

# SEA BISCUIT THE SENTINEL

Spring 2022- Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release



## EAGLES!

This gorgeous adult Bald Eagle was reported to us by a local resident in Southport and again by Sean Nelson from Southport Fishing Charters when returning late afternoon after an offshore fishing trip. Sean's boat was too large to approach the marsh island at the marina entrance. He called Sea Biscuit. Local kayakers Ed Lovett and Shane Gillespie were called and went out early the next morning. The bird obviously was unable to fly and was carefully followed into the brush where he was captured and brought to the Sea Biscuit Shelter. After an exam and radiographs by Dr Steelman at River Rd Animal Hospital, it was clear that the eagle would need surgery to remove an enormous fish hook and some tackle. It was sent immediately to Cape Fear Raptor Center in Rocky Point where Dr. Joni Shimp performed a 4 hour surgery. Wild At Heart Sanctuary in Richlands, NC still has him in their rehabilitation enclosures. When healed, this beautiful bird will return to the wild.



## A BABY!!!

John Reddington called from the Deep Point Marina to report a "big hawk" on the dock near his boat at Deep Point Marina in Southport. Volunteers, Cheryl and Ken Vogel and Shane Gillespie were able to successfully capture it quickly. It went from Sea Biscuit Shelter to River Rd Animal Hospital the next morning. Dr Steelman sedated and anesthetized the bird and stitched up its wing wound. After a couple of weeks of indoor rehab and 2 more outside in the hawk pen, it had gained enough strength and weight. We released him at Brunswick Towne near known eagle habitat on Sunday May 1st.



**SEA BISCUIT WILDLIFE SHELTER**

**[www.seabiscuitwildlifeshester.org](http://www.seabiscuitwildlifeshester.org)**

**910-278-7871 or 910-294-2555 • [wildlifeshester@bellsouth.net](mailto:wildlifeshester@bellsouth.net)**

# Expansion Update



**H**ave you noticed how much growth there is in Brunswick County? Well, that growth has an enormous impact on everyone in the County who is trying to work on any construction projects. As we are working through the process, it is evident that long delays in each step are being encountered. An average of 8 weeks minimum to even get on the schedule for trades, permits, etc. We, along with everyone else, are doing the best we can.

Even with that in mind, we have been able to get an awesome fence around our planned new shelter designed to keep out predators. It was installed by Bayview Fencing and is big enough to open for the new driveway we plan off the Bill Smith Park Road.

Our next priority is to get approval for a septic tank, a water line that will support a fire hydrant to protect the property, and a driveway next to the dog park that will access our area. That is just the tip of the iceberg!

We have been very fortunate that the community supports our efforts. The wonderful volunteers from Publix came to the new location and spent hours cutting down (and cutting up) a dead cedar tree. They tirelessly pulled weeds, clipped brush and raked paths all while being supervised by a pair of our education owls who were trying out the new enclosures built by Duke Energy. Thank you everyone at Publix for all you did!

**Found a Bird that Needs Help?**

**Contact Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter's injured/sick bird line at (910) 294-2555.**

# Currently in Care



*Great Horned Owl*

Spring is baby season at the shelter and we love the littles that show up here. We have a young Great Horned Owl from St. James. He's going to Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, SC

The tiny gray Eastern Screech Owl will probably be releasable to the wild in a couple more weeks after he shows that he's capable of catching his own prey.

The Mallard ducklings were rescued last month and will be released somewhere without snapping turtles or alligators.

Just hatched Red Tailed Hawk is being mentored by our resident Scarlet until it can be released!



*Eastern Screech Owl*



*Mallard Ducklings*



*Red Tail Hawk*



# Statistics



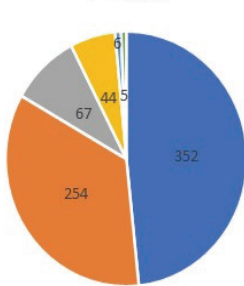
Since we file year end reports to both the USFWS and to the NC State Wildlife Resources Commission, a ton of record keeping is required. For several years, volunteer Beth Green has taken on this task. She records the intake and release of each individual bird, compiles the statistics and documents releases, transfers and deaths. Beth also keeps track of the volunteer schedules and rescue and transport people all over the area. No one could replace her in this organization.

## Volunteer update and report by Beth Green

At the end of 2021, we had 18 birds still in care at the shelter. Since January 2022, we've added 196 new patient intakes. Year-to-date, ~ 18% have been released, with 39 patients currently still in care. Tracking and reporting patient statistics is just one aspect of the record keeping needs.

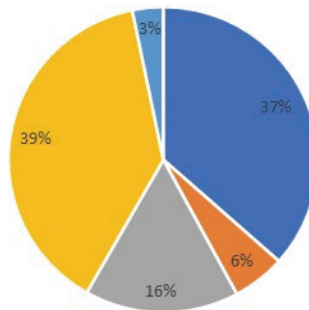
The chart below depicts the significant increase that the shelter has experienced over recent years, clearly showing the need for additional space and improved facilities (see related expansion update article on page 2).

SBWS Patient Intake by Species through 12/31/2021  
T = 728



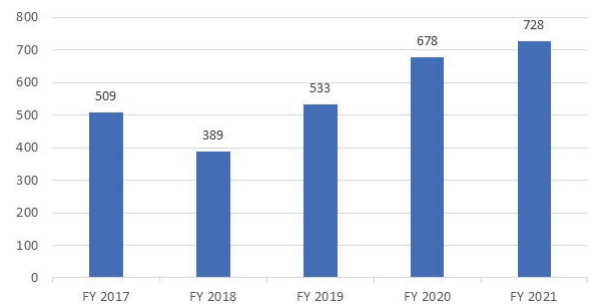
■ SEABIRDS/WATERBIRDS ■ SONG BIRDS ■ BIRDS OF PREY  
■ MAMMALS ■ REPTILES ■ OTHER

2021 Patient Outcomes



■ R ■ T ■ E ■ D ■ Still In Care

SBWS Total # Intake (per Intake Log)



In addition to the usual assortment of animals that we see (pelicans, sea gulls, owls, etc) we have seen a few especially interesting species thus far this year (TWO bald eagles, one cedar waxwing, a razor billed gull, a red necked phalarope, and a red wing blackbird, just to name a few...)

We have conducted 9 educational programs featuring our resident birds (good job by our ambassadors!)

Our resident education birds have adapted well to meeting the public during morning rounds when volunteers are performing daily activities and photos are often taken by visitors. (Rehabilitating birds are not on public display.)

Our volunteers spend countless hours in support of any and all activities required to support the shelter's operations 24x7x365. In 2021, almost 5,300 volunteer hours were logged – wow!!



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: [Seabiscuitwildlifeshester.org](https://Seabiscuitwildlifeshester.org)