

Wild Care's Duck Tales Monthly E-News

To learn more about Wild Care, visit us online
www.wildcarecapecod.org



Director's Message • August 2020

Wild Care Friends,

I hope this message finds you healthy and well!

We are as busy as ever, with over 120 animals in our Clinic! While baby birds are slowing down, the second litter of gray squirrels of the season have already begun to arrive.

Over the years we have come to know the seasons well and what to expect.

Baby Goldfinches are often an indicator that the baby bird season is coming to a close.

Their late season nesting corresponds directly with thistle production. The seeds are a staple food for their young and they use the downy thistle fibers to line their nests. (Spoiler Alert - We got our first baby goldfinch!)

Wild Care's Wildlife Helpline is also an indicator of the seasons! Our Helpline has already received nearly 6,000 phone calls this year. Kate Diggs, our Volunteer Coordinator, has been answering our Helpline four days each week. In that time she has found that orphaned songbird and rabbit calls comprised most of the calls received in May - July. (Songbird-related calls went up from 19% in May, to 36% of calls received by Kate in June!) The songbird related phone calls are slowing down, and we fully anticipate many of the calls this month to be squirrel related. These statistics give voice to the importance of our Helpline and our work in the community.

We are so grateful that because of your support we will always be on the other end of

the line, providing support to you for animals in need, and helping to prevent human-wildlife conflict.

Executive Director, *Stephanie*

Above: Eastern Cottontail Rabbit. Photo by Kristine Beebe, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator

**Please consider making a [Donation](#) today,
We need you as much as you need us!**



The Galapagos: A Virtual Tour & Invitation!

Join Stephanie online Thursday August 27th at 7pm for a vivid photographic presentation of the eastern Galapagos Islands! Learn why the unique flora, fauna and fragile ecosystems of the Galapagos are a must see for all wildlife enthusiasts, and why they deserve our protection for generations to come!

And...

Learn how you can support Wild Care and join Stephanie on a Galapagos adventure in 2021 with National Geographic!

Please RSVP to [here](#) to secure your space for the talk.
Your Zoom link will be provided after you RSVP.

Photo: Elizabeth Brooke

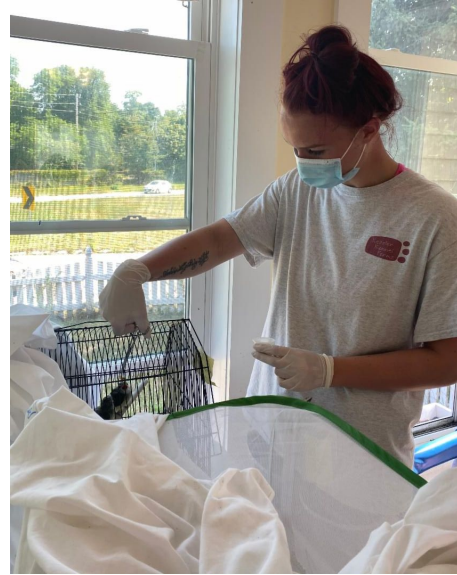
Seasonal Rehab Assistant Spotlight: *Rachel Wojciak*

Hello! My name is Rachel Wojciak, and I am from Granby, Connecticut. My family owns a house in Harwich, which is where I have been staying the past two summers to work at Wild Care!

I just wrapped up getting my associates degree at Northwestern Connecticut Community College this past spring. I am considering a bachelor's

degree at some point, but I am currently taking a more “hands on” approach and have spent the past two years working with animals directly. I would like to have a more specific career or position in mind before returning back to school so I can work directly towards that goal...whichever path I end up choosing, I know it will be with animals!

Wild Care has provided me with so many opportunities and incredible experiences the past two summers that it is hard to know where to begin. This position has allowed me to realize how much I love this field of work and appreciate every single day I spend at this facility. I would love to be able to learn enough through volunteering and likely more schooling to be able to apply for a wildlife rehabilitation license within the next few years! That would be a dream come true.



It's hard to pick a favorite activity at Wild Care, but some of my top picks are feeding the crows, any interactions with turtles or snakes in general is such a treat, and being able to admire patients you typically don't see up close in the wild such as gannets or turkey vultures. I spend most of my days feeding the baby birds we have in our clinic which is also incredibly rewarding and very heartwarming.

I am very blessed to have been able to spend the past two summers at this facility and I would like to say that the people who work for Wild Care are the most dedicated, selfless, passionate, and hardworking individuals I have ever met! Patients are always put before everything else, even if that means working much longer days than scheduled. I am so honored to be part of a community that is so devoted to healing and rehabilitating critters of all shapes and sizes and providing them with that second chance they wouldn't have been gifted with in the wild.

We are thrilled that Rachel returned to work with us again this summer. Lucky us!

Thank you to the [Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation](#) for generously funding two seasonal rehab positions this year. Our seasonal assistants are a tremendous asset to Wild Care's work and programs."

Summer 2020 Intern Spotlight: Heather Gordon



"I am from St. Louis, MO. I just graduated from Gordon College in Wenham, MA with a Bachelor's in Biology and a minor in English.

I applied to the Wild Care internship because I am seeking to apply to vet school in the future, and I wanted some practical experience with wildlife.

Although I have helped care for baby birds before, I wanted to have experience with a larger organization that dealt with a larger variety of animals to thereby gain a deeper understanding of what it's like to work in the wildlife rehabilitation field.

My favorite part of the internship thus far is getting to learn new things and watching/helping with exams."

Thank you to the [Kelley Foundation](#) for funding our 2020 Internship Program.

Take Me Too?

Adventures of a Volunteer
By Amy Sanders

July 30, 2020, I was sitting in my studio painting. Caring for my extremely old dog has occupied much of my time of late, and I had bowed out of field rescue for a bit when she became fearful of me leaving her side. Fearful in the extreme I might add, but that's another story.



Suffice it to say, she has been put on a new medication and is doing much better with that. But then, I was sporting a sore ankle, so I hadn't put myself back on the list. As is often the case however, the universe had other plans for me this day.

So, sitting with my beloved dog at my feet, the phone rings and it's Kate at Wild Care. Yes, she knows I'm not on the rescue list right now, but Peter, dear Peter who has been taking all the Outer Cape rescues, is really being overworked (her words I'm guessing and not his), and would I possibly be available for an injured gull (a mere 4 miles away from me)? "Well, I can't walk too well," I say, but she responds in her uniquely gentle voice, "It's only a transport, but..." and I felt compelled to say yes, of course, before she can finish her sentence. I'm such a sap for animals.

So, the antique dog goes next door for care while I'm gone, and I limp to my car. Only a transport... [Continue Reading Here](#)

Humane Traps? Not Always...

Animal Care Coordinator
By Jennifer Taylor

A couple of weeks ago Wild Care received a call about a snake they had unintentionally caught in a *Hav A Heart* trap. It was stuck between the bars and could not get out.



To get an idea of the trap's size we asked what they were hoping to catch. The answer was "Chipmunks". The next question was why were they trapping chipmunks. "Because there were too many".

Hmmmm... we decided to stick to the problem of the distressed snake for the moment. We asked if they could put the whole cage into a pillow case and drive it to us. It was then that we were told it was a ten foot long snake and they would not be comfortable doing that. (I have noticed that the size of animals increases in your mind when you are afraid of them!) [Continue Reading Here](#)

Summer 2020 Appeal

Dear Friend of Wild Care,

It has been a challenging year for many, including Wild Care. If there has been one positive aspect during COVID-19, it is that wildlife has had a chance to spread their wings. More people than ever before are turning to nature in their own backyards, as a respite from unfortunate circumstances. Fortunately, COVID did not stop the incredible stories of success and hope, taking place behind our doors. Despite quarantine and less people mingling about, Wild Care received an abundance of animals this summer. Even while operating with less staff & volunteers, we never closed our doors to them.

Through this trying time, *you never closed your hearts to us*. It has been the generosity of Wild Care's supporters like you who have enabled us to continue our life-saving work during COVID. We could not do this without you. Together, we are saving wildlife, one animal at a time.

“Here are some stories of the everyday miracles that your support enabled this spring and summer.” [Continue Reading Here](#)



Photo: Kerry Reid



Common Loon. Photo: Kerry Reid



Wild Turkey. Photo: Kerry Reid



E. Painted Turtle. Photo: Kerry Reid



Eastern Gray Squirrels. Photo: Kerry Reid



Barn Swallow Fledglings. Photo: Kerry Reid



Want To Help While You Shop?

We would be grateful if you used our [Smile](#) account through Amazon! There is no additional cost to you, but there is a nice donation to Wild Care!

If you are already a customer of Amazon and have already registered us as your charity, don't forget every time you shop to go to <https://smile.amazon.com>, instead of their standard site.

You Can Now Shop Amazon Smile Through Your Phone App!

And don't forget to take a look at our [Amazon Wish List Here](#)



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About Wild Care

Since 1994, Wild Care has treated injured, ill and orphaned native wildlife for release back into the wild, capable of independent survival. We have prevented wildlife casualties through public education and counseling, and engaged the community in conservation services through volunteerism. Wild Care does not charge the public for our services. We accept wildlife regardless of a rescuer's ability to make a donation; and we never compromise quality of care or the dignity of an animal's life for fundraising purposes.

