



EVELYN ALEXANDER

Wildlife Rescue Center

Eastern Long Island's **ONLY** Wildlife Hospital

WILDLIFE LINES

FALL 2023

Our juvenile bald eagle patient, case number 2144, came to us late one Monday evening after being rescued by Rocco and Jackie from the Broken Antler. She weighed only around 0.95 kg, and was unable to even hold her head or wings up. She was a giant bird, even when severely emaciated, and required two or more staff members to administer around 5 medications twice a day as well as supplemental fluids. She was started on a liquid diet, Emer-Aid Piscivore, which has specially formulated enzymes to allow for easy digestion of nutrients. Slowly but surely, she started to gain weight, and was sent to Dr. Johnston at the Hampton Vet for x-rays of her wings. In the first of a series of small miracles, she did not have any fractures, but unfortunately, the x-rays showed pockets of infection present near her shoulders and her lungs.

She was very lucky however, as she was able to go to Long Island Avian and Exotics Veterinary Center and they generously donated their time to run all kinds of tests, checking for lead, mercury, lung disease, blood disease, and any other abnormalities. We felt very honored to work with such specialized medical experts, and together we were able to create a comprehensive treatment plan with informal team meetings each day to relay any test results, report progress, and determine how best to help her. I am especially proud of our teamwork during this time, noticing and communicating specific changes in our patient while remaining efficient and calm. At around her

second week of treatment, she began to throw up the liquid diet. Feeling very much out of options, we offered her half a large porgy and she demolished it! With each day,, her beak and talons were shinier, her feathers less dirty, and her head began to perk up. We began introducing larger and larger pieces of fish until she was polishing off as many as two large bass a day. Her weight skyrocketed, and she began biting, wing slapping, and vocally protesting handling. Bald eagles are notoriously aggressive

in captivity and finally she was getting some of her spunk back. After another week and a half, she finished her antibiotics and was

ready to go outside to our flight cage, and regain her strength. For the first week she was outside, she remained on the ground, but one day I opened the door and she was perched on a high platform above me! I watched her take off, pushing hard with her wings to make it across, flight unsteady but powerful. Over the next two weeks she started banking beautiful turns and landing with ease, as well as eating anywhere from 1-3 large fish or rats a day.

We were able to work with the DEC to band her, and she was cleared for release.

On a clear Monday morning around 7 weeks after she arrived, Rocco was able to return her to the wild.

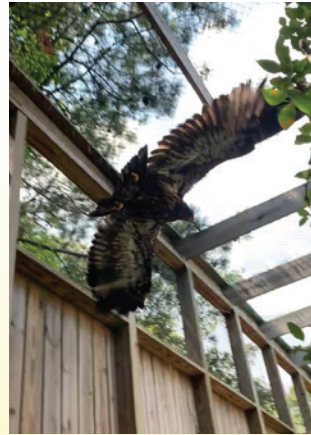
It felt as though everyone was willing to take a chance on her whether it be the vets and vet staff who ran diagnostic tests so carefully on her, volunteers who generously donated their time to shuffle her back-and-forth between appointments, Rocco and Jackie who rescued her, members of our local community who donated us fish and blankets large enough for her, the DEC who worked with us to band her and secure her release, and the hours and hours of time we spent treating her, cleaning her cage, monitoring her weight, and planning second and third and fourth options for every eventuality. It made me feel like I was a part of an interconnected community invested in returning this beautiful bird to the wild.

Bald eagles are uniquely positioned to face threats from both land and sea pollutants. They experienced a population boom following the banning of DDT in the late 1970s, but now face major threats such as mercury, zinc, and lead poisoning, as well as consequences from human interaction- cars, hunting, and habitat loss. After bald eagles leave the nest they spend about a month in the area practicing their flight and learning how to hunt, but this leaves them highly vulnerable for an extended period of time. This is where we think our girl got sick, and I feel very proud that we were able to help her heal and successfully release her.



Our Eagle Takes Flight

By Rose Lynch



EVELYN ALEXANDER WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER - Eastern Long Island's **ONLY** Wildlife Hospital

228 West Montauk Hwy Hampton Bays, NY 11946 • 631-728-WILD (9453) • www.wildliferescuecenter.org



Director's Column

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHRIS STRUB

Happy Fall! Our intake numbers are finally slowing down after a hectic and busy Summer, but our hospital team is still hard at work caring for late season babies and many injured and sick adults.



Fall bird migration brings a rainbow of warblers through our door, like the dazzling black-and-white warbler whose travels to Central and South America were interrupted by a window. While migrants through our region may not have as many tall buildings to deal with, they can still run afoul of residential windows. To help them out, keep exterior lights to a minimum after dark, and lower your blinds or curtains in the evening. This helps keep birds from going off-course during overnight flights.

Animals that spend winter in our region rather than migrating have begun looking for warm and cozy dens - and that might include your home! Check out our article in this newsletter on how you can winterize your home to avoid unnecessary conflict with wildlife.

Thanks to your support, we finished our busy season strong, and we look forward to seeing many more of our wild neighbors - like the black-and-white warbler - go free in the coming months!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Strub

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Justin Molnar, DVM

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Noelle Dunlop

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Beutelschies, R.A.

Ingrid O. Edelman

Jane Gill

Missy Hargraves

Jonathan Turetsky, DVM

HONORARY BOARD

Ingrid Arneberg

Rosalie Brinton

Thomas J. Edelman

Linda Lambert

Steve Levy

Maryann & Robert Marston

Howard Marton

Beth Ostrosky Stern

Ellen & Chuck Scarborough

The Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center Hospital is located at Munn's Pond County Park through a cooperative agreement with Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the EAWRC, a private, non-profit environmental group.



A financial report is on file with the NYS Attorney General, 120 Broadway NY, NY and on the web at: www.charitiesnys.com



As much as we love our wild neighbors, we don't want them nesting in our homes. At this time of year, though, your attic or shed may look like a perfect den! Here are some steps to secure your home and help wildlife find more appropriate places to nest.

- Check your roofline and foundation for points of entry, such as small holes or weak spots. For a temporary fix, patch the weak spot with 1/2" hardware cloth, and plan to permanently fix the hole ASAP.
- Cap those chimneys! To many a small animal, including birds and bats, an open chimney may look like the perfect spot to nest or roost. Before lighting a fire in your fireplace or, even if your fireplace is mostly ornamental, make sure all of your chimneys are cleaned and properly capped to prevent entry.
- Ensure all sheds and outdoor storage can close tightly and securely. Keep sheds, outdoor storage, and garages closed when not actively in use.
- If you notice unwanted tunneling, use bright lights, noise, and scent as a deterrent. Animals are looking for a quiet, dark, predator-free environment and will move out on their own if they don't feel secure.
- Put up squirrel nest boxes to give them an alternate place to den. Nest boxes should be secured at least 10 ft up a tree.
- Leave the leaves! Many animals use fallen leaves to warm their winter nests, and many insects overwinter in leaf litter.
- If you need help encouraging animals to move out of your space, give our front desk team a call. We can walk you through your specific situation.

How Can You Help The EVELYN ALEXANDER WILDLIFE CENTER?

BECOME A MEMBER or RENEW your MEMBERSHIP at www.WildlifeRescueCenter.org

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

No experience necessary. We will train you. Rescue, Transport, Hospital, Office & Fundraising Volunteers needed.

Download application at:

wildliferescuecenter.org/GetInvolved

SYMBOLICALLY ADOPT AN EDUCATION AMBASSADOR:

Help us provide the care, housing, and enrichment for our resident education animals. To learn more, visit our website! Or text "RAPTORS" to 202-858-1233 to donate.

www.WildlifeRescueCenter.org

GIFT OF STOCK:

Gifts of appreciated securities can be a tax-wise way to support Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center

FIND US ON AMAZON:



FOLLOW US:



MEMORIAL OR HONORING GIFTS:

Donate in the memory or in honor of a loved one or pet

CREATE A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER

Ask friends to support Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center

PLANNED GIVING:

List Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center as a BENEFICIARY:

On life insurance policies, retirement accounts, IRA accounts, etc.

Our Federal Tax ID number is: 11-3409551

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

Check if your employer matches your donation to nonprofit organizations.

DONATE:

Donate through Paypal, or with credit cards on our website or venmo@wildliferescuecenter



SCAN ME

23RD ANNUAL Raffle

To Benefit Long Island's Wildlife

1st Prize:

Win \$1,000 in Groceries!

From the grocery store of your choice

2nd Prize:

Educational Meet & Greet:

LIVE Birds of Prey in YOUR Backyard!

A 1-hour program, Suffolk County, NY only

3rd Prize:

Bat house and bird feeding supplies in a canvas tote

Tickets Available:

WildlifeRescueCenter.org

631-728-WILD

\$5 per Ticket

\$45 for 10

Drawing: **December 16, 2023**

You can also buy tickets online at:

www.wildliferescuecenter.org/groceryaffle

Or scan the QR Code below to buy raffles or donate online!



IT'S ALL IN THE PRESENTATION!

EAWRC is broadening its curb appeal thanks to Morales Landscapers, Inc.

It's that time of year again, and the Center was fortunate to have our first professional clean-up this past July. Paulino Morales and his crew donated their time and materials to spruce up our front entrance...trimming shrubs and bushes, removing dead growth and spreading new mulch in the beds.

It's often difficult to maintain, and although we try to encourage regular volunteer clean-ups, it isn't always possible. Thanks, Paulino, for keeping us sitting pretty. We hope you will return. Paulino and his family have been Westhampton residents for 9 years and offer full landscaping services from Quogue to Hampton Bays.

IN LOVING MEMORY:

case no. 23-1319 Cardinal

Aimee Peterson

Harmon and Barbara Walker

Mr. Met

Joseph Kennedy

David Jaklevic

Karen Hughes

Leah Kuczinski

Kenneth Walker

Gryff

James Edward Hunter

James Wund

Mishka

Boo

Evelyn Winer

Barbara Posener

Russ Bird



EVELYN ALEXANDER

Wildlife Rescue Center

Eastern Long Island's **ONLY** Wildlife Hospital

228 West Montauk Hwy., Hampton Bays, NY 11946
631-728-WILD (9453)

www.wildliferescuecenter.org

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #255
Hicksville, NY 11801

See page 3 for ways
you can help!

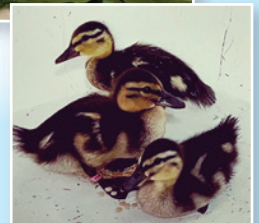
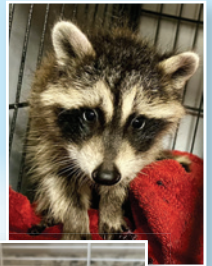
So far this year....

Our number of intakes this year are **UP BY 20%** over 2022.
We released more than **750 PATIENTS** back to the wild!

We treated **166 different species** with the most prevalent being the Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (37.9%), followed by the Mallard Duck (17.4%), the Virginia Opossum (16.4%), Northern Raccoon (16.3%), and Eastern Grey Squirrel (12.0%)

Excluding being orphaned, the top three reasons for patient admissions are vehicle collisions (19.2%), cat attacks (10.8%) and dog attacks (9.7%).

While the vast majority of our patients came from Suffolk County, we treated 84 patients from Nassau County and a handful of patients from upstate.



WHAT WE DO

The Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center is Eastern Long Island's **ONLY** Wildlife Hospital, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the rescue, medical rehabilitation and release of native wildlife on the East End of Long Island. The Center opened its doors in 2000. The Wildlife Rescue Center receives over 10,000 calls each year for information or assistance with wild animal encounters. Each animal that crosses our doorstep receives comfort and compassion. We are open 365 days a year and are available on call 24 hours a day. We also provide educational programs to local elementary and secondary schools. Students from local colleges participate in cooperative education programs and internships. The Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center annual operating budget exceeds \$750,000, all of which comes from the generosity of people like you. We do not receive state or government funding.

READ ABOUT
MORE
INTERESTING
LONG ISLAND
WILDLIFE
INSIDE!

