

SEA BISCUIT THE SENTINEL

Summer 2021- Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

Cindy Lee's Story

My adventure with Sea Biscuit Shelter started in November of 2020. I am a co-chair of the environmental committee for The Women's Club of Holden Beach. We thought, what a great field trip this would be for our committee to be educated on how we can help our sea birds and enlighten others on the do's and don'ts when it comes to keeping our wildlife safe.

I never gave it a thought to be a "transporter" But..... Mary Ellen called me not long after our visit to her center and asked if we would like to transport 2 rehabilitated pelicans to Murrell's Inlet. I said sure we can do that, never thinking she was entrusting our committee (who knew nothing about birds) with the responsibility of freeing these beautiful creatures on our Own. We were nervous to do this, nonetheless. Mary Ellen said, just unzip the crate and the pelicans will know what to do. Of course she was right. We even had the local newspaper covering our virgin release. It was such an experience that gave us all hope and joy to see these birds back to their natural habitat.

Since that first release, I have become the transporter along with my neighbor Jane, for Holden Beach. Well..... we were used to picking up the birds at the Holden Beach Police Dept., in the crate that the officers provided. Until.....one day, I got the call that there was a Pelican in Lockwood Folly with a fish hook in its chest.

Mary Ellen asked if I could get it and bring it to her for medical attention. What?? I didn't have the training class yet to know how to do this. Mary Ellen said "I'll walk you through it" Well....by Golly, I did it and the flood gates have opened.

I took the class at Sea Biscuit in April of this year. I got comfortable with scooping up the injured pelicans and have rescued two since the class and delivered many more collected by the Holden Beach Police station. Since then, I have successfully corralled a Loon, a Gannet, even relocated a nest of Morning Doves!

You never know what you will encounter at Sea Biscuit on any given day. It's always a new and exciting experience. It has been an honor to learn so much and be a part of this team.

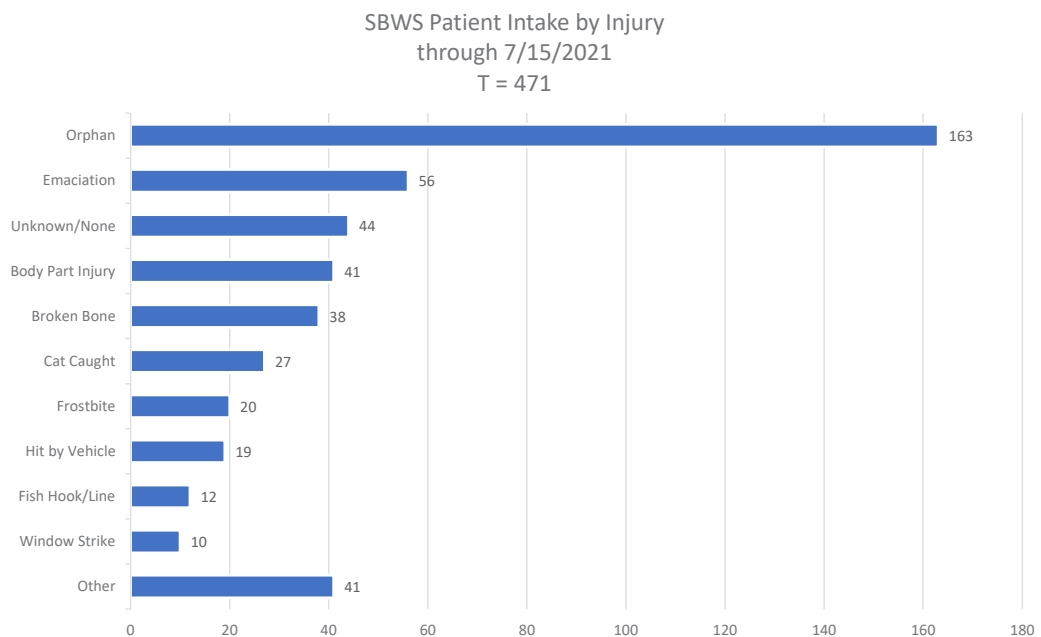


SEA BISCUIT WILDLIFE SHELTER

www.seabiscuitwildlifeshelter.org

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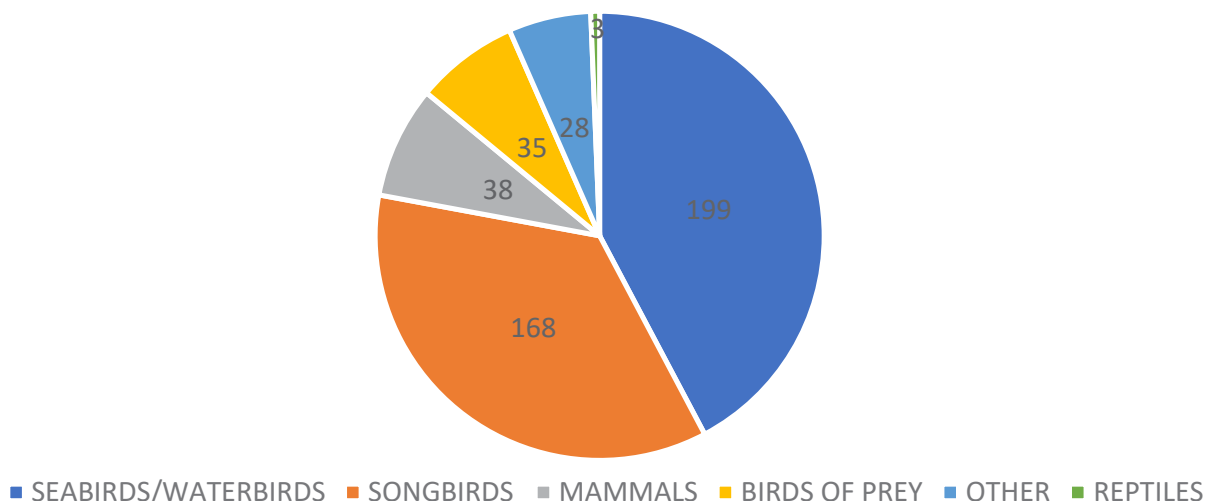
By the Numbers



In order to prepare for the incoming animals needing our help each year, we analyze the previous years patients intake. These charts show the reasons and species we've received so far in 2021. This year is extraordinary! The increase in construction leads to habitat destruction and nest displacement shown by the orphaned bird numbers. Human homes are soon going to outnumber wildlife homes!

Though we specialize in bird issues, many other species arrive here because we are listed as a wildlife shelter. We do not turn away small mammals or reptiles but accept them so they won't be left to die for lack of care. We do our best to place them with appropriate and permitted caregivers.

SBWS Patient Intake by Species
through 7/15/2021
T = 471



Found a Bird that Needs Help?
Contact Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter's injured/sick bird line at (910) 294-2555.

Baby Season!



From March until August, we receive hundreds of orphaned baby birds. Some are victims of heavy wind blowing down their nests, some nests were inadvertently cut down by property owners trimming trees, others fell from chimneys into fireplaces or lost their parents to snakes or birds of prey. We do our best to raise them with our incubators, surrogate mothers and attempts to reunite them with their parents.

All need consistent feeding with insects or special formulas. When they are close to fledging, we offer live prey for the small owls or flight practice for the cardinals, bluebirds and other songbirds.

None of our little guys are just tossed out to fend for themselves.

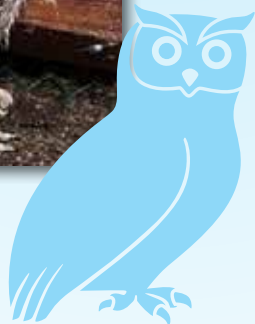
Starlings



Wood Ducklings



Eastern Screech Owlets



Woodpecker

Summer 2021 News



What's Going on with the Expansion?

First and foremost, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our efforts and everyone who has donated towards the new facility. It seems like a very long process to get where we need to go to create the ideal facility for both the animals and the staff. However the beautiful land, generously leased to us by Duke Power is "raw" land and has no water, sewer, electricity or fire protection service. Its location further complicates things because multiple municipalities are involved – Oak Island, Southport, and Brunswick County.

Brunswick County requires a site plan showing access, utility lines, parking sites, location of sewer and water lines providing a clear picture of our vision. We are fortunate to have enlisted the help of a first-rate civil engineer familiar with the area. With his help we can apply for the appropriate permits starting with tree removal and driveway materials. We have been able to get all the appropriate survey documents. Oak Island has agreed to an easement along their park roadway for drive access. A large water main is needed first so we can meet the requirement for fire protection with a hydrant.

Everything possible is being done to expedite our plans to meet the goal of a new facility by 2022. It will take a team effort and a lot of expertise to ensure an environmentally friendly, bird friendly, and people friendly place for everyone to enjoy. We will keep everyone posted as plans progress. Wish us luck!

If you wish to donate for our everyday expenses or for our expansion, please send a check to:

Sea Biscuit Shelter
1638 East Beach Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465

Or use the PayPal button on our website:
[Seabiscuitwildlifeshelter.org](https://www.seabiscuitwildlifeshelter.org)

Educating the Visitors

US Fish and Wildlife permits require that our education birds are visible to the public and their unique qualities explained. We invite small family groups to visit 3 mornings a week to see and talk about them. Shown are a couple of photos of some recent visitors. We love showing the pelicans to the children!

