between humans and wildlife. We aim to foster meaningful connections between people and nature, and help our community appreciate and celebrate the presence of these wonderful creatures.

A great-horned owl goes back to school!

In our Interim report, we shared the story of an injured great-horned owl that TWC's Wildlife Rescue Team captured at Joyce Elementary Public School in Toronto in December, 2017, and the students who had keenly followed his progress. After undergoing surgery, he spent four months in rehabilitative care, where he made a slow but steady recovery. We are thrilled to let you know that he was finally released back to the wild in April this year!



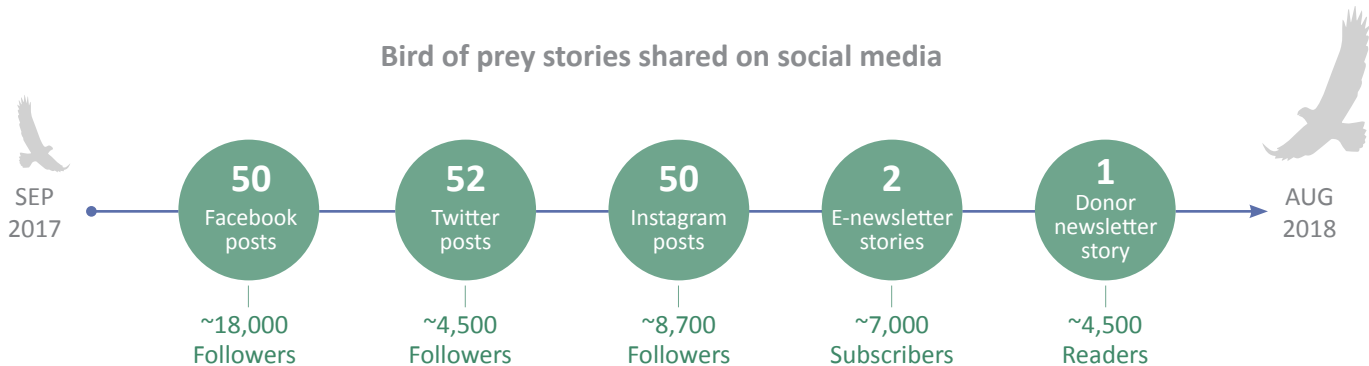
1. *Recuperating in TWC's outdoor aviary allowed this great-horned owl to regain his strength and re-train his flight muscles.*
2. *TWC Rescue Team member Sarrah releases the owl on the school grounds where she and her colleagues Andrew and Stacey originally rescued him.*
3. *Flying back to his wild home, the owl silently makes his way across the school yard towards the wooded green space nearby.*



We are inspired by the deep impact the story of the owl made on staff and students at Joyce Elementary School. It is our hope that this experience invoked curiosity and compassion in the children, and that they will take his story of recovery back to their families, and their community. It was also a tremendous opportunity to show the real difference people can make in the lives of their wild neighbours when they care and when they take action. ***Thank you, OWF, for giving us this opportunity, and thank you for caring.***

Sharing patient stories

TWC continued to share stories about bird of prey patients through various channels including e-newsletters, blog posts, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, reaching tens of thousands of followers. Along with updates on our patients, we provided important information about the issues faced by birds of prey, and what we can do to help.



> 16,000 people reached!

> 1,000 people engaged



> 13,000 people reached!

> 1,500 people engaged



Thank you Ontario Wildlife Foundation - it couldn't have gone to a better organization!

We were excited to share a [special video](#) to express our thanks to Ontario Wildlife Foundation. The video highlighted how your compassion and financial contribution came to the direct aid of birds of prey that would otherwise not have made it.

Ontario Wildlife Foundation gave a second chance at life to so many bird of prey patients this past year. They are now living out their lives in their rightful homes in the wild, with renewed hope and health. Rearing their young, foraging for food, gracefully circling the sky above our heads ...their integral place in nature has been made secure once more. You have made this possible for them. Thank you.