



Every animal matters.

## FALL & WINTER 2024

Wild Care Friends,

This year, we've provided care to over 1,700 animals. Winter storms will bring us more animals in need of help. We are grateful to be here serving Cape Cod's wildlife and community. We've asked our staff to reflect on their most memorable stories of the season.

Thank you for helping us to make these stories come true!

*Stephanie Ellis*  
Executive Director



Julia was a very large Common Snapping Turtle who had been hit by a car and came in with two cracked areas on her shell. She was also full of eggs. We do not normally name our patients but our interns called her Julia... and kept on calling her Julia. Eventually she became Julia to all of us.

We kept her in our largest aquarium and it was awesome to watch her behaviors myself, and to see the interns observe this beautiful creature for the first time. Having to handle her was not easy and required group efforts. She was a good team-builder! Interns learned that yogurt containers are tools for restraining the head of snappers for injections, and that they have super long necks when they snap.

We invented an examination box which almost worked well, and does have future potential. Eventually we realized we could examine her while in the water which was SO MUCH LESS STRESSFUL for her. We kept checking for proper healing through September, and crossing our fingers we could release her before it got too cold. On October 21st, I released her into the only pond close to where she was found.

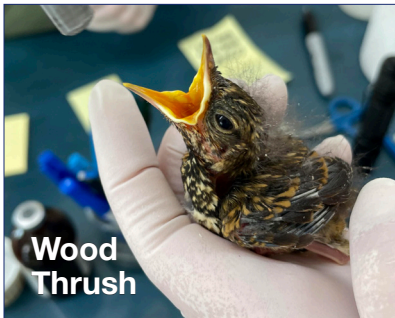
*Jennifer Taylor*, Animal Care Coordinator



Common Snapping Turtle

This tiny snapping turtle was brought to us from Hyannis after someone noticed a group of chickens pecking at him. We kept him for about a week just to make sure there was no head trauma or injuries we couldn't initially see. All he did during that week was burrow in his moss which is normal behavior for this time of year. I brought him to a quiet pond down the road from where he was found and he swam away so fast. The attached photo is him right before release.

*Chelsea Peck*  
Wildlife Rehabilitator



Wood Thrush

Amidst all the fascinating animals we see at Wild Care occasionally the unexpected occurs. A tiny robin nestling was concerning us, being very undersized and its behavior a bit odd. The feathers started coming in and the little bird's appearance changed. Coppery brown all over revealed a wood thrush, not a robin! Such an unusual baby for us to care for, as they are not a common breeding bird on the Cape. It was such a joy to watch the development and charming behavior of this bird up until it was released!

*Leah Myrbeck*  
Wildlife Rehabilitator



White-Footed Mouse

Late summer, I was called to Provincetown by a heartbroken resident, desperately hoping I could extract a mouse from a bird feeder. She saw him daily feeding in this feeder but today he had reached a bit too far was stuck. I arrived to find a little hind end sticking out of the feeder. He just didn't know to tuck in his little elbows. I ended up sitting down on the deck with the feeder, taking the top off, and pulling him forward into the feeder, whereupon I set him free, to zoom off into the woods.

*Amy Sanders*  
Wildlife Rehabilitator



**Garv**

An important part of Wild Care's mission is educational outreach. It is such a joy to watch the way people of all ages react to meeting our Educational Ambassador Animals. Meeting and learning about the interesting animals that live here brings a better understanding of their importance in our environment. Our educational Eastern Box Turtle Garv is usually a very curious although wiggly guy. On a recent visit to a Truro preschool he was especially interested when the students sang to him. When they started singing he stopped his wiggling, stretched his neck out further than we'd ever seen before, and couldn't get enough of their sweet songs.

**Eva Carbonaro**

Director of Marketing, Outreach & Events



**Rock Pigeon**

At Wild Care it's drought or deluge when it comes to pigeons. What set Rock Pigeon #1658 apart was not striking plumage or racing pigeon bands, but his abrasive behavior that endeared him to the animal care staff and myself. He would stand as close to the front of his crate as possible and wait for someone to come close enough to peck at through the bars. It never hurt, but between the pecks and the constant cooing he certainly got his message across. We determined that the pigeon was a domestic bird and contacted our pigeon specialist to re-home him.

**Gionet Hasson**

Wildlife Rehabilitator



Before

**Northern Cardinal**

After

This male Northern Cardinal was brought to Wild Care after it was injured by a vehicle strike. The bird suffered massive head trauma and severely swollen eyes. Our staff placed the bird into oxygen and provided intensive care for several days. It was touch and go. The first photo shows the bird one week after admission. We are thrilled to share that this bird made a complete recovery and was released. This is what it's all about! Fly free, red bird...

**Kerry Reid**

Wildlife Rehabilitator

## **DONATE TODAY** *There are many ways you can help...*

### **Make a one-time donation**

Help us through the remainder of the year. Your donation helps provide care to over 1,700 animals.

Use the QR Code below to make a donation online!

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Support our wildlife patients into the future!  
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Let your passion for wildlife become your legacy. Leave a bequest through your will or living trust.

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If you are aged 72 or older with an IRA, this might be just the thing for you. Take advantage of tax-free distributions, and support Wild Care.

### **Appreciated Stock**

Donate stock directly to Wild Care and avoid paying capital gain taxes.

### **Volunteer Your Time**

[www.wildcarecapecod.org](http://www.wildcarecapecod.org). Click : "Volunteer"

**Virtual Wild Care** - Visit our Facebook page, @WildCareCapeCod, for a list of upcoming talks and events. Join us on Facebook Live, Fridays at 2:00 PM- for patient updates, virtual tours and more.

If you are already a Monthly Sustainer - we deeply appreciate your ongoing support.

*Thank you for donating now, and helping us to keep the "Care" in Wild Care!*

*Stephanie Ellis*

Stephanie Ellis  
 Executive Director, Wild Care, Inc.

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