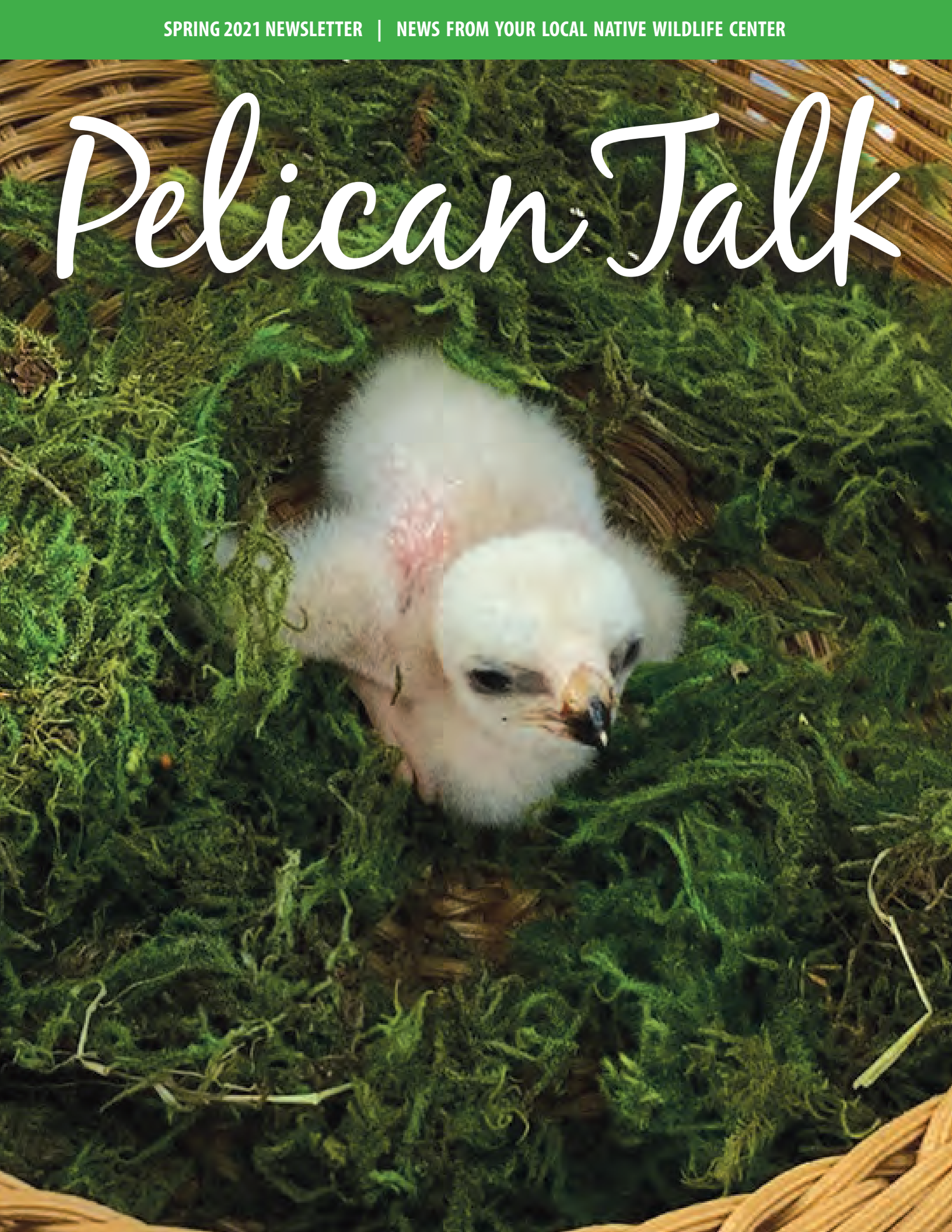


Pelican Talk



Pelican Talk

Baby Bird Renesting

By Douglas Giraldo, Wildlife Rehabilitator

After March's mating season through May, many first-time raptor parents are devotedly taking care of their clutch. But from time to time, their babies can fall out of the nest after hatching, leaving them extremely vulnerable to the elements and predation. When this happens and we receive these fallen babes, our clinic staff will assess the bird's health and determine if it can be renested and reunited with the parents.

This was the case for one such nestling Cooper's hawk. After its initial clinic examination and a preliminary survey of the found location, it was deemed this nestling could go back. Because the original nest had been destroyed, a replacement nest made of wicker was installed into the tree 35+ ft high. Our team climbed up and gently placed the baby in this surrogate nest and closely monitored it over the next few days to ensure the parents returned to care for it. Another success story for the Seabird Station!



> 2020 in Review

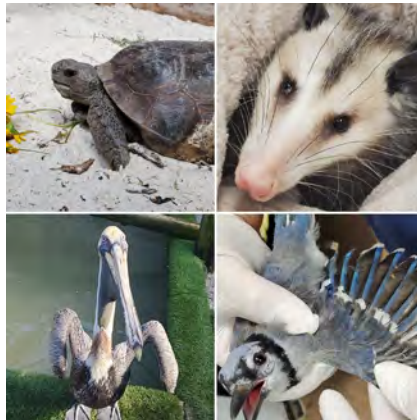
No Slowing Down!

By Yaritza Acosta, Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager

We ended the year with 2,364 animals admitted to our facility, that's a 20% increase in patients from last year's total of 1,973! Showing us the events of 2020 have not slowed us down. We treated 1,673 birds, with our most common species being the Blue jay, Laughing Gull, Brown Pelican, and Northern Mockingbird. 657 mammals were admitted, with our most common species being the Virginia Opossum and Grey Squirrel. Lastly, 33 reptiles came through our doors, with the most common species being the Peninsula Cooter, Gopher Tortoise, and Florida Cooter.

Looking at the most common reasons for admission, we found that most of our patients were admitted due to being orphaned, habitat displacement, cat attacks, and vehicle collisions.

Digging deeper into the data, we found that 38% of the total patients admitted were adults, 37% were infants, and 23% were juveniles. The most common cities patients were transported from were Miami, Miami Beach, Coral Gables, and Key Biscayne. Finally, looking at the most common way animals were transported to us, the original finder or good Samaritan brought in 58% of patients, 14% were transported by our amazing Operation Rescue & Release Volunteers, 11% were left in our drop-off cages before/after hours, and 8% were transported using Uber. Pelican Harbor's reach grows larger every year, and we can't wait to see what's in store for us in 2021!



A Year of Firsts

By Hannah McDougall, Rescue & Release Coordinator

It's fair to say that this past year brought with it many unprecedented events, and at Pelican Harbor, we had some "firsts" of our own. We admitted some never before seen species, including the Connecticut warbler, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Red-headed woodpecker. This brings our historic species count to over 200 unique species. What's even more exciting is that all four of these first-timers were able to be released!

continued inside ...



Welcome to Our Newest Adoptable Ambassadors!

By Stephanie Moure, Wildlife Intake & IT Manager

Basil the Virginia Opossum and Felix the Brown Pelican are new to our Adopt-a-Bird and Adopt-a-Possum program, but these two have been ambassadors here at the Station for quite some time now.

Basil was brought to us in late 2019, making her our newest ambassador animal. She came in as just a little baby after her momma was hit by a car. Basil was still in her momma's pouch at the time, which inflicted serious trauma to her right eye, making her permanently blind in that eye. She now works with us in educating the public about her species via Zoom presentations!

Felix has been a resident pelican here at the Seabird Station since 1998! After 22 years with us, he was officially named by the winner of our silent auction, Joel Pinsky. As a young pelican, Felix sustained a permanent injury to his wing, preventing him from ever being able to fly



Basil



Felix

again. Luckily he was brought into the Station and became one of our amazing ambassador animals, helping to educate the public about his species!

Both Basil and Felix are now available for adoption, and all proceeds of our Adopt-a-Bird, Adopt-a-Possum, and Adopt-a-Turtle programs go directly towards their care! (Ambassador animal adoptions are all honorary and come with a certificate, their story, and an 8" x11" photo of your adopted animal.) Visit Pelicanharbor.org for more information.



Heroic Opossum Rescue

By Kiki Mutis, Operations Manager



The phones never stop ringing at the Seabird Station. Seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year, people from across every neighborhood in Miami Dade County reach out to us with the hopes that we can help them rescue an injured animal. Every call has a story, and some calls depict the heroic and daring actions people are willing to take to save an animal.

One afternoon, one such caller found a deceased mother opossum hit by a car with a live baby on her back. A friend offered to bring the baby to the Seabird Station. On their way to the Station, they got a call from their friend urging them to return immediately, for more opossum babies! The momma's body had been tossed into a canal, and more babies were climbing on top of her as she slowly drifted away. The rescuers frantically knocked on doors, asking permission to come into strangers' yards to retrieve a dead opossum floating in the canal...no one let them in! A few houses down, they eventually found an opening, jumped into the canal, pulled the opossums out, and brought them to the Seabird Station.

After receiving medical care, a few weeks in an incubator, and special feedings, the babies made a full recovery and were released. Thanks to individuals' compassion and heroic actions in our community, we can give thousands of sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife a second chance. If you ever come across a deceased opossum, please check the marsupial pouch for babies. If you find any, bring the momma with the babies to the Seabird Station for care.



IT'S A GREAT WHITE ... Heron?

By Tori Fields, Wildlife Rehabilitator

Many of you may be familiar with Great blue herons, but how many of you have heard of the Great white heron? The Great white heron was once thought to be just a white morph of the Great blue heron, but recent studies have shown that it is actually a separate subspecies. The Great white heron is unique to South Florida and the Florida Keys; you can rarely find them anywhere else.

Great white herons can easily be mistaken for Great egrets because of their similar body shape and plumage. You can identify the Great white heron by its larger body size, long thick yellow bill, and pale white plumage, which is not as bright white as the feathers of a Great egret. Great egrets have black legs while great white herons have much lighter legs.

Since Pelican Harbor opened our doors forty-one years ago, we have only treated four Great white herons. And while 2020 was a hard year in so many ways, it was a great year for these special birds at PHSS. For the first time in our history, Pelican Harbor released not one but TWO Great white herons! Here's to another great year of saving wildlife and having the support of so many wonderful people.

A Year of Firsts (continued)

Many other species were not necessarily new to the clinic but were the first of their kind to have been released by Pelican Harbor. In late spring, we set free the first group of hand-raised Chimney swifts in Pelican Harbor's History. As luck would have it, our future center's site is also home



to a large colony of Chimney swifts, and 12 orphaned swifts were able to be released over the course of two months. Some other first time releases included: a Prairie warbler, a Downy woodpecker, four Barn owls, a Gray kingbird, a Barred owl, two Great white herons, and a Little blue heron. We are so lucky to be located in such a biodiverse area and are even more fortunate to be able to return such a wide variety of species to the wild each year!

Sponsor an Aviary, Habitat, or Room In Honor of a Loved One



It's an exciting time at the Seabird Station as we work to construct a new 7,200 square foot state-of-the-art facility on our beautiful 2.6-acre riverfront preserve and nature park. We have secured 70% of the funding but need your help to reach the finish line. Consider honoring a loved one by sponsoring an aviary, habitat, or room in their honor. Sponsorships for habitats and aviaries start at \$4,000 and \$6,000, respectively. Room sponsorships begin at \$25,000. Each of these sponsorship types can be divided over three years (2021-2023) and includes a lifetime personalized plaque.

Additionally, we have sponsorship levels ranging from \$250-\$750 whose donors will be honored on group plaques outside of the Education Center; those at the \$1000 level will be honored in the Reception/Lobby.

Gifts of stocks, real estate or qualified charitable distributions for those over 70.5 years of age can help us reach our goal. Additionally, your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous \$1.4 million dollar matching grant by the Deeks Foundation and a \$500,000 matching grant by the Batchelor Foundation.

Visit Pelicanharbor.org for additional details and a video about this exciting expansion. Contact Christopher@pelicanharbor.org or 305.762.7633 for more information on how you can play a role in helping us build a brighter future for Miami's native wildlife.



Please visit our website to see a comprehensive listing of sponsorship opportunities.



Don't miss out on our limited seating seabird cruises!

Experience stunning skyline and sunset views while learning about local wildlife. Enjoy a beautiful 2-hour sunset, birding, and skyline cruise aboard Miami Dade Parks' new boat, the Explorer, as we tour Biscayne Bay and scan the mangrove shoreline for Brown pelicans, Magnificent frigatebirds, and more than 30 other species of birds. All while taking in the beauty of the Miami skyline from the water at night. Leaving from Crandon Marina. Adhering to COVID protocols, masks must be worn at all times during the trip. *Purchase tickets at PelicanHarbor.org/events, email Stephanie@pelicanharbor.org, or call 305-762-7633.*

March 26th Friday | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
May 26th Wednesday | 7:00-9:00 p.m.
June 24th Thursday | 7:00-9:00 p.m.



Give the gift of an experience!



Pelican Harbor SEABIRD STATION

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



Pelican Harbor Seabird Station 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.

