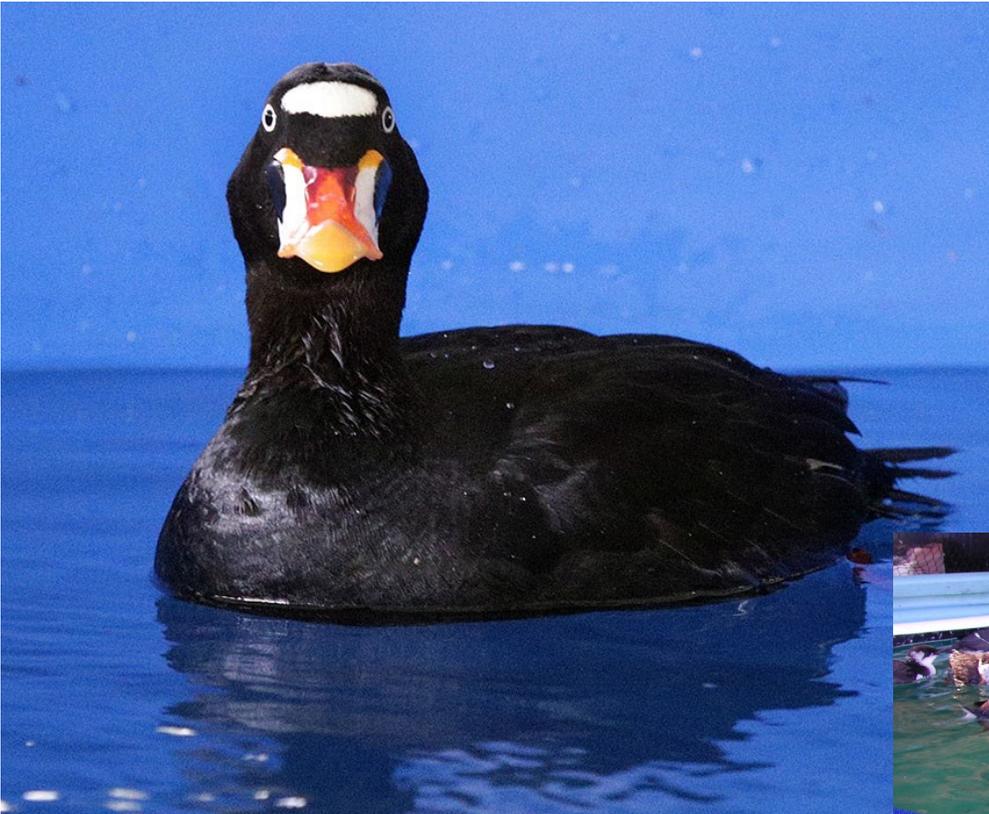


WILD AT HEART

Wildlife Center of the North Coast's *Member Newsletter*
May—July 2017



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The Importance of Pool Time

WCNC has been a haven for thousands of wild animals over the past two decades—everything from beavers and porcupines, to bald eagles, sparrows, ducks, and hummingbirds. We were founded, however, specifically to help Oregon's seabirds. Seabirds are tricky to rehab, as they have many special requirements that are sometimes difficult to provide (or mimic) in captivity. The most important of these is access to water.

We have built our clinic, and its practices, around the needs of these special, water-loving critters by providing filtered pools of varying sizes to accommodate the variety of seabirds we receive - from the little Common Murre (or even tinier Storm-Petrel), up to the Brown Pelican. These pools play an integral role in seabird rehabilitation, and without them, we would not be able to properly care for our patients. These birds, who spend 99% of their lives on the water, are not made for living on the land; therefore, a standard veterinary cage just doesn't work for long term care.

All of our water-loving patients have access to water (or "swim time") at least once a day, with extra swim sessions added as needed for the species or as time allows for our staff and volunteers. One of our favorite experiences is watching the happy moment when our patients get into the bath, dive and coo, and fluff their feathers! *(continued on page 4)*



NEWS FROM THE NEST WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOSH SARANPAA

I am an avid backyard-bird-feeder. Every morning, I throw birdseed out on our back patio for the “neighbors”, as we call them. We get quite a variety at our place, too: red-winged blackbirds, white- and golden-crowned sparrows, song sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, band-tailed pigeons, steller’s jays, house and purple finches. I am always amazed at how healthy the wild birds seem—active, plump, and strong. Feeding the birds in your backyard is vital to some of the birds, as well. Over the cold, Winter months, birds can use all the energy they can get their little beaks on. However, our feeders can be dangerous, and at times, deadly, too.



A common problem with backyard feeders, where birds congregate in large groups, is the spread of disease. Recently our facility admitted 7 female House Finches that had “House Finch Eye Disease”. The birds we took in had horribly swollen eyes, so much so that they couldn’t see. Without our help, they would have starved to death. House Finch Eye Disease is an infection that is treatable if started before permanent eye damage sets in. You can avoid contributing to the spread of diseases like this by keeping your feeders clean and keeping the areas around your feeders clean. Try to make a habit of completely cleaning your feeders (with bleach) every two weeks or so. In addition, make sure that the seed in the feeders aren’t sprouting or getting moldy (this alone can be deadly). When you clean your feeders, make sure that seeds and seed hulls aren’t accumulating under the feeder—this can grow bacteria that can infect the ground foraging birds like dark-eyed juncos. If you notice an ill bird at your feeder—swollen, crusty eyes, growths on feet or base of bill, lethargic—take down your feeders and clean them right away, and keep your feeders down for a couple of weeks. This will help prevent the sick bird from infecting the rest of the flock that comes to your feeders (be prepared for the little guys to guilt trip you by sitting right outside your window, giving you puppy-dog eyes).

If you happen to find, and capture, an unwell bird at your feeder, please call us and we will do what we can to help the little fella out!

Until next time!



FEATHERED OR FURRY?

FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE PATIENTS

Say ‘Hello’ to **Brush Rabbit**, a type of Cottontail, found only in the Western US, from the Columbia River south to Baja.

Habits: Active at dawn, dusk and overnight, rarely in daylight hours

Food: Grasses, clover, other plants, shoots and leaves. Green clover is their favorite food.

Nesting Notes: The young are born altricial and stay in a lined and covered nest in the ground for about 14 days, opening their eyes on approximately the 10th day. The mother comes to feed her young at night.

If you find a rabbit’s nest with babies, please leave them alone! Most baby rabbits don’t survive once in the care of humans. It is normal for mom to leave them alone in the nest all 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:

Mealworms, Waxworms, Fresh Berries
Feather Dusters (real feathers)

Office Supplies:

Stamps

Rehab/Medical Supplies:

Travel-size Hair Dryers

Cleaning Supplies:

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

Facilities Supplies:

Assorted Hand Tools
Heavy Duty Chipper

**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**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BETH WISE



We've heard from many of you out there who LOVE the pictures and videos we share of the wildlife patients currently in our care... for most of these fabulous photos, we have volunteer, Beth Wise, to thank—and so much more!

Beth started volunteering with us in July 2016 after a dear friend passed away. "I knew that the best way to honor her would be to find a way to make the world a better and/or more beautiful place, because that's what she did for everyone whose life she touched. The Wildlife Center was the most natural way for me to do just that." When asked what her favorite thing is about volunteering, like many of us here, Beth couldn't pick just one—from assisting with rescues and transporting patients in need, to swimming and bathing the birds, or taking Flynn (our American Kestrel) on his daily walk—there are so many fulfilling and exciting moments.

Thank you, Beth, for capturing the beauty and majesty of the wildlife we care for, making us smile every Sunday, sharing your stories, ideas, and especially your enthusiasm for working with such a wacky, nature-loving team!

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.



EVENTS CALENDAR

It's looking up to be a very busy Summer season! Stop by and see us at these great community events all along the coast.

MAY

14th: Astoria Sunday Market, 12th Street in Astoria; Sundays 10am-3pm

25th: Seaside Aquarium's 80th Anniversary Party, Thursday 9am - 6pm
Come celebrate 80 years with Seaside Aquarium! All proceeds from admission + seal food sales will support WCNC and Friends of Haystack Rock.

28th: Astoria Sunday Market

JUNE

3rd: Jetty Fishery's 10th Annual Crab Derby, Rockaway Beach; starts at 9am

11th: Astoria Sunday Market

17-18th: Northwest Garlic Festival, Ocean Park WA; 10am-5pm + 10am-4pm

25th: Astoria Sunday Market

JULY

9th: Astoria Sunday Market

23rd: Astoria Sunday Market

Stay tuned to our website for more event additions, including:

Ilwaco Saturday Market, Saturdays 10am-4pm

Tillamook Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-2pm

Cannon Beach Farmers Market, Tuesdays 1-5pm

Clatsop County Fair, August 1-5th

Tillamook County Fair, August 9-12th



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Lindsey Nicolas
Development + Communications

Christina Vitazko-Merten
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* Interested in becoming a member of our Board? Contact Josh at 503.338.0331*

IMPORTANCE OF POOL TIME (CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

From a more clinical standpoint, the pools help captive, heavy-bodied birds avoid getting keel lesions (basically a “bed sore” on the bird’s chest from sitting on a solid surface for too long), and sores on their feet. It is very difficult to get these types of sores to heal once they’ve appeared, and in most cases, the patient cannot go back into the water while the sores heal, which can exacerbate the problem. The best solution is to get the bird on water as fast as possible and keep them there until release.

Equally as important as keeping the sores at bay, the pools help the birds get, and stay waterproofed. All birds must be waterproofed in order to survive in the wild. Being waterproofed means that a bird can be in the rain, or in the ocean, and not get wet or cold—or drown, in some cases. So what is “waterproofing”, anyway? You may have watched a duck dive under the water, come back up and then see the water bead off of its back - that bird was waterproofed! (see more on waterproofing below)

Our pools are designed to ensure that the birds aren’t sitting in fish oils or their own feces, and the pools’ filters keep fresh water running day and night, which keeps the birds clean and maintains their beautiful, waterproofed feathers. The pumps to the filters are strong enough to provide a small current in the pools, allowing the birds to get in some strength conditioning, as well.

In the “pre-release pool enclosure”, our patients can be seen swimming, diving, and bathing in their pools all day long - building strength in their legs and flight muscles, keeping their feathers beautifully clean, and preparing for their return to the wild.



RECENT RELEASE PHOTOS!!



What is Waterproofing???

Waterproofing is a lot of things combined: clean, debris-free feathers, frequently and thoroughly preened (this is when birds methodically run their feathers through their bills while grooming) feathers, and feathers that are conditioned with preen gland oil. All of these factors help keep a bird waterproofed. In captivity, when seabirds are eating oily fish (and splashing the oils all over themselves), they get their feathers very dirty which, inadvertently, causes them to lose their waterproofing. Many birds we receive have been rolled around in the surf and along the dirty, sandy shore, and are entirely un-waterproofed. They are soaking wet, down to the skin, and often cold and covered in sand. We typically have to give them a Dawn dish soap “bath” to help remove all of the oils and debris (Yes, their commercials are true!). Once the birds are squeaky-clean, we put them into one of our filtered pools where they must bathe themselves, and preen their feathers—it’s a team effort; we wash them in Dawn, then they must clean themselves again, and continually care for their feathers, in order to become (and stay!) waterproofed.

THANK YOU BUSINESS SPONSORS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

