

Wild Care's Duck Tales Monthly E-News

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

Director's Message • March 2021

PUBLIC SQUIRREL ANNOUNCEMENT

It's spring! Eastern Gray Squirrels are having their 1st litter of the season, right on schedule! We received our first orphan Eastern Gray Squirrel of the year on Saturday, March 13th. The finder, named Susan, had tree work done in her yard in Harwich and found the baby on the ground. She acted quickly and placed the baby in a box with a heat source, hoping for the mother to return. Susan nicknamed the squirrel, "Olive" and waited. Unfortunately, mom did not return and this baby is now in our loving hands.



In 2020, Wild Care cared for 131 Eastern Gray Squirrels, most of those were orphans. WOW! Baby squirrels are like human babies. When they are very young, they require intensive care, and round-the-clock feeding.

We strive to reunite orphaned squirrels and prevent abandoned nests whenever possible.

If possible please... reserve your tree trimming and felling for late fall and winter, to avoid displacing wildlife and creating orphans.

Follow these easy tips for keeping your March squirrely & squirrel free. :)

[Click Here](#)

Lets keep those babies in the wild where they belong!

Happy Spring

Executive Director, Stephanie ~

Photo by Rachel Wojciak

Christmas Time Owl

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

The day before the day before Christmas Eve, Wild Care received a call from a woman who had found a Screech Owl on the road by her house. Her name was MaryLynn and she was very grateful to have a place to bring the owl. She is one of those people I wish I was, meaning a person who is hyper-aware of the animals in her outdoor space and actually knows the individuals. She had screech owl boxes in her yard, and believed this owl one of the occupants. I assured her we would do our best for her owl and gave her the owl's ID card so she could check on its status.



The bird had some missing head feathers and a very swollen eye. It was stunned, weak and wobbly. All classic signs of a collision. The bird's body condition was very good, (on the chunky side), and still well-hydrated, so I knew this injury was very recent. After a few days of nutritional fluids and rest, it was stable. Dr. Morgan had seen pupil response in the injured eye, so we had hope for its vision. On Christmas Day it finally began perching and clacking its beak at us. What a great Christmas present! A few days later it was eating on its own... [Read More Here](#)

Photo by MaryLynn, when she found the owl in the road.

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

Rehabbers Know a TON of Stuff!!



Adventures of a Volunteer.

By Amy Sanders

As most of you know, I'm a volunteer at Wild Care, as a speaker for educational programs, manager of Facebook's Messenger communications, feeder of orphaned birds and squirrels, and trained field rescuer of injured and orphaned wildlife when called upon. What most of you don't know is that I'm also often a pain in the neck to the staff.

“What!?,” you wonder, “She must be kidding.” Alas, no I am not. Everyone is, of course, too kind to tell me directly, but I am well aware that I can be tiring because of my incessant barrages of questions... [Read More Here](#)

PUBLIC MOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Now that Spring has arrived we would like to remind you to think about small mammals that are nesting!

Grills and lawnmowers make great nest sites, for mice especially. We recommend that you check your grill/lawnmowers daily, and move them slightly on a regular basis. This will discourage mouse moms from setting up a nest!



If you find a nest of baby mice in your grill, place a small cardboard box in the grill with an entrance hole. Make some small peep holes, and place peanut butter inside the box.

Mom will then do one of two things:

1. She will detect the changes and move her babies to another "safe" place.
2. She will move her babies into the box.

You can then cover the entrance hole and peek into the peep holes to confirm they are all inside, then move the mouse family to a safe location in your yard near heavy brush or a stone wall. ***It works!***

When in doubt, call our Wildlife Helpline, we can help! 508-240-2255.

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 or flour test (shown at right) and allow mom the chance to come back overnight and move them.

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.



Photo from St. Francis Wildlife, Facebook.

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!



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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.

