



le **Nichoir**
2025 - 2026

In This Issue

If The Alarm Bells Ring.....	1
Bird Care 2024 — Another Busy Year.....	2
Avoiding Window Collisions.....	2
When Conservation Meets Education.....	3
An Intern, Stefany Desroches.....	3
Where Have All the Swallows Gone.....	4
Specialized Oil-spill Response Training.....	5
The Hidden Dangers of Fishing Gear.....	5
Treasured Partners.....	6
Help Le Nichoir Save Wild Birds.....	7



Jamie, Elise, Jo-Annie and Susan

Le Nichoir Wild Bird Conservation Centre
637 Main, Hudson Qc, J0P 1H0
info@lenichoir.org
450-458-2809 www.lenichoir.org

If the Alarm Bells Ring

When a catastrophe strikes, Le Nichoir can be called upon to admit large numbers of birds in a very short period of time - circumstances that put enormous pressure on us to find sources for food and the caregivers needed to ensure that the affected birds are well looked after.

One such occurrence was in June 2024 when we admitted over 100 young ring-billed gulls over the space of a few days during a heat wave. The injured birds, not yet able to fly, were nested on a rooftop in an industrial neighbourhood of Montreal. As temperatures soared, the baby gulls dangerously jumped off the roof to escape the oppressive heat, landing on the ground, injured and helpless. A concerned citizen contacted the SPCA to recover the birds, which immediately called on Le Nichoir for their treatment.

We got the job done, in large part thanks to an overwhelming amount of support from volunteers, cash donations, local business food donations, and the media that drew attention to the plight of the baby gulls. It was a glorious example of how a community can come together in a time of need to help our feathered friends.

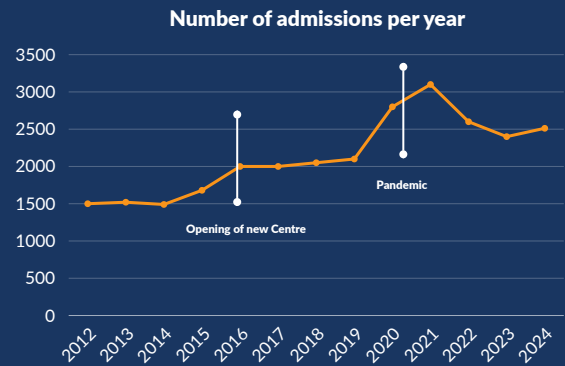
These gulls may be a harbinger of what the future holds for our wild birds if, as predicted, extreme weather events become more common. The experience gained last June and the comfort of knowing that we have the support of our community prepares us well for the next challenge.

Susan Wylie
Director of operations

Bird Care 2024 – Another Busy Year

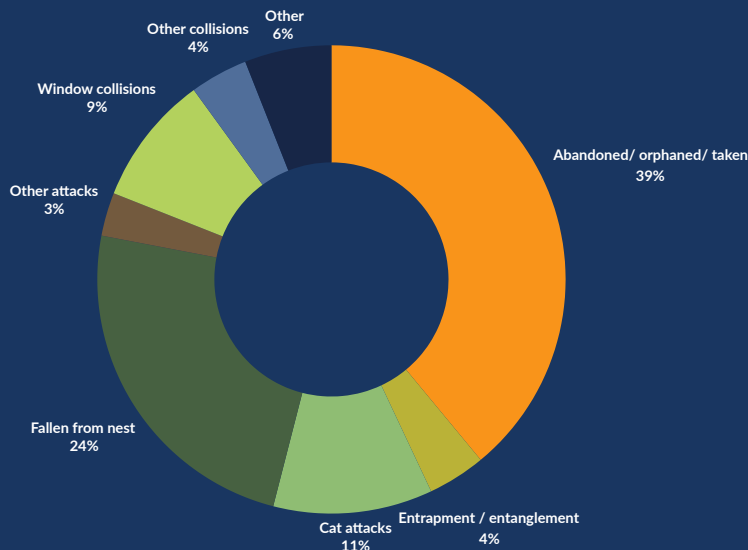
In 2024, Le Nichoir received a total of 2,535 birds from 104 different species. This represents a 9% increase from 2023, and an 18% increase compared to pre-pandemic numbers in 2019.

In our high season – May through August – the Centre generally receives about 80 percent of its admissions. However, the percentage of the total admissions per month has been shifting to earlier with May and June becoming increasingly busy.



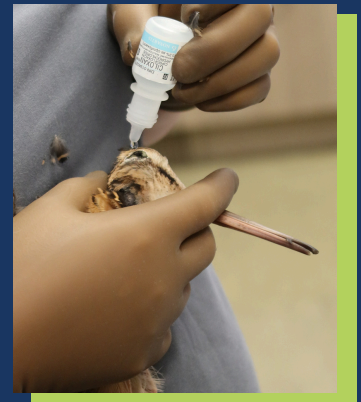
Species received and Why

Consistent with previous years, the most common species received in 2024 was the American Robin with European Starlings, Ring-billed Gulls, and Mallards rounding out the top five. The reasons for admission are unknown mainly because rescuers usually happen upon birds already injured or in poor condition. Among admissions for which we know the cause, abandoned, orphaned or taken young birds are the most common (39%). Regrettably, human-related injuries are also prominent: attacks by cats (11%) followed by window collisions (9%).



A recent window collision patient

We only rarely care for woodcocks, often victims of window collisions. One particular woodcock was brought in after striking a glass pane, suffering from a torn third eyelid and swelling around its eye – yes woodcocks have more than one eyelid! What's more, their eyes are large and set high and back on the head offering panoramic vision above and behind but looking forward, not so much. Woodcocks are highly sensitive to stress, so minimizing handling is crucial. To ensure their comfort, we provide enclosures with ample hiding spaces, using large mesh cages lined with dry leaves. Their diet consists primarily of earthworms—this bird consumed over 35 a day! With time and dedicated care, the woodcock's eye healed, and it successfully passed all the recovery milestones needed to return to the wild!



Avoiding Window Collisions

It is estimated that 16 to 42 million birds die every year in Canada as a result of hitting windows. Here are some ways to prevent collisions:

- Install windows with bird-friendly glass, or add decals for reduced reflection and transparency – birds see reflections of trees and don't realize they are not real.
- Close curtains or blinds when you are not in the room. Turn the lights off.
- Keep houseplants away from windows.
- Install all bird feeders less than one meter from windows.

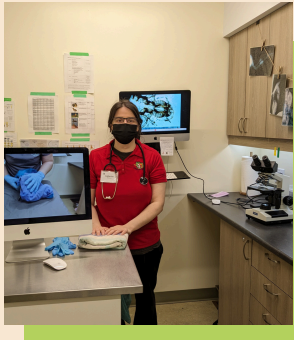
La Boutique du Nichoir offers a variety of products and advice that can help you reduce window collisions. Visit our boutique at <https://boutique.lenichoir.org/>



When Conservation Meets Education

Caring for birds isn't just about a love for animals — it's about a love for people too. Le Nichoir provides an opportunity for summer students to gain hands-on experience working with wildlife. Over the past 20 years, we have supported more than 85 aspiring professionals, many of whom have gone on to impactful careers in conservation and environmental fields.

The work isn't for everyone:



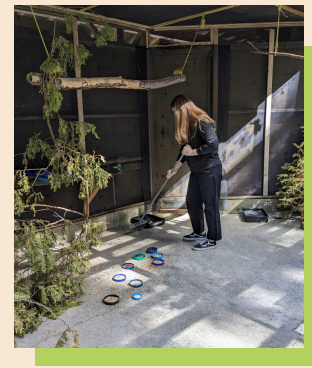
Bird care is fast-paced, hands-on, and deeply rewarding. — It starts with jumping from incubator to incubator, feeding hungry, gaping nestlings every 15 to 45 minutes, non-stop for 12 hours a day. Between feedings, there's just enough time to clean cages and keep the laundry going!

Up to 40 new birds a day. — Each patient undergoes a thorough medical exam and receives a tailored treatment plan: oxygen support, antibiotics, pain management, and often days of dedicated care before they can be released.

Average stay is about 20 days. — Patients are constantly coming and going keeping us on our toes. Staff also work closely with our dedicated volunteers, coordinating efforts to ensure every bird receives the attention it deserves.

Cleanliness is essential. — The aviaries require daily deep cleaning to maintain proper hygiene — when it comes to birds, things get messy fast!

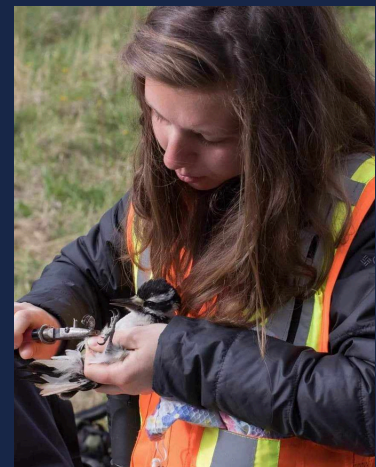
And the Wild Bird Helpline rings non-stop. — Connecting us with concerned citizens seeking advice and staff responds with compassion, offering guidance to ensure the best possible outcomes for birds in need.



We are grateful for the dedicated individuals who bring their passion and commitment to Le Nichoir. And, we're proud to be a stepping stone for so many, helping them build meaningful careers in wildlife conservation and animal welfare.

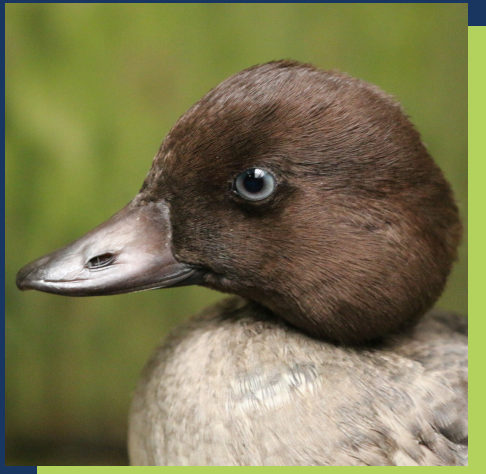
An Intern, Stefany Desroches

With a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, it was during an internship in avian wildlife conservation that I developed a passion for birds. Unlike other animal species, we can observe so many species of birds on a daily basis, simply by taking a walk in a park. I have since volunteered and worked in bird observatories across Canada, collecting data on bird populations, particularly through banding. Capturing different species of wild birds provides a better idea of the populations present in Canada, their migratory movements and also their ranges and their breeding and survival success rates. When I returned to school to study animal health, it seemed obvious to me to do an internship at Le Nichoir. This experience allowed me to learn how to handle and feed baby birds, provide medical care to several species of birds, and study the behavior of several species that I was less familiar with. In addition, thanks to my banding experience and a federal permit, I had the opportunity to band several released birds. My best experience was caring for and watching the development of young Common Ravens—a species that is misunderstood by the public but is nevertheless one of the most intelligent.



Where Have All the Swallows Gone?

Many Nichoir visitors remember when swallows swooping about was a common sight. Not anymore. According to information drawn from the most recent State of Canada's Birds (SOCB) report Swallows and other aerial insectivores have declined by 43%, with some populations such as the Bank Swallow now only 10% of what they used to be. Arctic birds, long-distance migrants and shorebirds are all groups that have also experienced steep declines ranging from 28 to 43%, but most affected are grassland birds with a decline of 67%, mainly due to loss of native habitat.



On the brighter side, there is good evidence that bird populations can and will recover if we give them the chance. Bird of prey populations, notably the Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle, have rebounded in response to the ban on DDT, a pesticide that caused their eggs to become fragile and break. Waterfowl and other water birds have also increased thanks to conservation efforts such as habitat protection and restoration as well as more stringent enforcement of hunting regulations.

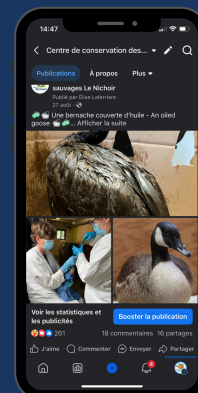
Continued progress is dependent upon widespread understanding of the importance of biodiversity and wildlife conservation to the health of the planet and to future generations. In this regard, wild birds play an important role—they are engineers, pollinators, seed dispensers, scavengers and predators. Le Nichoir's education programs facilitate stewardship in wild-bird conservation by making information accessible and available to all. Here are some examples, starting with the youngest.



Our online two-part curriculum for elementary school educators. "Avian Detectives" is now available in French and English on our website to download for free. This program is focused on direct and indirect human impacts on wild birds and ways to prevent them. It was developed with the support of Nature Canada's Women For Nature. Another example is an outdoor activity guide currently under development for groups of children 3 to 8 years old. Through outdoor play children will learn about the many wonders of birds, inspiring a desire to protect them. The guide will be available in both French and English to download for free in the spring of 2025. The development of this activity guide was made possible by the TD Friends of the Environment Fund.

For our older audiences, our social media platforms are an essential tool in raising awareness and inspiring action. Through our bird patient stories and informative posts, our followers are sensitized to threats to wild birds as well as how to help them. Periodically, we also offer seminars to different community groups and seek face-to-face opportunities to deliver our conservation message at community events. These are great occasions for the public to meet our team and ask questions about our work and about wild birds in general.

For more information on our education programs visit lenichoir.org
You can explore the State of Canada's Birds report at naturecounts.ca/nc/socb-epoc



Specialized Oil-spill Response Training

There are very few individuals and organizations in Canada with the skill set to provide emergency care to oiled birds. To address this issue an Oil-spill Avian Response System (OARS) was conceived by Le Nichoir in 2024 after years of treating and rehabilitating oiled birds from accidental spills across Quebec. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has confirmed its support for OARS through a grant of up to \$117,000 and Le Nichoir is raising an additional \$133,000 to complete the project.

Le Nichoir is partnering with California-based International Bird Rescue, the world leader in this field, to create a network of 40 professionals across Quebec trained in safely treating oiled birds. The project includes three training sessions in 2025 and the construction of a model aquatic aviary, which will serve as a long-term site for aquatic bird rehabilitation in Hudson



The Hidden Dangers of Fishing Gear

Entanglement in fishing gear isn't common, but when it happens, the consequences can be severe. Last year, Le Nichoir treated six birds affected by fishing equipment, including three mallards.

One young duckling had swallowed a hook entering its stomach making surgical removal impossible and leaving euthanasia as the only humane option. Another suffered hooks in her foot and beak, plus damaged flight feathers. Luckily, the hook was easily removable and her superficial wounds healed quickly — she stayed until her feathers regrew and she could fly again. The third had a 4-pronged hook embedded in his thigh but after being removed, the bird recovered after weeks of care and was released.

Discarded fishing gear poses a serious risk to wildlife. Please dispose of it responsibly!



Treasured Partners

Le Nichoir depends on the generosity of the community to support our work in wild bird conservation. Local businesses and organizations donate time, and/or products and services to help keep our operations running smoothly. We would like to give a special thanks to all those who helped. A few of these include:

The Hudson Christmas Craft Fair and organizer Susan Donnelly who for many years has donated the proceeds from the fair. In 2024, over \$5000 was raised!



One of our most long standing supporters, **Rolf C Hagen and Mark Hagen** for continuing to support Le Nichoir through donations and bird supplies.



Animo-Nourri and Caroline Paquette for purchasing bird food and supplies when we most need it.



Mon Ami Pet Supplies in Kirkland for continuing to support Le Nichoir through regular donations from their pet nail clipping. These donations raised more than \$6,700.



Les Jardins Carya and Ramzy Kassouf for generously donating enormous amounts of fresh and organic greens for our ducks and geese.



Les Jardins Gourmand Inc. for once again planting and donating kale and lettuce to fill our veggie garden.



The Ecomuseum who has helped our team in many different ways to support the bird care program. A partner close to our heart.

To organizers Nancy Farnum, Le Corbeau et Le Renard, Verger de Hudson and Allison Robin Smith for inviting Le Nichoir to participate in Art de Vivre.



Daboom Desserts for over the years regularly donating delicious desserts to support our events.

The Hudson Community Pool for raising \$2,101 through their swim-a-thon.



A special thanks to **Timberlea Veterinary Clinic** that hosts our Christmas tree and Flowers for Feathers sale and assists with medical supplies.



Hôpital Vétérinaire St-Lazare and Pierrefonds Animal Hospital for offering their services to ensure our birds have access to veterinary care.

Help Le Nichoir Save Wild Birds

Make a gift to our Operations Fund or, better still, make it monthly

Donations allow our team to do what we do best: take care of wild birds. By giving a recurring monthly donation, you not only support immediate needs, but also help us plan for the future.

Make it a special gift in honour of, or in memory of, someone you love

An “In Honour” donation acknowledges someone special while a gift “In Memory” is a meaningful way of commemorating the loss of someone special and showing your support for their family. If you wish, we will send a card to make your donation known.

Consider making room for Le Nichoir in your will

Remembering Le Nichoir in your will is an easy and effective way to extend your commitment to wild birds long into the future. Speak to your advisor about designating Le Nichoir as beneficiary when drafting or amending your will.

Volunteer your services — we always need help

Volunteers are the backbone of Le Nichoir. We couldn't possibly do what we do without them! Our volunteers help us with many different tasks and are an important part of our family.

Ask your employer to become a corporate donor, or match your donation

Corporate support has a positive impact on our programs and helps support larger initiatives that help our community. Having your donation matched doubles your support!

Shop at La Boutique du Nichoir

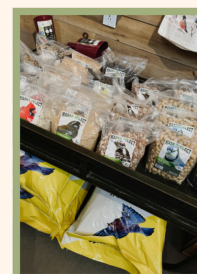
Our onsite nature boutique provides all your bird feeding needs as well as nature-themed items and gifts. The shop is open 7 days a week, 9am to 5pm. Items can also be purchased online at <https://boutique.lenichoir.org/>.

La Boutique du Nichoir



Shop with a purpose

All profits from our boutique support Le Nichoir's programs, including the care of injured and orphaned wild birds and environmental education initiatives.



Open
7 days a week
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.





RaccoonBuster®

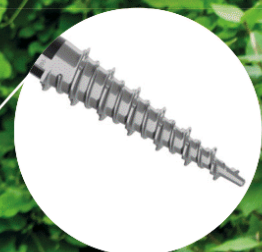


GUARDIAN POLE SYSTEM



**HEAVY DUTY POLE
TO HANG FEEDERS
AND FLOWERS**

Patented Quadra
Cut Screw™



Reduces friction
Increases hold



brome.com

1-800-856-5685

BROME® 