



## THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

P.O. BOX 1557 • WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA 22980 • 540-942-WILD • FAX 540-943-WILD

### ATLANTIC FLYWAY BRINGS MIGRATORY SPECIES TO WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

Songbirds and raptors make use of migration “super highway” through central Virginia

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ####

Waynesboro, Virginia – September 14, 2022 Autumn signifies an important time for many wild birds in North America: time for migration.

Each fall, billions of birds in North America take to the skies during their annual migrations seeking various combinations of warmer climates, better food availability, a lack of predators, or other resources. In the simplest terms, migration involves moving from areas where resources are scarce to areas where resources are plentiful.

In Virginia, migratory birds usually pass through along a predictable geographic range known as the Atlantic Flyway. Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Appalachian Mountains to the west, this migration “super highway” stretches the entire length of the eastern United States and Canada.

The Wildlife Center’s location in Waynesboro, Virginia means the facility is situated at the heart of this route – it also means that during this time of year, migration is on the minds of the veterinary and rehabilitation staff.

Migratory Broad-winged Hawks, Nightjars, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and Warblers are appearing in greater numbers as patients at the Center, as Wildlife Rehabilitation Supervisor Kelsey Pleasants describes:

“These guys are coming in for a lot of different reasons, such as being hit by cars, flying into buildings or windows, or being what we call a failure to thrive [a young adult or juvenile who isn’t successful during their first year of independence].

When we have migratory species in rehab, we have to keep the timeline of the rehabilitation plan first and foremost in our brains, it’s the most crucial part. There’s a definitive window of time where they have to catch that flyway down south and be able to go from a place that’s lacking resources to a place that’s plentiful in resources for them to thrive. We have to make sure that they’re released in time to be able to catch that group headed south.”

The Center’s Outreach and Education staff are focusing on migratory birds this fall, as well. On Saturday, September 17, Outreach Coordinator Connor Gillespie will present two special educational programs featuring the Center’s non-releasable education ambassadors at the 2022 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch Open House in



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Afton. The event is free and open to the public. More details can be found on the Center's Event Calendar at: [https://www.wildlifecenter.org/news\\_events/events/rockfish-gap-hawk-watch-open-house-2](https://www.wildlifecenter.org/news_events/events/rockfish-gap-hawk-watch-open-house-2)

More information on migratory birds at the Center, including easy-to-follow steps you can take to help migrating species on their journeys, can be found at:

[https://www.wildlifecenter.org/news\\_events/news/atlantic-flyway-brings-migratory-birds-wildlife-center-virginia](https://www.wildlifecenter.org/news_events/news/atlantic-flyway-brings-migratory-birds-wildlife-center-virginia)

For more information and to arrange an interview, contact Outreach Coordinator Connor Gillespie. A collection of high-quality photographs of migratory wildlife species seen at the Center are available upon request.

**Press Availability: To schedule an interview, contact Outreach Coordinator Connor Gillespie. Wildlife Center of Virginia staff are generally available Tuesday through Saturday during regular business hours for virtual interviews about migratory patients, online events, and their education and outreach work. A collection of high-quality photographs of patients and ambassador animals are available upon request.**

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### PRESS CONTACT

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*The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an internationally acclaimed teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine. The nonprofit Center has cared for more than 90,000 wild animals, representing 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The Center's public education programs share insights gained through the care of injured and orphaned wildlife, in hopes of reducing human damage to wildlife.*