

# Wild Care's Duck Tales Monthly E-News

To learn more about Wild Care, visit us online  
[www.wildcarecapecod.org](http://www.wildcarecapecod.org)

## Director's Message • April 2021

*Wild Care Friends,*

*The warm weather and longer days, has brought us lots of baby rabbits, squirrels and mice! Right on schedule.*

Baby birds are just around the corner... The first nesting birds of the season on Cape Cod are typically House Finches and Carolina Wrens. Our first baby bird call of the year is *almost always* a House Finch nesting in a door wreath, a potted plant on someone's deck, or under the shrink wrap of a winterized boat.



*House Finch nest on top of a spring wreath.  
Photos by Ed Banks, Harwich, 2020.*



**Here are some things you need to know to help us to prevent displacing songbird nests this season:**

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, migratory bird nests *cannot* be removed once there are eggs or young. Most songbirds are only in the nest 12-14 days before they fledge. If a bird nests on a wreath on your front door, or another undesirable location at your home, use an alternate entrance for a couple of weeks. The birds will be gone before you know it! Enjoy watching nature unfold right before your eyes. As soon as they fly the coop, you can block off the area where they were nesting, to prevent them from nesting again.

**Birds are nesting in my live plant, how do I water it?**

Place ice cubes on top of the soil on the opposite side of the nest. This will keep moisture away from the nest, but will hydrate the plant. Water the plant on the side opposite the nest, but do not allow water to pool. Only water the plant enough so that it drains immediately, preventing the nest from sitting in water. (A little moisture on the eggs won't hurt, but they cannot sit in water.)

**What do shrink-wrapped boats, wheel wells, trailers, kayaks, kingpin boxes and campers have in common?**

They make great nest sites for songbirds! Be sure to check your campers, trailers, etc. and move them often to discourage nest building. Dismantle nests that don't have eggs or young, and put deterrents in place. (Pieces of pool noodles are inexpensive, and will do the trick!) Check your boat shrink wrap now, and discourage nest building before you get ready to put that boat in the water.

Following these simple tips, will help to avoid displacing baby birds unnecessarily this season, and keep them with their mom where they belong.

Want to learn more about the fascinating lives of baby birds and eggs? Join me for "Life in the Egg", a virtual Wild Care talk on June 2nd at 7:00 PM

[\*\*RSVP here\*\*](#)



Happy Spring!  
Executive Director, Stephanie



## Galápagos - The Untouched Lands



Executive Director Stephanie Ellis visited the Galapagos Islands on a National Geographic Lindblad voyage. Join her Tuesday April 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 October 2021!  
Check out the trip [Itinerary Here](#) & [Linblad Expeditions and National Geographic's Commitment to Safety](#)

Photos By Elizabeth Brooke

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)





## The Salamander & The Snowbank

*By Jennifer Taylor, Animal Care Coordinator & Internship Coordinator*

Amphibians are not often seen at Wild Care. This February, we received a call from a woman in Cotuit who found a (Yellow) Spotted Salamander laying on a snowbank in a road. There was construction going on, and it must have been unearthed from its winter sleep. Its tail was damaged, and it had a large wound on its back and on one of its front elbows. The prognosis was not good. Amphibians are very different physiologically than other animals.



We always well-research any species we do not commonly see. Coincidentally, I had just seen a veterinary webinar offered in my email titled “Amphibians- Don’t let Them Croak”. I went right to it. The website had excellent videos for animal professionals on unusual topics. Another current lecture on treating amphibian patients was also at our fingertips through the 2021 National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association (NWRA) Symposium...

[\*\*Read More Here\*\*](#)

*Photo by Kerry Reid*

Please consider making a [\*\*donation\*\*](#) today and help us save more lives!

## An Uncooperative Loon



*Adventures of a Volunteer.*  
*By Amy Sanders*

It’s March 28, and I’m arriving home from a bunch of errands, when I spot the answering machine light blinking. It’s Wild Care, asking if I can get a loon in a driveway in North Truro. The call came a couple of hours ago, so I call back, hoping the Loon has been taken care of. But nope! As far as anyone knows it’s still there. So I call the original caller, who is by now extremely relieved to hear someone is coming! This forlorn loon has been in her driveway for hours.

Loon calls are fairly common. Healthy loons often strand themselves during or right

after rain storms landing on pavement or in puddles thinking they are landing in water. Then they are stuck, because they can't walk out, and need a good distance of water to get up enough speed to take off. So that is what I'm anticipating. Capture a hopefully healthy loon, get him/her checked out, and rerelease. While loons can be challenging to capture because of those long bills, it is always delightful to have an opportunity to release healthy animals.

However, the rescue of this fellow (gal maybe, but for the sake of brevity I'll go with fellow) was to be quite challenging in many aspects. First, I had trouble finding the place (Toyota Navigation confusion required pulling over and shifting to my iPhone). As I arrived I was greeted by a woman wildly waving her arms in the driveway and there was no loon to be found. It had been 2 hours of watching him only to have him disappear in the 10 minutes between my call and my arrival... [Read More Here](#)

*Photo by Leo Seletsky*

## Join us for our *Wild Wednesday Night Series!* April - June

### Ask Our Animal Care Coordinator



With [Jennifer Taylor](#) – Animal Care Coordinator, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Internship Coordinator.

**April 28th, Beginning at 7pm**

Are you curious what to do when you find an injured animal? Want to know what happens after you bring an animal to Wild Care? Curious what it is like to be an animal rehabber?

This is your chance to ask Jennifer all of your burning questions!

Registration Is Required ~ \$5 Suggested Donation

*Jennifer with Bald Eagle. Photo by Kerry Reid.*

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

---

### One Bite Can Change Your Life!

Join our Tick Talk with  
Entomologist Larry Dapsis

**May 5th, Beginning at 7pm**



Lyme Disease is the most prevalent tick-borne disease in Massachusetts and is now considered to be a public health crisis. In addition to Lyme, deer ticks can carry the pathogens which cause Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Relapsing Fever and Powassan virus, all of which can be very serious.



Get tick smart with facts and tips to stay safe this season and beyond!

Registration Is Required ~ \$5 Suggested Donation

[Register Here](#)

*Help Us Reduce the Number of Orphaned Wildlife by Following These Simple Guidelines:*

### ***Eastern Cottontail Rabbits***

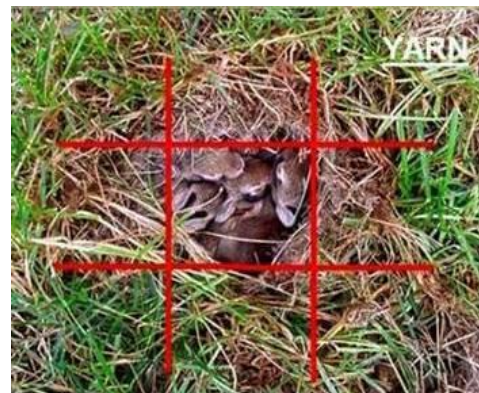


A mother cottontail rabbit feeds her young at dusk and dawn. *She does not stay in the nest!* If you find a nest of rabbits in your yard, place a string across the nest in a tic-tac-toe shape. (See Below) Check the nest the next morning. If the string is disturbed, the mother has returned. If not, please call our Helpline at 508-240-2255.

*A bunny that is bright-eyed and 4-5 inches long is fully independent and does not need to be rescued! Photo by Kerry Reid.*

***Dogs, cats and landscaping are the top three reasons Wild Care receives orphaned rabbits!***

If your dog digs up a nest and the orphans are not injured, cover them back up. Use the string test (shown at right) and allow mom the chance to come back overnight and move them.



*Photo from St. Francis Wildlife, Facebook.*

***Cats and rabbits are a deadly combo.*** Please keep your cats indoors. It is

safer for your cat, and safer for wildlife. Consider building or buying a CATIO, so your cat can experience the great outdoors without harming wildlife. If your cat finds a nest and the orphans are not injured, cover them back up. Use the string test seen here, and allow mom the chance to come back overnight and move them.

***Landscaping and rabbits:*** If you, or your landscaper, uncover a nest of baby rabbits in the yard and they are not injured, cover it back up and leave it overnight. Use our tips for determining if a nest is abandoned, and check in the morning. A rabbit nest is often a shallow depression in grass, covered with dried grasses, and fur from the mother rabbit. Rabbits prefer to nest near human dwellings.



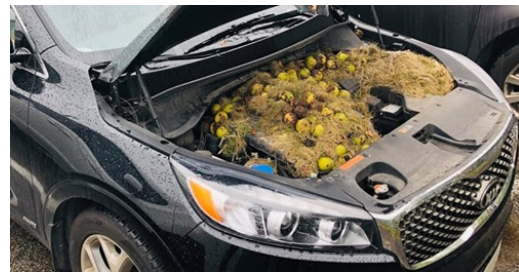
### ***Eastern Gray Squirrels***

Many squirrel nests fall to the ground during wind and storm events. If you find a squirrel nest with babies in it, place them into a shoebox with a t-shirt, and provide a heating aid. *Do not give food or water.*

Note where the nest had fallen, and watch for activity from the mother squirrel. Place the box of squirrels near the fallen nest. Eastern Gray Squirrels build SEVERAL nests, and will often move their young, even if the original nest or tree has been destroyed. Squirrels are attentive mothers! Please call our Wildlife Helpline if you have concerns: 508-240-2255.

### ***Dormant vehicles and machinery are a rodent's best friend!***

If you have a car or piece of machinery (lawnmower and grill) that has not been moved for a while - open the hood, or move the vehicle frequently, to discourage squirrels and other rodents from nesting. Rodents do not want to move into a home that is unpredictable and "unsafe." If there is already a nest under the hood we can tell you how to encourage squirrels and mice to move their young. Call our Wildlife Helpline: 508-240-2255.



*Photo from Wild Bird Centers of America.*

**When in Doubt - Please Call Us**

**508-240-2255**

**We Are Here To Help!**





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](#)*



Do you shop with Chewy?  
We get a lot of the things we use from this great site. Play Santa & [click here](#) to view our wish list!



#### **Wild Care, Inc.**

10 Smith Lane, Eastham, MA 02642

[Email Us](#) • 508-240-2255

[WildCareCapeCod.org](http://WildCareCapeCod.org)

#### **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.



