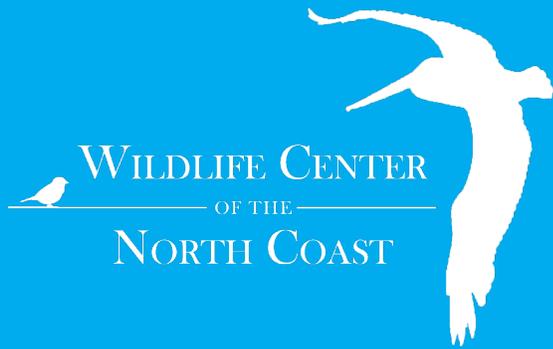




Ducks, ducks & more ducks!

Spring means baby season & what's a baby season without hundreds of messy ducklings?! WCNC has set-up an Amazon registry of most needed items for those wanting to help us care for these fluffy little rascals.

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Rescue Rehab Release

Wildlife Rescue Hot line:
(503) 338-0331

Injured Wildlife Drop-off:
89686 Hwy 202

Wild at Heart
Member Newsletter

Spring
2021

Helping Wildlife in Need - Connecting People with Nature

Bald Eagles - Helping Our Magestic National Bird

A huge thank you to Think Wild in Bend for their donation of a lead-testing machine. In the past, blood samples were sent off to be tested, but this new equipment allows us to test lead levels ourselves and get results much quicker - ultimately benefitting our wildlife patients.

Last March, construction crews on the Trask River near Tillamook spotted something stranded near the waters edge. Heroically scaling the steep bank, a crew member was able to identify and safely contain what turned out to be a cold, tired bald eagle. After some coordination between our wonderful Rescue/Transport Volunteers and the Rehab team, the eagle was brought to our Wildlife Hospital.

After a quick initial examination, it was clear to WCNC's Rehab Coordinator, Patrick Hogan, that this bald eagle would be the first to utilize the Center's new lead testing machine. Unfortunately, the results showed severe lead

poisoning in the patient. Severe lead poisoning can be treatable in some instances, but in this case the eagle was also suffering from pneumonia and was struggling to breathe. Multiple systems in the eagle were failing, and the only option was humane euthanasia to relieve it's suffering.

Eagles are scavengers, and so pinpointing

the source of lead poisoning can be difficult. Common sources include consuming water-fowl that has ingested lead fishing weights or carcasses contaminated with lead shot.



According to the American Bird Society an estimated 10 to 20 million birds and other wild animals die from lead poisoning every year. Lead poisoning is known to cause damage to tissues, organs, immune systems, reproductive systems, as well as high blood pressure, neurological impairment, and in severe cases paralysis and death.

We can help mitigate lead-poisoning tragedies through raising awareness, and encouraging hunters and anglers to use lead alternatives.

20

Avg. % of Bald Eagles admitted with lead poisoning

127

Patients in care at time of publication

342

Total number of patients seen so far in 2021

Cormie Corner

Get to know the feathered friend that steals all hearts, Cormie the Double-crested Cormorant! (cont.)



Cormie let's the volunteers know it's time for fish!

Shortly after Cormie's arrival, WCNC suffered the unimaginable loss of our Founder and Director, Sharnelle Fee. During this transition time the Education Program was put on hold until further notice.

For the first year of her life, Cormie lived inside the hospital and became accustomed to the close proximity of humans. As she grew, Staff & Volunteers fell in love with Cormie's personality and intelligence.

The Education Program resumed under the guidance of new Executive Director, Josh Saranpaa who identified that Cormie's need for an outdoor enclosure was urgent, and he began brainstorming options.

Check back next newsletter for more of the story!

Rehab Report: Rescued & Released

Last March we received a beautiful Peregrine Falcon suffering from a gunshot wound.

As the fastest animals on the planet, Peregrine Falcons rely on their ability to strike their prey from the sky in a fabulous "stoop" that can reach speeds of up to 200mph.

Due to their reliance on perfect flight, and the complexity of the injury, the falcon's best chance of a full recovery was to be transferred to the Cascades Raptor Center in Eugene.

Thanks to volunteer Randy for transporting this patient so it could be seen by their raptor surgeon and vet, as well as undergo extensive Physical Therapy and flight conditioning.



21

Jr. Naturalist's Summer Camp

Summer Camp starts June 21st! We have two sessions this summer & registration is open online.



19

5th Annual Founder's Dinner

We're still planning on an in-person dinner, so make sure to save the date!



A Great Horned Owllet

An Owlet in Need

The first baby to spend time at the wildlife hospital this Spring was a Great Horned Owllet. An intake exam determined the owlet was in good health, so the volunteer team tracked down droppings and egg shells near where the baby was found to try and guess where the nest site was located. After finding the destroyed nest, a makeshift nest was constructed out of a bucket, sticks, and moss and fastened to the tree with the owlet safely tucked inside.

The owlet began to vocalize & soon an adult Great Horned Owl perched itself a few trees over. The volunteers promptly left & the human family that lives nearby has reported seeing adults going to and from the nest and vocalizing with one another.

A HUGE thank you to Nora and Reed who found the owlet, to Arbor Care for helping place the owlet back in the tree, and to volunteer Melisa for her help re-nesting and for the beautiful photos.



A makeshift owl nest.



Eggshell clues



Thanks Arbor Care!

A Message from WCNC Board Vice President, Andrew Mattingly

Greetings supporters of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, and happy summer!

We on the board, along with Executive Director Josh, have been hard at work half of the year! Josh has been keeping us well informed about all the great projects happening at the center, fundraising for a new enclosure as well as the usual all while juggling one of



with Executive Director Josh, planning for an exciting second year. Josh has been doing an excellent job of all the great projects happening at the center, including fun summer camps, closure for our beloved Cormie, recruitment for new volunteers; the busiest times of year.

On the board side, we've been working to develop new tactics for donor development and updating staff policies, but most exciting, we're just about to wrap up our first ever in-depth strategic plan! This has been a process that began many years ago, and thanks to the incredible work from Board President Zamon, along with countless others- we're just about ready to publish the final copy- look for it soon!

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast; we couldn't do it without you! (And if you want to join us on the board- reach out to Josh! We'd love to hear from you.)



Would you like to volunteer?

We have lots of opportunities for people to volunteer on and off-site, no experience necessary!

We have plenty of opportunities to help! We are looking for on-site Reception Volunteers to help answer phones and arrange patient transports, as well as off-site Rescue and Transport Volunteers.

Email: volunteer@coastwildlife.org for more info!

Your Donation Makes a Difference!

\$5



Can feed this Northern Saw-whet owl for one week.

\$10



Can provide this Red-tailed Hawk with release ready testing.

\$20



Can provide daily medication to seventy common murre.

\$50



Can provide this White Pelican with daily swims.

Feathered or Furry?

Fun Facts About Our Wildlife Patients

***Oxyura jamaicensis*.** Ruddy ducks are small, compact ducks with stout, scoop-shaped bills, and long, stiff tails they often hold cocked upward. They have slightly peaked heads and fairly short, thick necks.

The males have blackish caps and bright white cheeks. In summer, they have rich chestnut bodies with bright blue bills. In winter, they are a dull gray-brown color. Females and first-years are brownish in color.

Habitat:

Ruddy ducks nest in marshes adjacent to lakes and ponds, primarily in the Prairie Potholes region. In migration, they flock to large rivers, ponds, and lakes, and also gather in coastal estuaries, frequently mixing with other diving ducks like Buffleheads and goldeneyes.

Food:

Ruddy ducks dive to feed on aquatic invertebrates, especially midge larvae. They feed most actively at night, and they often sleep during the day with their heads tucked under their wings and tail cocked up in the air.

Interesting Facts:

Young ruddy ducks leave the nest within a day after hatching and are able to swim and dive well immediately.



Ruddy Duck

Cormie Needs a New Home!

WCNC has big plans to build a new Seabird Display Enclosure to house our resident, Double-crested Cormorant, Cormie.



← SCAN TO DONATE



This new enclosure will not only benefit Cormie's health & well-being, it will bring a new educational experience to visitors, students, and the community.

Baby Bird Time - What to do?

You're walking your dog on the riverwalk, and come across a bird on the ground. You see no physical injury, but the bird isn't flying. What do you do?

Have you ever seen a young bird on the ground, and wondered what to do? We have a handy little guide that can assist! Oftentimes when babies seem abandoned, their mothers are actually close by. If there is no obvious injury and the bird is in a safe place, the first step is to observe from a distance and wait to see if the mom returns.



Volunteer Spotlight: Quinn Haase

Q) When did you first get involved with the Center? And what drew you to it?

I began volunteering almost immediately after moving to Astoria late last year. My wife (a librarian) had done a lot of research about Astoria and she was the one who told me about the Wildlife Center. Having previously been an intern at the Audubon Society in Portland, I knew it would be a worthy cause and a good fit for the skills I'd developed in my previous experiences.

Q) What do you love/has kept you involved?

There's no denying that the people at the Center are really what makes it special. Most people there are volunteers, from all walks of life. Just being around like-minded people who have a passion for, and are dedicated to, protecting our local bio-diversity is a real treat. The staff are also so patient, friendly, and open to new ideas, it's really refreshing. While I'm only a volunteer, I have a background in animal care and it's nice to see the staff be so receptive to new ideas. It just shows that it really is about animal welfare, not about egos.

What is the coolest/most memorable experience you have had?

It's hard to pick just one (every day brings such cool new experiences) and getting to handle

raptors like owls, eagles, and hawks is pretty great, but honestly getting to work closely with Cormie the cormorant has been pretty special. I've worked with many types of animals in the past but I never would have expected a sea bird to be so charismatic and so receptive to training. When you work around animals it's easy to see their individual personalities and characteristics and Cormie really is a special bird (as everyone who works with her knows).

Any other things you'd like to share?

The Wildlife Center really is a unique place and an important resource to the community. Not every town has a place like this and I look forward to helping the public have more access to resources and experiences with the Center so everyone can take pride in the amazing work that's done there, just like I do.

Quinn is a delight to have in the hospital. Staff and volunteers who have had the pleasure of working with him describe him as friendly, charismatic, and knowledgeable. Everyone immensely enjoys working with Quinn, and his enthusiasm for conservation education and wealth of knowledge have been a priceless contribution to WCNC's Education Program. We're thrilled to have Quinn on the team, and look forward to seeing the Education Program grow as a result of his fun ideas and fresh perspective. Thanks Quinn!



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