

# Breakdown by Species of Birds Treated through Oct. 31

<b>Chimney Swift</b>	<b>49</b>
Eastern Bluebird	12
Barn Swallow	10
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>	<b>10</b>
Downy Woodpecker	9
White-breasted Nuthatch	7
Black-capped Chickadee	7
Cedar Waxwing	7
<b>Northern Flicker</b>	<b>6</b>
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	6
Northern Mockingbird	4
<b>Gray Catbird</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>American Woodcock</b>	<b>3</b>
Killdeer	2
American Goldfinch	2
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cliff Swallow</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Rose-Breasted Grosbeak</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Veery</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Northern rough-winged Swallow</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Traill's Flycatcher</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Winter Wren</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>	<b>1</b>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Eastern Phoebe	1
Tree Swallow	1
Carolina Wren	1
Song Sparrow	1
House Finch	1
Mourning Dove	1
Tufted Titmouse	1
Northern Cardinal	1
<b>A snapshot of the difference Mount Vernon Songbird Sanctuary has made on the area's bird population.</b>	
Released	121
Euthanized	18
Died	17
Dead on Arrival	1
Pending	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>
Release Rate	75%

# Mount Vernon Songbird Sanctuary, Inc.

*2010 Season*  
(to date)



*This immature chimney swift is one of the 49 swifts we took in this year which are DEP-listed as a species in Greatest Conservation Need in CT. He was returned to the wild in September.*

So far during 2010, Mount Vernon Songbird Sanctuary has admitted 161 sick, injured or orphaned migratory birds, totaling 38 species. As of October 31st, we have released 121 of them back into the wild, a success rate of 75%!

*Species listed in bold are those which are listed by the CT DEP as species in Greatest Conservation Need (GCN) in its Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy document. More than of our admissions were species of Important, Very Important or Most Important need of conservation in one or more of CT's habitats.*

## *2010 Season to Date*

The winter months tend to be quiet with injured or sick adults arriving sporadically. January through March I admitted ten birds total. The causes for rehabilitation were cat attacks, window strikes and conjunctivitis (an eye disease that affects mainly finches). Eight of the ten birds were successfully rehabilitated and released. The birds admitted were two **American Goldfinch**, **Carolina Wren**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **House Finch**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Song Sparrow**, **Downy Woodpecker** and **Northern Mockingbird**. Can you guess which bird was the highlight of the winter?!

If you guessed the pileated you are correct! An adult female **Pileated Woodpecker** that struck a window and would not feed herself was transferred to me from NY. The beautiful girl gave me a run for my money with many force feedings before getting her to eat on her own. Force feeding a **Pileated Woodpecker** is basically having a hemostat full of insects and being quick to get it into the bird's mouth while it is stabbing at you with its very destructive bill! I have managed to perfect my skill and she did not draw blood once! The bird had mild head trauma and was highly stressed by captivity which resulted in her reluctance to eat. Eventually she settled down and I am happy to say that she was released! I absolutely adore these large secretive woodpeckers and am always thrilled to have the chance to help one!



April brought the first babies of 2010! I opened a box to find three absolutely adorable hatchling **American Woodcock** chicks that were standing in the road next to their Mom who had been killed by a car. I was thrilled to have them as I had raised them for the first time the year before and had a blast watching them grow up! Although I will admit I was cringing at the thought of what my earthworm bill was going to be with the three of them eating their body weight in earthworms each day! Despite that worry, raising healthy orphans is an enjoyable and rewarding experience! The next baby to arrive was a hatchling **Killdeer** that arrived in very poor condition and I was unable to get the bird standing and eating. After several days of trying everything I knew, I admitted defeat and humanely euthanized the little one, always a very difficult decision to make! I too

come across injured birds, and while driving I discovered a **Mourning Dove** in the road that had been hit by a car. I quickly got the bird into care and it made a full recovery!

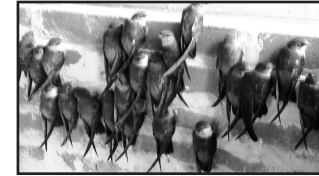
May is really when the babies start to arrive in numbers and this May was no exception! I admitted six immature **Downy Woodpeckers** throughout the month and all were released. Most of the woodpeckers were the result of people cutting down the tree they were being raised in. Twelve immature **Eastern Bluebirds** were admitted, with eight being released. Five feisty **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** came into the clinic during the month and four of them were released. The highlight of this month for me was a nest of seven **White-breasted Nuthatches**, brought in after their tree cannot begin much fun seven little acrobats! At gravity was ing against same time



came down. I to describe how it was to raise upside down times though, definitely work-me! At the along came a nest of six **Black-capped Chickadees**, along with a single, that was ever so happy for the company! If those little ones were not tiny enough, I received an orphaned **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** weighing all of 5 grams, just slightly bigger than a hummingbird! At this point I seriously had my hands full as these tiny songbirds need feeding every thirty minutes or sooner! All of them were eventually released. In addition to the orphaned birds, injured adults were arriving as well. Two **Barn Swallows** caught in flypaper, one **Black-and-white Warbler** that hit a window, a beautiful adult male **Baltimore Oriole** hit by a car, an injured **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, a very sick **Cedar Waxwing**, and a badly injured **Black-billed Cuckoo**. Sadly their outcomes were not as happy; only one of the barn swallows, the oriole and warbler were released.

June arrived and I needed to catch my breath after a very intense previous month and so limited the birds that I was accepting. The month's admissions included four beautiful **Northern Flickers**, again mostly the result of cutting down their nesting tree, six **Barn Swallows**, most were nest falls, one precious orphaned nestling **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, a badly injured **Veery**, and one lucky **Tree Swallow**. Lucky because it was my day to do nest box surveys at Rabis's field and I found the bird hiding and starving under a dead adult! All of the woodpeckers, three of the barn swallows, the hummingbird and tree swallow were released.

July was a very intense month! I admitted 58 birds for rehabilitation! Thirty seven of those were **Chimney Swifts**; the obvious highlight of the month! In addition to the swifts pouring in on a daily basis, three **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** (one adult, two orphans), three **Northern Mockingbirds**, two **Downy Woodpeckers**, a **Cliff Swallow**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Northern Flicker**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and a **Killdeer** were also admitted. Thirty swifts, three mockingbirds, two hummingbirds, two downies, the swallow, waxwing, phoebe, flicker, sapsucker and killdeer were all released! Can I confess to exhaustion after that month?!



August begins the wind down of baby season. Eight more **Chimney Swifts** were admitted along with two **Cedar Waxwings**, two **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** (one was dead on arrival), **Gray Catbird**, **Northern Flicker** and a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**. All eight chimney swifts were released as well as two waxwings, and the catbird. The swallow is spending the winter with me, having missed its migration!

September I accepted birds on a very limited basis as I was taking my first real vacation since beginning this endeavor some 13 years ago! The birds admitted were three **Gray Catbirds**, two **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, a **Traill's Flycatcher**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Winter Wren**, and a **Cedar Waxwing**. Three catbirds, the flycatcher, downy, and the yellowthroat were released.



October I spent most of the month traveling, speaking at wildlife rehabilitator conferences. I taught songbird, swift, killdeer, and woodpecker rehabilitation in Florida, Vermont and New Mexico. By the end of the month I was home for good and accepted a **Tufted Titmouse** and **Northern Cardinal**. Sadly the titmouse did not survive the severe head trauma it endured, and the cardinal is still in care after being attacked by an accipiter. I pray the remainder of the year is quiet for the bird's sake as well as my own!