

Red-tailed hawk rescue #12302018

Bridgette and I were at an Eagle Scout ceremony with Jefferson, our bald eagle, when Bridgette received a call from our dispatcher regarding a red-tailed hawk that had been hit by a car on Coldwater Road by I69. Kaitlyn and Alex, two new volunteers who are working toward being bird handlers, came along for the rescue. The Fort Wayne Police as well as the caller were on the scene helping divert traffic away from the injured bird. The poor fella was on his feet and alert. I was concerned for his safety because traffic was passing close by and I feared he may get hit again. Twice he rejected my attempts to capture him. The situation was too dangerous to keep chasing him, so I decided to use my shirt as a blanket to try and catch him. Success on the first attempt! I secured our patient in the van, thanked the caller and police officer, and went back to grab Bridgette and head to the ICU.

Bridgette performed the initial physical. We found no broken bones and his spine seemed to be intact. The only issues we found was a little dried blood around his beak and he could not see out of his left eye. Bridgette informed me that his optic nerve may be inflamed and there is a chance he may regain his vision. Hopefully he just had his bell rung and makes a quick recovery. I have a good feeling about this guy.

Eric Cole