



Otter Update

Remember the otter pup that was rescued off of Sauvie Island, and in our care for over a month? Last September, he was relocated from the Oregon Zoo to the Zoo Knoxville to live in their river otter habitat.

02

Cormie Corner
Important Dates
Thank you!

03

Note from the Board
Volunteers Needed
Feathered or Furry?

04

Pelican Rescue
Community Partners
Volunteer Spotlight:
Phelan Dopp



Helping Wildlife in Need - Connecting People with Nature

*Rescue
Rehab
Release* } 2021

*Wildlife Rescue Hot Line:
(503) 338-0331*

*Injured Wildlife Drop-off:
89686 Hwy 202*

*Wild at Heart
Member Newsletter*

Fall

Common Murres are Abundant Along the Oregon Coast

If you ventured onto Oregon or Washington's beaches this past summer, chances are you encountered a Common Murre.

For the past three years, the most common species treated in our wildlife clinic has been the Mallard. Orphans coming in during the spring account for most of those patients.

This year, the Common Murre regained its title as the most common species coming through our doors. It makes sense, considering the Common Murre is the most abundant seabird that nests along the Oregon Coast.

According to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, the murre population in Oregon is around 250,000 and they account for around 60% of all seabirds nesting within the state's boundaries.

Common Murres are colonial nesters, meaning they find strength in numbers as they lay their eggs in close proximity to one another.

They nest on rocky cliffs, and their large colonies are among the easiest to spot. Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach, Cape Meares near Tillamook, and Yaquina Head in Newport are all visible nesting locations.

Murre pairs will typically raise a single chick that jumps flightless from its nest site around the end of August. The precarious way in which they fledge, combined with the increased competition for food across all seabirds often results in some level of starvation and injury.

Murre parents might opt out of nesting



Common Murres enjoy pool time at WCNC.

during years when food sources are scarce. An increase in beached murres might not be worrisome. It might just speak to a thriving murre population on the Oregon Coast, although murres do face threats.

Warming ocean temperatures, oil spills, bycatch, food shortages, and human development are all constant threats to Pacific seabird populations as a whole.

111

Number of Common Murres admitted in 2020

218

Number of Common Murres admitted so far in 2021.

1,009

Total number of patients admitted so far in 2021.

Cormie Corner

We are SO CLOSE & Cormie's new home is within reach!



We are just \$7,000 away from our \$45,000 dollar goal to build our new seabird display enclosure. This enclosure is a HUGE deal. This project will not only provide more meaningful conservation education opportunities to local youth and

our community at large, it will greatly improve Cormie's quality of life & provide a space for any new roommates added to the program in the future! THANK YOU to all who have contributed! [Visit our website to donate & help us reach our final number.](#)



05

Winter Open House

Join us as we kick off 2022 with our Winter Open House! On Feb. 5th, we will open our doors to visitors for tours of our facility. This will be a chance for you to see what changes we've been making & to support us as we head into the new year.

Rehab Report: Rescued & Released

Watch for owls! Early September, this Great Horned Owl was found in a field, unable to fly.

Luckily, those who found it connected with one of our volunteers, who transported the owl to us from Oregon City. After 37 days in our care, the owl's eyesight had been regained and the owl was released back to where it was found.

As daylight savings time ends and days get shorter, we'll be driving in the dark more frequently; increasing the likelihood of coming into contact with owls hunting at dusk. Use caution to avoid collisions, and if you do accidentally hit any animal (and it's safe to do so), please stop to see if the animal was injured and needs help, or call our Rescue Hotline to alert us so a volunteer can check the area.



18

Founder's Night

Founder's Night 2022 is scheduled for September 18th, 2022. No matter what the year brings, we are confident this will bring forth a joyous celebration of wildlife, wildlife supporters, and conservation education!

5th Annual Founder's Night

Thank you to all who participated in this year's virtual Founder's Night. Due to your generosity, we were able to raise over \$20,000 for wildlife and wildlife conservation.

EVENT SPONSORS:



Weren't able to make it this year, but would still like to donate? It's not too late! Visit: www.CoastWildlife.org/Founders-Event and click "Give Now".



GIVING BACK

Chris & Staci
Farrell



The TAREEN FILGAS
FOUNDATION
Protecting birds & their habitats

Sally Costello &
Family



A Message from WCNC Board Members, Melissa & Kyleen

It's never too soon to start planning...



Do you thrive on the joy of creating fun and meaningful celebrations? Or raising funds for a cause near and dear to your heart? If so, we would love to have you on our 2022 Founder's Night Event Committee. Planning for this critical event starts soon and the more creative minds we have to make this our best annual event ever the better. We will plan for an in-person event next year while also making it as smooth as possible to convert to a virtual event in case that is the safest option. If you would like to volunteer with this committee (we promise to make it fun!), Contact Kari@coastwildlife.org.

Kyleen Austin and Melissa Lahti

Event Co-chairs



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

***Podiceps grisegena*.** During the nesting season these large grebes gather together in loud, colorful colonies, but during the winter when their plumage is drab and grey they are most often solitary and quiet. They are clumsy birds and when they are not in migration they are rarely seen flying.

Habitat:

Red-necked Grebes can be found in northern lakes & marshes during the nesting season and along the coastline during the winter.

Food:

These grebes forage underwater, or while floating on the surface with their heads submerged. They also pluck insects from nearby plants.

Interesting Facts:

Occasionally, Red-necked Grebes will migrate along coastlines or over water in large flocks during the day, but they only migrate over land during the night.



Photo by Donna Dewhurst, USFWS

Red-necked Grebe

Pelican Rescue

Last August, Keith Chandler and the Seaside Aquarium rescued a Brown Pelican that had been entangled in fishing line. It had been caught alongside another pelican that was deceased when they were discovered.

Thankfully, the others' injuries were mostly superficial, and after a couple of weeks in our care, the pelican was well-flighted and eating lots. Volunteers released the pelican back into the wild at Fort Stevens near the site it was found.



Coming Together for Conservation

Our community has come together for conservation in a big way! Due to the pandemic, Tongue Point Job Corps' Seamanship Program has been unable to assist us with releases. In the past, our partnership has been a huge asset to rehab patients needing a lift out to open waters. In their absence, the Columbia River Bar Pilots have stepped up in a BIG way, helping dozens of Common Murres complete their journey back into the wild. Releasing these seabirds onshore poses a number of challenges for the birds: from eager predators, to crashing waves, and unforgiving currents. We cannot thank the Bar Pilots enough for all of the support they have given us over these past few months!



Volunteer Spotlight: Phelan Dopp

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

April of this year is when I started. My mom introduced me to the idea, and working with animals seemed really fun.

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

The variation in the birds. Every week there is new wildlife to care about, and it is always changing. I enjoy having a different task each time I come, and just learning things about these birds that I never knew.

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

Feeding an owl in the barn. I don't remember what species it was, but it was flying around and hissing and it was interesting to see. I had never heard an owl hiss before, and watching close up how it flew was really interesting.

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

I like watching Cormie come to the door every time I need to get past her cage.

We appreciate Phelan's drive to come weekly and volunteer in the Wildlife Hospital. When he started, Phelan was a full-time student, working a job, and volunteering in the hospital every Saturday and Sunday. Now, in his Senior year at Astoria High School, Phelan still makes time to come volunteer once a week in the clinic. The rehab staff and other volunteers enjoy working with him, because

he is a self-starter and incredibly capable. He shows up, sees what needs to be done, and takes care of it.

When he is not volunteering, Phelan can be found at the Astoria Aquatic Center fulfilling his roll as Captain of the Swim Team. For his Senior Project, Phelan taught swim lessons to children in the foster care system. He plans to write his senior research paper on sharks, and their importance in the marine ecosystem.

Thank you Phelan, for all of your hard work. We admire you & can't wait to see where life takes you in the future. We know it will be far!



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