

# Pelican Talk



*This edition of Pelican Talk is generously sponsored by Patch of Heaven Sanctuary. See inside to learn more about them ...*

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*and support the treatment of sick, injured & orphaned native wildlife!*



A portion of this newsletter is funded by an education grant from the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer, Recycling and Solid Waste Departments.

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is located in a Miami-Dade County Park. We are grateful to Miami-Dade County Parks Department for the use of the facility and for our partnership that has allowed us to focus on our mission and the well-being of our patients.



**Pelican Harbor**  
SEABIRD STATION

1279 NE 79th St. Causeway, Miami, FL 33138  
305-751-9840 | PelicanHarbor.org



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## Patch of Heaven Sanctuary Partners with Seabird Station



We are pleased to partner with Patch of Heaven (POH) Sanctuary and are grateful for their sponsorship of this newsletter. If you have not been, we encourage you to visit their amazing 20-acre Hugh Matheson Jr. Historic Site, which reminds of a cross between Vizcaya and the Deering Estate. Their extensive hardwood hammock and natural area provide crucial habitat and food for migratory birds. They also boast the largest bat house in North America and have documented six species of bats on the property including the critically endangered and largish bonneted bat. We will be working with them on environmental education projects as well as using their site for native wildlife releases. We encourage you to visit Patch of Heaven and learn more at [patchofheavensanctuary.org](http://patchofheavensanctuary.org)



## The Batchelor Foundation Challenge Grant Doubles Your Gifts to PHSS

The Batchelor Foundation has long been a champion of our work. Their matching grants have inspired supporters like you to partner with us in rescuing native wildlife and these gifts have allowed us to raise a considerable portion of our budget each year through this program. **This year, The Batchelor Foundation has issued two challenge grants!** The first is a \$500,000 challenge grant to support the construction of our new wildlife hospital at our new property. All contributions to the Capital Campaign by September 30, 2020, will receive a dollar-for-dollar match. Once we reach the \$500,000 goal, the Batchelor Foundation will also make an additional \$500,000 donation, bringing their gift to \$1,000,000.

They have also issued a second matching grant of \$70,000 to support our annual operating fund for wildlife rehabilitation. Your gift to either program will be doubled until the match is complete. Community members interested in supporting the capital campaign should reach out to our Executive Director Christopher Boykin at 786-942-9156 or [Christopher@pelicanharbor.org](mailto:Christopher@pelicanharbor.org) for more information.



# A Spring Baby Boom Results in a 20% Patient Increase Over Last Year

By Yaritza Acosta, Rehabilitation Manager

Despite what's happening around the world, we've been busier than last year. At this time last year, we had treated 731 patients. This year, we're currently at 888. That's more than a 20% increase in patients.

Spring is one of the busiest times of the year because of baby season. From around March to June baby birds and some baby mammals are being born with April being the peak for most baby birds. Looking back at baby season last year from March to May, we admitted 137 baby birds and mammals. This year we have admitted 225 babies for the season so far. There are many reasons why we are admitting more patients this year compared to last, some being increases in educational



outreach has put our name out there more, so more people know about us and know where to bring injured animals. An increase in the human population in Miami means more people getting exposed to wildlife in need, and maybe more wildlife getting injured, sick, or orphaned because of human-related activities, for example getting hit by cars, feral cat attacks, dog attacks, fishing entanglement, etc. Overall, In 2019 we admitted 1400+ birds, 500+ mammals, and 14 reptiles of over 120 species. We are expected to reach or surpass 2000 patients this year and we thank everyone in the community for their continued support.

## Meetings Are Better with Animals!

By Sarah Curry, Education and Communications Coordinator



How much more excited would you be to join a Zoom meeting if you knew you were going to see an animal? And we're not talking about your coworkers' pets. They're adorable, but you've likely met them half a dozen times by now. Whether you work with other wildlife enthusiasts and want a full Behind the Scenes Tour of our facility, or you're just looking to boost employee morale with a 'corporate cameo,' we can help. Our educational ambassador animals that will join the meeting include Mowgli, the always elegant Eastern Screech Owl, and one of our awesome opossums.

We have three options for animal engagement:

- 10-minute corporate cameo (\$100 donation)
- 20-minute virtual private tour, highlighting a couple of ambassador animals (\$200 donation)
- 30-minute VIP tour (\$500 donation)

Visit [calendly.com/pelicanharbor](https://calendly.com/pelicanharbor) to book your animal encounter. We also offer virtual education opportunities. Email [education@pelicanharbor.org](mailto:education@pelicanharbor.org) to learn more.

## View Our Stunning New Annual Report!

[Click here](#)



Pelican Talk | [PelicanHarbor.org](https://PelicanHarbor.org)



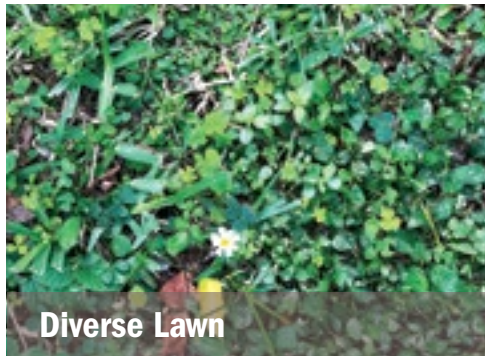
# If You Plant It, They Will Come

By Kiki Mutis, Operations & Volunteer Coordinator

Attracting birds to your home garden is not much different than having a highly attended work meeting (pre-COVID times). Provide good food, and they will come! In South Florida, the diversity of plants to choose from can be almost limitless because of our subtropical climate. However, not all plants are equal when it comes to attracting birds, butterflies, and other native wildlife. Many plants commonly sold at nurseries are pretty but don't provide the fruits or seeds native and migrating birds recognize as food. Plants that are native to South Florida are the best choice to create a wildlife sanctuary, beautify your landscape, and reduce the use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Furthermore, a bird-friendly landscape provides migrating birds a much needed rest-stop and buffet table along their long migration route.



**Mexican Firebush**



**Diverse Lawn**



**Fakahatchee Grass  
& Saw Palmetto**



**Wild Coffee**

## Species Spotlight: Cedar Waxwing

In April we received our third Cedar Waxwing in 40 years. These forest birds are often heard before they're seen as they have a distinct trill and whistle. These social birds are often found in groups that are called a "museum" or an "ear-full". These medium-sized migratory birds spend their winters in the southeastern United States but are found year-round in the Northern U.S. The name 'waxwing' comes from waxy red secretions that are found on the tips of some of their feathers and may be used in attracting a mate. These birds love fruit and if you have fruit in your yard, they may be tempted to stop by. While some birds eat fruit and regurgitate the seeds, Cedar Waxwings let the seeds pass through them. They also eat insects in the Summer.



## *Tips for creating a bird-friendly landscape*

1. Plant the plants that birds recognize as food.
2. Learn to love a diverse lawn, they are composed of many short plants, often called weeds. Diverse lawns provide seeds, insects, and fruits for birds.
3. Become an insect farmer! Many birds are insectivorous and will love to eat the bugs off your plants.
4. Select a diversity of native plants to attract a variety of birds and butterflies. Choose several different types of trees, shrubs, grasses, and herbs, don't plant monocultures.
5. Don't use rat poison, herbicides, or insecticides; these toxic chemicals poison the food the birds eat or feed to their babies.
6. Keep cats indoors!

Now that the rainy season has begun follow these simple steps and start your bird-friendly plantings.

