



Wild Care's Duck Tales Monthly E-News

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

Director's Message • August 2021

Wild Care Friends,

That's a wrap! August was a whirlwind month. It's typically our busiest month of the year, and this year was not different. We also see the changes in season with the types of animals arriving at our door. August and September are always a race against time for migration, to make sure we get animals back out and conditioned in time to head south. But, while some animals are preparing for their journey south, some resident species are still caring for their young!



Goldfinches are the latest nesting birds of the season. Their nesting season corresponds with thistle production. The seeds are fed to the young, and the downy plant fibers are used to line their nests. Cedar Waxwings are also late nesters, as their season corresponds with the ripening of honeysuckle berries which are fed to the young. Some Northern Cardinals are still feeding nestlings. Eastern Gray Squirrels have their 2nd or 3rd litter of the season in

August, and White-footed Mice will nest year-round, though they have most of their young in the spring through fall in the northeast. The arrival of the baby goldfinches is always bittersweet. It signifies that the summer is coming to an end, but also reminds us of the fall season, and slower times ahead.

No matter the season, no matter the storm - we are here for them, thanks to YOUR support.

Gratefully,
Executive Director, **Stephanie**
American Goldfinch photos. Kerry Reid

Musings From An Intern..

Hi everyone! My name is Lydia, and I was one of the interns at Wild Care this summer. Sadly, my time as an intern has ended, but I have been left with a wealth of new knowledge and memories from my time and Wild Care-- and now I have been given the opportunity to share some of my wonderful experiences with you.



Personally, I began my internship feeling unsure of myself, and even a little out of place, as I was the only intern not on a pre-veterinary track at school, and I had had no experience in wildlife rehabilitation. However, thanks to both the Wild Care staff and my fellow interns, things quickly changed for me. As the Wild Care staff supplied me with experienced advice and expert knowledge on our wildlife patients, the interns who began their internships prior to my own guided me through daily tasks and duties. Within a few weeks' time, I settled into my role on the staff and felt more confident in my own abilities thanks to the supportive and educational environment fostered by my coworkers.

As for everything I learned at Wild Care, I hardly know where to begin. First and foremost, this internship was so special to me because, growing up in Rhode Island and Massachusetts myself, it allowed me to really connect to the wildlife of my home. Since my time at Wild Care, I can absolutely say that I am more aware of all the animals around me, and I can certainly name/recognize many more species now than at the start of the summer. I also learned about the breadth of species that live just on Cape Cod alone. I had never thought that the wildlife of my home was very interesting or notable compared to other places in the world, but after working with such a variety of animals, I now know how mistaken I was.

"This opportunity to appreciate the beauty of these animals up-close is something I wouldn't trade for anything."

Another, perhaps unexpected, perk of my internship was becoming more aware of the interconnectedness of humans, animals, and their habitats. This connection was evident to me in everything from the mice we rehabilitated, knowing that upon their release they will reproduce and serve mainly as a food source for other animals, to every car-strike animal that needed treatment solely because of our human impact. It was beautiful to become more conscious of how humans, animals, and our shared world is just that-- shared. On that note, it was highly rewarding to feel that I was helping to bridge the gap between people and animals; to feel that I was actively working against the negative impact humans can have on the environment.

My favorite part of the internship, though, was getting to simply be with the animals-- to hold them, feed them, treat them. Getting to be so close to wildlife in that way was so special, and it never got old; every mouse, every baby squirrel or bird that I fed was always cute, and I always felt lucky to play a part in their survival. You can imagine, then, how rewarding it felt to release one of them! Sending an animal you helped raise out into the world was nerve-wracking and a little sad, but overwhelmingly happy and exciting.

Overall, my time at Wild Care was full of fun, education, and hard work. I feel that I learned so much during my short time there, and I know that I had only begun to scratch the surface. Just as I was learning and doing new things on my first day, that remained true to my last. I will cherish the memories I made at Wild Care forever, and I will always feel grateful for the wonderful staff that guided me through so many new experiences, paving the way for more exciting opportunities in my future.

(Photo by Kerry Reid)

TOADALLY AWESOME: Our beautiful American Toad was released!!!

Thank you to Michelle and Mark Law of W. Barnstable who brought us this ailing toad over a month ago.

We were able to rehabilitate it, and it was released back at their home.

The toad received quite a happy welcome back.

(Watch their video below!)





Photo: Stephanie Ellis



Photo: Kerry Reid

The toad arrived to us with a fractured humerus on July 14th. The toad's fractured leg was splinted and bandaged by our caring and skilled animal care staff, and the toad made full recovery.

Thank you Michelle and Mark, for caring for all creatures!

17th Annual

CAPE COD

WILDLIFE FESTIVAL



Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021
10 am to 3 pm

Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary
345 Bone Hill Rd., Cummaquid
For information, call 508-362-7475

CELEBRATE CAPE COD WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

- Meet environmental organizations from the Cape and beyond featuring interactive exhibits and family friendly activities!
- Two live animal presentations with Amazing Animal Ambassadors at 11am & 1pm!
- Book Signings with local Authors from 12 to 1pm provided by Books by the Sea.
- Live music with Just Another Guru!
- **FREE Admission! Donations appreciated.**
- Delicious food from three different food trucks will be there including ice cream, donuts and more!

Sponsored by the Cape Cod Wildlife Collaborative

Barnstable Clean Water Coalition • Cape Wildlife Center
Center for Coastal Studies • IFAW Marine Mammal Rescue & Research
Mass Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary • National Marine Life Center
Orenda Wildlife Land Trust • Whale & Dolphin Conservation • Wild Care

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You Can Now Shop Amazon Smile Through Your Phone App!

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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!



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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.

