

Summer 2019

Dear Friend of Wild Care

What a summer! In July alone, Wild Care received 360 animals, a record number of patients for July. Every year, we receive more and more animals in need. I am frequently asked the question, “What do you think is causing such a large increase in animals brought to Wild Care every year?”

There are several factors which I believe account for the annual increase in animals that we have seen at Wild Care...

1. Increased awareness of the cause. Wild Care has worked diligently to get our name out in the community as a place to bring wildlife in distress. Through our Wildlife Helpline, public education programs, social media and web platforms, monthly e-news, local media sources, local businesses, and word of mouth from wonderful supporters like you - Wild Care has quickly become a household name on Cape Cod, and we are grateful!

2. The summer population on Cape Cod is increasing annually. With a greater number of people, brings a greater number of threats to wildlife.

3. The climate is changing. Warmer temperatures and intensified storms are driving an increase in wildlife-related mortality events.

3. Technology at our fingertips. The rapid sharing of information via phone and internet has increased the awareness of wildlife-related issues, both locally and globally. Widespread access to information allows people to make informed decisions, and get animals into the hands of local wildlife rehabilitators, quickly. In July of 2019, 10,502 people found Wild Care using Google!

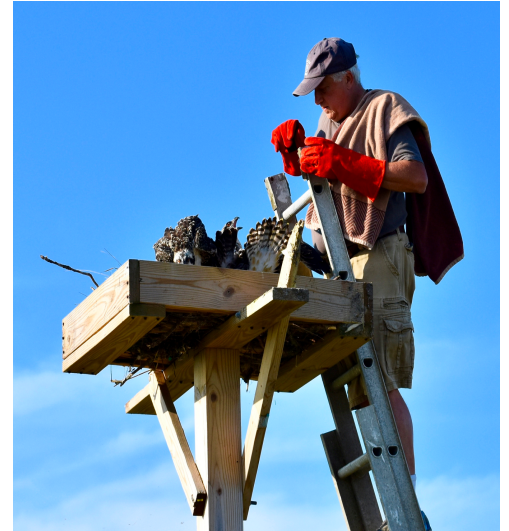
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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME:

Speaking of social media, you may have read some of our recent success stories online! In July, tornadoes swept through mid to lower Cape, bringing us dozens of animals including orphaned songbirds, baby squirrels and 9 Osprey chicks!

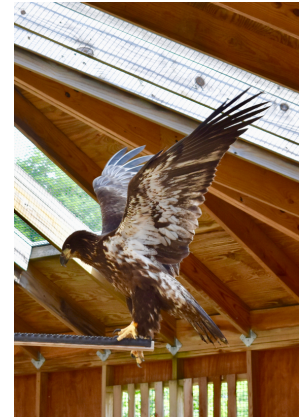
Immediately following the storms, Wild Care began receiving calls on our Helpline. We responded to eleven Osprey nests with chicks that were displaced from the tornadoes. Of the eleven nests, we were able to locate and retrieve nine chicks, from five separate nests.

We are happy to report, with the help of volunteers, local fire departments and Eversource MA, we were able to repair nesting platforms, and place eight of the chicks back into their nests with their parents and siblings, within just a few days. Yeah!



WHAT BIG BIRDS:

Wild Care rescued two juvenile Bald Eagles in July. One of the birds was rescued by Wild Care staff in Harwich, followed by a volunteer rescue of another eagle in Truro, just a few days later. Both birds were exhibiting abnormal behavior in the wild, and showed signs of starvation and other health issues, likely due to being young and inexperienced hunters. They have recovered, and are gaining strength in Wild Care's large aviary raptor aviary. We are excited to get them back out into the wild!



A RIBBITING RESCUE:

It's not only the large animals that get our attention... On Friday, August 16th, we experienced a ribbiting rescue! We received a call from Scott Campbell of Cardinal Construction. He was on a job that required him to fill in a large, in-ground swimming pool. However, the pool had been left untouched for 10 years, and had literally turned into a pond. It was FILLED with frogs! He could not fill in the pool, knowing there were animals in it. So he called us. The next morning, Wild Care Rehab Assistant Jayne Fowler, and I arrived. What ensued next, was an incredible effort, which I refer to as: Operation Frogger.



For over 5 hours, Scott and his business partner Paul, Jayne and I, scooped up every single frog and tadpole we could find. This involved using nets, draining the pool, wading through the pool, sifting through the muddy bottom of the pool using a bulldozer bucket, and breaching a pool wall - to get to the very last frog. By the end of Operation Frogger, we had retrieved 96 frogs, hundreds of tadpoles, and one Snapping Turtle, from the swimming pool. They were all released in a pond located across the street from this backyard. Success!

Success stories like these take time and precious resources!

Please consider donating today.

There are many ways you can help...

- **Make a one-time donation** - Help us through the remainder of this busy season.
- **Become a Monthly Sustainer** - Support our wildlife patients into the future! Sign up at <https://www.wildcarecapecod.org/donate-today/>
- **Become a Planned Giver** - Make Wild Care a beneficiary of your estate. Contact Executive Director Stephanie Ellis, sellis@wildcarecapecod.org.
- **Attend a Wild Care event!** www.wildcarecapecod.org

If you are already a Monthly Sustainer - we are grateful for your support!
We deeply appreciate your willingness to support the work and mission of Wild Care.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Ellis". The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Stephanie Ellis, Executive Director Wild Care, Inc