

Wild Care's Duck Tales Monthly E-News

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



Director's Message • September 2020

Wild Care Friends,

During COVID, we are grateful for technology which keeps us connected with our top fans and supporters like you! Thanks to Zoom, we get to see your faces too. <3

We hope you've been enjoying our weekly, "TGIWF" (Thank God It's Wild Friday) Facebook Live every Friday at 1:00 PM @wildcarecapecod, and enjoying our *almost* weekly zoom talks. This is our way of showing you a sneak peek at what we do, and giving back for all your support.

We most recently hosted Gary Menin, Director of MASS- RATS (Massachusetts Chapter of Raptors are the Solution) for a Zoom talk about the harmful impacts of rodenticides on wildlife. In case you missed it, watch it on our [YouTube channel](#).

Sadly, this talk hits close to home for us. Nearly every large raptor that we see has some level of rodenticide exposure. This immature Red-tailed Hawk was found in a backyard in Chatham. It had been sitting in the yard for several hours, and the homeowners called us because they knew there was something wrong. We rescued the hawk and found that it was actively bleeding from the mouth and was extremely weak. Not only was the bird poisoned by secondary rodenticide poisoning from eating tainted rodents, it also had a wing injury. We started Vitamin K treatment and supportive care immediately. Fortunately, the hawk made a full recovery and was just released!

Check out Gary's talk to learn tips on how you can humanely deter or control rodents while keeping their natural predators like hawks and owls, safe. Raptors are the solution!

Executive Director, *Stephanie*

Above: Red-tailed Hawk. Photo by Kerry Reid. Below: Red-tailed Hawk Video by Intern Heather Gordon.



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



Thankful Thursday Campaign - 9/17

- Did you know that in August alone, we spent \$487.90 on 100,000

mealworms, waxworms and crickets for our patients? Our 6 Chimney Swifts alone ate ~4,200 mealworms and crickets per week. That's about 100 bugs per bird/per day! (They were just released!)

- Did you know that our electricity bill in August was \$670.52? Not only do we need to keep the lights on, we are running our seabird pools, multiple heating sources, incubators, freezers, refrigerators & more! (Solar is not available right now due to our impending remodeling project!)

- Did you know that we receive over 300 orphaned songbirds in the spring and summer? Many of these birds initially require hand-feeding every 20 minutes from dusk until dawn, and are with us for a period of 3-6 weeks.

Did you know that one of the ways we fund all of this is through fundraising events & educational programs?

Events make up 27% of our budget. Since Covid-19 hit we have had to cancel and/or restructure multiple events, leading to a deficit...

So we are asking you to contribute to our Thankful Thursday Campaign!
Watch for our email on Thursday Sept. 17th to see how you can help!



Trash Your Tackle!

Every two weeks, our Volunteer Michael Brown visits each of our Trash Your Tackle receptacles located in Chatham. Michael empties the receptacles and catalogs all of the contents. The photos above show just a portion of what was collected that will be safely disposed of or recycled.

A HUGE thank you to everyone that used these containers!

Why does this matter?

Every year fishing debris (and trash!) injures our seabirds, beloved pets and even children! Let's keep the Cape clean and safe and please #trashyourtackle.

For more on this program or to support some of our amazing sponsors [click here](#).



Kerry Reid's World Of Birds!

Kerry Reid, admin and rehabber extraordinaire, has been with us since our founding, and this article could not be more deserved!

We love you, Kerry. Thank you for all that you do for Wild Care and wildlife (and dogs and parrots, parakeets and humans!)

[Read the article here](#) in the Provincetown Independent.

Hummingbirds!

This gorgeous hummingbird aviary was designed and built by Jennifer Taylor, our Animal Care Coordinator and is located at Stephanie's home. This aviary was made possible by YOUR donations on Giving Tuesday in December of 2019. Stephanie released 3 baby hummingbirds last week!



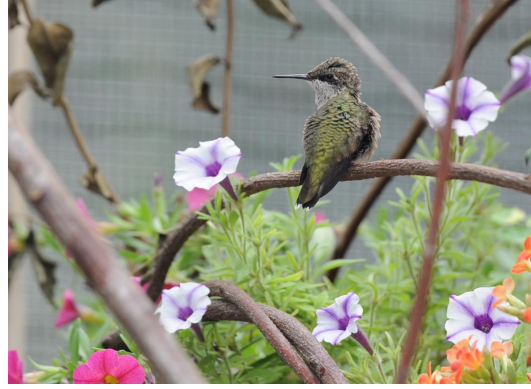
"I'm happy to report that I continue to see two of the three! One even returns to the aviary for a drink and a rest, and slept in the aviary last night. Words cannot express how grateful I am to have this beautiful space for these birds. Thank you all for your support. It makes a difference in more ways than you know." Executive Director, Stephanie

Thank you also to Debbie West for donating a container of hummingbird Nectar and a special feeder!

On release day, a baby Ruby-throated Hummingbird sits on a branch at Stephanie's home, where she rehabilitates hummingbirds for Wild Care. The hummingbird was found in New Hampshire and was initially too young to

be out of its nest.

Photo: Merrily Cassidy/Cape Cod Times



We are so grateful to Susan Brueckner, **Nauset Pawsit** for transporting the bird to us all the way from Hudson, NH and stopping to feed it along the way. Thank you, Susie!

*"I specialize in hummingbirds in MA through Wild Care. It was an honor to care for this little bird."
Executive Director, Stephanie*



A "Loony" Adventure

Adventures of a Volunteer
By Amy Sanders

August of 2020 was HOT—the hottest in 120 years of record keeping according to WBUR. I spent much of it in my studio. As you might remember from last month, I've been nursing a sore ankle bone (no clue as to why as is often the case as we age). Suffice it to say I'm not in the best shape I've ever been in when I get a call from Wild Care. There is a report of a badly injured gull on Ballston Beach (Ballston again too!). Could I possibly go?



There are no further details, except for the cell number of the caller. I call, no answer. Not surprising as Truro isn't known for great cell reception. So I text the number—sometimes texts go through even in low reception areas. It's several minutes before I get a short reply. Yes, injured gull, to the left of the path.

Reluctantly I decide I can do this. A bit of exercise will probably be good. So I drive to Ballston, ask the lot attendants if they've heard anything and am greeted with blank stares. Ok, I park, hike over the dune path to the beach (just when did that dune path get so high??). I look to the left, and see absolutely no sign of a bird. For those of you who know the beach, it is easy to see a long way in both directions, and there aren't a lot of people there to obscure the view. Hmm. I look right. Nothing. So I walk to the

nearest group of folks sitting chatting with their sunhats. Not too close (Covid, right?), I ask, have they heard anything about an injured gull?

[Continue Reading Here](#)

Donation Box Collections Breaks A Record!

Despite COVID, Bob Bullard, hit an all-time high with his donation boxes this month!

He and his brother Joel collectively manage over 30 boxes on the outer, lower and mid-Cape.

Bob's boxes in August were the highest (total) in the 3 years he has been collecting at \$830!



Our Donation Box income is a very important revenue stream for Wild Care. In 2019 these donation boxes brought in nearly \$10,000!

We had a slow start this year - and we know it has been a difficult one. We greatly appreciate everyone's generosity!

A Message to Our Volunteers, from Our Executive Director

Dear Volunteers,
As you know, this has been a challenging year for all. We regret that due to COVID restrictions, we will not be able to host our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party this year in your honor. But, even though there will not be a party, that does not mean that we appreciate you any less. In fact, this season was the most difficult on record, and we *never* would have made it without you.



We intend to party it up with all of you next summer, or perhaps celebrate early by kicking-off the season with a virtual Volunteer Appreciation Party. Stay tuned, and thank you for all that you do for us and for the animals. Your efforts are not without recognition and tremendous gratitude. Giant virtual hug.

From all of us at Wild Care, Jennifer, Leah, Kate, Kerry, Rebecca, and Stephanie
Mallard duckling, Photo by Lianna Montgomery

Trash Bash 2020

We are very thankful to be a part of this year's virtual bash!

Thank you to Nauset Disposal for your generosity with not just Wild Care but the entire

Cape Cod community!
[For More Click Here](#)



Thank you to everyone that supported us through Amazon Smile
We received a quarterly AmazonSmile donation of **\$205.48!**

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.

