



Wild Care's Duck Tales Monthly E-News

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

Director's Message • October 2020



Wild Care Friends,

As many of you know, Wild Care provides care for all species of wild birds, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals - opossum sized and smaller.

How small, you might ask?
As small as a White-footed Mouse.

In fact, Wild Care has received 99 mouse patients so far this year, many of those orphaned. And don't let their small size fool you! Caring for orphaned mice requires hours of work, and attention to detail.

Wild Care has NEVER received this many mice in a year! It continues to inspire us that more and more people value the lives of these tiny yet important creatures.

Mice play a critical ecological role in the distribution of plants, not to mention they are a staple prey item for many species of raptors and mammals. Furthermore, at Wild Care, we believe that mice matter simply because they exist.

With so many unnatural human-related impacts and obstacles that wildlife face, we believe it is our responsibility to give them a second chance at life. Don't you?

"A small life is big, to the one who is living it." (Quote by For Fox Sake Wildlife Rescue)

Executive Director, Stephanie

Please consider making a **Donation** today
and help us save more lives!



*Juvenile White-footed Mouse.
Photo By Stephanie Ellis*



*Great Blue Heron.
Photo By Kerry Reid*



*White-footed Mouse pups.
Photo By Stephanie Ellis*



*Eastern Gray Squirrel eating an acorn.
Photo By Leah Myrbeck*



*Common Eider.
Photo By Kerry Reid*

Three Hooks In A Gull

(*Not for the faint of heart, but with a happy ending!)

By **Jennifer Taylor**

Animal Care Coordinator • Internship Coordinator

Sometimes it is hard to look on the bright side of things. Especially with a job as a wildlife rehabilitator where we see all kinds of suffering. But, there certainly can be pleasant surprises at Wild Care.



On a Sunday afternoon a few calls came in for a Great Black-backed Gull on a beach in Dennis Port. There was a hook in its mouth and it seemed unable to move. This caring caller said it had been eating a piece of fish and she was willing to stay with the bird while I looked for a volunteer to rescue it. Elena Calabrese - one of our wonderful rescue volunteers - was available, and once again willing to drop everything she was doing, to try and save yet another animal's life! What would Wild Care do without her?

The gull arrived and Elena told me it was badly entangled in fishing line. I was the only rehabber on at that moment. Before COVID-19, Elena would often assist with examining the animals she rescued, but now protocols have changed...

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One Goofy Squirrel

Adventures of a Volunteer
By *Amy Sanders*

One hot August day, I shifted from feeding baby birds (who had grown big enough to be in the aviaries, and no longer hand fed), to feeding baby squirrels (2020 batch 2). This means moving from the first room of the barn to the back room, called “Jackie’s Room,” where baby mammals are typically kept.



As I was assessing the groups and figuring out who was to be fed when, in the back, northwest corner of the room in a very large cage is a larger squirrel going nuts (excuse the pun). He was being incredibly interested in what was going on, and not paying much attention to things squirrels usually do. I know the rules though—interact as little as possible with the animals since they are wild. So, while he was distracting me, I stayed attentive to the introduction of what was where, and who to start with from Jennifer. Finally, I ask, “What is going on with that squirrel back there!?”

Jennifer told me he was hand raised, recently brought in (I’m surmising whomever had him didn’t like his adolescent ways as much as his baby ways?), and unfortunately had imprinted on people. Having been handled a lot, he had grown accustomed to people. The plan was to put him in the squirrel shed with another injured squirrel as soon as the injured fellow was well enough, and see if the tame one would “wild up.”

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Judy Bullard



By Volunteer Coordinator
& Wildlife Rehabilitator
Kate Rollenhagen Diggs, CVT

Wild Care is grateful for our volunteers!

We wouldn’t survive without them. This month, we’d like to highlight outstanding volunteer, **Judy Bullard.**

What would we do without Judy? She is a Clinic volunteer, feeds baby birds all summer, goes out for wildlife rescues, trains new volunteers, organizes events and is an integral part of the Fundraising Program, writes Wild Care’s grant applications, and is a long-standing member and Chair of Wild Care’s Board of Directors. Her dedication is invaluable and Wild Care would not be the same without her.

Judy has been a volunteer for 10 years. Like many people, she noticed our yellow farmhouse on the Orleans Rotary and was curious about what we did. Soon after she began volunteering in the Clinic, and 2 weeks later she was asked to release a rehabilitated gull at the beach. “When I saw that gull take flight back to the wild I was HOOKED!” she said.



Working with Wild Care allows her to give back to the animals who have been injured by interactions with people, allows her to provide a clean comforting environment to our patients, and to observe wildlife up close during the rehabilitation process. During the pandemic shutdown, Judy set up an outdoor cleaning station to let her and

other volunteers continue to assist with clinic upkeep. She helped figure out several logistics of safely volunteering in the Baby Bird Program over the summer. When not volunteering, Judy and husband Joel love gardening (Judy also grows a garden at Wild Care to supply greens for our patients!), birdwatching, reading, and playing with their dog Nikki.

***From all of us at Wild Care, Thank You Judy.
You are a special volunteer and friend!***

Intern Spotlight!



This fall we welcome intern Devon Thurston to our Wild Care Team!

"I'm from Newton, Massachusetts. I graduated from UMass Amherst in 2019 with a degree in Pre-veterinary Sciences. I decided to take a year off before getting my masters degree because of Covid-19 and found Wild Care, I thought it would be an amazing experience and the best way to spend some time doing hands on work with animals from New England.

My favorite part of the internship so far is seeing some of the birds in their therapy pools, and getting to exercise them as part of their physical therapy."

Watch Devon help our Immature Surf Scoter get some exercise! The bird came to us over a month ago with severely damaged feathers and lacked full extension of one wing. Under anesthesia, Dr. Kelley and Vet Tech, Emelie Sears at **Eastham Veterinary Hospital** plucked his major flight feathers, to encourage immediate regrowth. The feathers are growing in nicely! The bird's flapping is even, and we've started him with salt water swim therapy in one of our pools. He's not waterproof yet, but will be soon. We love this duck!



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

The Song Sparrow - My First Rescue Ever!

***A Rescue Tale From Our Fall Intern
Devon Thurston***

The Cumberland Farms in Orleans called Wild Care and said that they had seen someone carry the little guy from the road to the edge of their parking lot. He had just been sitting there on the ground all morning (suspected car collision).



Jennifer sent me out and he was very easy to catch, the poor guy was not moving at all or any time soon. Once he was back at Wild Care Jennifer and I gave him an exam and didn't find any visible wounds, but both of his eyes were sunken and he was definitely

unresponsive. We administered oxygen and within an hour he was starting to perk up and behave like the excited songbird that he should be!

The next day he continued the good behavior so I was able to release him into a woody area in the back of the Cumberland Farms parking lot. The video above is a slow-motion recording of the release.

This was very rewarding for me, although he only had a short visit at Wild Care I was able to see his rescue, treatment, and release.

Bird Brain Fundraiser Series!



**Join Executive Director Stephanie Ellis
for three virtual fundraising sessions
and get to know your birds inside & out!**

This Bird Brain Series is 3 classes offered 1 per week for 3 weeks

- Session 1: October 22nd at 7PM - *Life in the Egg* - Have you ever wondered how chicks develop within an egg? This class will take you through avian reproduction, how eggs are produced, egg incubation and the development of a chick within the egg. You will never look at an egg the same way!
- Session 2: October 29th at 7 PM - *Avian Anatomy and Physiology* - Living fossils, birds have lost some of the traits of their reptilian ancestors, but have kept some along the way. You will learn about the unique avian skeleton and respiratory systems which are perfectly adapted to a life in the air.
- Session 3: November 5th at 7PM - *Brrrrds. Winter's Feathered Storm Survivors!* Ever wonder why ducks don't freeze into ponds? Why do so many birds spend the winter here instead of going south? Join Stephanie Ellis, Executive Director of Wild Care, Inc. of Eastham, as she gives this informative talk on how birds survive frigid winter temperatures and storms.

[Register Here](#)

The Bird Brain Series is \$100 for all three sessions. Your Zoom Log in information for all three sessions will be provided after you RSVP.

(Can't make it? No problem! For a small discount we can give you access to the recorded versions!

Contact [Rebecca](#) to discuss this option!)

Photos by Susan Wellington



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

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You Can Now Shop Amazon Smile Through Your Phone App!

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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.

