



FLY FREE



SEASIDE SEABIRD SANCTUARY SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

*IN THIS ISSUE: BABY BIRD Q&A, FLORIDA'S NESTING
SHOREBIRDS, WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE SANCTUARY,
RECENT RELEASES, & OUR NEWEST RESIDENTS*



18328 Gulf Blvd. Indian Shores, FL 33785

(727)391-6211 www.seabirdsanctuary.com

Hours of Operation 8:00AM-4:00PM Daily

Free Admission

Check out our Facebook & Instagram
(@seaside4thebirds) for sanctuary updates & for
our "Patient of the Week"!

Sanctuary Staff

Keith Wilkins: Director of Operations

Melissa Dollard: Avian Hospital Director

Chris: Nutrition & Habitat Specialist

Diane: Gift Shop Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

Amy: Avian Hospital Staff

Justin: Avian Hospital Staff

Paul: Avian Hospital & Grounds Staff

Come visit us daily at 2:30 pm to watch us hand-feed our resident Brown Pelicans or learn about Eastern Screech Owls on Tuesdays & Thursday at 1:30pm!



President's Message



Summer 2018

It's hard to believe, but Seaside Seabird Sanctuary has now been your local bird Sanctuary for almost two years! We have faced our share of challenges, from red tide to hurricanes, and yet we continue the good wildlife-focused work to preserve and help our avian friends while educating the public on how to be better stewards of our environment.

2018 has been a busy year at just over halfway through. We are currently at almost 1,000 avian patients that we've treated this year, ranging from the Brown Pelican to the American Oystercatcher. Fortunately, a third of them are presently back in the wild. At this rate, we are on track to surpass 2,000 birds treated in 2018, a threshold we reached in 2017 as well.

We could not do this work without your generous support. We maintain a small but dedicated staff and are lucky to have a great group of volunteers. This means your dollars and support truly go to the birds and their care. To that end, I would like to highlight our Shoe Drive Fundraiser, which will be active at the Sanctuary from July 15-September 13, 2018. Any gently worn, new or used shoes will be accepted as Seaside will receive a monetary donation based on the total weight of the shoes collected. The more the better! The shoes will be sold through the Funds2Orgs network with proceeds used to support and grow small businesses as well as help families in developing countries throughout the world.

In summary, I would like to remind our supporters that as your Gulf-based Sanctuary, a 501(c)(3) recognized charity, and a charity that relies entirely on your donations, to please consider supporting Seaside and its mission of avian rescue, rehabilitation, and hopeful release. It is only together that we can make a difference for wildlife and leave a lasting legacy that future generations can be proud of. Please contact us any time for questions regarding donor tax incentives, making Seaside Seabird Sanctuary your estate and will beneficiary, and general material donations. The birds appreciate it all.

From all of us at Seaside, we wish you a bright and pleasant summer, and look forward to updating you again in a few months. Please stop by and visit, see the birds, ask questions, and remember Your Sanctuary.

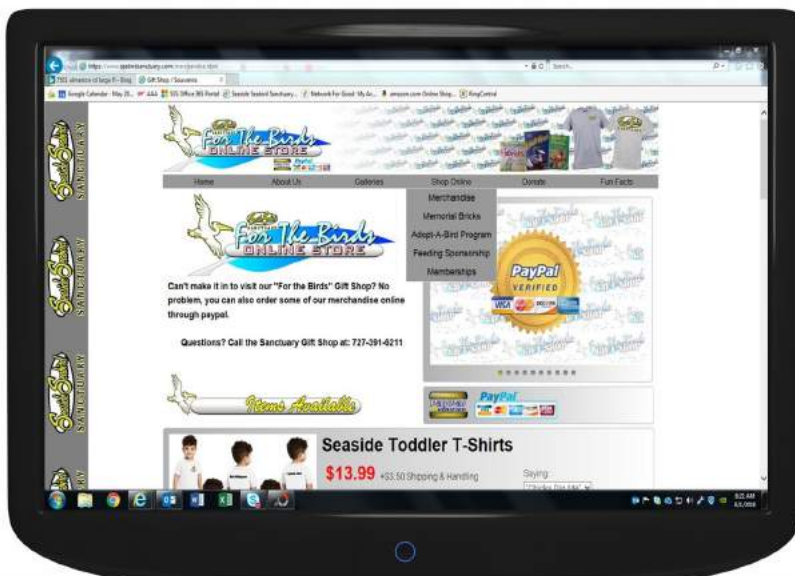
Yours faithfully,

Andrew von Gontard, President & Director

How You Can Be "For the Birds"

As a non-profit organization who relies solely on donations from our community, we need YOUR help to continue our mission of rehabilitating injured/orphaned wildlife & releasing them back into the wild. We are also home to over 100 permanently injured resident birds & we are in constant need of funds to support enriching & fulfilling the lives of our residents! There are so many ways that you can help our Sanctuary & the birds that rely on us.

Visit our website at www.seabirdsanctuary.com & come visit us in person!



Online Store Now Open
www.seabirdsanctuary.com

Baby Season at Seaside



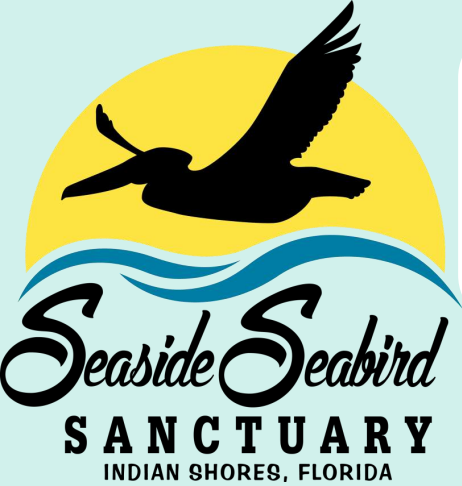
With the arrival of spring comes every wildlife organization's busiest time of year: baby season! Between late April & early August our Sanctuary is bombarded with babies of all species. Mourning Doves & Ground Doves are always the first & last babies of the season, while Blue Jays & Mockingbirds are consistent throughout. Come the end of May & we start to receive Yellow-



crowned Night Herons who have fallen from their nests & noisy Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The most common injuries/conditions that we see in babies are cat/predator attacks, impact injuries, & the condition known as "failure to thrive".

The other most common "condition" that we see is what we call *"birdnapped"*. Many finders, while with the best intentions, mistake perfectly healthy babies for being injured/abandoned & bring them to the Sanctuary. Most species including Blue Jays, Crows, Common Grackles, Northern Mockingbirds & many raptors actually *fledge* from the ground. This means that they leave the nest *before they can fly* & spend about a week on the ground learning how to fly & forage while their parents watch from above. This process is critical to ensure that they are successful into adulthood, & our intervention is not needed. Many are concerned about the risk of predators or pets & do not want to return the babies to where they were found. While yes, fledglings are at risk of predators during this stage, remaining with their natural parents is always what is best for the bird. Human intervention should always be a last resort as we will never compare to their natural parents, & if we were to take every bird at risk of a predator we would have to take every bird in the state! As a non-profit organization who runs solely on donations, being able to focus on providing for the birds that truly need our help is *paramount*.





So you've found a baby bird...

Is the baby injured? Do you see blood or signs of illness?

Call us at (727)391-6211 or find your nearest wildlife rehabilitator, **NEVER** attempt to raise injured/orphaned wildlife on your own.

YES

NO

What does the bird look like?



Hatchling



Nestling



Fledgling

*Look for the nest nearby (sometimes nests are in man-made structures or cavities). If found, place back in nest.

*Can't find nest? Make one from a berry basket, line with leaves, & secure in nearby tree or the same tree if possible.

*Call for assistance if unable to reach nest.

*Unless in immediate danger, **LET THEM BE!**

*If in street or other unsafe location, move to safe area nearby & watch for parents *from a distance*. Parents check on babies every few hours.

*If in your yard, keep pets away from that area.



In partnership with
funds**2**orgs™

SHOE DRIVE

July 9th - September 13th



**Help sick & injured birds,
as well as families in need
by donating your gently
worn, used and new shoes.**

The Seaside Seabird Sanctuary will
receive .40¢ per pound of shoes
collected! Shoes will go to under
privileged families in need!

**Drop off your shoes at the Seaside Seabird Sanctuary
18328 Gulf Blvd. Indian Shores**

A person is shown from behind, sitting in a yoga pose on a beach. The background features a sunset over the ocean with mountains in the distance.

Yoga
FOR THE BIRDS

Seaside Seabird
SANCTUARY

Come for the Yoga... Stay for the Birds!

2nd Sunday of
Every Month

\$10
Suggested
Donation

Pelican Priorities



Here at the Sanctuary there are several daily items that we use that we are always in need of. In lieu of monetary donations, here are some items that you can donate to help support the daily operations of the Sanctuary:

1. Fragrance free laundry detergent
2. Bleach
3. Heavy duty trash bags
4. Dawn dish soap
5. Paper towels
6. Produce such as grapes, berries, & broccoli
7. Stamps
8. Medium to large towels
9. Cases of water for our hardworking volunteers
10. Amazon gift cards



Sharing the Beach with Florida's Nesting Shorebirds

Florida is home to hundreds of shorebirds, & a temporary home for even more migratory species. Shorebirds are classified as wading birds that inhabit shorelines, shallow waters, & mudflats. Some of the most common species found in our area are **Black Skimmers, Least Terns, Royal Terns, American Oystercatchers, Snowy Plovers, Wilson's Plovers, & Eastern Willets**. These species nest on our shorelines from February through September, & they face many challenges as their breeding grounds are most often found right in the center of where many locals & tourists enjoy: our local beaches. Many shorebirds are considered threatened or near threatened due to **loss of habitat & human disturbance**. When colonies are repeatedly flushed due to humans & pets getting too close or walking through, this can cause mass numbers of shorebirds to abandon their young. Also, many of the babies are colored like the sand & they are at risk of being trampled by unaware beachgoers. Due to habitat loss, Least Terns & other shorebirds have also created periled colonies on the rooftops of beachside condominiums & buildings.

Luckily for our shorebirds, the **St. Petersburg Audubon** works tirelessly to monitor & protect these colonies. Volunteer stewards mark critical breeding areas with signage & inform visitors of the colonies & what to look out for. Educating the community & our annual visitors is just one step that conservationists & wildlife organizations have taken in helping to protect these critical shorebirds. So whenever you are visiting our beaches please respect all marked areas & signage, do not walk through large gatherings of birds or purposefully chase them off, keep pets leashed, & **share our beautiful shoreline with these incredible birds**.

Patient Spotlight: Sandhill Crane

This beautiful Sandhill Crane colt's story brings with it an important lesson for all of us. Our partners at Owl's Nest Sanctuary for Wildlife responded to a call about a pair of Sandhill Cranes having been hit by a car in Wesley Chapel, & this colt was by their side. After being stabilized & examined by the wonderful veterinary team at Busch Gardens, the colt was found to have no injuries but he was far too young to fend for himself in the wild. Sandhill Crane colts will spend between 9-12 months with their parents learning how to be successful & relying on their parents for protection. Due to the long-term needs of this little one, he was transferred to the Sanctuary where we have the large enclosures necessary for a crane. When he first came in to the Sanctuary he was constantly alerting: this is a sign of distress & is a call generally used if a colt has been separated from its parents.

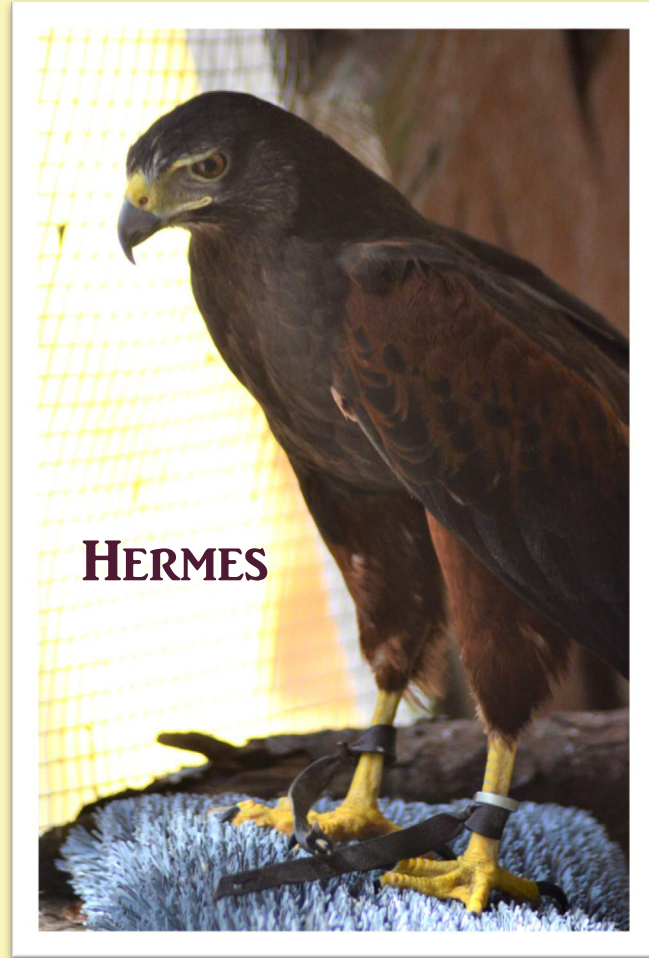


Luckily for this little one, we have some feathered friends who were willing to help. We created an enclosure within our wading bird area which houses Brad & Janet, our resident Sandhill Cranes. Having them as role models & mentors will significantly increase his chances of success & reduce the potential for this colt imprinting on humans. An imprinted bird is incapable of communicating with others of their species, finding food for themselves, & they lack the fear of predators that they need to survive in the wild; preventing our young patients from imprinting is a critical part of all wildlife center's protocol. This colt has been here at the Sanctuary for roughly 8 weeks, so we have a lot more time to go! Brad & Janet often feed nearby, softly calling to the colt in response to his "hellos".

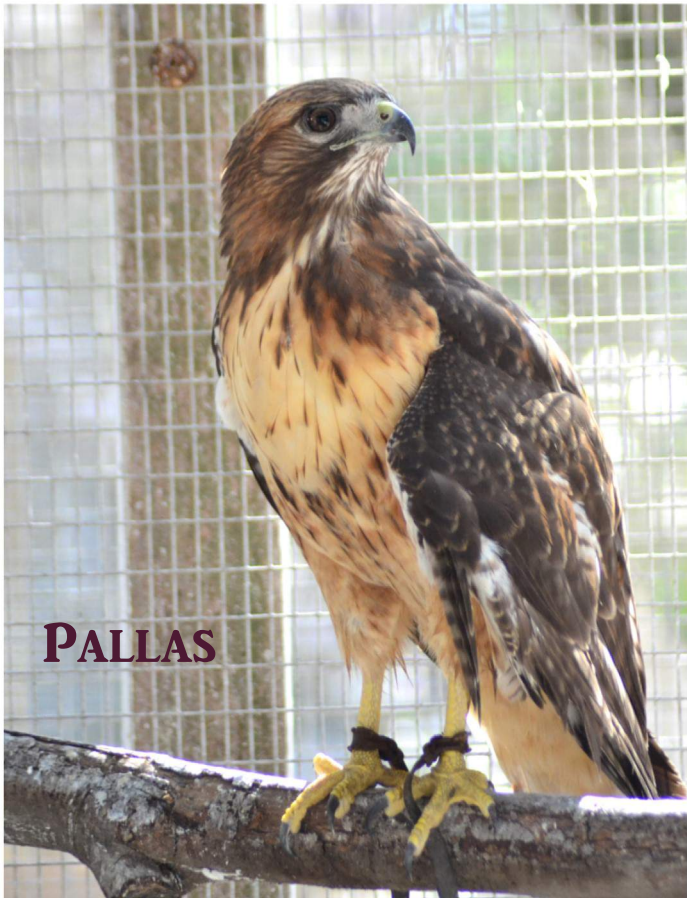
His story is a reminder to please be mindful of wildlife while you're on the road, & to please slow down when cranes & other wildlife are crossing. It takes just a few minutes of your time to let these beautiful creatures pass & to keep families together.

OUR NEWEST RESIDENTS: HERMES & PALLAS

Hermes is a 25-year old **Harris' Hawk**. He spent nearly 20 years as a falconry bird before arriving at Nature's Educators in Sedalia, Colorado. He was born in captivity & has since developed an arthritic condition which is why he is non-releasable. After flying his entire life he never enjoyed being on the glove for educational programs & it was decided that it was his time to retire. The Sanctuary was thrilled to receive him & we look forward to being his home for the rest of his life. Harris' Hawks are a Southwestern species & are some of the only raptors to hunt in groups.



HERMES



PALLAS

Pallas is a 5-year old **Red-tailed Hawk**. He was found by a family in Utah after having been hit by a car, & his left wing never properly healed from his injury. Pallas was also a resident at Nature's Educators in Sedalia, Colorado, & he was in need of a forever home as well. Pallas will likely never be used for education as he is a bit high-strung but he is an absolutely beautiful bird & he is very active in his enclosure. Red-tailed Hawks are the most common accipiter species in North America, thriving in nearly every habitat.



A handsome **Brown Booby** is released after being found cold stressed & weak by our friends Kri tte r, Inc. all the way in the p anhandle. After a few weeks of flight time, extra feedings, & swim time he was ready to

This young **Eastern Screech Owl** was one of 25 nestlings/fledglings that we received this season. After a few weeks of TLC & a few weeks in our flight aviary, as well as a live-prey test, he was released with his new



This gorgeous **Great Blue Heron** was found with a large hook in the throat, as well as significant bleeding around the neck. After removing the hook & monitoring him with a course of antibiotics he was released back where he was found, thanking his finder while

Fly Free...

This young **Osprey** juvenile was found struggling in the water by the crew on the Madeira water taxi from **Hubbard's Marina** in John's Pass. He & her nest was on the river route & they have been monitoring them all season. After successfully bringing her aboard they contacted the Sanctuary & we were able to quickly respond. Lucky for her she had no injuries & after two nights of rest she was released back into the area & was spotted back in the nest! In honor of one of her rescuers, we called this lady, "**Barbara**"



A wonderful end to the journey of this beautiful female **osprey** came after 5 months in care! Our partners **Owl's Nest Sanctuary for Wildlife** responded to the call & after being examined by **The Wildlife Docs at Busch Gardens** it was found that **she had been shot**, with multiple pellets in her chest & 2 that shattered her left metacarpus. After performing surgery & pinning the wing, she was sent to the Sanctuary for long-term care with weekly visits to Busch Gardens. After the pins were removed she was moved into our flight mews. Weeks went by with no flight & we all thought that she may never fly again. We gave her more time & we are so happy that we did! The day finally came & we took her to the beautiful Medard Park in Plant City. We met with **Officer Nick Guerin** with the **FWC** who investigated her case & found those responsible. We gave him the honor of releasing her back into the wild.

Fly Free...