



# Friends of Wildlife News

Fall 2014  
Since 1965

## Our Mission

### Friends of Wildlife

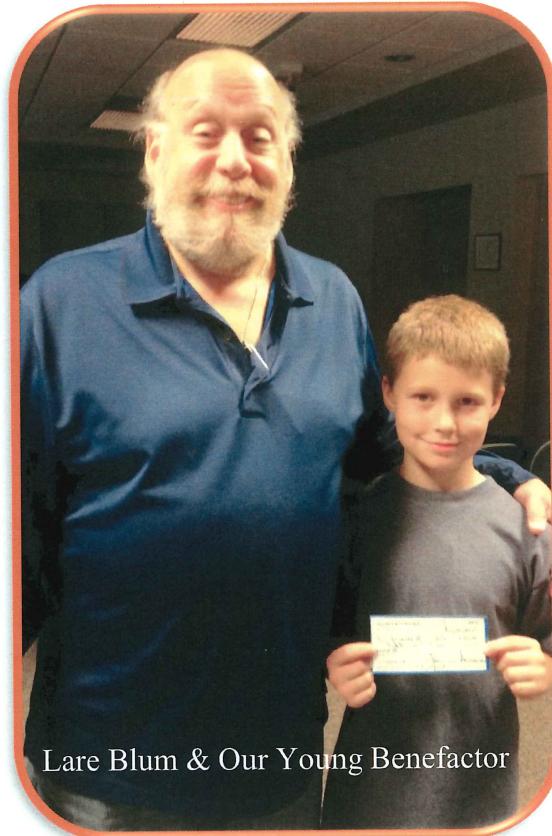
Is an independent, non-profit 501©3, all volunteer organization dedicated to the emergency and extended care of orphaned or injured Michigan wildlife.

**Our Goal** is to rehabilitate these animals in a professional manner which allows them to return to their natural habitat and continue their lives in the manner of that species, independent of humans.

**We are licensed** by and have a close working relationship with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

In addition to wildlife rehabilitation, we are vitally interested in education and the broader aspects of protecting and restoring the natural habitat of the world we share.

Friends of Wildlife endorses the high standards set by the National Rehabilitators Association and the International Rehabilitators Council.



Lare Blum & Our Young Benefactor

## COOPER'S GIFT

Cooper has a tradition of celebrating his birthday by having his friends and family donate needed items to a charity of his choice. Friends of Wildlife was honored to be chosen as his charity this year. In the past his family has contacted Friends of Wildlife about wildlife in need of assistance and he wanted to help support our work. Cooper, his mother and his brother and sister came to our September board meeting to drop off all of the wonderful items that were donated. FOW is made up of all volunteers and Cooper's donations included items that the volunteers normally provide themselves. We are very grateful for Cooper's generosity.

## BALD RED SQUIRREL

Bald red squirrels appear mostly in the fall when it starts to get cold. In rehabilitation they grow fur back and proceed to be released in the spring, with no apparent lasting effects. The bald red squirrel problem is very frustrating. There are many theories about what causes it, but no definitive answers. Friends of Wildlife has been aware of bald red squirrels in Southeast MI for over 10 years made efforts to find an explanation about why it happens. We have been awarded a small grant from the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association with matching funds from FOW to study this phenomenon. FOW would be interested in connecting with a qualified person who would be interested in doing lab research about the bald red squirrel.



## EXTREME WINTERS AND WILDLIFE

By Elena B. Wakeman

### FOW Board of Directors

#### Officers

Lare Blum, Chair  
Elena Wakeman, Vice Chair  
Gail Jarskey, Vice Chair  
Anita McCranie, Secretary  
Christy Potter, Records

#### Directors

Don Kenney  
Pat DeLong  
Dick DeLong  
Elaine Bater  
Cathy Johnson



### Placement & Advice

#### INFORMATION LINES:

General Info 734-913-9843  
Rabbit.....734-548-3126  
Squirrel.....734-548-3127  
Raccoon.....734-548-3128  
Woodchuck.....734-548-3129  
Opossum.....734-548-3130  
Fawn.....734-548-3131  
Fox.....734-548-3132  
Turtle.....734-481-1812  
Coyote.....248-672-9615  
Bat .....248-645-3232

Bird Center .....734-761-9640  
Water Fowl.....734-482-8187

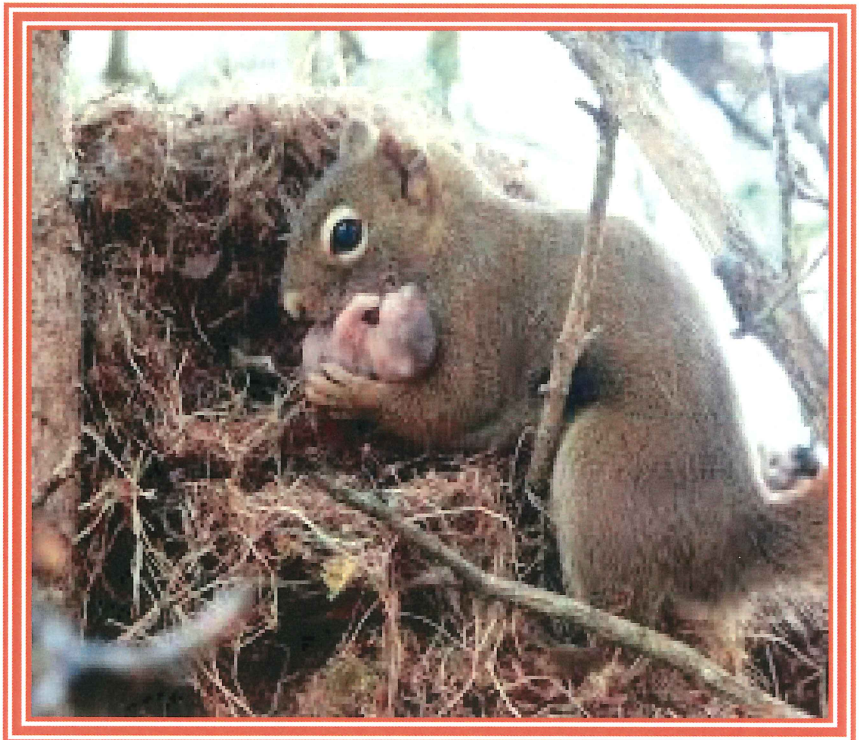
**Humane Society**  
734-662-5585

While extreme winters challenge us humans, extreme snow amounts and bitter cold temperatures thin a lot of our wildlife populations. Most wildlife is designed for cold weather. Birds have down and can fluff their feathers to hold heat close to their bodies. Waterfowl have blood systems in their feet that keep heat loss to a minimum and will tuck their heads under their wings for long periods of time when not feeding. Very small mammals like mice do not hibernate but have active tunnels under the snow leading to and from water and food sources. Dormancy allows larger mammals (squirrels, raccoons, skunks are a few) to conserve body warmth and involves a series of mini hibernations where the animal can hunker down for many days during the worst parts of the cold snap but “wake up” and forage for food during breaks in extreme temps. Cold temperatures encourage protective female squirrels to invite males into the nest with their young squirrels for warmth (and survival) as they all huddle together! Even with these resources to survive the winter, wildlife still gets into trouble. Michigan lost hundreds of waterfowl last year because the Great Lakes froze over for the first time in a long time. Waterfowl were searching for open water but landing on asphalt highways, thinking the dark pavement was open water. The heavy snow, severe cold and then late spring led to hundreds of deer, found mostly on mid-Michigan rural property, starving and too weak to survive. Offering food, water, nest boxes or a brush stand in the corner of your yard aids wildlife in the struggle to cope with the extreme cold. Chances are that if you feed wildlife, at some time you will come across an injured or suffering animal. How can you tell if an animal needs assistance? Observe it carefully. If it has not moved for a half-hour or so, carefully approach it and see if it notices you. If it still doesn’t move or has to struggle to move away from you, it needs help. I noticed a crow in my yard a couple winters back with its wings spread across the snow. I got close to observe it and it frantically struggled to move away. I got a large towel and a pet carrier. I went back outside, moved toward the crow quickly and tossed the towel over it and then gently scooped it up and put it into the carrier (still loosely wrapped in the towel). I put the carrier in a quiet room while I called licensed wildlife rehabilitators for help. It turned out the crow had nerve damage in a foot, but it healed and was released near my yard. Keep in mind that wild animals can pose a threat to you. If you don’t feel comfortable attempting to capture the animal, please don’t hesitate to call the Humane Society, your city Animal Control officer or the Michigan DNR. They can assist in humanely capturing the injured animal and getting it to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.



## A FAMILY BACK TOGETHER Elaine Bater

This happened a few years back, but it is a good story worth telling. While checking the squirrel phone messages there was one from a woman named Lena who had three baby squirrels that were furred but their eyes were closed and she did not know what to do with them. I called her back and she proceeded to tell me how she ended up with them. Her son was back for a short time from the military and his car had been parked on the street, in front of the house, all summer. When he went to start the car it began to smoke from the engine. Thinking quickly he shut off the car and lifted the hood. He immediately saw that dried grass and leaves were what was causing the smoke, but what really surprised him was the three little, perfectly fine squirrels. He carefully checked to make sure that no other babies had fallen from the nest and once satisfied with that he gave the squirrels to his mother and pushed his car into the driveway. Based on Lena's description of the babies, it sounded like they were fox squirrels; however I had never heard of fox squirrels making a nest in a car engine. She went on to tell me that there was an adult squirrel; she hadn't notice before, running around her yard and driveway. The squirrel was actually circling her son's car. Lena could see its orange belly when it stopped to stand on its back legs like it was searching for something. It wasn't hard to figure out that mom squirrel was looking for her babies. Lena was more than willing to try and re-unite them. I told her to put them in a box with a warmed up rice sock and to partly cover the box with a towel to keep them warm, and keep neighborhood cats from getting them. After instructing her to put the box out by the car I also asked her to call me back and let me know what happened. An hour later Lena called, a little frantic, because the squirrel kept walking past the box and now it had left. Getting a little panicky myself now, thinking we had missed an opportunity to re-unite a family and it was getting late in the afternoon. I told Lena to tip the box on its side and use the towel to block the babies from crawling out. She agreed to do it and would call me back. It seemed like I waited a long time, but Lena called and she was so happy. The mom squirrel finally found her babies and Lena watched as she took them one by one and carried them across the street and up a tree. I told her that squirrels will have a second nest just in case something happens to the first one. Lena laughed a little when she told me that she didn't think that squirrels could count because the mom kept coming back to the box and digging in it looking for more babies. We always try to re-unite families when possible, and it's a good day for wildlife rehabilitators when they can help reunite a mom and her babies instead of taking them in to rehabilitate. Also, a big thank you to a special person named Lena, because wildlife babies are always better off with their natural mothers.





**FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE**  
**P.O. BOX 1505**  
**ANN ARBOR, MI 48106**  
[www.friendsofwildlife.net](http://www.friendsofwildlife.net)

### Will You Help?

Just as each species of animal needs special care in critical times of the year, the need for financial support is constant. FOW is a 501©3 all-volunteer organization which operates entirely on donations from friends like you. Each injured or orphaned animal needs special food, medicine and caring attention which costs money. In these difficult times, when so many are pinched and hurting, it's easy to forget our little wildlife friends. Please give what you can. Please make your check payable to Friends of Wildlife and mail it to: P.O. Box 1505, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Also, check our website at [www.friendsofwildlife.net](http://www.friendsofwildlife.net) to donate through PayPal. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**Thank You For Your Generosity!**

<b>Rabbit</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Squirrel</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Opossum</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Turtle</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Woodchuck</b>	<b>\$65</b>
<b>Raccoon</b>	<b>\$125</b>
<b>Fox</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Deer</b>	<b>\$300</b>

The amounts listed above are approximate costs related to raising an animal (or an entire litter) to date of release, though sometimes the expense is considerably more if any are seriously injured.

### Deer Don't Have Headlights!

The majority of car-deer collisions occur during the months of October through December. Use special caution in areas marked with deer crossing signs. Be aware that deer are found even in highly populated areas. Remember that deer often travel in groups: If you see one animal, slow down and be alert to the presence of others. With a little extra caution, you can avoid injury to yourself, to your car and to Michigan's deer.

## Wish List

- \*Release sites on private land
- \*Heating pads
- \*Materials for building outdoor cages (wood, wire mesh, etc.)
- \*Volunteer help in building cages
- \*Monetary donations to help with veterinary expenses & supplies

You can also participate in the Scrip/Community Rewards Program at Kroger, Hiller's, or Busch's. These stores donate up to 5% of your total bill to FOW (no extra cost to you!) FOW's Kroger Rewards number is 82467  
 Questions? Contact the FOW Scrip Coordinator at: [tempiedell@chartermi.net](mailto:tempiedell@chartermi.net) or 734-426-3361