



Furry Critters!

Some of our patients have fur instead of feathers. This year, we've seen a bobcat, weasels (shown), squirrels, chipmunks, a mountain beaver & an otter pup to name a few!

- 02 Cormie Corner
Important Dates
Summer Camp
- 03 Note from the Board
Volunteers Needed
Feathered or Furry?
- 04 Seabird Enclosure
Best Friends
Volunteer Spotlight:
Kimberly Wood



WILDLIFE CENTER
OF THE
NORTH COAST

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

American White Pelicans - A Conservation Strategy Species

Once a rare sight on the north Oregon Coast, over the past ten years American White Pelicans have become increasingly common near the mouth of the Columbia River.

By now you're used to seeing them bobbing along the horizon while you cross Youngs Bay. Their large, white figures rolling along the river's steady flow. A sure sign that it's summertime. You're probably not used to seeing them walking down the sidewalk, but these days...that's not as unusual as you might think.

The rise of an abundant white pelican population to western Oregon is now a familiar sight. Traditionally known to nest on islands in the Columbia River east of The Dalles, their expansion west may speak to population recovery and/or drought pushing them into new areas.

To best coexist with our new neighbors, it's important to know that white pelican nests are very sensitive to disturbances. At the Wildlife Center, we now expect to see a handful of white pelicans come through our clinic doors every summer--many of them juveniles. These birds have usually fledged too soon, likely having been startled from their nest before they are able to fly or feed themselves.

In addition to the 4th of July, premature fledging might happen during extreme heat events, or because a human or other animal got too close to the colony. Many of these young birds find their way to the shore and climb up onto the Riverwalk, and occasionally...they make their way to the roads.



Young White Pelicans in care at WCNC.

We are happy to help care for these youngsters until they're old enough to fend for themselves, but it's in their best interest to be raised in the wild by their parents. We can help protect them through awareness and by minimizing human disturbances in nesting areas during the breeding season.

6

Number of White Pelicans
admitted in 2017-2018.

15

Number of White Pelicans
admitted in 2019-2020.

8

Number of White Pelicans
admitted so far in 2021.

Cormie Corner

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



Education Ambassadors, like Cormie, are required by law to have a specially permitted outdoor enclosure. Finding Cormie an outside home was an urgent need after the Education Program resumed under new Executive Director, Josh Saranpaa's leadership.

Thankfully, there was a newly constructed enclosure that had not yet been permitted for rehab. Instead, WCNC had it permitted as an education enclosure and that is where Cormie has lived ever since. At first, to introduce her to her new home, staff and volunteers would walk Cormie to and from her enclosure every morning and every evening to help her get used to spending time outdoors.

Check back next newsletter for more of the story!

Rehab Report: Rescued & Released

Last July we said goodbye to a very special species, new to the Pacific Northwest.

Our Rehab Coordinator, Patrick Hogan has migrated south to warmer pastures after accepting a position as Seabird Lead for the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network.

One of our volunteers graciously hosted a gathering at her home along the Columbia River, and several staff, interns, and volunteers gathered to wish him farewell!

Thanks to Karin for organizing the fun event and feeding everyone, and a huge thanks to Patrick for all that he has contributed to WCNC over these past, crazy 15 months.



Date Change!

5th Annual Founder's Dinner

17

Due to concerns about the Delta variant, we have rescheduled our fundraiser to Sunday, October 17th. Please note that we might move to a hybrid or fully virtual event if necessary.



Games with Friends.

Jr. Naturalists Summer Camp

Summer camp was a success! It was a joy to have campers in-person once again after having to miss last summer due to the pandemic. This year, to help protect campers and staff, the camp was held almost exclusively outdoors with masks ready for when social distancing was not possible. This year we expanded the program to include an additional session & enjoyed two weeks of outdoor fun geared at different age groups. The kids played games, got an exclusive tour of the clinic, learned about habitats, predation, & nature journaling as well as got to hear from professionals working in the natural resource field.

A HUGE thank you to Camp Coordinator, Ms. Emily Townsend & Camp Assistant, Miss Ana Holen for another successful year of summer camps!



Predators vs. Prey.



Exploring Nature.



Lessons from Josh.

A Message from WCNC Board Secretary, Melissa Lahti

Hello fellow wildlife lovers and supporters of WCNC. Summer in the PNW always seems to go too fast, and this year is no exception!

I sincerely thank the staff and volunteers at WCNC for all you do to keep everything running smoothly, especially during this busy season!



The board has also been working diligently this summer on individual committee assignments. I'm happy to report that the five-year Strategic Plan is now complete (Yay!). The new Resource Development Committee has created a Strategies and Action Plan based on the goals laid out in the Strategic Plan. This provides a road map for WCNC to achieve its goals. For me, the most exciting section of the plan is the on-site development of a nature trail with a focus on pollinator habitat and native plants. Be sure to check out the Strategic plan if you would like to see all

the exciting projects planned for the next five years!

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming Founder's Dinner in October. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in person (fingers crossed...).



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

Ardea herodias. Great Blue Herons are the largest heron species in North America. They're known for their long legs, curved neck, and thick, dagger like bill. They are taller & heavier than a Great Egret, but smaller than a Sandhill Crane.

Adult Great Blue Herons appear blue-grey with a wide black stripe over the eye while juveniles have a darker head & bill and more brown feathers scattered throughout their plumage.

Habitat:

Great Blue Herons are very adaptable & can be found in a variety of saltwater & freshwater habitats. They also forage in grasslands and fields.

Food:

While hunting, Great Blue Herons wade slowly or stand statue-like, stalking fish and other prey in shallow water of open fields. They strike with a lightning-fast thrust of the neck & head as they stab prey with their strong bills.

Interesting Facts:

An all-white subspecies, the Great White Heron, is found in coastal areas of southern Florida, along with individuals that are intermediate in plumage, known as "Wurdeemann's Heron."



Young heron in care at WCNC.

Great Blue Heron

Cormie Needs a New Home! - We're Halfway There

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



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.



An Unlikely Pair of Pals

Both initially transferred to our facility by Portland Audubon, these two orphaned aquatic birds spent 53 days in our care.

A friendship between the two developed as they were raised, and although one is a wood duck and the other a hooded merganser--their undeniable bond formed while they practiced preening and foraging together in the pool.



Merganser (left) and wood duck (right) just after release.



Young merganser.



Young wood duck.

Both birds were released into the Columbia River near Clatskanie, and while neighbors say they mostly see the two species around others of their own kind, they have spotted a wood duck and merganser together once or twice, and suspect that they know exactly why.

Volunteer Spotlight: Kimberly Wood

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

I found this wonderful place in May 2021. I love nature and wildlife and have been spending a lot of time learning and enjoying the great outdoors. I wanted to find a way to give back to the incredible and sacred animals that have blessed me with so much greatness.

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

I love the experience of learning and helping these animals in need. Giving back to these amazing animals has been some of the most rewarding moments I've ever had in my life.



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

Releasing these animals back into the wild is a magical experience. Freedom is something we all need more of, especially wild animals. Helping any animal get back home is a privilege and an honor to be apart of. Watching the process of a sick and/or injured animal come into our care, get the help it needs, then get back to its home has been an awakening experience. I call it soul food, because it literally feeds my soul.

One case in particular was a juvenile Great Horned Owl who was caught in a volleyball net. I nicknamed it Wilson, after the movie Castaway. Luckily he sustained minimal injuries to his wings and body. I monitored his progress and everything was going well. His huge eyes are so magical and captivating, as if he's looking into your soul. I knew this bird was incredibly special and sacred, and I was excited and grateful to share space with him. As the weeks went on I could see his freedom on the horizon and began anticipating the rewarding moment of his release. Finally his day came. I was luckily able to assist in his big day. As we were getting in position a tear ran down my cheek as the realization that one of my dreams is about to come true. As I open the blue box his big eyes take one last look at me and then poof he's free again. Off into the woods he went to carry out his life the way nature intended, wild and free.

Q) Any other things you'd like to share?

I absolutely love animals. I've been working with them for years. Mostly pets, horses, pigs, goats, chickens, dogs, cats, parrots, small animals, reptiles and fish. Getting familiar with wildlife rehab has been a totally different can of worms (pun intended). I am endlessly grateful for this opportunity to learn and experience these epic animals. I guess you can say I've been bit by the wildlife bug, and I have every intention of continuing this fulfilling and eventful work. Thank you.

Kim is a gift to WCNC. Her willingness to jump in the car & drive the 70 miles from her home to help out is inspiring because she does it out of love for the animals. Her sense of humor and positive attitude are an added bonus. Thank you Kim, truly. From all of us.



Board Members and Staff

JEN ZAMON
Board President

ANDREW MATTINGLY
Vice President

MELISSA LAHTI
Secretary

NIKKI FOWLER
Treasurer

KYLEEN AUSTIN
Member

ERIC OWEN
Member



JOSH SARANPAA
Executive Director
josh@coastwildlife.org

GINGER NEALON
Wildlife Rehabilitator
ginger@coastwildlife.org

ERICA LONG
Wildlife Rehabilitator
erica@coastwildlife.org

KARI HENNINGSGAARD
Admin Coordinator
kari@coastwildlife.org