



FEBRUARY 2022

The Many Feathered Reasons to Love Winter on Cape Cod



Cape Cod winters are not for everyone, just ask one of the many snowbirds as they head off to warmer climates when the calendar year comes to an end. But for those of us who stay, there are rewards for braving the cold. Even though friends and family may not be eager to visit until spring, there are quite a few very interesting and beautiful species of birds that make Cape Cod their winter home.

You need look no further than your own backyard to hear the quiet of a snowy winter night broken by the soft call of a Great Horned Owl in a nearby tree. The noisy clatter of a large flock of full-bodied American Robins eagerly eating berries until all at once they take flight. Winter finch irruptions bring many unique visitors such as Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls, Evening Grosbeaks and crossbills, crowding around feeders and heated bird-baths. Snow Buntings with feathers that remind us of the toasted marshmallows of summer are the sweetest little songbirds making their home here in winter on our coastal dunes. We've even recently had Painted Buntings and Baltimore Orioles spotted on the Cape. Their colorful feathers brightening up the sleeping winter landscape.

A winter walk on a clear crisp day along the shore is not without its rewards too. We have had quite a few Dovekies come through our doors recently. These hungry little seabirds

sometimes blow in from a winter storm in need of a good meal and help getting waterproof in our therapy pools before going back to sea. Other sightings may include puffins, murres and Razorbills, and one of the most spectacular visitors from the Arctic, the Snowy Owl. We were fortunate to have cared for and released one of these magnificent birds after it was rescued in Provincetown in January. We are grateful for all of you, our eyes and ears keeping watch on our wild creatures.

So while friends may share photos smiling from a warm, sunny beach, those of us that stay behind enjoy the quiet landscape of a Cape Cod winter thankful for the beauty and life all around us.

Eva Carbonaro

Director of Outreach, Marketing and Events

This beautiful male Painted Bunting was photographed in Orleans by Leo Seletsky.



Snowy Owl Rescued in Provincetown being Treated and Cared for by Wild Care

This magnificent Snowy Owl was rescued in Provincetown by George DeLeon and Roxanne Layton. The bird was being attacked by crows, and flew to some rocks in the water. Roxanne watched as the tide came in. When the water reached the bird, it didn't fly away immediately. It then flew and dropped into the ocean. George heroically retrieved it out of the icy water, and they brought it to Wild Care. The bird had puncture wounds to one wing. Our consulting Veterinarian Dr. Morgan further assessed, and the bird was treated with antibiotics. She is responding well to treatment and is now in our aviary to give her some flight-time. We are hopeful for a full recovery and release.

Thank you to everyone that helped this incredible bird. We are so fortunate to have so many caring people among us!

Be sure to check our [Facebook page](#) for updates on the Snowy Owl.

[WATCH Lower Cape TV's video about the Snowy Owl Here](#)

[READ the Cape Cod Times coverage](#)

[READ Snowy Owl facts and information for](#)





Speaking of Owls... Join Wild Care for a Special Evening Talk About Snowy Owls at Snowy Owl Coffee

Join Wild Care's Executive Director Stephanie Ellis on February 23rd from 6-8pm for a special evening at Snowy Owl Coffee Roasters in Brewster. Stephanie will be discussing the journey of Snowy Owls from the Arctic to the shores of Cape Cod and how our Cape community can contribute to the safety and survival of these incredible animals.

A limited amount of tickets are still available. Ticket price is \$25 and includes a \$10 donation to Wild Care. Wine and Snowy Owl's signature homemade empanadas will be available for purchase. Hope to see you there!

**GET Tickets
Here**



DOVEKIES again!

by Jennifer Taylor, Wild Care Animal Care Coordinator

It is January 2022. And like most Januaries at Wild Care, we have quite a few birds called Dovekies brought in to us in need of care. These are tiny pelagic birds from the Arctic. Strong Northeast winds blow them onto land where they are helpless and completely vulnerable. They are grounded on roads, beaches, marshes, in plaza parking lots and in window wells. Weighing only about 150 grams and unable to fly from land, they are easily predated by gulls and raptors.



As Wildlife Rehabilitators we get up-close and personal experience with all kinds of animals. I feel privileged, lucky and honored to work with any species. I remember

cleaning the inside of a loon habitat as a new volunteer at Wild Care and thinking, "WOW! This is what Loon poop smells like! This is so cool!". So working with this adorable Arctic bird also leaves me in awe. I have seen the Dovekie's tongue when feeding it and felt the anger of its beak when I have held it. I have witnessed its speed and agility when swimming underwater. I have heard squabbling chirps and seen aggressive behavior to the point of isolating the culprit. After pool time, I watch them huddle together preening on a seabird net in a wooden box with a heat lamp and a fan. It makes me feel good. I have done my job for the time being, even though I know the feeling is not reciprocated. They feel stressed and imprisoned. What are their thoughts? Only ever having been surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the cliffs of Greenland, now being put into a box with a light and fan. A bad dream hopefully with a happy ending.

Next is to plan for a release. Winter releases are difficult in general for any of our patients, but for pelagic birds even more so. The moment Dovekies are waterproof and diving we want to return them to the ocean. They are very difficult to keep in captivity. Weather conditions must be good, the wind must blow in the right direction and the tides must be considered. Ideally the birds go out on a boat far enough off the coast where there are no gulls, or we choose a beach to release them AT NIGHT where they will head straight out and away from land while the gulls are inactive. Gulls will eat Dovekies in one gulp if they get the chance.

Thanks to our friends at The Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown and the local fishermen who are willing to help us, along with reliable weather apps. We now have Gull-Free Dovekie releases!

Photo: Karen Eldridge

[WATCH the Dovekies swimming in Wild Care's therapy pool](#)

[SEE the Dovekies Return to the Wild](#)

Thank you to Owen Nichols and all our friends from the Center for Coastal Studies, and Chris Viprino who owns the F/V Miss Lynn for releasing two Dovekies in Cape Cod Bay.



Stephanie Ellis, Wild Care Executive Director named Keynote Speaker for the Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts Annual Conference

Stephanie Ellis, Wild Care Executive Director will be the Keynote Speaker for the Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts - WRAM Annual Conference. March 12 & 13, 2022. The conference will be virtual and registration is now open. You do not have to be a member or a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator to attend.

[REGISTRATION and Information Here](#)



Local Potter Cheryl Best to Donate 50% of Proceeds of her Painted Bird Bowls to Wild Care

Artist and potter Cheryl Best finds inspiration all around her in her Truro studio. Each of her beautifully detailed porcelain and stoneware food-safe bird bowls is hand-thrown, sketched, painted and fired. Cheryl is donating 50% of the proceeds of these beautiful pieces of functional art to Wild Care! Many local species of birds as well as custom works are available for sale at her Truro studio and will be at the Gallery West Art Gallery in Orleans March 26th through May 7th. Each purchase supports local art and Wild Care. Thank you Cheryl for your generosity!

"I simply love the work Wild Care does. I also want to highlight, in some small way, the need for all of us to love and protect birds."

-Cheryl Best

Contact Cheryl for More Information
Email: tryworks.studio@gmail.com

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU!



Betty White Challenge Raises over \$6,000 for Wild Care

Betty White fans and animal lovers were given a challenge on January 17th to donate to an animal rescue organization honoring the life-long passion and work of Betty White - The Betty White Challenge. Your generosity far exceeded anything we anticipated! We received over 160 donations totaling \$6,665 in loving memory of Betty White. We are humbled and grateful for the outpouring of support. Thank YOU for enabling us to improve the lives of the animals around us. Thank you to Betty for her kindness, humor, and life-long devotion to all animals!

"Animals are near and dear to my heart, and I've devoted my life to trying to improve their lives." - Betty White



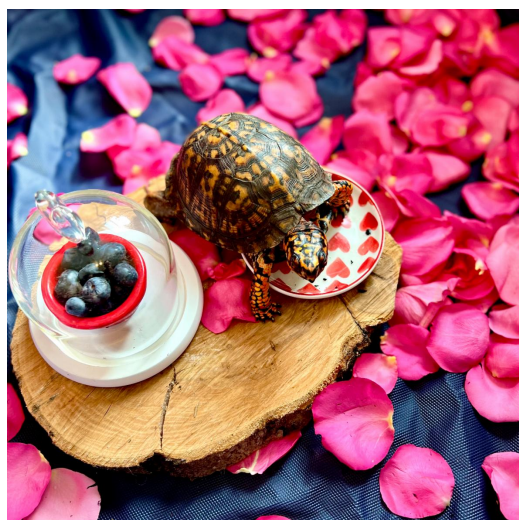
WOW! Giving Tuesday Donations Arrive

Thanks to you, we raised over \$19,740 for Giving Tuesday! Thank you simply does not express how grateful we are. We've started ordering the supplies you've helped to fund! Donations from our Chewy and Amazon Wish Lists are also being put to use helping animals. Thank you to everyone who donated for Giving Tuesday, and for those of you who donate every day!

(Pictured above is one of the squirrel enclosures we ordered, thanks to your support. More photos soon!)

It was a Turtle-ly Awesome Valentine's Day with Wild Care's Beloved Educational Turtle Garv

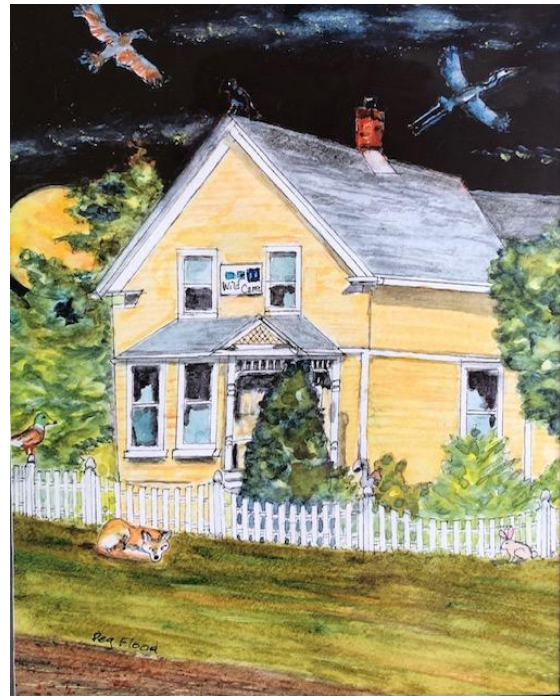
It was a fun filled shell-ebration of love this Valentine's Day! Thank you to everyone that joined us for Garv's Valentine's Day lunch and requested an e-Valentine! Your donations helped us raise \$628! We hope you enjoyed watching Garv as he charmed us all with his curious nature and beautifully colored shell and eyes. There was much talk about turtles, and even some pretty punny turtle jokes! Hope you all had e a turtle-ly awesome Valentine's Day!



[WATCH Garv's Valentine Meal](#)

Orleans Artist Peg Flood Creates Beautiful Painting of Wild Care Home

Artist Peg Flood created this beautiful print from an original ink and watercolor painting. "I painted the Wild Care House because I believe in the work that Wild Care does to help wild creatures, and love the look of the old house" said Peg. We love this old house too. Our facility was built in 1850. Wild Care has been at this location since 2004 transforming nearly every square inch into animal care space. We are so thankful for this lovely and thoughtful gift!



[SEE MORE of Peg's Work Here](#)

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Golden Hues on Spectacular Landscapes
STARTING AT \$13,450 | 100 TRAVELERS | LEADERS: TED CHEESEMAN +14

Since explorers discovered this continent, stories of incredible vistas and abundant animals have captured the imagination of the adventurous. Take advantage of warm, golden light for photography, delight in whale aggregations gorging on krill, and watch penguin chick antics. Icebergs, in many shades of blue and carved into fascinating shapes by weather and water, are prime photography subjects. Our priority is to give you the maximum time in nature during a unique period on the Peninsula and to share our passion and experience in the Antarctic. The solitude amid these landscapes will endlessly captivate you, so come share this adventure with us!

cheesemans.com/region/antarctic | info@cheesemans.com | 1-800-527-5330

Travel to Antarctica with Wild Care and Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Join Wild Care and Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris on an exciting travel adventure to Antarctica. This memorable voyage to the Antarctic Peninsula will take place in February 2023. There will be a diverse and wonderfully experienced expedition team to show you the best of Antarctica. This is a significant fundraiser that supports the important work at Wild Care.

For inquiries contact: [Gina Barton](#)
[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

[GET Detailed Information Here](#)



Do you ever wonder what the wildlife in Antarctica is REALLY like?

Then join us on March 30th, 2022 at 8:00pm to get a chance to hear from wildlife experts from Cheesemans' and Wild Care Cape Cod to get the 411 on the bottom of the globe!

Ted Cheeseman and Stephanie Ellis talk all things Antarctica - from the vast fields of ice to the unique wildlife and how you can experience all this yourself!

Photo: Scott Davis

**REGISTER for Zoom
Talk**

**Last Call! Dreaming about Springtime in Scotland?
Register for Zoom Talk and Q&A
Wednesday, February 25th at 6PM**



Reservation Deadline for the trip to Scotland is March 1st. If you are thinking about joining Wild Care on a Springtime get-away to Scotland in May, now's the time to get all the details, ask any questions, and get ready to pack your bags. Join Wild Care's Executive Director Stephanie Ellis and Susan Griffin of Susan's Custom Tours and Travel for a Zoom talk and Q&A on Friday, February 25th at 6:00 PM.

Contact: Susan Griffin
Susan's Custom Tours & Travel
774-238-2332
scttsmg@gmail.com

[VIEW and Download Trip Brochure](#)



Wild Care Donation Boxes Available for Businesses

Brothers Joel and Bob Bullard manage over 39 donation boxes for Wild Care! We'd also like to thank Michael Brown and Andrea Niewenhous for their donation box collections. These boxes are an important source of income for us, bringing in over \$14,400 in 2021!

The donations really add up and can make a big difference for wildlife here on Cape Cod. Thank you Joel, Bob, Andrea and Michael for your hard work and dedication. And thank you to the local businesses and individuals who host boxes for us!

**If you have a business
or know someone who would like
to place a donation box
at their place of business, please let
us know.**

To Request a Donation Box,
Contact: Office Admin, Kerry Reid,
admin@wildcarecapecod.org

Shaw's in Orleans to Donate \$1.00 for Each Reusable Shopping Bag Purchased to Wild Care in February

During the month of February Wild Care will receive a \$1 donation from the purchase of each \$2.50 reusable Give Back Where it Counts Bag at the Shaw's store located at 9 West Road, Orleans. If it's time for some new bags, now is the time to help Wild

**For each Give Back
Reusable Shopping Bag
You Buy in February
at Shaw's, Orleans
Wild Care Receives
a \$1 Donation**



**DONATE TO WILD
CARE**



Check out our [Amazon](#) and [Chewy](#) WISH LISTS and donate much needed supplies to help the animals being cared for at Wild Care.



Help Wildlife While You Shop on Amazon

Go to [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choose Wild Care Cape Cod as your charity. Get the same great items at the same prices, and with each purchase Wild Care receives a donation at no additional cost to you.



10 Smith Lane, Eastham, MA 02642

[Email Us](#) I. [WildCareCapeCod.org](https://www.wildcarecapecod.org)

When in Doubt Please Call Us 508-240-2255

We Are Here To Help!

