

# Breakdown by species of birds treated by The Recovery Wing, Inc. through October

American Robin	36
Northern Flicker	18
Northern Oriole	14
Chimney Swift	14
Gray Catbird	13
Eastern Bluebird	12
Barn Swallow	12
American Goldfinch	11
Ruby Throated Hummingbird	11
Chipping Sparrow	10
Downy Woodpecker	8
Northern Cardinal	8
House Finch	8
Cedar Waxwing	8
Red Bellied Woodpecker	7
Tufted Titmouse	6
Red Eyed Vireo	5
House Sparrow	5
Song Sparrow	5
Carolina Wren	5
Killdeer	4
Mourning Dove	4
Cliff Swallow	4
Brown Headed Cowbird	3
European Starling	3
Wilson's Snipe	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Common Yellowthroat	2
Hermit Thrush	2
Northern Mockingbird	2
House Wren	2
Eastern Phoebe	2
Rose Breasted Grosbeak	2
Belted Kingfisher	2
Whip Poor Will	1

White Throated Sparrow	1
Yellow Warbler	1
Brown Thrasher	1
Northern Waterthrush	1
Wild Turkey	1
Northern Rough Winged Swallow	1
Bank Swallow	1
Black Capped Chickadee	1
Wood Thrush	1
American Woodcock	1
Common Nighthawk	1
Common Grackle	1
Scarlet Tanager	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>
 <b>A snapshot of the difference The Recovery Wing, Inc. has made on the area's bird population.</b>	
Released	163
Died	44
Euthanized	35
Pending	13
Transferred	10
Dead on Arrival	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>Release Rate</b>	<b>61%</b>

*The Recovery Wing, Inc.*

2006 Season

(to date)



**This Brown Thrasher is just one of the birds we took in this year which is on the CT state list of species of special concern.**

So far during 2006,  
The Recovery Wing has admitted  
266 sick, injured or orphaned  
migratory birds, totaling 48 species.  
As of mid-October, we have  
released 163 of them back into the  
wild, a success rate of 61%!

## “Tufted” the spunky Tufted Titmouse –

Upon receiving a nestling tufted titmouse, it became apparent that the bird’s feathering was in poor



condition. This can occur if nutrition is interrupted when feathers are developing. We began to notice further problems when he was close to fledging. The titmouse’s head had begun to tilt to the right, with each day finding it worse.

### Could he be any cuter?

The titmouse did fledge but had no control over his flight.

Soon he was unable to navigate at all and would fall to the floor upon landing. I started the bird on anti-inflammatories but truly felt he was never going to recover. But little “Tufted” had so much spunk and determination, he never gave up for a minute, trying to fly and perch. Each day while hand feeding him, I would say “Hang in there little buddy, I am trying to get you better.”

Imagine our surprise when we started to notice his coordination seemed to be improving. Within a few week’s time Tufted’s function was close to normal so we moved him to an outside flight cage. But his feathers were still poor when it rained, and he would get soaked and be unable to fly, our next hurdle to overcome. My hope was with preening they would improve. One month later Tufted was finally waterproof. To my dismay, once released, he became quite needy and stayed very close, seeming to have lost all of his confidence and abilities. I worried I had made a mistake releasing him. But day-by-day his courage grew and he began to forage farther and farther away until one day I spotted him with another Tufted Titmouse. He made a friend! I saw them together each day from then on.

It’s now October and Tufted has molted into beautiful adult plumage and spends most of his time out of my sight. Each morning and evening I can count on my little buddy stopping by for a handout, a beautiful, spunky, fully functioning Tufted Titmouse!

## A nest full of Orioles –

On June 11<sup>th</sup> a gentleman called saying he had a nest of five baby Baltimore Orioles. A tree crew had been cutting trees down and did not see the nest. He was quite upset and would never have cut the tree if he had seen the nest. The young orioles arrived, nest and all, allowing us to examine the wonderfully woven nest they build. Thankfully the tree had been dropped slowly and all of the young were unhurt, leaving us with five healthy orphans to raise. And so the fun begins!

Orioles can be quite entertaining and this group was no exception, with their outgoing personalities and loud musical vocalizations when asking for food. Once the young had fledged (left the nest) in their exuberance to be fed first they would attempt to land on our faces, or land on a perch with so much momentum they would rotate around it hanging upside down. Do you get the picture?



**Get out your earplugs –these guys can yell!**

Once outside these orioles continued to entertain us with their silliness. When we would enter the flight cage with a dish full of live insects, they would all fly over and line up for their food. You would feed one oriole a mouthful of bugs and another oriole would steal the insects right out of his mouth, landing on each other’s backs and pulling on each other’s feathers! We all thoroughly enjoyed watching these young orioles grow up and by July 8<sup>th</sup> they were ready to go.

We soft released them (which means we are going to support feed them while they learn the ropes out in the big world) and those beautiful juvenile orioles came back for handouts for several weeks before becoming fully independent. While it would certainly have been better for them to be raised by their parents, we all smile every time we think of them!

## “Snuffles” the Cardinal –

We received a call about a young female cardinal found on the step of an apartment. The finders were worried about a growth they could see on the bird’s head and the fact it was alone, no parents nearby. When I examined the bird I realized that there was an infection in both ears that was causing the growth-like swelling.



**Snuffles feeling better, asking for food.**

The cardinal was put on antibiotics and the infection cleared

2 weeks later. We moved her to an outside flight cage with other cardinals for conditioning before release. Within a few days we noticed she was making a sneezing/coughing sound (we call it a snick); normally we see that when birds have parasites. We treated for parasites but the snicking only got worse with her now making a snuffling sound when breathing.

My guess was she had developed a fungal infection. I felt bringing her back in would be too stressful and only worsen her illness so I treated her outside. By the end of the first week there was no change and she was clearly having a difficult time breathing. We were all very concerned she was not going to turn around.

Jamie Graham, a volunteer from West Haven who has fallen in love with cardinals and had been keeping a close eye on the little cardinal, began to call her Snuffles and would report to me each day she was here on Snuffles’ progress. Finally one day towards the end of Jamie’s shift 2 weeks later, her eyes shining with happiness, she excitedly told me that Snuffles did not snuffle once all day! Jamie was sure she was on the road to recovery, and she was right!

Soon Snuffles began to vocalize the way all cardinals do, began eating on her own, and flying about the cage. It was apparent she was fully recovered. I waited for a day when Jamie was volunteering and we released the cardinal together. As we watched Snuffles fly off with the rest of the cardinals, I was pretty sure I saw tears in Jamie’s eyes, I know there were in mine!