



Bird Treatment and Learning Center 2023 Annual Report

Mission

To care and advocate for Alaska's wild birds through education, rehabilitation and outreach

Registered non-profit | EIN 92-0130037

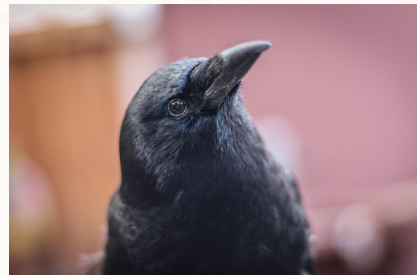
15510 Old Seward Hwy., Anchorage, AK 99516

www.birdtlc.org

A LOOK BACK AT 2023

Dear Friends of Bird Treatment and Learning Center,

2023 was a year of firsts and comebacks. A first for Bird TLC is to have all of our Ambassador Birds living on-site and under the daily care of our Avian Care Director and Education and Behavior Curator. It was a comeback year for the Education program to be able to present in-person programs again after a two-year hiatus.



Bird TLC's Education program came back strong after setbacks from COVID-19, followed by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Education staff, volunteers, and Ambassador Birds presented 71 programs to nearly 3,000 K - 12 students, ran summer programs at Bird TLC, introduced visitors from out of state to Alaska's wild birds, and attended outreach events across Alaska.



Meanwhile, the rehabilitation clinic treated more than 500 patients, from raptors to songbirds to waterfowl. Staff and volunteers transported birds to and from the airport, early in the morning and late at night. They drove miles across Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley and even to the Kenai Peninsula to rescue injured and orphaned birds and release recovered birds in suitable habitat to give them the best chance at success.



Once again, I am humbled by the generosity of our supporters - those who support us financially, with in-kind donations, or as volunteers. We were fortunate that Chef Kelly at Suite 100 selected us again for 10 Chefs for Causes and to have so many Alaska residents choose to Pick.Click.Give. to Bird TLC when they filed for their PFDs. The support from our community makes it possible for us to continue to care for and advocate for Alaska's wild birds.

As we dive into 2024, I am excited to watch our Education program grow and inspire more people to care about the wild birds we share the world with, to see the compassion of our rehabilitation team as they care for birds in need and raise orphaned birds, and for Bird TLC to continue to serve the birds and people of Alaska.

With gratitude,
Laura Atwood, Executive Director

REHABILITATION SUCCESS STORIES

The Story of Lady Swan

A community of dedicated bird lovers came together to save a habituated Trumpeter Swan living at Lake Lucille - a fused broken wing prevented her from flying.

Alaska WildBird in Houston, AK, transferred the swan to Bird TLC in September 2023 and a search for permanent placement began.

Placement at a facility looking for a male swan fell through after Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists determined that the swan was a second-year female. Not to be deterred, an ADF&G biologist contacted the Trumpeter Swan SSP Coordinator at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for assistance.

In the meantime, Bird TLC volunteers did their best to keep Lady Swan, as they called her, from being lonely. Despite the onset of colder weather, they spent hours in her pen and even gave her a mirror so that she could see "another" swan.

On October 12, a month after Lady Swan arrived at Bird TLC, we received word that the Akron Zoo would be thrilled to give her a home.

With temperatures dropping below freezing at night, we were losing access to our water sources. We needed to transfer Lady Swan sooner than the Akron Zoo could complete its acquisition process. Fortunately, the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center (LENSC) agreed to house Lady Swan temporarily until she could move to the Akron Zoo.

Two Bird TLC volunteers generously covered the cost of flying Lady Swan to Ohio and Katie Thorman, Rehabilitation Program Coordinator, flew to Ohio to escort Lady Swan to LENS.



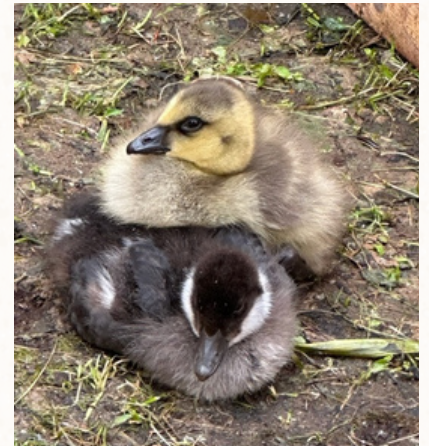
Katie enlisted her mother, who lives in Ohio, to meet her and Lady Swan at the airport and drive them to LENS. While en route, her mother kept saying, "I can't believe I have a swan in my car!"

Lady Swan moved to her new home at the Akron Zoo, where she was named Sakari (suh-car-ee), which means "sweet" in Iñupiaq by the Zoo's Avian Care Team. At the end of January, Sakari was joined by another female swan, and the two have become steadfast companions.

Knowing that Sakari is living a full life at the Akron Zoo made all of our efforts worthwhile.



We raised a nestling Northern Saw-whet Owl while carefully preventing habituation.



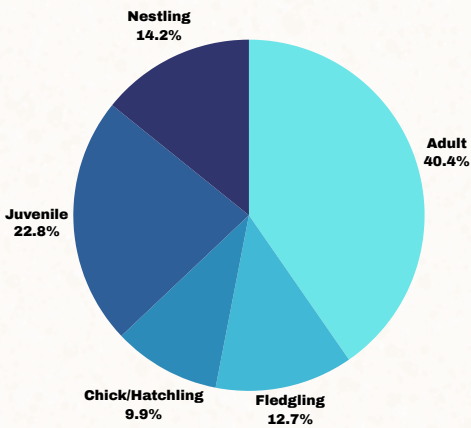
Volunteers raised over 100 orphaned waterfowl and seabirds. Over 70% were released to the wild.

REHABILITATION DATA 2023

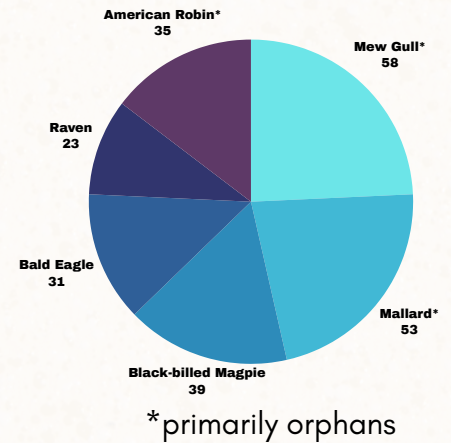
**510
Birds**

72.6% of treatable birds released
Average stay: 18.8 days
Total bird care days: 4,660

AGE GROUPS



MOST COMMON SPECIES



COMMUNITIES SERVED

Anchorage, Anchor Point, Cantwell, Cold Bay, Cooper Landing, Dutch Harbor, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Girdwood, Glenallen, Healy, Homer, Iliamna, JBER, Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Nikisiki, Palmer, Seldovia, Seward, Sterling, Sutton, Talkeetna, Tanana, Tok, Tyonek, Valdez, Wasilla, Whittier, Willow, Yakutat

Top Intake Reasons
Grounded
Orphan
Window strike
Vehicle collision
Displaced from nest



EDUCATION & OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS 2023

YOUTH EDUCATION

Education staff and Ambassador Birds reached nearly 3,000 K-12 students with programs at schools, libraries, and summer programs at Bird TLC.

Funding by ConocoPhillips allowed us to reach 1,204 students at 13 Title I schools at no cost to the school.



VISITOR EDUCATION

Visitors to Alaska discovered the state's wild birds and met Ambassador Birds through 5 programs at Bird TLC and 13 at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center.



OUTREACH

Salmon Celebration in Soldotna, Reading Rendezvous, Potter Marsh Discovery Day, Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, and the Yakutat Tern Festival.

AMBASSADOR BIRDS

Ambassadors Girdie, Shavila, Kenriiq, and Breland, joined the education staff at programs. Girdie was the rock star of 2023 with 73 programs! Breland was also a busy bird with 44 programs.



Girdie was made an honorary ranger by the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge for her education work at the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

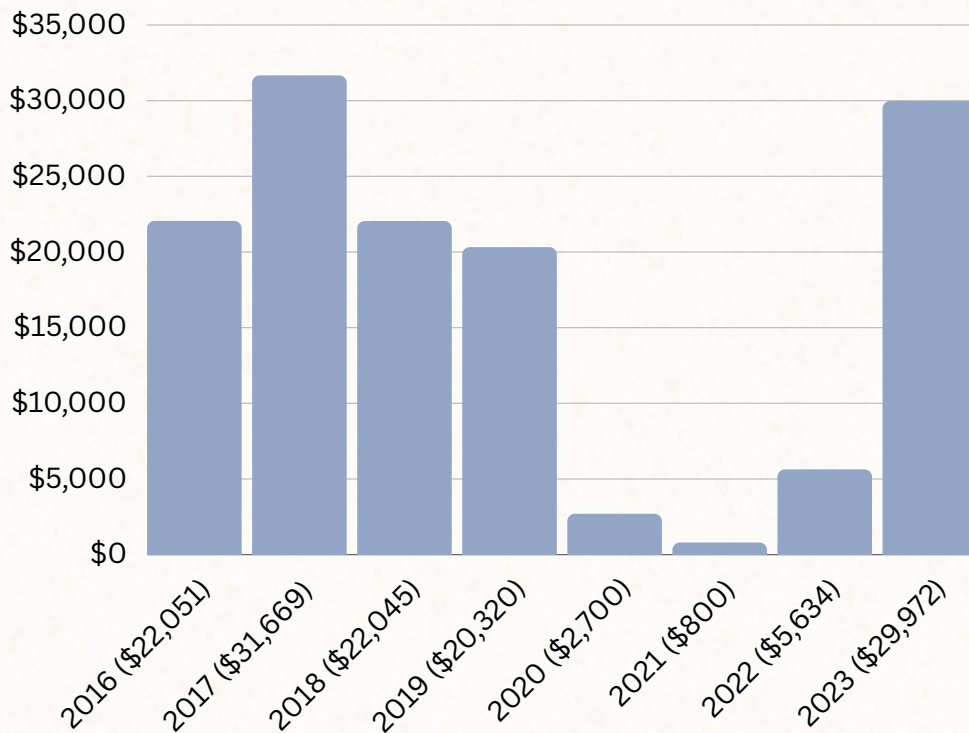
EDUCATION & OUTREACH 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

**5,700
People
Reached**

**185
Programs**



EDUCATION INCOME 2016 - 2023



VOLUNTEERS 2023

Volunteers are the driving force behind Bird TLC. They generously give their time and share their skills to help Bird TLC fulfill its mission.

Rehabilitation volunteers transport birds to and from the airport, rescue injured birds, assist with patient exams, prepare food and medications for patients, and keep bird enclosures and the clinic clean.

Education volunteers train and care for Ambassador Birds, provide enrichment, and keep their enclosures clean. They also present education programs to students, tourists, and residents and help at outreach events.

**50
Active
Volunteers**

**Rehabilitation
3,300
Volunteer Hours**

**Education
3,000
Volunteer Hours**



INCOME AND EXPENSES 2023

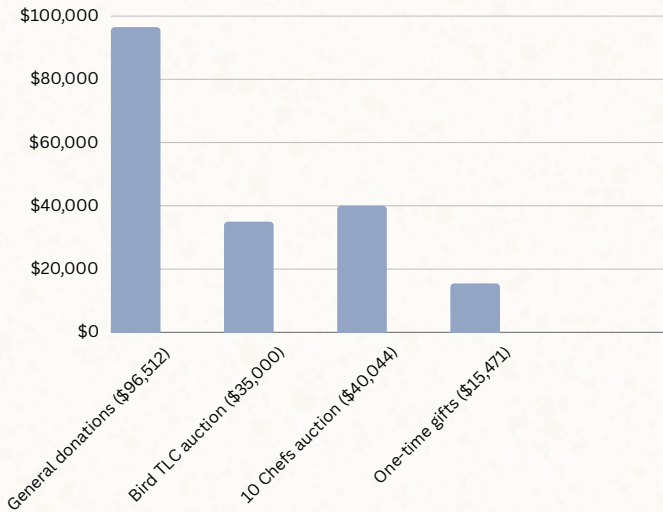
Income Source	Amount
Unrestricted Contributions	\$163,830.68
In-kind Contributions	\$53,089.94
In-kind Labor	\$38,531.27
Grants & Other Restricted	22,396.55
Education Programs	\$29,971.90
Auction	\$35,848.90
Merchandise Sales	\$1,177.22
Other	\$1,225.00
Total Income	\$346,071.46

Expense	Amount
Education	\$164,912.23
Rehabilitation	\$136,000.11
Fundraising	\$72,320.32
General	\$63,946.96
Other	\$2,370.26
Total Expenses	\$439,549.98

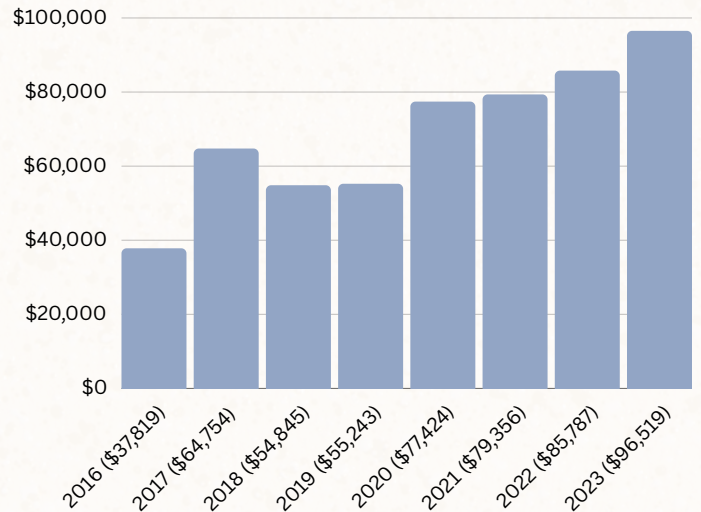


INCOME SOURCES & TRENDS 2023

UNRESTRICTED INCOME SOURCES



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS 2016 - 2023



The increased earned revenue from education programs and donations from individuals in 2023 reaffirms that our work matters.

At the same time, we are experiencing a significant increase in expenses.

With nine Ambassador Birds now living on-site, we are absorbing the costs of their food, maintenance of their enclosures, and staff to provide daily care, training, and enrichment. In addition, we have had to make several upgrades and purchases to meet the new USDA Animal Welfare Licensing requirement.

We have added rehabilitation and education staff to facilitate the efficient coordination and management of these mission-driven programs.

Finally, facility maintenance costs, including snowplowing, repairs, utilities, and preventative maintenance, are rising.

As we explore new funding sources to support the rise in expenses, we look forward to the continued support of long-time donors and welcome new supporters to the Bird TLC community

Support our work on behalf
of Alaska's wild birds

www.birdtlc.org/donate

