

## Before and After

One of the most enjoyable things about working at a wildlife rehabilitation center is having the opportunity to observe the changes as our wild patients grow and develop, or heal from an injury. A group of tiny, pink nestlings quickly morph into little flying birds covered in beautiful brown feathers. A weak, lethargic, injured owl that can barely stand, recovers and becomes a feisty wild creature that fixes you with its bright yellow eyes before swooping low over your head.

We see changes in all of our patients but it's most obvious in youngsters that go through a series of stages and look totally different when they are fully grown. Here are just a few of the young animals that went through major changes during their care at Wolf Hollow this summer.

This little **Harbor Seal** pup was seen lying alone on shore in the busy marina in Friday Harbor. San Juan County Marine Mammal Stranding Network stuck a small, numbered hat tag on her head so she could be easily monitored, but after 2 days no mother seal had returned, so the pup was brought to Wolf Hollow. She was about a week old and was thin, lethargic, dehydrated and had a bad umbilical infection. At first she was housed in a tub in our intensive care area, with a heat lamp to keep her warm, while we treated the infection and fed her nutritious formula. Over the next few days, she became more active and enjoyed splashing around in her bath, and biting at the hose. From then on she progressed to swimming in the pools and learning to eat fish on her own. By the time she was released 10 weeks later, the sick, little pup that arrived weighing 15 pounds, had become a big, fat, healthy, young seal weighing 68 pounds.



### Purple Martins

The crew at the marine lab in Friday Harbor were carrying out maintenance on their research vessel.

When they started cleaning the winch, nest material dropped out and baby birds fell to the deck. They were only a few days old, with no feathers and closed eyes, so it was difficult to tell what type of bird they were. We quickly put them into an incubator to warm up, then introduced them to



Purple martin

our special baby-bird diet. Sadly some of the nestlings were too badly injured by the fall and didn't survive, but two of the chicks thrived and were soon gaping eagerly for mealworms. When their eyes opened and they started to grow feathers we realized that they were Purple Martins (large members of the swallow family). There are very few of these birds nesting in our area so it was fascinating to watch as they quickly transformed from leathery, little, featherless pterodactyls to beautiful, sleek, young birds.

### Hooded Mergansers

In late May a woman saw a group of tiny ducklings crossing a road on Lopez. She saw no sign of parents and was worried they might be run over by a car, so she scooped them up. When they arrived at Wolf Hollow we discovered that they were tiny Hooded Merganser ducklings, only a few days old, with soft, brown, downy feathers and little beaks. Merganser ducklings are very easily stressed, so we quickly put them in an incubator with a feather duster "Mom" for company. They needed lots of

help for the first 24 hours, but then they discovered how to slurp up food from a dish and didn't look back. Before we knew it the tiny round fluff balls had changed into slender birds with smooth, dark brown, waterproof feathers and long, narrow bills.



Harbor seal



Hooded Merganser



## News in Brief

- 7/4 A pair of Bald Eagles and their nest were “Stars Past and Present” on our Fourth of July float
- 7/10 Intern number five, Josie Jensen-Pineda, from Stanwood, WA, joined the rehab team
- 7/13 Many families came by to try our activities at Anacortes Kid R Best Fest
- 7/20 - 21 We were delighted to have a Local Libation stand and our education booth at Pelindaba’s Lavender Festival
- 7/24 Our 6th intern, Elyse Kelsey from Ocean Shores, WA, arrived
- 8/7 Allison Weindorf travelled all the way from South Carolina to be our final intern of 2019
- 8/9 Guests enjoyed bidding on a range of auction items and tasting delicious appetizers and wine at our Lavender Fete
- 8/14-17 More than 600 people dropped by to chat and try our education activities during San Juan County Fair
- 8/24 We had fun sharing our bird activities at Fidalgo Bay Day
- 9/7 Over 300 people visited our education booth at Skagit River Salmon Festival
- 9/18 “You Otter Take a Closer Look” presentation at San Juan Library, compared River and Sea Otters
- 10/16 “Hunters in the Sky” presentation at San Juan Library took a look at local raptors



Barred owl

## Your address

If you are moving and changing your address, please let us know so your newsletter doesn't get returned to us as undeliverable, or we incur a cost to find out your new address through USPS. Just send an email to [wolfhollow@wolfhollowwildlife.org](mailto:wolfhollow@wolfhollowwildlife.org). Thank You!

Also, if you would like to keep in regular touch with what is going on at Wolf Hollow, send us your email address so you can receive Hollow Happenings, our monthly e-newsletter, and we can quickly reach you with any breaking news.

## Director's Corner

One summer when I was ten, I found a tiny, naked, baby bird at the base of a tree in a local park. I climbed the tree to look for the nest and found it, broken and empty on a lower branch. There was no nest to put the bird back in, so I took it home, looked in the phone book, then made calls, but there was no rehabilitation center near us that cared for birds. I found a book on how to help baby birds and quickly learned how much time it takes. Feeding every 15-20 minutes! It grew quickly and when it was fully feathered, we discovered she was a House Finch. I loved having her land on my shoulder and peck at my earring, until I realized that she was now too tame to survive in the wild. We ultimately found a home in a wild bird aviary at the local university.



Why tell this story? Because I learned so much from that experience. I learned how much time and skill it takes to raise a tiny songbird, and that it is essential to keep them wild so they have the best chance of survival back in their natural habitat where they belong. Now that I'm the director of a wildlife rehab center I understand how important it is for wild creatures to have expert care in a licensed facility.

But this story also illustrates that no bird is too small or common to receive care. At Wolf Hollow we rehabilitate over 200 species, ranging from wrens to eagles and mice to elephant seals, and each individual receives professional care. Most of us don't have the time, training, facilities or permits to properly care for a nestling songbird, let alone a Bald Eagle.

The recent report in *Science* surprised many with the news that nearly 3 billion wild birds have been lost from North America since 1970. This is not only about loss of rare species, but includes familiar backyard birds like the House Finch and Dark-Eyed Junco. All play a critical role in healthy ecosystems, and birds are just one aspect of a broader crisis in the natural world, an emergency seen in global losses of insects, amphibians, and other wildlife. What is to blame? Human activities.

This all underlines the importance of having local rehabilitation centers in every community that can care for wild animals negatively impacted by human activities. Wolf Hollow does this work, but only because of you. Without your support, this essential work could not happen. Thank you for being part of our team and saving wildlife with us.

Thank You!

*Chanda Stone*

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)  
Federal Tax Id# 91-1265913

**(360) 378-5000**

Articles by Shona Aitken, Chanda Stone  
Photos by Wolf Hollow staff and volunteers  
Editing by Dave & Elaine Pretz  
Formatting by Ross Lockwood



## Congratulations Megan

Megan Perry, one of our two Wildlife Rehabilitators, is currently on maternity leave following the birth of a baby boy on Oct 2nd. Our congratulations and best wishes to Megan and Andrew and a warm welcome to baby Theodore.

## Welcome Abby

While Megan is on maternity leave Abby Fuhriman has kindly stepped up to help with animal care during the winter months. Abby has been a rehab volunteer at Wolf Hollow for 18 months and has years of experience as a vet assistant at several veterinary practices. Thank you Abby!



Abby

## Lavender Summer

Wolf Hollow was delighted to be offered the opportunity to host the Local Libation tent, at the **Pelindaba Lavender Festival** in July. Thanks to donations from Mike's Café and Wine Bar, San Juan Brewing Company, San Juan Distillery and Madrone Cider and Cellars we were able to offer a range of wonderful local libations and raise over \$4000 for Wolf Hollow.



We so appreciate these generous donations, the volunteers who helped serve the beverages and all the people who enjoyed one of these special drinks, but especially Pelindaba Lavender Farm for giving us the opportunity to take part in this wonderful event.

A few weeks later we were delighted to return to Pelindaba to hold our first annual **Lavender Fete**. Guests enjoyed the beautiful setting among the fragrant flowers, while bidding on a wide range of wonderful items in our silent auction, and enjoying the musical talents of Daniel Day. The food created by Coho was

delicious, coupled with drinks donated by Mike's Cafe and Wine Bar. A huge thank you to everyone who donated items for the auction and helped organize and run the event. It was a wonderful evening and we hope you can join us next year.

### Staff

Chanda Stone – Executive Director  
 Penny Harner – Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 Megan Perry – Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 Shona Aitken – Education Coordinator  
 Mark Billington – Facilities Manager  
 Susan Waters – 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.*

## Statistics thru October 2019

### Number of Animals

Birds	288	70.1
Mammals	123	29.9
Amphibians or Reptiles	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	

### Causes

Orphaned / Separated	112	27.2
Cat Attack	39	9.5
Hit by Car	31	7.5
Dog Attack	13	3.2
Hit Window/building	34	8.3
Nest Destroyed	50	12.2
Fell from nest	6	1.5
Unknown	90	21.9
Other	36	8.7
(Shot, fence, netting etc .)		

### Results

Released	172	41.8
Euthanized	131	31.9
Died	46	11.2
DOA	40	9.7
Transferred	11	2.7
In Care	11	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	



Baby cottontail

## New Flying Squirrel Shirts

Did you know that the only type of squirrel we have on San Juan Island is the Northern Flying Squirrel? They are small, shy, nocturnal creatures that most people have never seen, but they are out there.

To celebrate these beautiful little creatures, Jennifer Rigg of Loea Design has designed a special Flying Squirrel shirt to help raise funds for Wolf Hollow. If you'd like one of these special shirts please visit our web site [wolfhollowwildlife.org](http://wolfhollowwildlife.org).

### Wolf Hollow Board of Directors

Marc Brown, President  
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 Cindy Hansen, Secretary  
 Chris Minney  
 Susan Waters  
 Albert Barsocchini  
 Rebecca Bishop  
 Sarah King

## Holiday Gift Ideas

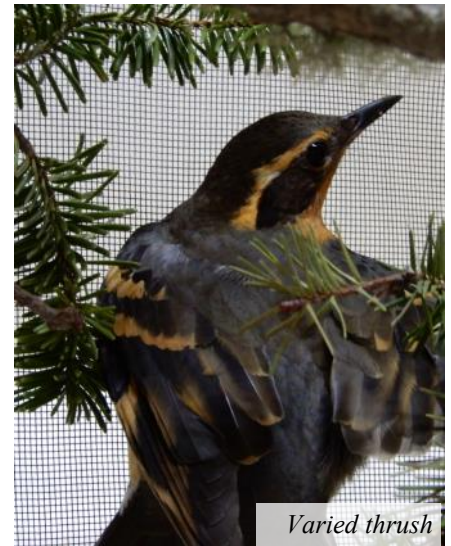
Does your son like otters? Does your grand-daughter love cute little ducklings or owls? We have the perfect Christmas gifts for them.

When you select their favorite creature in our symbolic Adoption Program, your friend or family member receives a beautiful packet with a photo and story of an individual animal that was cared for at Wolf Hollow, plus an adoption certificate and natural history notes about that type of animal.

Take a look on our web site at <http://wolfhollowwildlife.org/adoption-program> to choose their favorite creature.

## Annual Rosario Festival of Trees

Wolf Hollow will be taking part in Rosario's Festival of Trees again this year. Visit the Moran Mansion at Rosario Resort on Orcas Island during December to enjoy beautiful trees decorated by local non-profit organizations. You can vote for your favorite tree by purchasing \$1 tickets at the front desk, then dropping them into the box at the tree you like best. All proceeds go to the organizations, and your tickets will be entered in a drawing — you could also 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

*36 Years  
Caring for Wildlife*



## Wish List

- Sunflower hearts
- Copier paper (high recycled content)
- Frozen meats (beef, lamb, chicken, venison)
- Frozen seafood (salmon, shrimp, crab, etc.)
- Nuts in shells (almonds, walnuts, pecans)
- Energizer rechargeable batteries (size C)
- Dry kitten food (high quality)
- Garbage bags (13 and 33 gal)
- Kitchen scrub brushes and scrubbies
- Packing tape
- Bathroom tissue (unbleached)
- New hose nozzles
- Rubber gloves (heavy duty, for cage cleaning)
- Laundry detergent (septic friendly, unperfumed)
- Hand soap (**not** antibacterial)
- Paper towels
- Dish soap (low perfume, biodegradable)
- Wood chips for paths

