

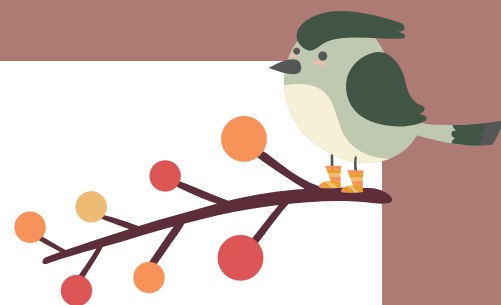


Georgia's Place Bird Sanctuary

20612 E. US. HIGHWAY 14 • HARVARD, IL 60033

Georgia's Place Bird Sanctuary is a 501c3—all donations are tax-deductible. We rescue and provide safe shelter for farmed birds who have been dumped, abused, or neglected; while promoting compassionate living and treatment of all animals through education and advocacy.

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GEORGIASPLACEBIRDSANCTUARY.ORG



HERMIE'S STORY

/ PLUS: SANCTUARY FOR ALL

/ EACH ROOSTER HAS A STORY

/ RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

/ EVENTS + NEWS



IMAGE OF HERMIE

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HUMAN FLOCK

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Joseph Smith

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WRITTEN BY Rehana Mohammed-Smith

EVENTS

MADISON VEGAN FEST Sat, Oct 4

THANKSLIVING FOR THE TURKEYS Sat, Nov 15

MILWAUKEE VEGAN HOLIDAY Sun, Dec 14

» All visitors are required to use a shoe bath before walking around the sanctuary. Shoe covers will be required inside all runs/barns.

You Came to the Right Place, My Dear

It was a warm summer morning in June of last year when I happened to look outside my front door and saw a small, juvenile house sparrow standing there. I opened the door slowly and asked her what she needed, and instead of flying off, she ran away from me to hide under a wood pile. I knew right away that something was awry, so I followed her and was able to scoop her up easily. “You came to the right place, my dear,” I said to her as I carried her inside.

Upon examination, I discovered that she was missing the part of her wing that would have been her hand. Since there was no injury, and no visible scar tissue, just a missing hand with skin and feathers over it, I assumed it wasn’t a predator attack or accident. It looked more like a birth defect. She was at the age where she would have recently left the nest. I brought her in and since she wasn’t releasable, I quarantined her for 30 days, then added her to the aviary.

The quarantine period is necessary to ensure that she didn’t have anything that could readily pass on to our other birds. I always do a fecal exam along with the physical exam, and keep track of weight and daily behavior. Luckily, we had a healthy little sparrow. Our board member, Nancy, fell instantly in love and suggested we name her Hermie.

Once the quarantine period was over and Hermie was put into the aviary, she seemed like a rose that started to finally open up... she bounced around exploring and seeming thankful to again feel the warm sun and breeze through her feathers. She was quite unhappy during quarantine, so being out in the aviary was definitely a nice change for her.

The following morning, I made my coffee, sat down, and looked out my window towards the aviary. My face lit up as I realized there were house sparrows gathered near the outside of the aviary, interacting and chatting away with our little Hermie!

House sparrows are extremely social and will gather in larger flocks once the young birds become independent. It is likely that some of these sparrows were her siblings and parents, and that they were trying to integrate her back with the group. She could now see her family again, but with guaranteed safety.

They visited every day for weeks and she seemed to talk to them about all the goings on. As the weather got colder, visits were reduced, and we brought the birds inside for the winter. Once March brought warmer weather, the birds went back into the aviary, and again, sparrows came to visit. This year, we had another female sparrow admitted that wasn’t able to fly. Once we placed her in the aviary, an instant bond formed between Hermie and her, and they’ve been inseparable ever since. It is in these moments, these stories, where safety, connection, and love create true sanctuary.

“In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.” — KHALIL GIBRAN



Follow us on social media for daily activities, adorable pics/vids with the residents, event reminders, and more!

Georgia’s Place runs strictly on donations, we’d greatly appreciate any support you’re able to provide at GeorgiasPlaceBirdSanctuary.org or, if you prefer, checks made out to **Georgia’s Place Bird Sanctuary** can be sent to **20612 E. US Highway 14, Harvard, IL 60033**

Resident Spotlight: Coral



Last year, 45 animals were seized from a sanctuary in Cedarburg, WI due to neglect.

The scene was atrocious, with dead and suffering animals found around the property. All remaining animals were taken to sanctuaries, including ours. We took in 5 hens, Pepper, Ginger, Betty White, Saffron and Coral. All had roundworm, scaly leg mites and overgrown nails. All 5 hens were afraid of humans, but Coral was by far the most fearful. She screamed every time I came near. In fact, she still does.

Once all the girls were treated and quarantined, they were introduced to the rest of the flock. The pecking order always needs to be re-established when you introduce new birds. Coral was the only one who decided she wasn't ok with being on the bottom. She fought everyone for a spot on top.

I've never met a hen like Coral. She's full of fight. She runs faster than any of the others, jumps higher, screams louder and does not tolerate nonsense.

Each time I have to get her for a health check, she fights me. Once I have her, she screams and screams until the ordeal is over. If I get too close while she's sitting in a nesting box, she pecks me with such velocity that I cannot help but laugh.

I am crazy about this girl. I know her fear comes from where she came from, but her spark is what defines her. I love who she is, and how she fought to be safe.

She's tenacious. If she wants to stand somewhere, she will stand there. If you are in her way, you will move. She takes no nonsense from roosters, and definitely no flak from other hens.

If you visit Georgia's Place, Coral will not be one you can pet. She won't be one you can even talk to. She will, however, be the one to demand your respect, and who will shine like the queen she was always meant to be.

Each Rooster has a Story



Milo came to us three years ago from a neglect situation.

He was badly battered by other roosters and had a nasty open wound. Over the years, he had developed a limp and septic arthritis, and eventually succumbed to complications during surgery, a loss that we just weren't ready for.

His medical journey has been documented on our Facebook page, but this is a tribute to who Milo was.

When Milo first arrived, he was scared, as all new admits are. We treated him medically and he became a house chicken for the first couple of months. Each day I would pick him up, kiss him and put on his diaper. He started to love the attention, and once he started to feel better, he crowed. Coming into roosterhood brings certain characteristics: learning to be bold, protective and loudly announcing your presence. Milo started going after my husband Joe whenever he walked past, only because he was being protective of his momma. Once I brought him outside to mingle with the flock, that protectiveness transferred from me to his girls.

Each time someone would go into the barn, Milo would come after them, especially Joe. Even when Joe walked past the run, Milo would threaten him. When I walked into the run, it would depend on what mood he was in. Most of the time he was ok with me, but he would occasionally go after me. What do most people do when a rooster goes after them? They get angry and take it personally, and sometimes it doesn't end well for the rooster. You wouldn't believe the horror stories I've read.

What did Joe and I do when Milo went after us? Joe would pick Milo up, hold him and pet him until he calmed down, which would only take a minute. I would scoop him up, kiss him incessantly (I just can't help myself, I feel like I'm a rooster kissing fiend), and tell him how crazy I was about him. Then, when we let him back down, he would walk calmly and contently away.

Roosters aren't "being jerks" or being aggressive because they hate you. Roosters have an innate duty to protect. It's in their nature to do anything necessary to protect their flock. Joe and I both know this, and we knew Milo was only doing what he was born to do.

After a while, Milo stopped the attacks. He knew we were safe, and that he wasn't the only one that would do anything to protect the girls. I loved picking him up, kissing him, cuddling him and spending time with him over the years. He was a sweet, beautiful rooster who brought sunshine into every day. He loved being in my arms, and I loved having him there.

Each rooster has a story. They have such beauty, intensity and complexity that is unique to them. They deserve people to tell their story, to tell of their fierce protectiveness, their loyalty, and the deep emotional bonds they form with others. Milo was magnificence. He was elegance, purity, and love. He was and always will be unforgettable.

DONATE TO SUPPORT HEN HEALTH + PROLONG THEIR LIFE SPAN!
One package of implants cost \$867, which covers only five birds for about three months each. We currently have 24 female residents.

» ALL SANCTUARY VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A SHOE BATH BEFORE WALKING AROUND THE SANCTUARY. SHOE COVERS WILL BE REQUIRED INSIDE ALL RUNS/BARNs.

POP-UP EVENTS »
MADISON VEGAN FEST

Saturday, October 4th from 11am to 5pm
Lunny Lake Farm Park
We will be tabling at this fun vendor event!

MILWAUKEE VEGAN HOLIDAY
Sunday, December 14th from Noon to 4pm
Beulah Brinton Community Center
Come visit us at this fun vendor event, too!

ON-THE-PROPERTY EVENTS »
THANKSLIVING FOR THE TURKEYS 
November 15th from 1pm to 3pm
Come and see the turkeys (and chickens) enjoy a ThanksLiving meal prepared just for them! There will be baked goods, hot apple cider and GPBS merch available for purchase.



WILDLIFE REHABILITATION UPDATE

In 2019, I applied to get my wildlife rehabilitation license for the state of Illinois. I had already been licensed in Wisconsin, and had my federal license to rehabilitate migratory birds since 2011. As the sanctuary grew with domestic birds over the years, I had less and less time to take in and rehabilitate wildlife. This year, I decided I had to cut back significantly. I will still be keeping my license to rehabilitate wildlife, but due to the demanding needs of the sanctuary, and having to go back to work full-time, I will be reducing my wildlife intakes from the public. Luckily, Illinois has plenty of wildlife rehabilitators listed on their DNR website, so the wildlife will always have a place to go. Download the PDF at »

[TINYURL.COM/ILDNRWILDLIFEREHAB](https://tinyurl.com/ildnrwildliferehab)

Two years ago, I turned a small portion of our back lawn into a wildflower garden, by killing the grass, raking and lightly rotatilling, and then spreading wildflower seed. Last year, the area was all weeds, but this year, all these beautiful native flowers started to come up! Black eyed and brown eyed susans, echinacea, wild bergamot, phlox, milkweed, cardinal flower... all created a stunning view from my kitchen window. We've attracted a variety of pollinators, and I've been amazed at the beauty of each of them. We've never used poisons on our property... no herbicides, pesticides, etc, so it's always been a haven for insects, and that includes hornets and wasps. We have a wide variety of butterflies and moths, and spring brought us hundreds of lightning bugs.



There are plenty of fruit and nut trees for the animals, including crab apple, mulberry, blackberry, elderberry, walnut, oak, hackberry, wild grape, black raspberry, and hazelnut.

The wildlife that visits us ranges from deer, coyotes and wild turkeys, to cottontails, squirrels, woodchucks, frogs and snakes. Our nocturnal visitors include opossum, raccoon, bats and skunks.

This year we became a recognized certified wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation and will continue to provide a poison-free and enriching habitat for all wildlife. We are also working on a pond that should be in full working order by next spring for our dragonflies, frogs and many others!

Thank Yous ❖ More

We couldn't do this without
OUR MONTHLY SPONSORS »»»»

- | | |
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| Sylvia Asplund | Nancy Kemp |
| Tim Barth | Jesse Le-Seibert |
| Erick Bello | Rachelle Peters |
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|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Kevin Hinkle | Balaji Venkatesan |
| Melissa Justice + DJ Reitzel | Dawn Wireman |
| Katey Kefallinos | |

In Memory of 
CAICOS, MILO (given by Marti and Jim Houge and Pat Dial), CAICOS, AND LEILANI—We will always love you sweethearts. Fly free with the angels.

LONGEAR, the sweet squirrel given by Kaja Waehner

Additional Thank Yous to

- ANNI POPPEN for your donated time
DR. ERIN GEOLITZ, DR. REDERKER, and the amazing staff at Springhill Veterinary Clinic for taking such good care of our feathered family
DR. AUGÉ and Animal Hospital at the Shores for being a wonderful partner in avian health and for taking such great care of our feathered family

- SARA AND NANCY for being a HUGE part of the sanctuary
PAMELA for volunteering on your days off
BECKY AND ANDY for including us in your vegan popups
EVERYONE who has donated online, donated items to our fundraisers, and/or attended our Workdays

“Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.” –GARY SNYDER