

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION



Pelican Talk

Winter 2021

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIVE WILDLIFE CENTER



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.

Pelican Talk

Prerequisites for Permanents: How PHSS Chooses Ambassador Animals

By Samantha Martinez, Environmental Educator

Many of the animals that we treat at PHSS are deemed unreleasable; however, animals must meet several requirements before we consider keeping them for educational purposes.

What is an ambassador animal, anyway? An ambassador animal is an individual of a species who lives permanently at a wildlife rehabilitation center or zoo and performs one or more very important jobs. So how do we decide who becomes an ambassador animal? Our ambassadors must come in as a young juvenile or baby, since it is highly unlikely that an adult animal would ever get used to being handled by humans. They must also have an injury, neurological issue, or behavioral issue (such as being too tame), that cannot be remedied and would prevent them from surviving in the wild. However, this issue must not cause them pain or discomfort in any way, and their temperament must be passive enough that long-term placement would not result in undue stress. Only after meeting all of these requirements can an animal be considered to

(Cont. on pg 3)



28th ANNUAL

Holiday Fish Drive

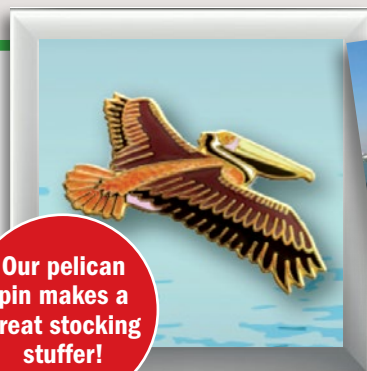
Help us
fill our freezer
with fish!

Each year, the Seabird Station's fish bill exceeds \$20,000.

This cost covers a variety of fish types (herring, capelin, smelt, glass minnows, and more). In recent years, we've also begun feeding our patients live fish when available, and each delivery is roughly \$100. This keeps the fishing instinct strong in our rehab patients and also provides enrichment for our permanent ambassador pelicans. It's essential that we feed a varied diet to our diverse range of patients, as well as to supplement our long-term patients with vitamins. Funds raised this year will also be used to purchase seed, live crickets and worms, frozen mice, and more for the myriad of native bird species treated at our center! ***This year, Fish Drive donations adding up to 7,000 pounds will be matched by a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous.***

Make your gift today at pelicanharbor.org/donate

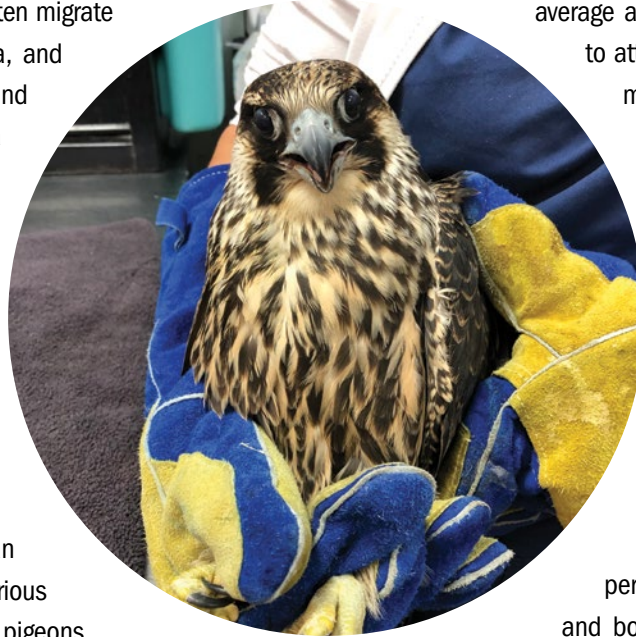
The holidays are a wonderful time of the year but they can also be a little overwhelming when we go through our gift list! It can especially be challenging when we want to gift items that are useful, good for the environment, and support a good cause. That's why our team has created this list of gift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



High-rise Headache

By Amanda Burke, Wildlife Rehabilitator

In the first week of November, PHSS took in two Peregrine Falcons. These birds often migrate and spend the winter in Florida, and like other migratory birds often find themselves experiencing trauma from striking windows and buildings. This was the case with both of our patients, with one being found disoriented on the **34th-floor balcony** of a high-rise in South Beach, and the other trapped on the **balcony of a Virgin cruise ship** nearby in PortMiami. These incredible birds have a wingspan of about 3 feet, and prey on various seabirds, songbirds, ducks, and pigeons. Peregrines are known not only as the world's



fastest bird, but its fastest animal as well. During flight they average a speed of 40-60 mph, but when diving to attack prey, they can reach speeds of 200 mph! Peregrines then strike their prey at these high speeds, effectively stunning them and allowing the falcon to grab them.

When we receive window strikes, one of the biggest hurdles for the animal to overcome is head trauma. Thankfully, with medication and laser therapy to reduce inflammation, this is something the animal can quickly recover from. Fortunately, neither of our peregrines showed signs of severe trauma and both of these resilient patients recovered and were released!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
PELICAN HARBOR SEABIRD STATION

Contact Christopher@pelicanharbor.org or visit our website for more details on our Capital Campaign.



THANK YOU for your generous support on Give Miami Day. With your help, we were able to exceed our goal and **raise 10% of our annual budget!**

Three smart ways to support PHSS:

1. Create a legacy.
2. Give tax-free from your IRA.
3. Transfer appreciated assets.

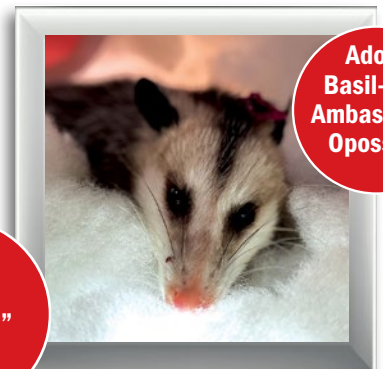
Visit our website for details!

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!

Show your appreciation to a loved one!



Limited-edition "Art Basil" print



Adopt Basil—our Ambassador Opossum

holiday
**gift
guide**



A Sticky Situation

By Nasim Mahomar, Wildlife Rehabilitator



Multiple times a year we receive a call about a bird caught in a glue trap. Oftentimes, the finder has already attempted to remove the bird from the trap with multiple methods including cooking oils, goo gone, or even just pulling the bird off of the trap one feather at a time. But despite their good intentions, all of these methods will only further injure the bird. The best thing to do is to cut the excess paper off of the glue trap, so the bird does not continue to stick to other parts of the trap, and immediately bring it to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation center.

Patient #21-1759, a Northern Cardinal, was removed from a glue trap by the finder with what smelled like olive oil. Unfortunately, in the process they ripped off 21 of its primary, secondary and tertiary feathers (out of 42 required for flight). Forty days later, after multiple warm water and dawn soap baths to remove the oil from her feathers and treat the skin tears from the glue trap, she is still regrowing her lost feathers in order to be able to fly properly. Luckily, she is towards the end of her feather growth journey and will be released very soon!

(Cont. from pg 1)

Prerequisites for Permanents: How PHSS Chooses Ambassador Animals

join our exclusive group of ambassadors and enjoy the remainder of their lives fulfilling an important role for their species.

Most commonly, ambassadors help their human counterparts to educate the public about their species, making them very important members of the team! Another critical role that ambassador animals may help with is fostering orphans. When wildlife rehab centers receive orphans that cannot be reunited with their parents for one reason or another, the rehabbers try to minimize contact with these babies to prevent them from becoming habituated. However, the absolute best way to make sure you avoid habituation is with a foster parent of the same species so that the orphans can socialize normally with other conspecifics. For example, Mowgli, our Ambassador Eastern Screech Owl, has been a wonderful foster mom to dozens of orphaned owls since her time began here at Pelican Harbor Seabird Station!



Ambassador Eastern screech owl Mowgli (back) asks a recent foster orphan "WHO-HOO are you?"

Send someone on one of our sunset cruises!



Insulated water bottle



"Booby" shirts



Illustrated coffee mug

