

WILD AT HEART

Wildlife Center of the North Coast's *Member Newsletter*
August—October 2017



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Caring for Babies, Great + Small: The Joys of Hand-Rearing

Throughout the Spring and Summer months, wildlife rehab centers are bustling with the sounds of baby birds—begging, fluttering, and cheeping. Just like the cacophony of activity in the forest during this time, our staff and volunteers at the Center are sorting bugs, thawing and chopping frozen fish and mice, picking fresh berries, and cutting up fruits for the various species in our care.

Hand-rearing of orphaned and kidnapped babes takes an exhaustive amount of energy, but is well worth the effort—there is nothing quite like spending hours per day for weeks on end, taking small, naked, and helpless chicks and raising them up to fully feathered, self-feeding, and independent birds, ready for release back into the wild. This season has been no exception! We have received an incredible variety of species this year—from the tiny, Golden-Crowned Kinglet to the stunning Osprey—our “artificial nest” has been overflowing since early May.

Many of the “kids” we’ve taken in this year have been “kidnapped” by well meaning individuals, mistaking a brand new fledgling (*right*), just out of the nest, not able to fly very well and still very reliant on its parents. These sweet little creatures are a little more difficult to raise (since they know we aren’t their parents and take a little longer to coax into feeding), but typically thrive and are released within a week or two of arrival, able to forage on their own and fully fly as a normal bird should.

Others come naked, or barely feathered, from destroyed nests, caught by cats, or fallen out of a nest, such as the 15-20 Barn Swallows we received in late July due to high temperatures and chicks trying to escape to a “safer/cooler climate”. Very young chicks such as these need critical care and an experienced hand to survive—as well as the assurance of proper nutrition.

(continued on page 3)



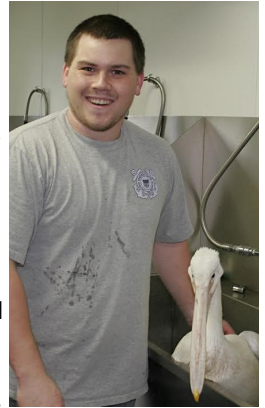
NEWS FROM THE NEST WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOSH SARANPAA

Busy season, for many wildlife rehabilitation facilities, happens to occur over Spring and Summer of each year. For us, however, busy season lasts through Fall and Winter as well, giving us a very small break for “quiet time” in early Spring.

Spring busy-time usually starts with an uptick in adult songbird admissions—caught-by-cat, window-strike, hit by car. We see this increase because these birds are, as they say in the Disney classic *Bambi*, “twitterpated”—out-and-about finding mates, making nests, and subsequently making littler birds (chicks). When the last baby songbirds and raptors are released back into the wild towards the end of Summer, Fall hits—and it hits hard.

Fall-months are when a lot of young seabirds are off their nests with their parents learning to find food, and starting their migrations. We will begin to receive starving juveniles of a few species (murre, grebes, guillemots, auklets) in early Fall—these little guys, we presume, have had a hard time figuring out where the food is and how to catch it, and end up needing our assistance. Later in the Fall, and into Winter, our coastline is devastated by windstorms. The direction of the wind determines whether or not we will get many new patients (if it is a Westerly wind, it pushed the birds to shore). Late Fall, these wind-swept birds will come in in fairly decent body condition, but will be disoriented, sopping wet, and typically hypothermic from the frigid waters penetrating their feathers. Winter, however, brings us animals that are in critical condition—emaciated, hypothermic, and near-death. These animals require round-the-clock care including hourly tube-feedings, medications, and hydration. As we get them stable, fattened up, and strong again, we can release them back where they belong. Once Winter turns to Spring again, we get our short, desperately-needed reprieve, and then we start it all over again.

We value the support of our members immensely—as do our feathered and furred patients. These busy months can really take a toll on our resources as we spend more on food, medications, medical supplies, and water and electricity. We have an incredibly dedicated volunteer team, and staff, but we would simply not be able to help these animals without the financial, and emotional support we receive from you—our members. Thank you all so much for committing to helping our native wildlife!



FEATHERED OR FURRY?

FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE PATIENTS

Say ‘Hello’ to **Osprey**, a stunning North American raptor with an impressive wingspan (5-6 ft wide!) cunning fishing technique, and incredible migration route.

Habitat: Nearly any body of water: saltmarshes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs, estuaries, and even coral reefs

Food: Live Fish - they have a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind, and barbed pads on the soles of the birds' feet help them grip slippery fish.

Migration and Life History: Osprey live up to 20 years of age—the oldest known was at least 25! They breed as far north as Alaska, and migrate south for the winter all the way down to Chile and Argentina; nearly 8,500 miles!

The sweeties pictured above came to us on August 3 after their nest was torn down near Black Lake, Ilwaco, WA. On August 12, we released them back into the wild and were thrilled at their quick and happy reunion with their parents! We're overjoyed to report the family is doing well, and the fledglings are enjoying daily diving and fishing lessons with mom and dad.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

NORMA WISE



Norma Wise is an extraordinary woman—and, in our eyes, a super hero. We have been blessed to have her in our lives and a part of the WCNC team since 2000. She started volunteering after her husband, Dave, brought her a nest full of baby birds that he found on his fishing boat. Coming all the way from Rockaway Beach, Norma found the Wildlife Center, met with Sharnelle, and immediately started volunteering. In 2001, Norma began training to learn triage and critical care, and became our go-to rescuer and triage center down the coast.

Norma and her small team of volunteers from Lincoln City to Rockaway rescue hundreds of patients for us each year, and have driven thousands of miles to assist transporting patients in need up and down the coast. We would not be able to rescue nearly the number of animals each year without the help of Norma and her team.

Thank you, Norma, for caring, treating, and nurturing so many creatures over these past 17 years! You have touched each and every one of their lives—and ours—and we're so grateful for all that you do, and the incredible woman you are.

Would you like to volunteer? WCNC has many opportunities to help, including on-site patient care, facilities maintenance, community outreach, education, and patient transport network up and down the coast. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand can email volunteer@coastwildlife.org for more information.

Save the Date

Founder's Dinner

Friday, November 3rd

Seaside Convention Center

*Celebrating 20 Years of Serving Local Wildlife,
and the Communities that Care for them
along the Oregon + Washington Coast*



Caring for Babies, Great + Small

(from page 1)

We've seen our share of heartbreak this year, as precious souls drift away after agonizing hours of attempted stabilization; otherwise healthy chicks coming in with foot and leg issues that just don't heal; and a handful of beautiful nestlings who just don't make it for reasons unknown. We shed some tears, take a breath, and pull ourselves back together for the next feeding to the sweet babies still with us.

This 2017 season has been one of our most successful hand-rearing seasons to date! Much of the thanks goes to two of our dedicated volunteer "chick moms" - Gennyn

Dennison (above) and Reva Lipe (right)! These fabulous ladies have taken many, many nestlings home with them to care for 13-14 hours per day, 7 days a week for the past 4 months. We have gone through over 60,000 meal worms, and thousands more of wax worms, bottle fly larvae, crickets and more—and still counting!

As our songbird season is winding down, we are preparing to say farewell to the last nestlings and fledglings in our care—currently 24 Barn Swallows, 2 Sparrows, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 American Robins, and 1 Hermit Thrush. It will be bittersweet to release them at last—we've grown accustomed to their darling cheeps and need of our loving care—but a proud moment too.

With the departure of forest birds, comes the arrival of our seabird season, and it's already ramping up! We've seen an overall increase of patients by 10% so far from last year, and are settling in for what looks to be a very busy Fall.



Wildlife Center Staff

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Executive Director

Lindsey Nicolas
Development + Communications

Christina Vitazko-Merten
Wildlife Rehab Technician

Roger Sansom
Facilities Caretaker

Board of Directors

Lisa Lewis, DVM
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Melyssa Graeper
Secretary

Melisa Colvin
Melissa Keyser
Agnes Waliser
Jen Zamon





Birdies + Bogeys

A Seabird Scramble

Charity Golf Tournament for Wildlife Center of the North Coast

Thank You!!

To all of our Sponsors, Golfers and Volunteers who made our very first tournament a success, raising over \$3,000 for our wildlife patients!

~a very special Thank You to Agnes Waliser and Sondra Eaton for an awesome day!

WISH LIST ITEMS

We update this list as items are in short supply.

Costco, Home Depot, Staples, or Petco Gift Cards

Donations to our account at Brim's Farm & Garden or Bayshore Animal Hospital

Rehabilitation Supplies:

Padded Bath Mats
Feather Dusters (real feathers)
Travel-size Hair Dryers
Medium-sized Nitrile Gloves

Office Supplies:

Stamps
Self-seal Envelopes

Cleaning Supplies:

Clorox Bleach and Disinfecting Wipes
High-efficiency Laundry Detergent
Heavy Duty Scrubbing Sponges + Scouring Pads

Facilities Supplies:

Assorted Hand Tools
Tractor with front-end loader

**We currently do not need any towels or sheets for bedding, or paper towels*

**** You can also find our Wish List via Amazon Smile—find the link on our website at CoastWildlife.org**

Sponsors

Arbor Care Tree Specialists
Nikki Fowler, in loving memory of Lois Kinsley
Peninsula Golf Course
Seaside Aquarium
Box K Auto Repair
Bronze Coast Gallery
Bryan & Lisa Lewis
Don & Debbie Stotts
Lost Roo
Oceanside Animal Clinic
Okie's Thriftway Market
Starley Family Dentistry



Salt Hotel & Pub
Depot Restaurant
Riptide Threads
Naked Winery
Cleanline Surf Shop
Beach Books
The Highlands Golf Course
T Paul's Supper Club
Oman & Builders Supply
Adrift Hotel
Snap Fitness



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