

## Little and Large

One of the most enjoyable things about working at Wolf Hollow is the opportunity to care for such a wide range of animals. One minute you can be handling an injured Great Blue Heron and the next examining a tiny nestling hummingbird. Our patients can be birds, mammals, amphibians or reptiles, young or old, common or rare, little or large.

An extreme example of the range in sizes of our patients occurred earlier this summer when we were caring for Deer Mouse babies measuring about 1½ inches and weighing 7 grams (¼ oz) at the same time as a young Northern Elephant Seal that was over 6 feet long and weighed almost 35 kg (77 pounds) on arrival at the rehab center.

Deer Mice are little, grey, native mice, with big black eyes, large ears and a long tail. Their feet and the underside of their body and tail are white. Mostly these little mice stay in the woods, but these youngsters were brought to Wolf Hollow because their mother had made her nest in a car engine. The three babies had their eyes closed and would still have been nursing, so we used a small syringe with a miniscule catheter tip on the end to feed them 0.2 ml of special formula several times a day. It was a delicate operation because their mouths were so tiny, but they eagerly lapped from the tip.

In contrast, we also had a patient that needed specialized care on a very different scale.

A young Northern Elephant Seal was found on the beach near Ocean Shores on the outer coast of Washington's Olympic Peninsula. She was emaciated, weak and dehydrated, so was picked up by a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist and transported to Wolf Hollow for care.

The young seal was around 6 months old and severely under-nourished so she needed intensive care for the first few days. Our first task was to get her rehydrated, which involved tube-feeding her 600 ml (about 20 oz) of fluids several times a day using huge syringes and a tube about 3 feet long. While we had a problem seeing the tiny

mouths of the baby mice, we had no such problem with the young elephant seal. Her mouth was large and obvious. The challenge was prying it open to insert the tube and avoiding being bitten in the process.

As you can imagine, handling the animals also required different techniques. The mice could be gently picked up with our finger tips, but handling the Elephant Seal required at least 2 people—one person to restrain the seal so others could safely feed or give her medication.

Initially she was very weak and did little other than

snooze in the sun, but gradually, as we introduced her to a delicious fortified fish slurry mixture, she became more active and alert and even went swimming in her shallow pool. The next step was introducing solid food. For the

mice, this was easy. We put a small dish of rodent mash in their cage and they started nibbling on it. For the elephant seal, our plan was that we would put whole herring into her mouth and she would obligingly swallow them. Her idea was that she would firmly clamp her jaws closed on the fish and not let go. After several attempts and many squished fish she finally got the idea and started swallowing them. Then she progressed to chasing dead fish around in her pool, tearing them to bits, then slurping down the individual pieces – messy, but effective.

The little mice developed quickly and were soon running around. In only 3 weeks they grew to their adult size of around 20 grams (0.7 oz) and were ready for release out in the woods.

The young elephant seal however needed longer-term care. Wolf Hollow doesn't have big, deep pools that are ideal to allow a large elephant seal to swim and dive, so once her condition was stable, she was transported to the California Marine Mammal Center. The last we heard, she weighed 56 kgs (123 pounds) and, by the time you read this, she will have been released back into the wild.



Deer Mouse



Elephant seal

## News in Brief

- 3/31 Over 200 visitors came by for our Open House and helped us celebrate our 35th anniversary
- 3/31 First baby animal of the year – an infant Cottontail that had been grabbed by a dog
- 4/24 Living With Wildlife – the first in our 2018 series of Wild San Juan presentations in partnership with the Whale Museum
- 4/26 Students enjoyed our “Bird Bones” activity at Mt Vernon High School Science Night
- 4/27 First baby bird of the year – a fledgling Anna’s Hummingbird
- 5/1 Lindsey Burley from Michigan arrived as our first rehab intern of 2018
- 5/5 All About Owls was the theme for our activities at Friday Harbor Children’s Festival
- 5/6 We joined San Juan County Land Bank, Preservation Trust and National Park staff for a Year of the Bird Celebration event
- 5/15 Our second rehab intern, Adrianna Pollee from Michigan joined us
- 5/24 Second Wild San Juan presentation, entitled “Dealing with Deer”
- 5/27 First seal pup – An Elephant Seal youngster
- 6/2-3 Over 160 people visited our education booth at Anacortes Waterfront Festival
- 6/6 Erin Massey travelled from Colorado to be our third rehab intern of the year
- 6/19 Sophia Marble from Hood River OR joined us as education intern for the summer
- 6/21 Swallows and Sparrows, Flickers and Flycatchers - our third *Wild San Juan* Presentation
- 6/20 Fourth rehab intern, Hannah Burge from Pennsylvania arrived to join our team
- 6/28 First Harbor Seal Pup



Our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake



## New Aviary and Mews

Our Facilities Manager, Mark Billington, and volunteer Jerry McElyea were busy this winter and spring, working on three major projects:

- Rebuilding three raptor mews in our woodland with funding provided by the San Juan Island Community Foundation’s matching gift program at last year’s San Juan County Fair.
- Replacing the second of our songbird aviaries thanks to a generous



## Arizona Students

A group of students from Arizona State University carried out projects on the San Juan Islands as their alternative spring break. We were delighted to have them spend a day at Wolf Hollow building a songbird aviary and a deck for waterfowl tubs. They were a great work crew and helped us make a lot of progress on these projects in a short time. THANK YOU to all the students and the organizers of the trip.



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Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center  
284 Boyce Rd. / PO Box 391  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
[www.WolfHollowWildlife.org](http://www.WolfHollowWildlife.org)  
[WolfHollow@WolfHollowWildlife.org](mailto:WolfHollow@WolfHollowWildlife.org)



## Teenagers Help Wildlife

**Ren DiBona** is an accomplished young artist who lives on Lopez. She has always loved animals, so decided to create a piece of art that could be made into cards and prints and sold to raise funds to support Wolf Hollow's work. She created this beautiful image of a young Red Fox and more than tripled her original goal of selling 30 cards, raising \$500 for Wolf Hollow.

Thank you so much Ren!



Local students **Lucas Chevalier** and **Marshall Clark** were concerned about the number of collisions between vehicles and deer on San Juan Island so they decided to take action. After carrying out interviews and doing research they decided to purchase deer whistles and sell them in the local community. These devices can be attached to cars and emit a sound when they're moving, so deer have warning when a vehicle is approaching. They originally intended to sell

100 whistles, but there was such high demand that they sold twice as many and donated \$400 to Wolf Hollow.

Thank You Lucas and Marshall for your great idea!

## Girl Scouts

For the 11th year in a row, Girl Scout Troop 41873 from Snohomish carried out a work weekend at Wolf Hollow. They worked hard, with lots of enthusiasm, and completed an amazing amount of work in a short time, including pressure washing, digging up thistles, cleaning pet carriers and enclosures, planting flowers, and clearing blackberries.



...and they donated all kinds of great items from our Wish List too.

THANK YOU SO MUCH GIRLS!

## Statistics thru June 2018

### Number of Animals

Birds	184	62.2%
Mammals	111	37.5
Amphibians/Reptiles	1	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>	

### Causes

Orphaned/Separated	77	26.0
Cat Attack	36	12.2
Hit by Car	44	14.9
Window/Building	12	4.1
Nest Destroyed	30	10.1
Fell From Nest	10	3.4
Dog Attack	6	2.0
Unknown	54	18.2
Other	27	9.1
(fell in storm drain, poison, caught in netting, other human interference)		

### Results

Released	60	20.3
Euthanized	73	24.7
DOA	51	17.2
Died	17	5.7
Transferred	2	0.7
In care (end of June)	93	31.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>	



Young Cooper's hawk

### Wolf Hollow Staff

Amy Saxe-Eyler – Executive Director

Penny Harner – Wildlife Rehabilitator

Vicki Taylor – Wildlife Rehabilitator

Shona Aitken – Education Coordinator



### Our Mission

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

### Wolf Hollow Board of Directors

Marc Brown, President

Cindy Hansen, Secretary

Susan Oseth, Vice President

Chris Minney

## Remembering Scott Van Buskirk



*Baby chickadees*

We're very sad to announce the passing of Scott Van Buskirk - a beloved Wolf Hollow board member and volunteer. Scott joined our board to offer his planning and finance expertise as our Treasurer. He was also an animal care volunteer, and was often one of the first to volunteer at events or wherever it was needed.

All around the Wolf Hollow facility, you can find evidence of Scott's care and handiwork. The freshly made tub covers in our seal pup nursery, a ramp at the back door, and most prominently, a picnic table Scott designed and constructed by hand.

There are brand new aviaries tucked into our woods – a contribution from Scott and his wife Ann to honor Scott's father, Raymond Van Buskirk. These will house thousands of songbirds on their road to recovery.

We're so grateful for Scott's generosity and for all the ways he helped Wolf Hollow become a better place for the animals. We will miss him.



## Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

284 Boyce Rd / PO Box 391

Friday Harbor, WA 98250

*Over 30 Years*

Ad-  
dress Service  
Requested



*Baby otter*



## Wish List

- Wheelbarrow (with puncture resistant tires)
- Shelf Totes (16"x21"x6") (for education materials)
- Copier Paper (high recycled content)
- Frozen Meats and Fish (beef, lamb, chicken, salmon)
- Nuts in shells (almonds, walnuts, pecans) (for squirrels)
- Energizer Rechargeable Batteries (AA, C)
- Dry kitten and dog food (high quality)
- Dry Cob Grain (no molasses)
- Garbage Bags (13 and 33 gal)
- Epson Printer Ink Cartridges (77 and 78)
- Garden hoses and nozzles
- Masking Tape
- Bathroom Tissue (unbleached)
- Frozen Berries (blue, black, straw, rasps)
- Laundry detergent (septic friendly, unscented)
- Hand Soap (not antibacterial)
- Paper Towels



*Young fawn*