

## Three Noisy Characters

What has a big beak, enormous feet, a round belly the size of a large grapefruit, eats huge quantities of fish and cackles loudly to be fed? Answer – a Great Blue Heron chick.

Towards the end of May a nestling heron was found lying in the road next to a large nesting colony near Coupeville. It must have fallen from its nest high up in the tall trees. It was just beginning to grow soft grey down on its back, had tufts sprouting from the top of its head and most of its neck and chest were bare, pink skin. It had a beak that was still soft and rubbery and a big head perched on top of a long, wobbly neck. We couldn't believe it had survived the long fall from its nest, but could find no injuries, not even a bruise. We put it in a "nest" in a big plastic tub, where it sat on its hocks and looked around. Normally, with a young nestling that had been out of its nest for some time, we would carefully warm it then gradually introduce small amounts of food. But the heron had other ideas! When we offered it a small fish, it quickly grabbed it, swallowed it down and demanded more, with an amazing sound, like a loud, continuous cackle. (Take a look at the video on our web site to see it in action). After gulping 6 small fish it finally subsided, its neck slumped forward and it went to sleep. About an hour later it woke up and was hungry again – more fish required! Over the next few days the young heron settled into a routine of rising up onto its hocks and cackling to be fed every couple of hours, engulfing 5 or 6 small fish, then collapsing back down into its nest and falling asleep again. In the first week it tripled its weight and progressed from eating tiny fish to larger smelt and chunks of herring. Then came the wonderful day when it gained enough control over its wobbly neck to be able to eat on its own from a dish. Aaah! No more squawking! It could eat whenever it was hungry, and our job was just to fill its dish every few hours.

By mid-June it weighed almost six times its weight on arrival, had grown in most of its body feathers and was able to stand up, so we moved it to an outdoor



Great Blue Heron chick

enclosure. From there it progressed to larger and larger enclosures as it grew in its flight feathers and started to fly. It was also surprisingly quiet, apart from when we went to catch it to move it. Then it would spread its wings, fix us with a hard stare and make a loud "cronk" to warn us to back off. The final stage was a few weeks in our Eagle Flight enclosure to practice its flying skills and learn to catch live fish in a pool. At first it dropped some of the wriggling fish, but soon got its handling technique down and was quickly swallowing them. When the young heron was released in early August it flew strongly out over the lake to land in the top of a tree. It was difficult to believe that this tall, elegant bird was the same individual as the round, fuzzy "weeble" that had loudly cackled to be fed just a few weeks previously.

Our second memorable noisy character of the summer was a nestling Northern Flicker that was found sitting on the ground in a driveway on Orcas. It had some feathers and down but no flight feathers, so was much too young to be out of the nest. The homeowner couldn't see a nest anywhere and hadn't heard or seen any parents around so how did the young bird get there?

The young flicker was much smaller than the heron, but they had a few things in common. They had big mouths, loud voices and were HUNGRY! Initially the flicker would sit in its "nest" and squawk to demand food every 30 minutes or so, but in a few days it was standing up and was moved into a carrier with logs to climb on. It was very curious and would come to the front of the carrier



Young Flicker

and tilt its head to one side to see what was going on. Its favorite trick was to squawk loudly to beg for food then

## Three Noisy Characters (cont'd from front)

hop round behind a log where we couldn't reach to pop food in its mouth. We were glad when it learned to eat from a dish and pick mealworms from holes in the bark, so the squawking and hide and seek came to an end. The young Flicker was soon climbing around on big rotten logs in an outdoor enclosure and was released in early August.

The smallest and most unlikely noisy character was a tiny Vaux's Swift that had fallen down a chimney and was found lying in a fireplace in Mount Vernon. The tiny dark bird was just beginning to grow in its flight feathers and was weak and dehydrated. They are delicate little birds with long pointed wings, tiny beaks and big mouths to scoop up flying insects in the air. At first it was quiet and wouldn't gape to be fed, so we had to very gently open its mouth and pop in pieces of food every thirty minutes. By the second day it was more active and on the third day it surprised us all by suddenly erupting with a chittering sound that was unbelievably loud for such a tiny bird. It would keep this up until it had swallowed several mouthfuls then quieten down for about 10 minutes, before starting up again. Even when it seemed to be sleeping, the slightest sound or movement nearby would get it going again, so we were all tiptoeing around so as not to set off the swift. Luckily it didn't take long for its flight feathers to grow in so it was soon flying around in an outdoor enclosure before being released back in an area where there is a large colony of swifts.

By mid August all three had left. It was certainly much quieter, but we sometimes missed these chattering, squawking, chittering, noisy characters.



Vaux's swift

### Wolf Hollow Board of Directors

Chris Minney – President  
Susen Oseth – Vice President  
Jan Sanburg – Treasurer  
Cindy Hansen – Secretary  
Bonni Distler  
Julie Knight  
Scott VanBuskirk  
Kat Hay  
Andrea Doll

#### Staff

Julie Duke – 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

#### 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 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.

## Holiday Gift Idea

When they have enough socks to clothe a centipede's feet, more toys than the toy store, or another tie is out of the question — what do you get

that special person for Christmas? How about an eagle, a seal or an owl? Not the real thing of course – they are too difficult to wrap- but you could “adopt” a Wolf Hollow animal as a gift for a friend or relative. Each attractive and educational adoption packet includes a photo of an individual animal that received

care at Wolf Hollow, its personal story, and natural history notes about that species of local wild creature. This symbolic adoption helps us provide care for other injured or orphaned wild animals of that type in the coming year.

Would they prefer a River Otter, a Tree Swallow or Deer Fawn? Visit our web site [wolfhollowwildlife.org/adoption-program/](http://wolfhollowwildlife.org/adoption-program/) to choose.



Black-tailed Deer fawn



## News in Brief

- 7/1 Our 5<sup>th</sup> intern, Emily Simmons from Spokane, WA arrived.
- 7/4 Our papier-mâché animals were dressed as Robin Hood, Goldilocks and other storybook characters for our fourth of July parade float.
- 7/12 Lots of kids came by to try out our Funny Feet and Peep-hole Pictures activities at the Anacortes Kids are Best Fest.
- 7/15 Sarah Barham from Portland, OR. joined us as our 6<sup>th</sup> intern of the year.
- 7/23, 7/25 Our Education team, Tate and Shona, enjoyed leading hands-on wildlife activities for groups at Camp Eagle Rock.
- 7/29 Intern number 7, Rachel Martin from Texas joined our team.
- 8/12 Jenna Harlacher came all the way from Hawaii to be our 8<sup>th</sup> intern of the season.
- 8/13-16 We joined other local Stewardship Network groups to provide educational displays and activities in the Green Village at San Juan County Fair.
- 9/3 Our final intern of 2014, Samara Travella, arrived from Texas.
- 9/6 We took our education booth to the Skagit River Salmon Festival for the first time and enjoyed talking to the many visitors who came by.
- 10/29 Wolf Hollow joined with local group Kwiaht to give educational presentations about small mammals found on the San Juans, in a Flying Squirrel Gala at San Juan Library.



*Raccoons*

## Statistics thru October 2014

### Number of Animals

Birds	272	60.3%
Mammals	177	39.2
Amphibians/Reptiles	2	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	

### Causes

Orphaned/Separated	152	33.7%
Cat Attack	64	14.2
Nest Destroyed	33	7.3
Dog Attack	25	5.5
Hit by Car	25	5.5
Window/Building	21	4.7
Unknown	91	20.2
Other	40	8.9

(animal attack, disease, fell from nest, parasites, shot, caught in fence, false landing etc )

### Results

Released	191	42.4%
Died	57	12.6
DOA	52	11.5
Euthanized	137	30.4
In Treatment	13	2.9
Transferred	1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	



*Barn owl*

Wild Times is published by  
 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)

**(360) 378-5000** 24 hrs

Articles by Shona Aitken, Julie Duke, Vicki Taylor  
 Photos by Julie Duke, Penny Harner,  
 Vicki Taylor, Tate Thomson  
 Editing by Dave & Elaine Pretz  
 Formatting by Ross Lockwood

## Presentation at Anacortes Library

### Injured Eagles and Orphaned Otters!

What types of animals do we care for at Wolf Hollow? Why do they need our care? How can you help?

Find out the answers to these and other questions you may have about our work at Wolf Hollow. Join staff and volunteers for a presentation and discussion at the **Anacortes Library Meeting Room, 4-5.30pm, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.**

We look forward to seeing you and your friends and neighbors.

## In Kind Donations

This summer we were delighted to receive two sizeable donations of foods and supplies. After the Oso mudslide disaster there was an outpouring of support from both individuals and corporate groups to provide food for domestic animals that were displaced. These donations were offered to anyone in the area that needed them, but there was still a sizeable amount left over. This surplus was distributed to animal care non-profit organizations in the region. We were contacted and were able to pack our little Jeep to the gills with a variety of foods including dog food, waterfowl diet, and grain.

We also received a large donation of fruit, office materials, cleaning supplies, dog bowls and other items from our wish list from Jerry Nichols, a former Wolf Hollow animal transport volunteer from Concrete, WA. We greatly appreciate these generous donations which made a big difference to our work this summer and will continue to be put to good use in the coming months.

## River Otter Campaign

In September Wolf Hollow teamed up with [www.loveanimals.org](http://www.loveanimals.org) for the second time, to launch a crowd funding campaign to raise funds for the rehabilitation of two orphaned River Otter kits. Online crowd funding allows us to reach out to people who care about wildlife, but may not have heard about Wolf Hollow before, giving them the opportunity to donate to something they believe in. It also gives our current supporters the chance to contribute to a specific project or animal. The campaign raised over \$2000, almost half of the costs of feeding and caring for the two young otters for five months. We would like to thank everyone who donated to "Riot and Rowdy's" campaign and helped us buy fish and keep their pool system running until their release in late fall. We may embark on another crowdfunding campaign in the future and hope you will join us.

## 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*



*River Otters*



## Wish List

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry dog and kitten foods (high quality)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Chips (for paths)                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pine / Fir Shavings (for animal bedding) (not cedar)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid Hand Soap (not antibacterial)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry and Dish Soaps (low-perfume, septic friendly) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber gloves (heavy duty, for cage cleaning) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epson Printer Ink Cartridges (77 and 78)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Suet Feeder/holders                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquariums (10 gal)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Dog Bowls (medium sized)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts in Shells (walnuts and pecans, for squirrels)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hose nozzles, quick disconnects and hangers   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drills/screw guns – battery operated                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Load of Pea Gravel (for aviary floors)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rechargeable Batteries (AA, C)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dish brushes                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels and Bathroom Tissue (unbleached)         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frozen fish, especially salmon                        |  |

## Thank You, Jack!

Jack is the gentle, canine meeter and greeter at the Barking Bird store in Friday Harbor. On Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> he celebrated his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday by throwing a party at the store and very generously asked guests to donate items from Wolf Hollow's Wish List instead of bringing him a gift. We would like to say a big thank you to Jack, to Judith Carter and to all the birthday guests who donated animal food, tools, cleaning supplies and lots of other useful items.