



July has seen much activity at Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation Center. We have worked with many juvenile and injured birds, with successful rehabilitation reflected by release to the wild, with self feeding and flight. Our birds are resilient, and supported by a caring community can overcome the dangers of living in a human populated world. We have been blessed by volunteers with great dedication and energy.

Our yard sale brought out so many friends and contributors, and was a good success. Thank you to all who worked to make this possible.

As you know, our education birds are those that have been rescued, but in the end determined to be ineligible for release. These birds are given daily care, feeding, and enrichment. They are housed in mews that give them adequate space and variety. These birds then serve to enrich the public, by educating people of all ages about their unique features and characteristics.

COCOA



We would like to introduce you to one of our surprising ambassadors. This is Cocoa, a

Northern Saw-whet owl. Our usual vision of owls is reflected by the great grey, great horned, or snowy owl. These are large, fierce, and silent hunters of the north. The typical sounds we associate with owls are the haunting calls emanating from the darkened woods - "hoo, hoo". Well, meet the saw-whet owl. Cocoa is a small brown owl and has white belly stripes and no ear tufts. Her most common habitat is in evergreen forests. Saw-whet owls are small - 7 to 8 inches, weighing just around 3 or 4 ounces. Its call is commonly a long series of short, whistled notes - and mating calls can be described as resembling the sound made when sharpening a saw - thus the name saw-whet. Make no mistake: this tiny owl shares many features with the larger owls. Her eyes are large, and very observant. She is carnivorous, feeding mainly on mice and voles. She has a sharp beak able to shred prey, and gripping talons. The northern saw-whet owl has very sophisticated hearing. It is due to vertically asymmetrical ears and different shape of the ear openings. Because the sound reaches each ear at a different time and is of different intensity, the northern saw-whet owl can very precisely locate its prey.

Cocoa came to the center as a fledgling in 2014, from around the Big Lake area. Unfortunately she has an eye condition that limits her vision, making her ineligible for release. She is flighted, and a beautiful, sweet looking bird. You will find her a fascinating bird ambassador!

Upcoming Events

There is an open house at Far Country Veterinarian Clinic on Saturday, August 6th from 12-3:00 p.m. AWBRC has will attend and will share information about the Center, and display some of our educational artifacts. We will be able to explain how to arrange for an education program, and how you can support our Valley birds through volunteering. Far Country provides a wonderful service to AWBRC by taking in rescued birds for us after hours. Many thanks for this partnership, and we hope to see you there Saturday.



ALASKA STATE FAIR

**Look for us at the Fair Saturday, September 3rd!
Come meet our lively education birds. More
information to follow.**



Copyright © 2016 Alaska Wildbird Rehabilitation Center, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

