



CALENDAR

June 9 – Wildlife Myth Busters
 June 10 – Wetland Walk with Mt. A
 June 17 – Wetland Wildlife Exploration at York Land Trust
 June 23 – Picnic Time! Raptor Feeding Demonstrations
 June 24 – Family Volunteer Work Day
 July 7 – Reading the Forest
 July 15 – Aerial Bug Squad at Mt. A
 July 21 – Forest Foraging with Henry
 July 29 – Family Volunteer Work Day
 August 11 – Bat Box Building
 August 12 – Summer Stroll Tree ID
 August 25 – Fairy Houses and Terrariums
 August 26 – Family Volunteer Work Day
 Tours are offered on Tuesdays at 2:00p, and Saturdays/Sundays from 12:00 - 2:00p through the end of August.

For complete information on upcoming events, please visit www.thecenterforwildlife.org/events



*Our team of animal ambassadors says, "Thank you!"
 This amazing image was created by volunteer Rob Hussey*



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WILDLIFE MATTERS

WILDLIFE MEDICAL CLINIC • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

SUMMER EDITION 2017

CLIMATE CHANGE & WILDLIFE: THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

Ten years ago, nesting seasons happened like clockwork. The first baby mammals arrived in April and May, baby songbirds and turtles in June, and a second round of mammals in August and September. Bats and over-wintering turtles received care in the winter and early spring. The patterns were very predictable. Adult animals would also arrive year-round, needing advanced care for injuries and illnesses.

orphaned baby mammals and over-wintering bats and turtles. The second round of mammals arrive all summer and fall, overlapping with baby bird season. And we still see adult patients year-round that require advanced levels of care. The predictable patterns are gone.

Ask anyone on any given day, and they'll say, "Isn't this weather crazy?" That's climate change! And wildlife are struggling to keep up.



Days-old grey squirrels began arriving on March 4.

Today, everything happens at the same time, and nesting seasons extend from February to November. The first baby squirrels arrived on March 4th this year, which means they were born in February. There was a lull after winter storm Stella, a category 3 Nor'Easter that also knocked out power for 3 days, and crippled our generator. Patients and some ambassadors were sent home with licensed rehabilitator staff and volunteers to stay warm.

Patient loads at Center for Wildlife have increased by 35% over the past 5 years. Not only are more animals admitted and at unexpected times, but we are seeing new species as well. Snowshoe hares are now nesting in our region, and Carolina wrens, Virginia

opossums, and soras (wading shore birds) have also settled in. You will see Eastern blue birds and cardinals at bird feeders year-round.



Virginia opossums are voracious tick eaters. They haven't yet adapted to our harsh winters, though, and their ears and tails are easily frostbitten.

We don't mean to sound alarmist, but it is alarming. **So what can you do to help?** Support local wildlife by learning more about them and the important roles they play in our lives. We're all doing our best to survive in this crazy world. Your caring concern for local species, your calls to our Wildlife Assistance Hotline, and attendance at our education programs are all very inspiring. You can also steward our environment as a whole. Keep lights off, conserve water, eat more plants, drive less, and take action locally. Small changes will add up to a big impact, especially when we all work together to make our world a better and more habitable place.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Immersed in our work, human relation to wildlife and nature seems strikingly obvious. Beyond anatomy and physiology, similarities extend to social systems, child rearing, and even courtship. A bee colony reveres their Queen until a new, younger one challenges her in a duel that ends in death or a coup. Bat mothers in labor can be seen with a midwife next to them, assisting with birth and even fanning the mother. And cedar waxwing males offer gifts of fruit and flower petals in the hopes of winning over their mate.

Inspiration for art, building materials, critical medicine, and food all come from nature. And yet, when our educators ask a class "are we animals?", children overwhelmingly shake their heads "no." If not living, breathing animals that require food, water, shelter, and air, then what are we? How is there a great divide between "human" and "wildlife/nature" causes and policy if we are indeed animals that depend on a healthy environment to live?

We feel so fortunate to have a community that understands we are not separate from nature; in fact, we are nature! We look forward to working with you on rescuing or stewarding our furred, scaled, or feathered kin this season. The work we ALL do to help local wildlife makes our own world a healthier place.

Kristen Lamb, Executive Director

TAKE CARE WITH COTTONTAILS

Found a nest of baby bunnies with no mom in sight? Fear not, chances are they are not really orphans! Because cottontails are a prey species, they try their best to remain as hidden as possible. To avoid luring predators back to the nest, cottontail moms typically leave their litter of kits alone most of the time, and only come back to the nest a couple of times a day to nurse. Nests are also very discreet, with only a small amount of fur or grass as a lining.



How do you know if those cute bunnies need help? Look for clues to see whether the mom has been around. Sprinkle flour around the outside of the nest, or place a few pieces of string strategically around the perimeter. Check the nest 12-24 hours later, and look for disturbance of the items you have placed there. If the scene looks pristine, or if the nest has been disturbed by a dog, cat or lawnmower, give us a call and we will talk you through the steps to rescue.

BLUEBIRD BLISS

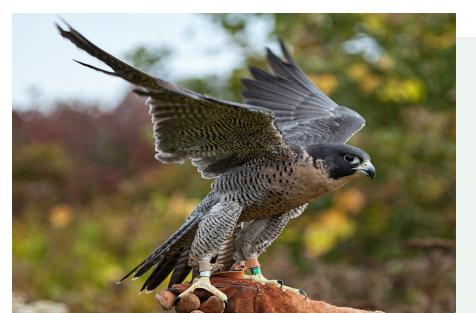


A fledgling bluebird in our medical clinic.

The gentle demeanor of the Eastern bluebird makes them a joy to watch. But this sweet, passive personality can also lead to problems as parents try to defend their young from more aggressive birds. While it's hard to watch other species, like house sparrows, pick on bluebird babies and sometimes even evict them from their nests, it is the unfortunate downside to being such a peaceful passerine!

If you come across a bluebird baby, or any songbird baby, that has been displaced from their nest, gently pick the bird up and inspect it for obvious injuries. If the bird seems healthy, try to put the bird back in its original nest. If

the nest is too difficult to access, create a make-shift nest by placing natural vegetation in a plastic container or basket, and place it somewhere close to the original nest. Carefully watch from a distance to see if parents return. If no parents are seen in the next few hours, call our Wildlife Assistance Hotline at (207) 361-1400 and we can talk you through the next steps.



AMBASSADOR FAST FACT

FREYJA AND PERRY, PEREGRINE FALCONS

Peregrine falcons are one of the fastest species on the planet. Their dives have been clocked at an astonishing 273 mph! Once critically endangered because of

DDT, peregrines are making a comeback. They live on rocky cliffs, and use their speed and keen eyesight to catch other birds (their prey) midflight. Freyja and Perry both suffered permanent wing injuries as fledglings, and live in sanctuary at Center for Wildlife. You can meet them, and many other ambassadors, by visiting us between 9:00a - 5:00p any day of the year.



NEW SUMMER SERIES: "GET WISE ABOUT WILDLIFE"



Guests attend an environmental education program at our outdoor pavilion.

Thanks in part to funding from the York Community Initiatives Fund of the Maine Community Foundation, we are offering a new 2017 Summer Education Series called "Get Wise About Wildlife."

Our environmental educators will present two public programs a month from May through August. These programs will cover a variety of important and relevant topics about local wildlife, including Wildlife Rescue 101, Wildlife Myth Busters, feeding demonstrations, and foraging walks with Henry. There will also be a bat house building workshop, as well as a fairy house and terrarium workshop to close out the season.

All programs feature our live wildlife ambassadors, hands-on education displays, and information about wildlife ecology. Participants will learn about how to minimize our human impact on wildlife and their environments, as well as how wildlife and nature can help us each lead better and healthier lives.

For more information, visit our website at www.thecenterforwildlife.org/events.

Programs are all ages, and take place rain or shine. Since these events happen outside, bug spray is recommended.



OUR NEWEST AMBASSADOR!

VIOLET, TURKEY VULTURE

Violet came to us from the Cape Wildlife Center in Barnstable, MA. She suffered a broken humerus after being hit by a car, and is unable to fly. Turkey vultures' Latin name, *Cathartes aura*, literally means "cleansing breeze" and references their important role as scavengers, or nature's clean-up crew! Violet loves to sit and gaze out at the vernal pools behind her enclosure and is bright and curious towards visitors. Join us in welcoming her!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CFW ALUMNI

Center for Wildlife interns gain hands-on experience and knowledge in wildlife medicine, husbandry, and ecology, and often go on to pursue careers in animal science. Alumni can now be found all over the world!



Kara interned in 2013, followed by a Medical Clinic Apprenticeship in 2014. Since then, she has worked with marine mammals, was hired for a seasonal position at Avian Haven, and is now the Animal Care and Enrichment Coordinator at Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary in Montana. Kara was a dedicated

and hard worker who found her passion and followed her dream of working with wildlife. Way to go!

Apply for one of our internships or apprenticeship positions today and see where your passion takes you. We're now hiring for fall and winter!



For more information, please visit www.thecenterforwildlife.org/internships

INTERN HOUSING NEEDED!



Center for Wildlife offers a competitive internship program to 30 college students and young professionals each year from all over the country. These individuals work 25-40 hours per week in our medical clinic, often juggling their internship, school work and other paid positions. In order to continue attracting talented individuals and expanding the field of wildlife medicine, we need your help.

Do you have an extra room in your home that you would allow an intern to stay in for 3 months? If so, please call Diana Dumais, our Volunteer and Intern Coordinator, at (207) 361-1400 x101. Diana will meet with you and work with you individually to find the best fit.

Interns are expected to provide their own transportation and meals. They just need your roof over their head. Thank you!

DONATE NOW

If you value our work and our ability to provide services to the public, please show your support today. Without state or federal funding, Center for Wildlife needs your help to achieve its mission. www.thecenterforwildlife.org/donate

