

2020 Calvert Stewards Wildlife Rescue Program

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Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division partners 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, Annapolis or Pasadena to deliver the injured bird to a waiting Owl Moon volunteer. 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 College Park, or to Pasadena to transport injured bird to an Owl Moon volunteer
- Ability to use a cell phone to contact other volunteers involved in the capture and transport
- Ability to use G.P.S. to get to the reported location of an injured bird
- Ability to transport a box large enough to hold a bird of prey
- Ability to walk and run through fields, woods 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 into the Calvert 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 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 Portal

SUMMARY OF 2020 ACTIVITIES

- COVID brought some hardships to the rescue and rehabilitation effort. Owl Moon had to reduce their capacity due to a reduction in volunteers. Many birds, especially non-raptors are being transported to Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research in Newark, DE for the duration, to help reduce the load at OMRC.
- There were 83 efforts made in 2020 to capture and transport 20 different species of birds, as well as 3 turtles and a beaver
- Not all capture efforts were successful. Black Vultures, especially, can often run very well with a broken wing. An osprey, Barred Owl and Canada Goose recovered and flew off without capture. A Sandhill Crane, cormorant and injured duck would not allow us to get close enough to capture or corner
- Not all reported birds were located. Again, vultures are especially good at disappearing by the time volunteers arrive. Several other birds were similarly missing, including an osprey reported along Rt 301, a goose spotted on Billingsly Road, and a hawk in Charlotte Hall. The beaver, reportedly hit along Rt 4 was gone by the time someone got there.
- Some animals are dead on arrival, or are terminal. The Painted Turtle and a mortally injured Barred Owl were taken to Blue Angel Wildlife Rehabilitation to be euthanized. A box turtle, mallard duckling and a Screech Owl did not survive the wait for rescue.
- By far, the most rescued bird in 2020 was the osprey, with 21 being transported. Vultures were second, with 16. Barred Owls were the most common owl species (9). We also had 4 Screech Owls and 2 Great Horned Owls.
- The most exciting capture and transport of the year was a banded Peregrine Falcon, captured near the Benedict bridge. It had been banded a month earlier near Buffalo, NY
- Another interesting escapade involved a Sandhill Crane that was wandering around Chesapeake Beach. It was very comfortable around humans, but, although initially contained in someone's back yard, was able to fly short distances and did not allow itself to get cornered or caught. After a couple of hours of trying, we let it be.

2020 Wildlife Rescues

American Eagle	4	Sandhill Crane	1
Barred Owl	9	Screech Owl	4
Black Vulture.....	11	Turkey Vulture	3
Canada Goose	4	Vulture sp.....	2
Cooper's Hawk.....	1	Beaver	1
Cormorant.....	1	Box Turtle.....	2
Duck	2	Painted Turtle	1
Eastern Wild Turkey.....	2	TOTAL.....	81
Great Horned Owl.....	2		
Great Blacked Backed Gull.....	1	Capture attempts.....	20
Great Blue Heron	2	Capture & transports	20
Hawk sp.....	5	Pickup (DOA) or assess	4
Laughing Gull	1	Releases	5
Osprey	21	Transports.....	32
Peregrine Falcon	1	TOTAL.....	81
Red Shouldered Hawk	1		

FUTURE PLANS

- One of our callers successfully used a Hav-a-Hart trap to catch an injured black vulture. With that in mind, we have purchased one hoping to make it easier and less time intensive to catch these birds. It is already being tested.
- We will continue to transport most birds to an OMRC volunteer for further transport to OMRC or Tri-State for the foreseeable future.
- A digital form has been created by an OMRC volunteer, as a citizen science project, to collect data on rescue efforts aimed at helping better understand local bird of prey conditions. Much of it is information needed by rehabilitators for DNR, the rest is ancillary information regarding time, place and conditions.

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

2020 Annual Report

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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

