

Goodbye Feathered Friends!

Last November our Coast Guard friends helped us release a group of newly rehabbed Common Murres. Thanks U.S. Coast Guard Station Tillamook Bay!

Photo: U.S.C.G. Station Tillamook Bay

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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

Winter
2021

Helping Wildlife in Need - Connecting People with Nature

The Future of Wildlife Rehab - Student Volunteers

Student participation at the Wildlife Center has seen considerably growth over the past year under Rehab Coordinator, Patrick Hogan, who has cultivated a comprehensive program that delivers rehab knowledge infused with his infectious love for wildlife.

Katja Erringer, a pre-vet freshman in Oregon State's honors program, spent her summer working in the wildlife hospital. After hearing great things about WCNC, and because she wanted to work with seabirds and shorebirds (which she thinks are "magical" & remind her of home); she reached out about a potential internship & we delightfully accepted.

In pursuit of a Biology degree with a minor in Fisheries & Wildlife, Katja said what she gained from her time at WCNC was not only directly applicable to her studies, it was beneficial for her to combine the hands-on side of ecology with the textbook side that she learns at OSU.

About her time interning Katja said, "Patrick is hands-down the best person I've worked with, he brings a lot of joy and fun to working with birds that makes time fly by (pun intended)." She also loved time spent laughing with the rehab team about cormorants.

Nicole Souply, also a pre-vet student at Oregon State, who recently moved to the area, spent her winter break volunteering in the wildlife hospital.

Looking back on her time, Nicole says the experience and education she received about birds at WCNC is unparalleled. She learned how to handle, feed & medicate many types

of birds. She learned bird anatomy and about diseases birds suffer from and more.



Intern Sarah Loudon, a sophomore at Unity College in Maine & Rehabber Patrick care for a female surf scoter.

Some of her favorite moments were releasing a fulmar and caring for a northern pygmy owl. Nicole loved tubing and medicating patients and says she, "can't forget about the necropsies that taught me so much anatomy! (shoutout to Patrick for being as excited about dissecting dead things as me, lol)." The work is tough, but according to Nicole, the reward is worth it!

WCNC is equally enriched by student participation & hopes the Internship Program continues to grow. Long-term goals include the acquisition of temporary student housing and formal partnerships with Universities.

911

Number of patients
admitted in 2020

383

Number of animals
released in 2020

137

Number of species
admitted in 2020

Cormie Corner

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



Baby Cormie receives a nebulizer treatment.

In July of 2015, a driver sat in his taxi cab waiting for his next call when suddenly he saw a bald eagle drop something into a tree.

The curious driver went to investigate & saw a small bird stuck in the branches. Heroically, he climbed the tree, rescued the bird, and brought it to the Wildlife Center for care.

The initial assessment showed that the cormorant chick had an old wing fracture that was misaligned, and it was determined that the bird would be unable to ever fly properly and therefore was ineligible for release. The decision was made to add her to WCNC's education program and the chick was named, Cormie. **Check back next newsletter for more of the story!**

Rehab Report: Rescued & Released

A concerned citizen was finally able to contain a Western Gull, seen for weeks around Netarts with a blowdart through its neck.

The rehab team was thankful for the clean removal of the object that left minimal scabbing and a bit of swelling around the entrance and exit wounds.

Thirty minutes after the surgery, the gull was standing and alert, so was offered hydration and a yummy bowl of chopped fish.

After eight days in our care, the gull was given a clean bill of health, and happily released into Netarts Bay.



Spring Open House

08

Visit us at the Center! Free tours, fun activities for kids, and a native plant sale that you won't want to miss.



5th Annual Founder's Dinner

19

We remain optimistic for the future! Please mark your calendar for September, 19th 2021 for our 5th Annual Founder's Dinner!



An owl visits Odin in the night.



A game camera points at Odin's enclosure.

A Real Life Hoo-dunit?

A sudden change in behavior was a clue to WCNC's Bird Curator, Melisa Colvin that something was bothering Odin the Owl, but who or what? To solve the investigation, a game camera was hung near the enclosure and the wait began. It took just a few days to discover the culprit that had been ruffling Odin's feathers. It seems her new, wooded surroundings were attractive to not just her, but other owls as well. A larger owl had been visiting Odin, and was caught red-taloned!

The video revealed it was most likely a Barred Owl visiting Odin in the night. Barred Owls are about 4 times the size of Western Screech Owls, so justifiably intimidating. Decoys, reflective tape, or in this case obstructive netting are all humane solutions to deter unwanted wildlife friends.

WANTED



★ THE "SPOTTED" OWL ★

ALIVE ONLY

CRIME: FLY BY HOOTING

A Barred Owl was "spotted" on the game cam.

A Message from WCNC Board President, Jen Zamon

On behalf of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast's Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support!

Despite the challenges we've year, our donors stepped up in us to continue our mission by treatments to all of the wild come into our care. We ap- our Wild at Heart Members, for WCNC family, and for your com- for animals in need.



lived over the last a huge way allowing providing life-saving animals that have appreciate all of you, being a part of the passionate concern

We have big plans for the Wild- having you on the journey as we continue to grow and expand our services.

life Center, and love

We know that there are countless, worthy organizations to which you can donate your hard-earned money, but the fact that you have chosen us as a recipient means the world to us. We hope you know the value your gift has in the lives of the nearly 1,000 animals we treat every year. We couldn't continue this work without you alongside us, and we hope to be able to resume Member releases and other get-togethers soon. Thank 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 us answer the phone 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 American White Pelican with daily swims.

Feathered or Furry?

Fun Facts About Our Wildlife Patients

Phalaropus fulicarius. About the size of a robin, red phalaropes are considered small shorebirds despite being the largest and chunkiest of all the phalaropes. They have short, thick necks and their bills are noticeably thicker than other phalarope species.

During the summer, Red Phalaropes are a brilliant red with a white face and yellow bill, and in the winter they become a smooth grey and white with a black eye patch.

Habitat:

Red phalaropes breed on the Arctic tundra, and are migratory spending the winter on the ocean.

Food:

Gathering in varying sized flocks, phalaropes eat invertebrates while swimming on the surface of the water.

Interesting Facts:

Whalers once called Red Phalaropes "bowhead birds" and looked for flocks as a marker to find whales, because the phalaropes like to gather around grey and bowhead whales to feed in the muddy water plumes that the whales stir up.



Red Phalarope

Jr. Naturalist's Summer Camp!

Let's try this again! We plan on holding our Jr. Naturalist's Summer Camp Program this Summer.



Filled with fun activities kids can do outdoors, we hope to hold our camp this summer with any necessary safe guards included. This might mean additional sessions to keep the groups small as well as mask wearing and increased sanitation. Stay tuned for further announcements as these plans might change due to the ever-evolving pandemic.

Founder's "Dinner" 2020

Not quite a dinner, but the tradition carries on.

We were blown away by our supporters' generosity last year at our Annual Founder's Event. Despite the hardships we all faced, we were still able to raise over \$25,000 in support of local, native wildlife. A special thanks to our faithful M.C., Astoria Warrenton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, David Reid and to Morgan Heim at Neon Raven Labs for creating an inspiring tale of mischievous proportions featuring our Ambassador Double-Crested Cormorant, "Cormie." Thank you to all who attended the event, and to all who donated, and thanks to this year's event sponsors.

2020 Event Sponsors:
Columbia River Bar Pilots, Neon Raven Labs, Bronze Coast Gallery, Jeanine Rumble, Jen Zamon, Melissa Lahti, James Walker, Carol Newman, and David Reid.



Volunteer Spotlight: Randy & Whitney Anderson

Randy and his daughter Whitney joined WCNC's volunteer team a little over a year ago after seeing a notification in the Astorian. Never having heard of the Center before, Randy visited CoastWildlife.org to learn more & thought it might be a good fit. He asked his daughter Whitney if she'd like to volunteer with him & she enthusiastically said, "yes!" They attended an orientation and both started helping on Saturday mornings. Once Covid hit, they decided to put Whitney's volunteering on hold as she is an extremely high risk individual experiencing many pulmonary hospitalizations over the years, it just wasn't worth the risk. Randy switched to helping out during the week until the pandemic is under control & Whitney can return.

When asked about their favorite parts of volunteering Randy replied, "There are many things I love about helping out at the center. I guess one of my favorite things is cleaning bird poop! Lol, just kidding! Actually, my favorite thing is the joy and gratification I get when I have the opportunity to release a rehabbed patient, especially one that I have helped care for over time. My next favorite thing would be going on rescues. Nothing like the exhilaration of a rescue. Some are easy, but some have me scratching my head trying to figure out how in the heck am I going to get that bird? I love helping with patient care and learning from everyone there, especially Pauline when she was there, Patrick, Ginger and Melisa, such a wealth of knowledge and the patience to teach. Extremely grateful to everyone that helps out. I also love to help out with maintenance of the facilities,

there's always something to keep you busy. One of Whitney's favorite things to do was helping Donna feed the meal worms."

About his most memorable experience Randy said it was, "when I had the opportunity to take two white pelicans out on my boat to release. There had been a report of a pod of white pelicans near Rice Island in the Columbia River. I went in search and found the pod above buoy 54. When I opened their carriers and they came out, their eyes just lit up, they knew they were back home. The first one immediately flew off, but circled back around and circled above the boat waiting for its buddy to come join in flight. Then, a pelican from the pod on the beach of Rice Island saw the released pelican flying around and came out and joined it, like an ambassador coming out to greet it. The second pelican finally flew off and joined his old and new buddy and they flew back to the beach. It was pretty awesome, something I'll never forget."

Randy has built owl boxes, built Odin's new enclosure, he's installed pool filters, and painted the office stairs. Anything that needs done, Randy steps up to helpout with a smile (much of the time without being asked). He is also known for going above and beyond to save birds in need--like the time he rescued a grebe off the Astoria Meglar Bridge. Everyone immensely enjoys this father-daughter duos presence in the hospital & can't wait until they can both return. Thank you Randy & Whitney--we appreciate your dedication to wildlife and the Wildlife Center & love having you on the team!



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