



SPECIAL



# Holiday Edition



**Holiday  
Fish Drive**

29<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL

# Pelican Talk

Winter 2022

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIVE WILDLIFE CENTER

# 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Holiday Fish Drive

Help us  
fill our freezer  
with fish!

# 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL *Holiday* FISH DRIVE!

Help us fill our freezers with fish this Winter! Did you know that the Seabird Station's fish bill exceeds \$24,000 each year? This cost covers a variety of fish types such as herring, capelin, smelt, glass minnows, and more. It's essential that we feed a varied diet to our diverse range of patients, as well as supplement our long-term patients and ambassador animals. This year, Fish Drive donations adding up to 6,000 pounds will be matched by a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Funds raised this year will also be used to purchase fruits and vegetables, seed, live crickets and worms, frozen mice, and more for the myriad of native bird species treated at our center!

Make your gift today at [pelicanharbor.org/donate](http://pelicanharbor.org/donate)

## Remembering Harry Kelton

On Tuesday, August 23rd, our community lost a friend and passionate wildlife advocate. Harry Kelton, the founder of Pelican Harbor Seabird Station, passed away peacefully at the age of 96. Harry and his wife of 48 years, Darlene, helped to revolutionize the rehabilitation and care of Brown Pelicans and was instrumental in helping bolster their population by releasing more than 7,000 during a time when they were still on the endangered species list. Harry and Darlene live on in the incredible work that continues at Pelican Harbor Seabird Station and we are honored to continue fulfilling their legacy each and every day. Visit [pelicanharbor.org/celebration-of-life](http://pelicanharbor.org/celebration-of-life) to view a recording of the celebration.



## Our Rezoning is Approved!

We continue to make great strides towards completing our new state-of-the-art wildlife hospital and education center and will break ground in January 2023! We have raised \$8,250,000 of the required \$14,000,000 for the expansion and are so grateful to the 218 donors and foundations that have stepped up to invest in wildlife and partner with us on this exciting and much-needed endeavor. The finish line is now in sight, and we need your help now more than ever. Be a part of history by making a gift to our capital campaign. No gift is too small and there are various naming opportunities available. **Learn more by scanning the QR code below. If you're interested in a tour of the site of our future facility, please contact [Christopher@pelicanharbor.org](mailto:Christopher@pelicanharbor.org)**



The holidays are a wonderful time of the year but they can also be a little overwhelming when we go through our gift list! It can especially be challenging when we want to gift items that are useful, good for the environment, and support a worthwhile cause. That's why our team created this list of gift ideas that will help you satisfy even the trickiest recipient. Get yours today at [pelicanharbor.org/holiday-gift-guide](http://pelicanharbor.org/holiday-gift-guide)



holiday  
gift  
guide

Our Pelican Pin  
Makes a Great  
Stocking Stuffer!



Pelican  
Ornament



Show  
You Care with a  
Pelican Adoption!



# A Black Skimmer's Journey to Release

By Amanda Burke, Wildlife Rehabilitator & Intern Coordinator

In August, we received a juvenile skimmer that had been found in a parking lot in North Miami Beach. Neither his nest nor his parents could be found in the area so he was admitted for care as we attempted to find a flock and suitable release site for him. Several attempts were made by Carolina, one of our Wildlife Rehabilitators, to find a flock around Miami. She followed sightings to various sites but unfortunately, none had any skimmers present. After over a month and many searches, we expanded the search up the coast of Florida and found several reports of large flocks present in Palm Beach county.

Thanks to a local fisherman's tip of a skimmer sighting just the day before, we ended up at the John D. MacArthur State Park in North Palm Beach. After 49 days in care, the skimmer was released, where he made several swooping laps around us and foraged in the surf before meeting up with another skimmer and flying off together.

It was an incredible moment and marked our first successful release of this species since 2019! These successes at Pelican Harbor Seabird Station result from a joint effort not only between birders and community members, but all of our incredible donors as well! Every donation contributes to making releases like this happen, giving this Black Skimmer a second chance at life.



**OVENBIRD**

# Winter Migration Species Spotlight: Ovenbird

By Yaritza Acosta, Rehabilitation Manager

Over the years, PHSS has admitted over 300 Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), making them one of our most commonly seen patients. The Ovenbird is a small warbler, olive-green above and spotted below, with bold black-and-orange crown stripes. It gets its name from its covered nest, which dome and side entrance make it resemble a Dutch oven. Like most migrating birds, Ovenbirds travel at night to avoid predators during the day. Their most common cause of injury is head trauma after flying into windows due to light pollution at night.

Ovenbirds are long-distance migrants, with those breeding east of the Appalachians overwintering in Florida and the Caribbean, and those breeding further west flying to Mexico and Central America. Because of their abundance and wide distribution, they have been a model songbird in scientific research for nearly a century. Such studies have helped scientists understand the effects of logging and habitat fragmentation on migrating songbirds.

**holiday gift guide**

Show Your Appreciation to a Loved One!



Make a donation in honor of a loved one and we will send them a card letting them know about your generous donation made in their name!



Opossum Paw Print Art



Adopt Our New Ambassador Maggie



# HOO Turned Out the Lights?

By Jacquelyn Schoppe, Wildlife Rehabilitator

**Did you know?** Miami is located along one of the largest major migratory flyways in the world. This means we are gifted with the opportunity to host hundreds of different species throughout the year as they journey thousands of miles to and from their nesting grounds. At Pelican Harbor, we know it is migrational season when we receive a sudden influx of songbirds who have crashed into a building or window. Unfortunately, building collisions are a serious threat to our beloved visitors, nationally contributing to about 1 billion bird deaths per year. Of these fatalities, the nocturnal migrators such as warblers, thrushes, cuckoos, and shorebirds are particularly vulnerable to this threat. This is bad news considering most (about 80%) of this region's feathered travelers, including many who are experiencing steep population decline, prefer to journey at night.

**Why does this happen?** For thousands of years, migrating at night meant less disturbance and less predators. However, artificial light has presented a new navigational challenge for migratory birds and has become a large contributing factor to the total deaths attributed to building collisions. The glow from the city's light causes a distortion in the natural horizon line, as well as dominates the night sky's moon and stars. This causes confusion for our beloved travelers, who have evolved using the night's natural light as their navigation system. Without their familiar road map, birds can become deterred from their natural route. This disorientation not only leads to fatal building collisions, but also exhaustion and failure to thrive.

**What to do now?** Supporting the conservation of natural areas benefits birds two-fold by conserving habitat while also creating and preserving places that do not contribute to light pollution. As far as reducing our personal use, remember- a little bit goes a long way! We encourage you to join the "Lights-Out Miami" initiative by pledging to reduce your light use between the hours of 11PM-6AM. By sharing this information with building owners and city officials, we can reduce the overall light pollution in Miami and create safe skies for these birds!



## We are excited to introduce our newest ambassadors Maggie the Virginia Opossum, and Mango the Mangrove Terrapin, to our family of adoptable ambassador animals.



Maggie is a Virginia Opossum who suffered permanent nerve damage to her back legs after her mother was hit by a car. She has formed a strong bond with our clinic members and can usually be found sleeping in her sling travel pouch!



Mango is a Mangrove Terrapin that was born with deformed hind legs preventing her from swimming very well. She is living a life of luxury at PHSS in a 82 degree heated tank along with twice daily feedings of her favorite food - bloodworms!

Send Someone on One of Our Sunset Cruises!



Insulated Water Bottle



Frigatebird Shirt



Pelican Harbor Hat



## SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

See inside for unique and meaningful gift ideas that will delight your loved ones  
**AND support our mission!**



### *IN-PERSON SPEAKER SERIES:*

Roseate Spoonbill Research in the Florida Bay

Time: 5:30 - 7:00pm

Where: Pelican Harbor Marina



### *PELICAN PARTY*

Time: 6:00 - 9:00pm

Where: Rusty Pelican, Key Biscayne

*Early Bird Tickets Available Soon!*



# Thank You

A sincere thank you to the 574 donors who helped us to raise \$113,253 on Give Miami Day. We are blown away by your generosity and so thankful for your support!



## Pelican Harbor SEABIRD STATION

1279 NE 79th St. Causeway, Miami, FL 33138

305-751-9840 | PelicanHarbor.org



***Pelican Harbor Seabird Station (PHSS) is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured or orphaned Brown Pelicans, seabirds, and other native wildlife and the preservation and protection of these species through educational and scientific means.***



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.