



On The Wing

Spring 2018

Welcome! We are excited to publish our first ever newsletter! As many of you know Featherhaven is a Native Songbird Rehabilitation facility that opened July 1, 2014 to provide **Hope for Nature's Feathered Friends**. It has been an amazing journey. Since opening our doors we have had over 700 birds come through our small facility here in Enumclaw. In 2017 we received 304 birds compared to 191 in 2016.

There are certainly plenty of challenges when you experience that kind of growth. Above all, the priority remains to provide quality, compassionate care to all of our patients. In spite of the rapid growth, I feel good about the care that each bird receives. We will be putting up our 5th aviary this spring and have already enclosed a small holding room downstairs to help accommodate our growing needs. Our single greatest need is **VOLUNTEERS**, especially during baby bird season, May-August. Please see the flyer in this newsletter about our upcoming orientations and consider attending one of them to see if you might enjoy volunteering with us. Of course, financial support is always needed. Also in this newsletter you will find a list of different ways you can support us. We are a 501(c)(3) all volunteer non-profit organization that depends on the support of the communities we serve.

This newsletter would not be complete without a huge **Thank You** to so many who have supported us in so many different ways. However, it is safe to say that Featherhaven would not exist if it was not for Dr. Bridget Ferguson and her staff at Pine Tree Veterinary Hospital....their support is phenomenal. Thank you!

We plan on publishing 2 newsletters a year, Spring and Fall. Our goal will be to update you on what we have been up to and to offer some education articles as well. Education is a huge part of Featherhaven. There are many perils that face our Native Songbirds and we believe education is a key part of who we are as a wildlife rehabilitation facility. I hope you will enjoy reading this 1st edition of "On the Wing", named after my love for the amazing aerial insectivores, Swallows, that spend most of their life in the sky...or "On the Wing."



Enjoy Nature's Feathered Friends,

Kelley Ward
Founder and Director



Tree Swallows

Our mission is to provide compassionate care, rehabilitation, and release to Washington's sick, injured and orphaned songbirds, while educating the public about the many perils our feathered friends face. We recognize that it is a privilege to care for wildlife and our goal will always be to release healthy birds back into appropriate habitats so that they may continue to live a free and wild life.

In Memory of Mr. Blue



Forever In Our Hearts. 2013-2018

We are very saddened by the loss of our Education Ambassador Mr. Blue, a Steller's Jay. He has been a part of Featherhaven since we opened and was the inspiration behind the color of our logo. He sustained an injury when he fell from his nest as a nestling that left him non-releasable.

True to being a Corvid, he was smart! No doubt if you have visited Featherhaven, you would have heard his famous "Meow." I can't tell you how many times a finder would bring in a cat caught bird and I would give them my spiel on free roaming cats and as they would go to leave they would hear "Meow", yep Mr. Blue. Our education aviary is right by the entrance and it never failed I would end up explaining no, there is not a cat in the education aviary!

Besides being an amazing mimic he also loved to cache (or hide) food. We would find food stuffed everywhere on cleaning day. He loved waxworms, peanuts, corn, suet & dandelions!

He had not been himself really for a couple of months but nothing we could quite put our finger on. However on February 1st it became apparent that he simply did not feel well. He was immediately taken in to see Dr. Ferguson, who after x-ray and exam felt certain that he had a form of carcinoma.

So as hard as it was, we said goodbye and gave him a peaceful passing.

Fly High, Mr. Blue, you will always be a special part of Featherhaven!



It is estimated that 2.4 Billion Birds are killed every year by Free Roaming Cats in the US alone. Please Keep Cats Indoors!

2018 Year of the Bird

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. The National Audubon Society, National Geographic, Bird Life International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have joined together in a yearlong celebration of birds! You can learn more about the celebration by visiting:

www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird/

According to US Fish and Wildlife Service, "The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it illegal for anyone to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations." This is why we are required to have a Rehabilitation Permit issued by USFWS in addition to our WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Permit.

"If You Take Care Of Birds, You Take Care Of Most Of The Environmental Problems In The World."

Thomas Lovejoy
Biologist and Godfather of Biodiversity

Education Corner

By: Lance Smith,
Education Program Coordinator

CLIP, PRUNE & PILE

Is it past time already? Not yet, but if it is, here are some helpful suggestions. February and the first two weeks in March is the perfect time to clip your hedges, prune back your bushes, and pile up the clippings. It's best to accomplish this before the migratory birds return to nest in your backyard and elsewhere on your property. We have a number of reasons why birds are brought into Featherhaven each spring, but we wouldn't hesitate to say that damaged or destroyed nests are one of the primary reasons.

Spring springs up quickly each year and before you know it, Robins begin to sing before dawn and Swallows fill the air above open fields and paddocks. Pruning and clipping are sometimes attempted after the plants have already developed leaves and birds have already built a nest. By April Fool's Day (Easter Sunday this year), you can be assured that many breeding pairs have already picked their spot to build their nest. Many Sparrows, Juncos, Finches, and Thrushes build their nests in or under low bushes such as roses, rhododendrons, azaleas, blackberry, dogwoods, hydrangeas, and ornamentals, especially along the boundary of your immediate yard. If you find yourself pruning a filled out plant in the yard, check for a hidden nest inside or on the ground beneath. Also it may be obvious a nest is nearby if there are adult birds in distress fluttering or being extremely vocal with your presence. Lastly, one can take a few minutes to observe bird activity on one's property; witnessing quick, repetitive, "ins & outs" of a particulate plant by adult birds.

Other areas to check for active nesting are lattice work, eaves, gutters, and even chimneys! Home structures are known to be great foundations for birds' nesting sites. Follow the observation steps previously mentioned and hopefully there aren't any birds constructing before you are reconstructing.

When it's clear there are no nesting birds in the selected shrub, complete the pruning then save the clippings to create a pile for shelter. Often mulching, discarding, or burning the pile isn't accomplished until the fall season. This will allow many birds to roost at night or even raise young in undisturbed brush (burn) piles. This added habitat

feature will widen the diversity of birds taking up residency on your property.

This is a Teepee that I made last year in Featherhaven's Bird garden from downed limbs and clipped branches.



With a patient ear and a watchful eye, any pruning, clipping, or piling started after mid-March won't result in a crashed nest, abandoned babies, or an unfortunate trip to Featherhaven Native Songbird Rehabilitation Center.



As temperatures warm this spring please remember to keep your Hummingbird feeders clean. The warmer it is the quicker mold and fungus grow, which is deadly to hummingbirds. Clean your feeder with diluted vinegar or bleach in hot water, rinse well. Make your own nectar...no red dyes as they are harmful to these little jewels.

4 Measured Cups of Boiled Water

1 Cup Pure Granulated Cane Sugar

NO Substitues & Don't forget to cool!

Measure boiled water, add sugar, stir very well and cool. Always keep the 4:1 ratio year round.

Prepared Nectar stays fresh in the refrigerator for about 7 days. Enjoy these amazing little birds!

Meet The Ed Birds!



Vinnie, a male House Finch joined our Education program in January 2018. He is our 2018 Year of the Bird story. You see Vinnie, is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but someone found him as a baby and decided to keep him as a pet. That is illegal. Vinnie is a healthy bird and should be living a free and wild life....sadly Vinnie likes people and really has no interest in his own species. That makes him non-releasable. He is habituated to people and would not survive very long in the wild.

He was transferred to us from another facility where he had been admitted. He actually flew away when his original finder accidentally walked outside with him but he landed on somebody else. That person realized this was not normal behavior and took him to a wildlife facility. We tried for a year to "wild" him up. He was housed with other House Finches with very little human contact for months in hopes that he would realize that he was bird. Unfortunately despite our best efforts he never did become a wild House Finch.

Since we had excellent documentation that he was already habituated when we admitted him into care we applied with US Fish and Wildlife and with WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to retain him on our Education permit....and permission was granted.

Though disappointed that Vinnie could not be released to live the life that was meant for him we welcome him to Featherhaven and he seems to be happy in the Education Aviary where he gets people interaction daily!

This is Crissy our Red Crossbill...her education message is; Please Keep Your Cats Indoors. She has a partial wing amputation, thanks to a free roaming cat. Though she flits in the aviary she would not be able to survive in the wild. She joined us in February 2015.



Miss Eve is a female Evening Grosbeak who has been with Featherhaven since we opened. She was admitted into care at another facility in March 2013 with a dislocated shoulder which is not a fixable injury. We believe she is now in her "golden" years. Her message is conservation as her species is on decline and is on Cornell Lab of Ornithology watch list.



All 3 of these birds live in our education aviary and can be viewed by the public.

Raptor News

By: David Ward

The Enumclaw plateau is rich in Raptors, or Birds of Prey. As Featherhaven becomes better known, we are receiving an increasing number of calls on downed raptors. We attempt to respond to those in our immediate area of operation, which includes Enumclaw, Buckley, Bonney Lake, and North Pierce county areas. Outside of those locales, we generally refer to either Raindancer in Olympia, or PAWS to the north. We have developed a very good professional relationship with these organizations, and they both do a very nice job.

Regulations permit us to retain a raptor for 48 hours for initial care and stabilization. We are then required to transfer them to a facility permitted for raptors. During their short stay with us we stabilize them and provide initial veterinary care with Pine Tree Veterinary Hospital. There they receive a thorough examination, x-rays, blood work, and other treatment as indicated.

In 2017 we picked up 13 raptors. They ranged from a 75 gram (2.6 ounce) Northern Saw-Whet Owl up to mature Bald Eagles weighing up to 13 pounds. They also included Barred Owls, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Pygmy Owls, Red Tail Hawks, and American Kestrels. The Raptors in our area are incredibly beautiful birds, and it is a privilege to offer help when they are in need.



2017
304 Birds Received
51 Different Species
66 Swallows (most received)
34 Dark-eyed Juncos (2nd most)
15 Vaux's Swifts (most challenging)

Don't Google!!

Please, if you find a baby bird or even an adult bird please don't google how to care for that bird. I had so many well-meaning people bring in birds last year that they had found and were feeding what they learned on-line. Some of these birds had terrible diarrhea and yeast/bacterial infections from what they had been fed. A few did not even survive, and we are overwintering 7 Swallows due to poor feather condition directly related to a poor diet fed by the finder. Baby birds develop very rapidly and even 1 or 2 days of poor nutrition can have devastating effects on them. With nesting season just around the corner I hope you will take a minute to look at the "I Found A Baby Bird" flyer http://www.featherhaven.org/uploads/2/6/1/9/26191619/Found_a_bird_revised_1.pdf If in doubt the best policy is to always contact a licensed rehabilitator near you and let them advise you. Thank you!



Mark Your Calendars, Upcoming Events

Songbird Festival- Saturday, April 28th, 11 to 3

We are in the process of planning our **Spring Songbird Festival, Celebrating the Year of the Bird!**

Bird Garden Tours with Lance and Learn Why Birds Matter and what you can do in your own backyard to support our Native Songbirds.

A Children's Craft Table, Enjoy Yummy Treats and Meet our Education Birds.

Birdhouses and whimsical bird themed craft items available for suggested donation.



Featherhaven Bird Garden

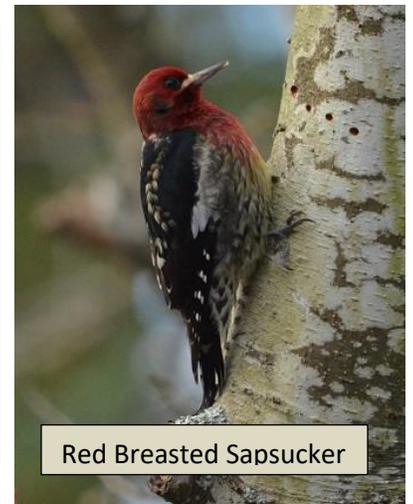
Monthly Garden Tours and Bird Watching

New this year we are offering a guided **Garden Tours from 1pm to 3pm the second Sunday of the month, April through August.** Stop by, our Education team will be available to give you a guided tour and you are welcome to just sit and enjoy the birds that frequent our garden. First one...April 8th!



Spotted Towhee

*"In order to see
birds it is
necessary to
become a part of
the silence."
Robert Lynd*



Red Breasted Sapsucker

How You Can Support Us!

Featherhaven is a 501(c)(3) all volunteer non-profit organization and relies on the support of those that believe in our mission to provide Hope for Nature's Feathered Friends. There are several different ways that you can support us!

Monetary donations is our greatest need, the majority of the funds are used for purchasing live insects and for other food and medical expenses.

Microsoft Employee- We are listed as one of their Non-Profits in their Matching Funds/Volunteer Program.

Boeing Employee- We are listed as one of their Non-Profits in their Matching Funds Program.

Amazon Shopper- Designate Featherhaven as your non-profit at www.smile.amazon.com/about

Fred Meyer Shopper- Designate Featherhaven as your non-profit through their Community Rewards Program. www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4

Amazon Wish List – Check out our Amazon wish list on-line. You simply order it and they ship it to us! How easy is that?

Paper Towels and Facial Tissue- We go through tons of both, especially during baby bird season. We prefer select-a-size style, all white paper towels, and the white facial tissue cannot have any scent or lotion.

As a small non-profit, there is no donation too small. It all adds up and we appreciate you and your support!

Featherhaven

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Find us on facebook [@featherhavennativesongbirdrehabilitation](https://www.facebook.com/featherhavennativesongbirdrehabilitation)

Interested in One of our Education Programs Contact Lance @

feducationcor@gmail.com



Cedar Waxwings



Black-headed Grosbeaks

Thank you for Supporting Us. We were released back to our free and wild lives!



Featherhaven

Native Songbird Rehabilitation

Volunteer Orientations for 2018 Season
Saturday March, 10th 11am to 1pm
Wednesday March, 14th 6pm to 8pm
Sunday March, 18th 1pm to 3pm

**To be held at Featherhaven in Enumclaw.
You must be 18 years of age. Please visit
our website at www.featherhaven.org for
more information. Registration is required.
Please email us at fhvolsvccor@gmail.com
or call 253-350-5792.**

*Featherhaven is a fast growing Rehabilitation facility
and we **NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Do you love our Native
Songbirds? Come to an orientation and find out how
you can be a part of our team to help us provide,
“Hope for Nature’s Feathered Friends.”*

