

Sounds of Summer



Chirp. Caw. Peep. Boo. These are the sounds of summer at Wolf Hollow.



Hungry baby birds

For many people, memorable summer sounds may be the gentle lapping of waves on the shore or bees buzzing in the garden.

But, for the staff and volunteers at Wolf Hollow, summer sounds are all to do with baby wild animals. When we walk into the rehab center first thing in the morning, our ears are assailed by a variety of sounds all communicating one thing – I'M HUNGRY! There are soft cheeps from tiny hatchling robins in the incubator and louder chirps from fledgling finches in cages nearby. Young crows produce strident caws to tell us they think breakfast is way overdue, and screams from the back room let us now that the raccoon kits are awake and WANT FOOD NOW! If you step outside you may hear distant meows from the fawns in their enclosure and boos from seal pups who think it has been a long time since their midnight feed.

We rush around preparing special diets and feeding everyone, then for a little while it is quiet, apart from contented peeps and sloshing sounds from ducklings dabbling in their wet food dish to find the most juicy mealworms. But the peace doesn't last long. Soon the young songbirds are hungry and need to be fed again, and again, ... every 30 minutes!

When everyone is fed it is time to clean up, so you can hear the clinks and splashes of dishes being washed, the swish of floors being swept and mopped and the hum of the washing machines cleaning the first of many loads of dirty animal bedding. Suddenly the relative peace is shattered by ear piercing hisses as a young barn owl is caught up to be moved to an outdoor enclosure. He obviously doesn't believe this is a positive move, to a place with more room to flap his wings.

Several times a day there will be the shrill ring of the telephone with a call from someone in Anacortes whose cat brought in a baby rabbit, or a person on Orcas who accidentally made little hatchling birds homeless when they were clearing brush in their yard and destroyed a nest. This is followed by telephone conversations as staff or interns contact local transport volunteers to collect these animals and send them on their way to Wolf Hollow.

Every so often a new sound will be added to the mix as a new animal is brought in. It could be the loud squawk of a young woodpecker with an injured wing objecting to the indignity of being examined, or the clear piping calls of a tiny Killdeer chick that was found all alone in a school yard.



Raccoon kit

This repertoire of sounds continues throughout the day and on into the evening, till it starts to get dark and most of the animals settle down for the night. Next morning it starts all over again, and variations on this theme continue throughout the summer. The sounds gradually change as different animals come and go, or youngsters grow up, learn to eat on their own, and make less noise. At some point in fall we realize that it is almost silent in the treatment room and it will be several months before we will hear that special combination of summer sounds again.



Barn owl



Harbor seal pup

30 Miles for 30 Years (3 people, 3 islands, 3 days)

2013 is Wolf Hollow's 30th Birthday!

In 1983 Wolf Hollow became a licensed Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. A few years later the center moved from the vet clinic building in Friday Harbor where it all began, to our current 40 acre location in the middle of San Juan Island.

To celebrate our 30th Birthday, and to raise awareness and funds to support our work, three people with long-term connections to Wolf Hollow will be undertaking a 30-mile sponsored run/walk. On September 5th, 6th and 7th, they will cover 10 miles on each of Orcas, Lopez and San Juan Islands.

The three people involved are:

Meg Lainson (formerly Jessica Porter), who was one of the main founders of Wolf Hollow,

Ross Lockwood, who has been involved with the organization as a volunteer, board member and supporter for over 25 years, and

Shona Aitken, who has worked in a range of roles at Wolf Hollow for 23 years, and is currently our Education Coordinator.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if this event could raise a nice round sum like \$30,000 dollars to match the 30 miles and 30 years? To make this possible we need the help of all our friends and supporters from the San Juan Islands, Skagit County, Washington State and beyond. You can become part of our 30 Years celebration by pledging to donate some number of dollars for every mile covered by Meg, Ross or Shona. You can do this by calling Wolf Hollow at 360-378-5000, or emailing wolfhollow@wolfhollowwildlife.org. If you live on San Juan Island or visit Friday Harbor you could also make a pledge by visiting The Barking Bird (275 A Street). This store is owned by Judith Carter, who is also one of Wolf Hollow's founders, and has sponsor sheets just waiting for you.



Wood duckling

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Address Service Re-



Little fawn



San Juan Islands

30 Years

Caring for Wildlife