



The WILD TIMES

FALL 2023

International Day of Peace at Legacy Park

Wild Nest was thrilled to participate in the 2023 International Day of Peace Youth Celebration with Dr. Jane Goodall at Legacy Park in September. During this special event, Dr. Goodall, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and United Nations Messenger of Peace, spoke to area youth, sharing her inspiring life story and a powerful message about hope and individual impact. Her historic visit is part of the launch of a Roots & Shoots Basecamp in Atlanta, an exciting new initiative of the Jane Goodall Institute to elevate opportunities for young people of Atlanta to work toward a better world. Wild Nest and several other nonprofit organizations were invited to set up activity tables for participating youth, and we enjoyed getting out and interacting with our community to teach them how they can help their local birds.



A highlight of the afternoon was having Decatur Mayor, Patti Garrett, stop by for a tour of our facility after the celebration. She chatted with Wild Nest's founder and licensed rehabber, Nancy Eilen, along with our chair elect, Lauren Wilson, and operations manager, Jennifer Gilmer, and she even got to see a baby dove feeding!



Volunteer Spotlight: Ace Klinkopf

If there were an award for cleaning the most bird enclosures during baby season at Wild Nest, that award would unquestionably go to Ace Klinkopf. Ace volunteered at the Nest more than 200 hours this summer, coming in for three to five shifts each week.

Ace learned about Wild Nest while attending a festival at Ormwood Park in late summer of 2022. Having recently taken an ornithology course, they were curious about our bird-themed table and stopped by to learn more about the work we do. When they returned home to Atlanta this spring, after finishing their third

year as a biology major at Oberlin College, they attended a volunteer orientation at the Nest and signed up for their first shift almost immediately.

While taking ornithology at Oberlin, Ace did a research project on Australia's Superb Fairy Wren and the tactics it uses to avoid brood parasitism by cuckoos. They also did some exciting field research in the Amazon rainforest in southern Peru, where they had the chance to help with mist-netting and banding birds as part of a study. After graduation next spring, Ace would love to visit Australia to research fairy wrens in the field, and ultimately, they would love to continue working with birds as a career, perhaps in a rehabilitation or zoo setting.

Ace says their favorite part of volunteering this summer was working in the baby room. They enjoyed the routine of frequent feedings and seeing how quickly the babies develop from nestlings to fledglings. Ace notes that even the never-ending laundry, dishes, and enclosure cleanings were rewarding, as all of these efforts make a direct impact on the welfare of the birds. When asked about their least favorite thing about volunteering at the Nest, Ace hesitated before saying, "the loudness of the Chimney Swifts." (Anyone who has done a shift at the Nest when swifts are in care can attest to their piercing, incessant chatter at feeding times!)



According to Wild Nest's Board Chair Elect, Lauren Wilson, "Ace exemplifies what it means to be a Wild Nest bird care volunteer. They are dedicated, caring, and overall a wonderful team member. They have been eager to learn and quickly became a reliable presence this summer." Ace plans to return to the Nest for an internship during the month of January during their school break. We look forward to having them back!

Patient Spotlight: A Kingfisher Returns Home

When the young couple in Comer, GA heard a loud "thunk" against their window and rushed outside to see a stunned and distressed Belted Kingfisher on the ground, they assumed the bird wasn't going to make it. Nonetheless, they transported her to the University of Georgia's veterinary clinic in Athens, where they were told she could not be admitted due to concerns about avian influenza.

Fortunately, Wild Nest was prepared to treat her, and she was transported to our facility. Upon arrival, she was examined by our rehab team. (We knew she was female because of her rust-colored "belt," which males do not have—a rare instance in nature of females sporting brighter colors than males.) Although alert and hungry, she was unable to fly. Without an X-ray machine we were unable to determine her exact injury, but a cracked breastbone seemed to be the issue. She was placed in a safe, cushioned enclosure for observation.



Because she could (or would) not eat on her own, we tube fed her a special diet for fish-eating birds several times a day until she regained her strength. A few weeks later, once her injury had healed and she had passed her flight test in our aviary, one of our

volunteers made the drive out to Comer to bring her home. Her rescuers watched with awe and joy as she sailed forth, first over the fields and then into the wooded area along a stream that had been her home. As she spotted the creek she began the booming, rattling call familiar to anyone who has heard kingfishers in the wild. Everyone shed a tear as they watched this beautiful bird soaring strong and free again.

Woodpecker Wonders

Woodpeckers have several fascinating adaptations that facilitate their lifestyle of foraging on tree trunks and limbs and nesting in cavities. In addition to chisel-like bills for boring into wood and thick, cushioned skulls for shock absorption, they have extra stiff, pointed tail feathers and a unique toe arrangement (two forward, two backward) that help them brace themselves against trees as they climb and perch.



Their long, sticky tongues have a barb at the end to help them extract insects from deep crevices.



Get Ready for Giving Tuesday!

As a 100% volunteer-led organization, Wild Nest couldn't accomplish our mission to rehabilitate injured and orphaned birds and educate the public about their conservation without the support of generous donors. Please consider supporting our life-saving efforts this coming **Giving Tuesday on November 28** with a tax-deductible donation.

[500 S. Columbia Drive](#) Hemphill Cottage
Decatur GA 30030
United States
www.wildnestbirdrehab.org
404-969-2324

Thank you for your support!