

SEA BISCUIT THE SENTINEL

Winter 2020 - Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

A Volunteer's Story

December 30, 2018 —The beginning for volunteer Kathy Hout

It all started for me by attending Holiday Open House at Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter. I had just retired and moved with my husband to Oak Island. Coincidence or Fate? We chose a home near Sea Biscuit.

I have always loved wildlife especially birds, and song birds are very dear to my heart. That day I was able to meet many volunteers and the director. I fell in love with her passion and knowledge of all the birds in her care and how effortlessly she could tell you the stories of each and every bird there. By the end of the event, I knew I would be getting much more involved with this wonderful organization.

Little did my husband Mark know at that time but soon he would also be looking forward to the times he could help with the many tasks involved in the maintenance required to provide a safe environment for all the birds. We have shared some special adventures picking up injured birds and working with triage and subsequent care for the birds. Together, we now have had the experiences of helping disentangle an injured pelican from a nasty mess of fishing line to capturing a lost Screech Owl from under a Beach House rental. No matter what we are doing at the shelter such as cleaning the pelican pool, mowing, or creating new enclosures you are guaranteed to leave happier and more motivated. You might be a little tired but interacting with the birds and seeing them heal and then finally watch them fly away to their new life is indescribable.

I have been volunteering now for almost 2 years. This spring I was given the honor to care for our tiniest patients, orphan song birds. They come in so small, just a gram or two. Sometimes they require the use of an incubator, and just like a baby they need frequent formula feedings each day. They grow so fast from hatchling, to nestling, chick, fledgling, and then immature juvenile. It's a very busy season, and I am so fortunate that I have had the opportunity to experience these life stages close up. We are lucky to live in this area with a plethora of song bird species. Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter is a vital and important part of our coastal community. I am proud to have had hands on experience with blue birds, mockingbirds, woodpeckers, grackles, mourning doves, titmice, finches, vireo's and everyone's favorite Carolina wrens.

Because the organization is sustained primarily through volunteer efforts and monetary donations, the opportunity to contribute is huge, and the needs are ongoing. I would encourage anyone with interest to contact Mary Ellen Rogers directly to learn how they can get involved.



SEA BISCUIT WILDLIFE SHELTER

www.seabiscuitwildlifeshelter.org

910-278-7871 or 910-294-2555 • wildlifeshelter@bellsouth.net

Current Patients



American Oystercatcher

American Oystercatcher

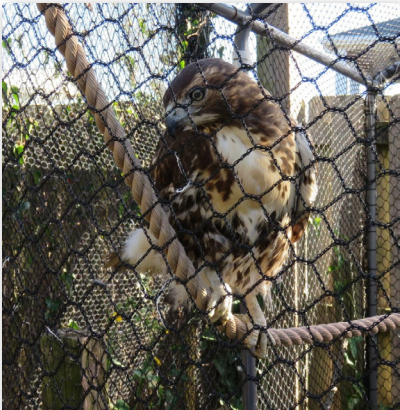
This bird was not flying well and very underweight when found in So. Carolina. It will be released near others of the species sporting new Audubon leg bands as soon as it reaches the right weight.



Barred Owl

Barred Owl

This strong bird was found by Military Police on the perimeter line at Sunny Point. It's head trauma and vision loss should be cleared up for a Christmas release.



Red Tailed Hawk

Red Tailed Hawk

Gorgeous first year hawk from Ocean Isle was gunshot. Her wing is growing new feathers to replace the ones damaged and she'll be free!

Brown Pelican

He is a REALLY big first year bird but his inexperience caused him to be fish hooked by 3 treble hooks. As soon as his wounds are all healed he'll be released in So. Carolina.



Brown Pelican

Recent Releases

We've been fortunate to be able to release at least 15 small birds such as doves, warblers and finches in October and a lot of our local big birds – including:

- Young female Pelican from Caswell Beach in on 9/14 released on 10/1
- Fish hooked adult Osprey from Oak Island in on 9/28 released at Southport 10/5
- Osprey tangled in fishing line on Oak Island released 10/2
- Young female Osprey from Myrtle Beach in on 9/28 and released on 10/30
- Adult Barred Owl from Southport released 10/12
- Barred Owl from Elizabethtown, NC on 10/8 released on Oak Island 10/30
- Royal Tern from Shallotte on 10/15 released on Oak Island on 10/30
- Brown Pelican from Sunset Beach on 10/23 released at Lockwood Folly Inlet 11/01



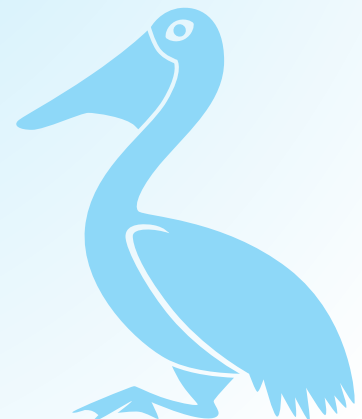
Osprey Release



Barred Owl Release



Pelican Release



Winter 2020 News



48 locations total (including Unknown) for a total of 605 intake YTD through 10/31

Oak Island.....	175	Lumberton.....	2
Myrtle Beach.....	82	Pawleys Island.....	2
Southport.....	79	Surf City.....	2
Supply.....	31	Tabor City.....	2
Holden Beach.....	28	Wilmington.....	2
Sunset Beach.....	27	Ash.....	1
Ocean Isle.....	25	Bladenboro.....	1
Shallotte.....	20	Bolton.....	1
Bald Head Island.....	14	Calypso.....	1
Boiling Spring Lakes.....	14	Cape Fear River.....	1
Caswell Beach.....	10	Carolina Shores.....	1
St James.....	10	Cherry Grove.....	1
Bolivia.....	9	Fair Bluff.....	1
Calabash.....	9	Four Oaks.....	1
Leland.....	9	Lake Waccamaw.....	1
Sunset Harbor.....	6	Lockwood Folly.....	1
Conway SC.....	5	Longwood.....	1
unknown.....	5	Nakina.....	1
N Myrtle Beach.....	4	Navassa.....	1
Varnamtown.....	4	Pender County.....	1
Murrells Inlet.....	3	Riegelwood.....	1
Whiteville.....	3	Rocky Point.....	1
Elizabethtown.....	2	Sunny Point.....	1
Little River.....	2	Winnabow.....	1

If you wish to donate towards the expansion or to support our day to day expenses, please send a check marked as expansion or maintenance to:

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

There is also a PayPal button our website
Seabiscuitwildlifeshelter.org

Look for our online auctions news on the website or our **facebook** page:

[Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter](#)



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Oak Island, NC 28465