

Camp Registration is Open!

Registration for our Jr. Naturalists Summer Camp is now open. This summer we'll run three sessions for students entering 1st-8th grades. Visit our website for more info & to register.

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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

Spring
2022

Helping Wildlife in Need - Connecting People with Nature

Avian Influenza Outbreak Hits the Pacific Flyway

In early May, avian flu detections in non-commercial backyard flocks in Pacific County, WA and Linn County, OR marked the first positive recordings in our region.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a disease caused by a Type A virus. It is naturally occurring in wild birds, and has been documented in more than 100 different species worldwide.

The current North American outbreak was first detected in southeastern Canada in December 2021, and was thought to have entered in an infected wild seabird or migrating waterfowl. Since then, it has swept across the country, having been detected in 40 states, affecting 68 species, and marking over 1326 detections.

The virus currently circulating in Oregon is extremely contagious, and has a high mortality rate.

Infected birds shed the virus in high concentrations, spreading it through their droppings and airborne secretions. The virus lives on surfaces, and humans can carry it on our shoes and clothes.



Wild birds that typically carry the virus include waterbirds, shorebirds, and dabbling ducks who often remain asymptomatic acting as hosts for the virus. The disease also infects birds that prey upon or consume sick or dead waterfowl. In Oregon, the wild birds currently most at risk are waterfowl,

shorebirds, eagles, and scavengers (like crows, gulls, and vultures).

Late May, the first detections of HPAI in Oregon's wild birds were made after several goslings, an osprey, and a red-tailed hawk in Lane County all tested positive.

The state has imposed new guidance for rehabilitation facilities, and as a result WCNC has made temporary changes to our admissions policies to protect our current patients and ambassador birds. We are asking the public to call our rescue hotline for current admission restrictions, and to please still call us with all wildlife emergencies

The State is reminding people to avoid close contact with waterfowl this spring and summer, and to report sick or dead wild birds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 866-968-2600.

40

Number of states affected by the current HPAI outbreak.

68

Number of species affected by the current HPAI outbreak.

1,326+ Total number of HPAI detections recorded so far.

Cormie Corner

Cormie WOWED again at the Birds of a Feather Spring Festival!



She even had a few new tricks up her sleeve, delighting guests as she demonstrated how she has learned about colors! If you want to visit Cormie, your next opportunity is our Summer Open House on August 6th. Thank you to volunteer, Quinn for assisting our Bird Curator during the presentations. As we grow the Education Program, the need for volunteers will grow too. Reach out to melisa@coastwildlife.org if you're interested in helping with educational programming.

Cormie raised \$90 at the Spring Festival, and is very close to reaching the fundraising goal for her new enclosure. If you would like to help her get her new pool, visit the Support page on our website for the link to give.

Rehab Report: Rescued, Rehabbed & Released

Last March a Barred Owl came into care with a badly wounded right eye.

Dr. Pope at Bayshore Animal Hospital did a thorough exam and determined that the owl's eye injury was unrecoverable, but it was in otherwise good health. WCNC's volunteer Veterinarian, Dr. Michelle Rub eviscerated the owl's eye. After surgery, the owl was live prey tested and passed. After 60 days in care the surgery site had healed over, and the owl was released back to the wild!



Summer Open House

Our next Open House will be on August 6th from 10am-4pm. We will be open for the public to stop by and visit. We'll have a raffle and games. Tours of the clinic are dependant on the state of Avian Influenza at the time of the event.

06



Founder's Night

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

18

Avian Influenza FAQ's

Answers to common questions about the current Avian Influenza outbreak.

Q) How can I protect my backyard flock from Avian Influenza?

Anyone that owns poultry or waterfowl should review their biosecurity protocols. In addition to good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to the ODFW. If possible, consider bringing your birds indoors to prevent exposure. Visit the USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website for resources that can help keep your birds safe.

Q) Can I keep my backyard bird feeders up?

Songbirds that congregate around bird feeders do not seem to be at risk for contracting this strain of Avian Influenza, but taking your bird feeders down is the best option for ensuring their safety. If you decide to keep them up, clean them at least once a week with a diluted bleach solution. Avoid using wooden bird feeders that can't be disinfected as easily, and use fresh bird seed. Clean-up old seed hulls and waste, and spread your feeders out so birds aren't all gathering in one spot. If you notice sick or dead birds in your backyard take your feeders down and report the deaths to ODFW.

Q) Can humans contract Avian Influenza?

This virus poses very little risk to humans. There has been one documented case of bird to human transmission in an individual that was working in close contact with several infected birds over an extended period of time.

Shout Outs!

Welcome to our seasonal Wildlife Rehabilitator, Kelsey who will be helping with animal care for the next few months.



Congratulations to Bird Curator Melisa for receiving her Professional Bird Trainer certification.



Thank you to Volunteers Mike, Liz & Dave for organizing a WCNC work party to help with much needed maintenance jobs at the Center.



A Message from Executive Director, Josh Saranpaa

Just when we thought maybe we were done with the pandemic, a new one pops up.



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is running rampant across North America, currently, and has made its way to Oregon. For the time being, we at the Wildlife Center are limiting the species of birds we can take in to help protect both our staff and volunteers, as well as the other patients and educational birds we have. If you find an injured bird, give us a call before rescuing it, and we will do our best to help. Thank you so much for your understanding and continued support!

Thank You!

Burly & the Bean for donating event raffle proceeds to the Wildlife Center of the North Coast. *Visit one of their two Seaside locations to try their uniquely delicious coffee creations.*



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 ten common murre.

\$50



Can provide this White Pelican with daily swims.

Feathered or Furry?

Fun Facts About Our Wildlife Patients

Aethia psittacula. All about birds describes this adorable bird as, “a small, chunky seabird with a thick orange bill.” They have pale eyes and wispy head plumes with a turned-up bill that makes them look as though they are always smiling.

Habitat: Parakeet auklets can only be found on land during the breeding season on islands in the North Pacific. They are not known for forming large flocks, but will nest alongside other auklets.

Food: Parakeet auklets are diving birds, and will dive up to 30 meters in pursuit of its prey, usually consuming small planktonic crustaceans.

Interesting Facts: Parakeet auklets are highly vocal at their nest. They start to call as soon as they reach the nest, and then take to a duet once their mate arrives with a series of rhythmic horse calls and quavering squeals. Why they do this is unknown, but might be to defend their burrow or to strengthen the bond with their mate.



Parakeet Auklet

Event Calendar

February 5th: Winter Open House

February 16th: North Coast Trivia Showdown

May 14th-15th: Birdathon

May 14th & 15th: Birds of a Feather Spring Festival

July 22nd & 23rd: Conservation Film Festival

August 6th: Summer Open House

September 18th: Founder's Night

October 29th: Birds of a Feather Fall Festival

November 22nd: Giving Tuesday



Spring Festival Fun at WCNC!

Our Birds of a Feather Spring Festival on May 14th & 15th was a success. We had 150+ visitors over the weekend who helped us raise crucial funds needed to care for patients this Spring and Summer. Congratulations to our first ever youth art contest winners, and thank you to River Road Classic Designs and Finds for sponsoring the contest, and to our judges!

Also, a huge thank-you to Luminari Arts, A Gypsy's

Whimsy, Godfather's Books, and the Astoria Warrenton Chamber of Commerce for donating items to our raffle, to Buoy Beer for providing refreshments, and to Native Habitat Nursery in Dayton for donating plants for our native plant sale. Our next on-site event will be our Summer Open House on August 6th. Hope to see you there!



Volunteer Spotlight: Ellison Randall

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

I've volunteered off and on at the center since I was 15. I've wanted to work with animals since I was 5, and pretty much anyone who knew me or my family knew that. A friend of my mom's from church, Sue Stacy, volunteered at the center then and offered to take me with her when she went in. I was so excited to do such cool work and help animals in need.

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

I'd like to go into wildlife rehab and education as a career, and volunteering is good experience for me. I'd still go even if I didn't; I love coming in every week and seeing how the patients have improved, doing what I can to help them, learning little facts about the animals I get to work with, and working with all the great staff and volunteers.

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

The first year I volunteered, I got to tag along on an eagle release up at the Astoria Column. I was supposed to be filming the release, and they had me stand to the side, safely out of the

way, because "the eagles always fly straight out over the forest when we release them." They open the dog crate, the eagle takes two steps out, turns around, and takes off straight towards me. Somewhere on my computer there's a very shaky video of me ducking for cover as it went over my head. That was pretty memorable! They also had me go around beforehand and warn people to hold onto their small dogs, which was kinda funny.

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

Cormorants are my favorite bird, and Cormie is a big contributor to that. I was there when she first came to the center. Not for her intake exam, but I remember her wandering around the kennel area, getting into everything. I had buckles on my rain boots that she liked to pull on, and when she got older, she'd jump up on the counters trying to fly and knock over all the clean towels. What a darling!

We're not sure what we love more--Ellison's intelligence and skill, natural talent with animals, incredible work ethic, or simply her company. We feel so fortunate to have her as part of our organization. Thank you Ellison!



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