

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

American Robin	42
Eastern Bluebird	37
Chimney Swift	36
Barn Swallow	26
Northern Cardinal	15
Northern Flicker	15
Gray Catbird	11
Cedar Waxwing	10
Downy Woodpecker	10
Eastern Phoebe	10
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	10
Carolina Wren	9
House Wren	8
Black-capped Chickadee	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6
Tufted Titmouse	5
Northern Oriole	4
Chipping Sparrow	4
Common Yellowthroat	4
Mourning Dove	4
Northern Mockingbird	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	4
American Goldfinch	3
American Woodcock	3
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Killdeer	3
White-throated Sparrow	3
Wood Thrush	3
Common Grackle	2
House Finch	2
Red-eyed Vireo	2
Bank Swallow	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1

Eastern Kingbird	1
European Starling	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	1
House Sparrow	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Scarlet Tanager	1
Song Sparrow	1
Spotted Sandpiper	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Total	319
A snapshot of the difference The Recovery Wing, Inc. has made on the area's bird population.	
Released	210
Died	47
Euthanized	46
Pending	6
Transferred	4
Dead on Arrival	6
Total	319
Release Rate	66%

The Recovery Wing, Inc.

2007 SEASON (TO OCTOBER 31)



This American Woodcock is one of the birds we took in this year which is on the CT State list of species of special concern. We admitted 3 American Woodcocks into rehabilitation, and were able to release 2 of them back into the wild.

So far during 2007, the Recovery Wing has admitted 319 sick, injured and orphaned migratory birds, totaling 46 species. As of October 31, we have released 210 of them back into the wild, a success rate of 66%!

“Peep, peep—I don’t know how to eat!”

On July 26 we admitted a newly hatched killdeer chick. Killdeer are precocial, they are capable of eating and drinking after hatching. After admittance it soon became clear that this killdeer was not eating.

Weighing only 8 grams, this young chick would quickly become weak if not getting any nutrition. I began to force feed every hour all day long, and because killdeer are active at night, I would then have to stay up all night long to continue to feed.



Killdeer chick still being force-fed.

Each day I would withhold a feeding to entice the little one to get hungry enough to pick up food, but each time it would soon begin to peep its dismay at getting hungry. This went on every day for 5 days. I was beginning to get concerned for although I was force feeding, it wasn't gaining weight as fast as it should have. Plus, I was in a stupor due to lack of sleep!

On August 1, we admitted a juvenile spotted sandpiper with a very badly damaged wrist, with no hope of ever flying again. I decided to house them together in hope that the young killdeer would be inspired to eat watching the sandpiper. I confess I made a promise to that sandpiper “I will find a permanent home for you if you can help me get this killdeer eating”. Three days later I came in to feed the killdeer, and much to my delight I watched the little chick pick up and swallow a cricket. I definitely did the happy dance!

That day, in fact, the killdeer gained 7 grams, the biggest weight gain since arriving. Within a week the killdeer quickly surpassed the sandpiper in size and weight, and soon they were moved together to an outside flight cage. By October, the killdeer now weighed 81 grams and was released into an area with other killdeer. What’s more I kept my promise to the sandpiper who now resides at the Bronx zoo.

Flicker Fun!

I received a phone call on July 9th about some Northern Flickers whose nest tree had fallen the day before. I asked how many babies and she replied 7! We absolutely love to raise baby woodpeckers -- I confess I was grinning ear to ear.

After ensuring the babies were unhurt, I transferred them to new housing. Northern Flickers eat enormous amounts of food. Even with an unlimited supply of live insects, we were still very busy keeping this group satisfied! I had placed them all inside a single nesting box, but soon realized it was difficult to ensure that all seven flickers were getting enough food at each feeding. What’s really cool about woodpeckers is that you can see by size who hatched first and who hatched last, so I put the 3 smallest together, and housed the remaining 4 in another box.

One of the reasons we like woodpeckers so much is their attitude -- they have lots of it! They were moved to an outside flight cage and this is when



Four of the 7 flicker nestlings

we feel the urge to put hard hats and suits of armor on them! Woodpeckers are a very aggressive species and need a lot of room when being housed together. At feeding times each wanted to be fed first, and any other bird approaching was cause for attack. Beginning with a loud “wicka, wicka, wicka,” the head bobs back and forth, and the tail fans out. If this does not reverse the approach, the flicker begins to stab at the intruder and grab at feathers! Although we sometimes referee, these interactions are natural and the birds are unharmed. This goes on all day long over feeding, logs, bathing etc. Very, very entertaining!

Several weeks later we soft-released them onto The Recovery Wing property. They returned for supplemental food for several more weeks before becoming fully independent. Interestingly, one of the flickers has stayed and still comes in to the feeding tray, allowing us to see what a beautiful bird he has become.

The Miracle Mockingbird

On August 7th Kensington Bird & Animal Hospital called to ask if I would take an orphaned chimney swift. When I arrived, they asked if I would also take an injured fledgling mockingbird that had been attacked by a cat.



Here is the mockingbird shortly before release, fully recovered

As I examined the mockingbird, I began to realize the extent of its numerous injuries. The most apparent

was the entire top and back of its head had been scalped. On either side of its neck there were deep puncture wounds -- obviously the cat had grabbed the bird by the neck. Its right eye had been punctured, and its left leg was dangling uselessly, obviously fractured. It did not look good for the young mockingbird.

The scalp, eye and neck wounds were flushed and treated with antibiotic ointment. The leg was aligned and splinted. The mockingbird was given oral antibiotics and pain/anti-inflammatory medication, and so began its recuperation

For the first several days, the young mockingbird would not open his mouth willingly, or move about much, and I worried we had made the wrong decision. By day three I am happy to say the young bird stabilized and was willingly gaping for food, and attempting to move about despite its injuries.

Two weeks later, the wounds had healed. Despite my best attempts the leg fracture healed less than perfectly. Sadly, the mockingbird had lost sight in the damaged eye. It would remain to be seen how the mockingbird would cope with its disabilities.

By mid-September the young mockingbird was a full-grown juvenile who spent his days foraging and wing-flashing, showing no signs of difficulties with either the leg or loss of the use of one eye. The bird fly away, once again I found myself in amazement at how birds end