

# WILD TIMES



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## Lots of Little Birds

**“Do you guys care for little birds?”**

This is a question we are often asked on the phone or when we give presentations.

People call because their cat has caught a bird, but it is “just a” robin, sparrow, finch... (fill in the blank with any small songbird) so they are not sure if we will be interested in helping it. When we give presentations and mention birds hitting windows, there is often someone in the audience who says, “birds hit my windows all the time, but they are just little things and usually die so I didn’t think you’d want to bother with them”.

**Do we care for little birds? - Our answer is a resounding YES!**

So far this year we have cared for over 140 small songbirds. They are just as important a part of the local ecosystem as big, glamorous eagles or owls, and these little creatures are heavily impacted by human activities. Most of the animals that come to us after being caught by cats are small songbirds, and they can quickly die of infection if they don’t receive treatment as soon as possible. They are also hit by cars, fly into windows, and many songbird nests are destroyed when people do yard or construction work during the spring/early summer nesting season, leaving tiny, helpless nestlings that need our care.

Another comment we hear regularly is “there are just so many of them (small songbirds).” In fact, the numbers of many species of songbirds are declining. While you may see lots of juncos eating seed at your feeder and flocks of robins gobbling berries in your back yard, what about the little warblers that eat tiny insects in the woodlands and migrate thousands of miles every year? How are they doing?

We are happy to care for robins, finches or sparrows that are commonly found around our houses, but we also see a wide range of other birds. So far this year we have treated 42 different species of small songbirds including Swainson’s Thrushes, American Goldfinches, House Wrens, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Red Crossbills, Chipping Sparrows, Evening Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, and four types of swallows.



*Olive-sided Flycatcher*

This variety keeps us on our toes, because these different types of birds need specific diets. But we also have the pleasure of seeing their behaviors and hearing their calls. Tiny Pacific Wren youngsters tend to quietly crouch down in their nest, while White-crowned Sparrows jump around and chirp, and nestling Black-headed Grosbeaks make loud “wheee-oo” calls to let us know they are hungry. Each is unique.

Here are just a few of the many little birds we have rehabilitated and released in the past few months.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** nestling was found sitting on the ground in a yard in Friday Harbor. It was thin, weak and dehydrated so it took a few days to

recover. But then it hopped up to perch on the edge of its bowl “nest” and snapped up large quantities of mealworms with its broad, flat beak.

A family in Sedro Wooley rescued a little brown bird that a cat was playing with. As soon as we saw it we knew it was a nestling **Spotted Towhee** because it was dark brown with small orange flecks on its wings and was bobbing up and down and loudly begging for food.



*Spotted Towhee*

A tiny greenish bird turned up on a lawn in Anacortes. After consulting various books, we determined that it was a fledgling **Orange-crowned Warbler**. Fortunately its minor wing injury healed quickly and within a few days it was able to fly.

Two nestling **Anna’s Hummingbirds** were found in the grass next to a busy road in Mt Vernon. They used their short

“baby” beaks to drink large quantities of special high-protein nectar from syringes, and after a couple of weeks they were zooming around in an indoor aviary.

If your cat catches a songbird, a bird hits your window or you find nestlings after their nest has been destroyed, don’t hesitate to give us a call. We will be happy to care for each of these special little birds.

## News in Brief

- 7/6 **Sara Rezutek** came all the way from Connecticut to be our 5<sup>th</sup> intern of 2016.
- 7/9 We had fun with hands-on activities at the **Anacortes Kids R Best Fest**.
- 7/20 Our 6<sup>th</sup> intern, **Erin Sackett** from Oregon, arrived.
- 8/3 **Monica Foley** from Washington State joined us as our 7<sup>th</sup> intern.
- 8/17 Our final intern of the year, **Lindsie Sabol** from California, arrived.
- 8/17-20 Wolf Hollow joined other local stewardship organizations in the **Green Village at SJ County Fair**.
- 8/25 We were invited to have children's activities at the **National Parks Centennial** celebration event.
- 8/27 Lots of people enjoyed our "Birds on the Bay" activities at **Fidalgo Bay Day**.
- 9/10 We took our education booth and an Eagle Quiz to the **Skagit River Salmon Festival**.
- 10/7 Wolf Hollow Board members and Executive Director held **strategic planning retreat**
- 10/22 Jack welcomed dogs and their people to his **13<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party** at the Barking Bird store.



*Orange-crowned Warbler*

Our Heron Cage was built by staff and volunteers in 1997 with mostly donated materials. Its size (32' long by 16' wide by 12' high) means that it is a great multipurpose cage. It can be used to give medium- sized birds enough space to build up their strength before release, or as an intermediate step to allow larger birds to gradually stretch their wings before going into our eagle flight cage.

Over the years the Heron Cage has housed a wide range of birds including eagles, large hawks and owls, gulls, ducks, geese and yes – even Great Blue Herons. But constant use and our damp climate have taken their toll. Parts of the wooden structure and special netting were rotting to the point that the enclosure needed to be replaced. Mark, our facilities manager, and volunteers have taken down the old enclosure and soon we will see the new and improved version taking shape. This cage replacement was made possible by a grant from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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## Director's Corner

When I accepted the Director position in April, my heart was teeming with excitement at the prospect of helping wildlife. I couldn't wait to get started. While I understood the mission of Wolf Hollow, I admit I had no idea what it looked like up close. After several months here, I will tell you - it's not what I expected. Helping wildlife is unpredictable. It's messy. It takes patience, skill, resources and lots of effort.

What does it look like? So many wonderful things: a volunteer gathering clover to feed tiny rabbits; a wide-eyed intern arriving on a ferry, ready to gain experiences not found in a classroom; a concerned mother and daughter delivering an injured hummingbird to rehab staff. It looks like a once-emaciated bald eagle flying swiftly into the mist over False Bay, or a pair of young river otters cautiously returning to a wild life on the rocky coastline. Mostly, it looks like you - contributing your time, talent and financial resources to make all of these things possible.

These brief moments come together to form a mosaic of compassion and commitment to preserving a healthy balance of humans and wildlife in our communities.

As we wrap up a year of planning, reflection and renewal to prepare us for the challenges ahead, I can't say thank you enough. Thank you for your service to wildlife. Thank you for doing more instead of less in a busy and uncertain time. Thank you, especially, on behalf of all the animals you have helped. If you'd like to get a closer look at Wolf Hollow, give me a call. Winter is the perfect time to schedule a visit.

With gratitude,

*Amy Saxe-Eyler*, Executive Director

P.S. I hope you will remain a partner in our mission for years to come. To help us continue our work, please consider making a donation today using the enclosed envelope.

## Heron Cage Rebuild



*Heron Cage, 2007*



Townsend's Big-eared Bat

## New Species for Wolf Hollow

After 33 plus years in operation we have received most local species of birds and mammals for care at one time or another, but we got a surprise this October when a Townsend's Big-eared Bat was brought in. These are medium sized bats – about 4 inches long, with a wing-span of ~12 inches. They are brownish on the back and paler buff underneath, but what makes them instantly recognizable are the two bumps on either side of their noses and their enormous ears. Their ears are very flexible and can swivel around to detect sounds when the bat is hunting small moths, or occasionally beetles, flies and other insects.

We knew that Townsend's Big-eared Bats lived on the islands, but none of us had ever seen one before. They are probably not as numerous in our area as some other bats, and are listed as a State Candidate Species in Washington. This means that information is being gathered to determine if they should be added to the threatened or endangered list for the state.

Fortunately this particular bat was not injured. It had just been found roosting in a shed where lots of activity was going on, so it was able to immediately be returned to the area and placed in a quieter spot.

## Adoption Packets and New Cards

Does your granddaughter love flying squirrels, or does your husband think eagles are amazing? If you are trying to find a special gift for the wildlife enthusiast in your family, we might have the answer. Our Animal Adoption Packets feature a beautiful photo of an animal that has been cared for at Wolf Hollow, plus its individual story and natural history notes about that species. There's a Saw Whet Owl or a River Otter, a Great a Blue Heron or a Rufous Hummingbird. Visit our web site at [wolfhollowwildlife.org/adoption-program](http://wolfhollowwildlife.org/adoption-program), to choose.

We also have **new cards!** From a cute fawn to an elegant owl, each pack contains 2 of each of six animal designs. They are available for sale at the Barking Bird in Friday Harbor, Fine Feathered Friends in La Conner and Pawki's in Eastsound on Orcas. We will also have them at our Critter's Christmas event.



American Goldfinch

## Statistics thru October 2016

### Number of Animals

Birds	283	62.1%
Mammals	165	36.2
Amphibians/Reptiles	8	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>	

### Causes

Orphaned / separated	139	30.5%
Cat Attack	72	15.8
Nest Destroyed	19	4.2
Hit by Car	33	7.2
Window/Building	35	7.7
Dog attack	9	2.0
Human interference	8	1.7
Unknown	97	21.3
Other	44	9.6

(caught in string, oiled, mower, netting, etc.)

### Results

In Treatment	14	3.1%
Released	200	43.9
Euthanized	144	31.6
Died	39	8.5
DOA	58	12.7
Transferred	1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>	

## Wolf Hollow's Mission

To promote the well-being of wildlife and their habitats through rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife, public education, and non-invasive research.

### Board of Directors

Susen Oseth – President  
 Marc Brown – Vice President  
 Scott Van Buskirk – Treasurer  
 Cindy Hansen – Secretary  
 Chris Minney  
 Julie Knight  
 Julie Duke  
 Susan Waters

### Staff

Amy Saxe-Eyler - Executive Director  
 Lynne Mercer - Administrative Coordinator  
 Penny Harner – Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 Vicki Taylor – Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 Shona Aitken – Education Coordinator  
 Mark Billington – Facilities Manager  
 Marc Brown – Volunteer Coordinator

Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is licensed for wildlife rehabilitation under the auspices of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## Critter's Christmas

You're invited to come by the Mullis Community Senior Center between 5 and 8 pm on December 9<sup>th</sup> for hot drinks and delicious holiday goodies and to share wildlife stories with Wolf Hollow Staff and Board members.

Bring an item from our wish list as a holiday gift for our local wild creatures and take home a hand-made ornament for your Christmas tree. If you're looking for a special gift for wildlife enthusiasts in your family, our T shirts, cards and Adoption Packets will be available and might just fit the bill.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Visit the events section of our web site to take a look at our Critters Christmas Wish List

[www.wolfhollowwildlife.org/events](http://www.wolfhollowwildlife.org/events).

## Sixth Annual Rosario Festival of Trees

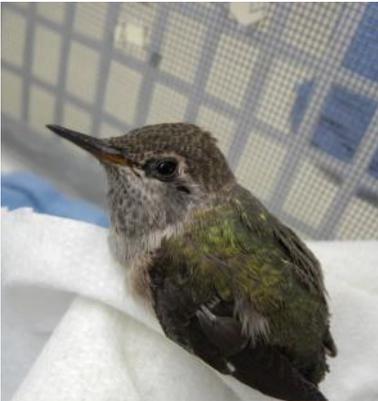
Wolf Hollow will be taking part in Rosario's Festival of Trees again this year. Visit the Moran Mansion on Orcas Island in December to check out the beautiful trees decorated by a variety of local non-profits. Vote for your favorite trees and organizations by purchasing \$1 tickets from the front desk. All proceeds go directly to the organizations and your tickets will be entered to win some great prizes!

## Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

284 Boyce Rd / PO Box 391  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
(360) 378-5000

Address Service Requested

*Over 30 Years  
Caring for Wildlife*



*Fledgling Anna's Hummingbird*



## Thank you Jack!

Our thanks to Jack (the gentle canine greeter) and to Judith at the Barking Bird store in Friday Harbor for celebrating Jack's 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday as a benefit for Wolf Hollow. Lots of dogs and their people came by to say happy birthday to Jack and share delicious goodies. Thank you to everyone who donated items from our special birthday wish list and to Judith for donating 13% of the days sales revenues to Wolf Hollow.

## Wish List

- Ceramic Heat Lamps (60w)
- Copier Paper (high recycled content)
- Frozen Meats (beef, lamb, chicken)
- Nuts in shells (almonds, walnuts, pecans) (for squirrels)
- Dry kitten and dog food (high quality)
- Hose nozzles (for cage cleaning)
- Garbage Bags (13 and 33 gal)
- Pine/Fir Shavings (for animal bedding)
- Kitchen shears and scrub brushes
- Packing Tape
- Epson Printer Ink Cartridges (77 and 78)
- Ziploc bags (quart size)
- Feather Dusters (natural, untreated)
- Wood Chips (for paths)
- Bathroom tissue and paper towels (unbleached)
- Berries (blue, black, straw, rasps)
- Rubber gloves (heavy duty, for cage cleaning, medium and small sizes)
- Deck scrub brushes
- Laundry, dish and hand soaps (septic friendly, low perfume)
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C)
- Colored paper (for animal charts and education materials)