

THE WORK OF HEROES:



FIRST RESPONDERS IN ACTION

# WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

*to the* **RESCUE**



by Meish Goldish

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to the **RESCUE**



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Communications Director  
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Debrah Kaiser

Photo Researcher: Picture Perfect Professionals, LLC

### *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Goldish, Meish.

Wildlife rehabilitators to the rescue / by Meish Goldish.

pages cm. — (The work of heroes: first responders in action)

Audience: 7-12.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-61772-748-1 (library binding) — ISBN 1-61772-748-2 (library binding)

1. Wildlife rescue—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL83.2.G65 2013

639.9—dc23

2012034288

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010.

Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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# Wounded!

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In July 2009, a red-tailed hawk was resting on the roof of a building in Saratoga Springs, New York. Suddenly, a rock that had been fired from a **slingshot** flew through the air. It slammed into the hawk, knocking the bird to the ground and breaking its right wing.



This hawk had its wing broken by a flying rock.

Over the next few days, the struggling hawk made its way to a nearby farm. A worker spotted the bird and brought it to Cara Huffman, a **wildlife rehabilitator** who worked in town. Would she be able to **heal** the wounded creature and return it to the wild?



Cara Huffman holds the hawk that was injured. Wildlife rehabilitators, such as Cara, are specially trained to safely handle birds like this hawk.



The red-tailed hawk is one of the most commonly seen hawks in the United States. Its **wingspan** can stretch to more than four feet (1.2 m).

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## *In Cara's Care*

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Cara began to treat the hawk by wrapping its damaged wing in a soft **cast**. She hoped the cast would hold the bird's broken bones in place so that they could heal. She then housed the bird in a large crate for more than six weeks. Keeping the hawk in the crate stopped the wounded bird from flying away and breaking its wing again before it had completely healed.



For two months, Cara patiently cared for the injured hawk. She even fed it rats and mice. As its wing healed, the red-tailed hawk grew stronger. Finally, in September, Cara felt that the hawk was ready to be released into the wild. She took the bird back to the farm where it had been found. Holding the hawk in her hands, Cara let go of the animal and watched it soar into the sky.

Cara releasing the hawk into the wild



The red-tailed hawk is a **bird of prey**. It hunts and eats other animals such as mice and squirrels. It also swoops down from the sky to catch and kill other birds in mid-flight.

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## About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children.  
His book *Army: Civilian to Soldier* was a Children's Choices Selection in 2012.  
He lives in Brooklyn, New York.



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**to the RESCUE**

In July 2009, a red-tailed hawk was perched on the roof of a building in Saratoga Springs, New York. Suddenly, a rock fired from a slingshot hurled through the air. It slammed into the hawk, knocking the bird to the ground and breaking its right wing. A worker who spotted the injured bird brought it to Cara Huffman, a local wildlife rehabilitator. Would she be able to heal the wounded creature and return it to the wild?

Look inside to find out how wildlife rehabilitators use quick thinking and their expert emergency skills to come to the aid of animals when they need help the most. You'll also go behind the scenes to learn how these workers prepare and train for their job so that they are ready to rescue sick, orphaned, and injured animals at a moment's notice.

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS**  
*to the Rescue*

**DOCTORS**  
*to the Rescue*

**FIREFIIGHTERS**  
*to the Rescue*

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**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

[www.bearportpublishing.com](http://www.bearportpublishing.com)

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-748-1

9 0000



9 781617 727481