

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



South Florida
WILDLIFE CENTER
Saving Wildlife in Our Urban Jungle

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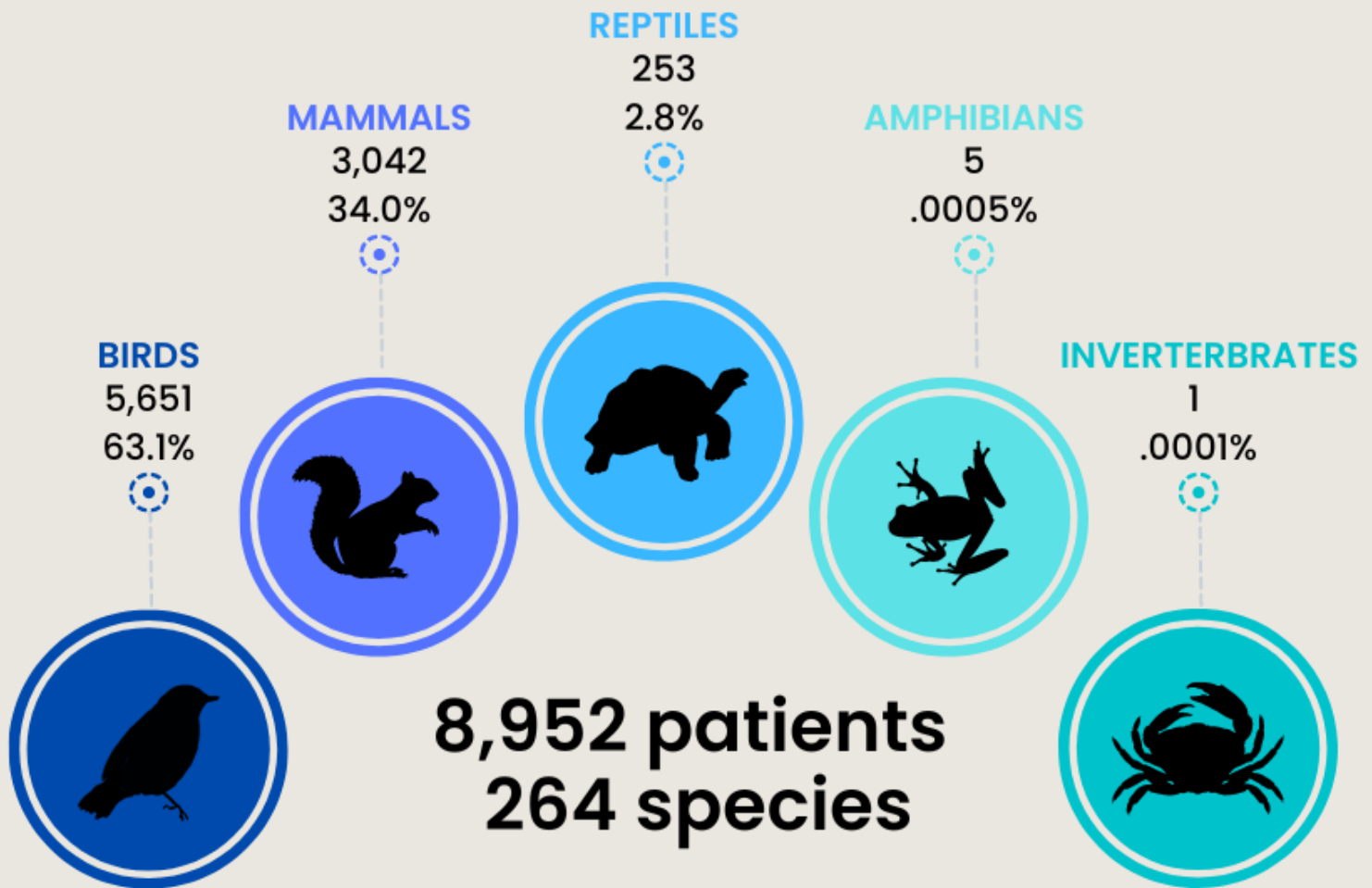




The Eastern Spotted Skunk is a small skunk found throughout the eastern United States. This species is thought to occur in habitats with dense vegetation but also inhabits residential areas. This adult male was discovered by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center staff after a building on the property was fumigated for termites. Unfortunately, the skunk was affected by the toxic fumes and was actively seizing on arrival. After two weeks in supportive care and under observation of the clinic staff, this patient is more active and has started to eat on his own. In Florida, Eastern Spotted Skunks are considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need as biologists are still learning about their populations. Every individual significantly impacts the population's overall health. Numbers are declining due to habitat fragmentation and destruction.



PATIENT Admissions



Black vultures are a federally protected species of migratory bird. Acting as nature's cleanup crew, they help maintain healthy ecosystems by consuming deceased animals in the environment. Staff discovered this juvenile Black Vulture on the side of the road. Although there were no obvious fractures, injuries were consistent with a vehicle collision. A large, open wound was present under the right wing. Following surgery to close the wound and time spent in rehabilitation, staff successfully released this vulture into a suitable habitat near where it was found.



WILDLIFE Rescues



WHO?

Public: 7,224 – 80.6%

Volunteers: 971 – 10.8%

City, County, State and Federal Officials: 511 – 5.7%

Staff: 246 – 2.7%

WHY?

Besides being found sick and weak (2103 – 23.4%), injured – by unknown cause (2318 – 25.8%) and various other reasons (1298 – 14.4%) the top 3 reasons for admissions were:

- Orphaned (2602 – 29.0%)
- Hit by Car (335 – 3.7%)
- Caught by Cat (296 – 3.3%)



FROM WHERE?

Broward County: 6855 – 76.5%

Palm Beach County: 797 – 8.9%

Miami Dade County: 787 – 8.7%

Unknown: 443 – 4.9%

Out of tri-county area: 70 – 0.7%

SPECIES List

BIRDS

Acadian Flycatcher	Chuck-will's-widow	Least Sandpiper	Ring-billed Gull
American Bittern	Clapper Rail	Least Tern	Ring-necked Duck
American Kestrel	Common Barn-owl	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
American Purple Gallinule	Common Grackle	Limpkin	Roseate Spoonbill
American Redstart	Common Ground Dove	Little Blue Heron	Royal Tern
Anhinga	Common Loon	Little Gull	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Audubon's Shearwater	Common Moorhen	Loggerhead Shrike	Ruddy Turnstone
Bald Eagle	Common Nighthawk	Magnolia Warbler	Sanderling
Barn Swallow	Common Tern	Mallard	Sandhill Crane
Barred Owl	Common Yellowthroat	Merlin	Sandwich Tern
Belted Kingfisher	Cooper's Hawk	Mottled Duck	Scarlet Tanager
Black Crowned Night Heron	Cormorant	Mourning Dove	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Black Duck	Cory's Shearwater	Northern Cardinal	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Black Skimmer	Double-crested Cormorant	Northern Gannet	Short-tailed Hawk
Black Vulture	Dovekie	Northern Harrier	Snowy Egret
Black-Necked Stilt	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Sooty Tern
Black-and-white Warbler	Eastern Screech Owl	Northern Parula	Sora
Black-bellied Whistling-duck	Eastern Whip-poor-will	Northern Waterthrush	Spotted Sandpiper
Black-headed Gull	Eastern Wood-pewee	Osprey	Summer Tanager
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Fish Crow	Ovenbird	Swainson's Warbler
Blue Jay	Forster's Tern	Painted Bunting	Tennessee Warbler
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Fulvous Whistling Duck	Palm Warbler	Tri-colored Heron
Blue-winged Teal	Gray Catbird	Peregrine Falcon	Turkey Vulture
Boat-tailed Grackle	Gray Kingbird	Pied-billed Grebe	Virginia Rail
Bobolink	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Pileated Woodpecker	White Ibis
Bonaparte's Gull	Great Blue Heron	Pine Warbler	Wood Stork
Broadwing Hawk	Great Egret	Piping Plover	Worm-eating Warbler
Bronzed Cowbird	Great Horned Owl	Prairie Warbler	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Brown Booby	Greater Shearwater	Prothonotary Warbler	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Brown Noddy	Green Heron	Purple Martin	Yellow-crowned Night Heron
Brown Pelican	Herring Gull	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-shafted Flicker
Brown Thrasher	Hooded Warbler	Red-breasted Merganser	Yellow-throated Warbler
Burrowing Owl	House Finch	Red-eyed Vireo	Federally-designated Threatened Species
Cape May Warbler	Indigo Bunting	Red-necked Phalarope	State-designated Threatened Species
Cattle Egret	Killdeer	Red-shouldered Hawk	
Cerulean Warbler	Laughing Gull	Red-tailed Hawk	

MAMMALS

Bobcat
Brazilian Free-tailed Bat
Coyote
Eastern Cottontail
Evening Bat
Gray Squirrel
Grey Fox
Marsh Rabbit
Nine-banded Armadillo
Northern Yellow Bat
Raccoon
Spotted Skunk
Striped Skunk
Virginia Opossum
White-tailed Deer

REPTILES

American Red-bellied Turtle
Black Racer
Eastern Box Turtle
Florida Cooter
Florida Red-bellied Cooter
Florida Softshell Turtle
Gopher Tortoise
Peninsula Cooter
Snapping Turtle

AMPHIBIANS

Green Tree Frog

INVERTEBRATES

Blue Crab



TOP 5 **Species**

Virginia Opossum

1431 - 15.9%

Top reasons for admission:

- Orphaned
- Hit by a car
- Caught by a dog



Raccoon

745 - 8.3%

Top reasons for admission:

- Orphaned
- Found sick and weak
- Hit by a car



Gray Squirrel

626 - 6.9%

Top reasons for admission:

- Orphaned
- Caught by a cat
- Nest disturbance



Northern Mockingbird

354 - 3.9%

Top reasons for admission:

- Orphaned
- Caught by a cat
- Nest disturbance



Blue Jay

321 - 3.5%

Top reasons for admission:

- Orphaned
- Caught by a cat
- Nest disturbance



WE LOVE OUR Volunteers!

Volunteers are the foundation of our organization. We would not be able to accomplish our mission without their help. Our Volunteer Program provides interested individuals the opportunity to learn more about our work as a wildlife hospital and assist with preparing diets, maintaining their rehabilitation habitats, administering medications, and physical conditioning.

Program Stats

GENERAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

246 volunteers donated
19,613.70 hours.

ONE-DAY VOLUNTEERS

Two organizations and their 13 volunteers
donated 6.0 hours.

HOMECARE HEROES

14 volunteers helped 195 orphaned wild
animals and donated 3,884.75 hours.



Apply Today!

The purpose of this volunteer program is to offer a wide variety of opportunities to interested people and to provide useful and meaningful service. This will assist Center staff in furthering the goals of The South Florida Wildlife Center, and provide support that would otherwise be impossible due to budget limitations. Not only will you be helping Florida's wildlife, you'll enjoy meeting new friends who share similar environmental concerns and gain personal satisfaction that comes from preserving Florida's native animals.

www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org/volunteer-program/



Internships & Externships



INTERNSHIPS

11 Rotational Interns
6 Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release Interns
4 Nursery Interns
4 Wildlife Education Interns
1 Wildlife Hospital Intern

26 interns contributed 7,136.93 hours of service.

EXTERNSHIPS

23 Veterinary Externs
1 Veterinary Technician Extern

24 externs contributed 3,442.80 hours of service



Apply Today!

As a South Florida Wildlife Center Intern or Extern, you are vital to the success of the organization's programs in education, rehabilitation, and conservation. You will interact with an incredibly diverse range of animals and people, whether at the Center or out in the community. You will learn the fundamentals of working at a wildlife center and further develop your knowledge of a diverse range of animals and the laws we abide by to protect Florida's resources, habitats, and inhabitants.

<https://www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org/opportunities/>

WILDLIFE EDUCATION

Ambassador Program

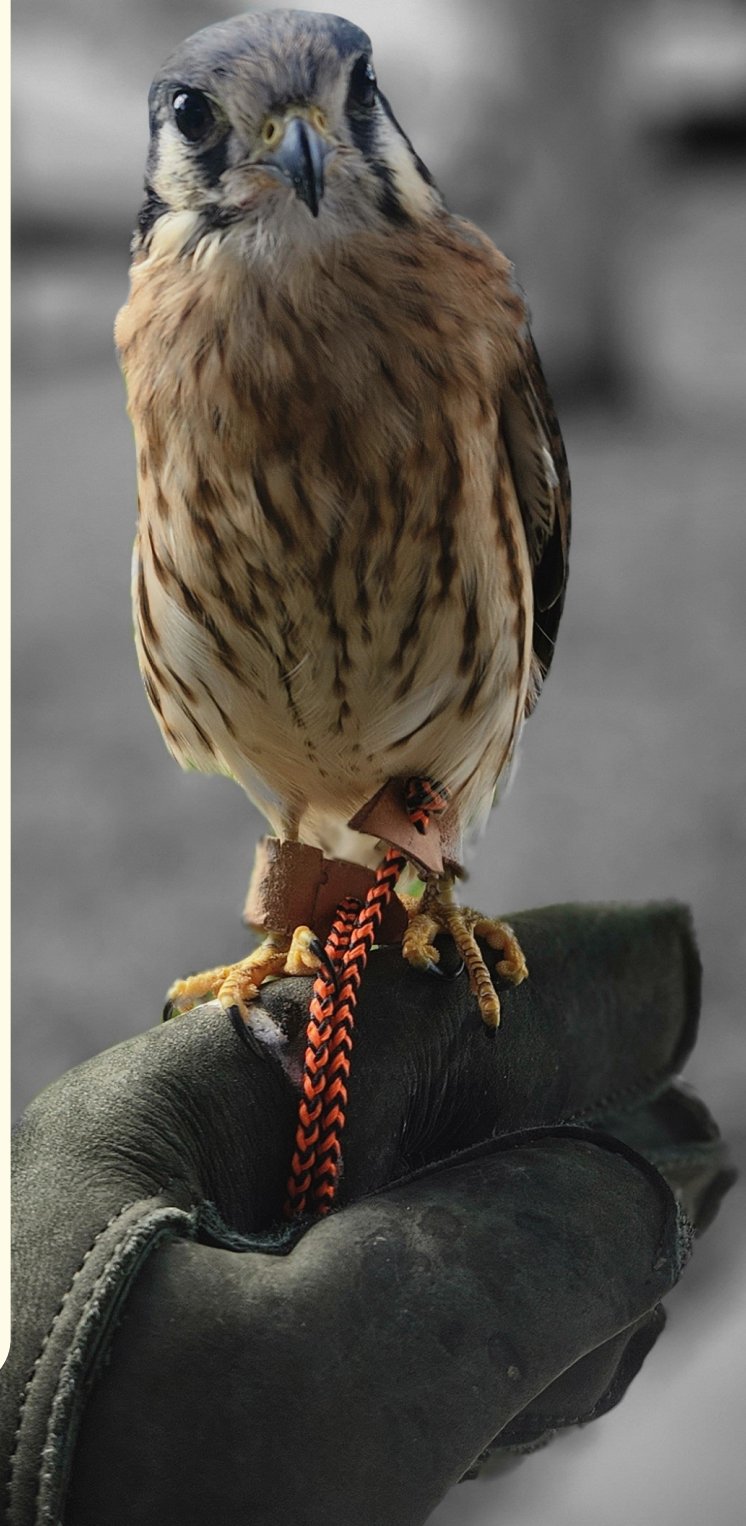
STAY WILD!

Through our Wildlife Education Ambassador Program, resident animals here at SFWC play a crucial role in educating the public about their species, issues these animals face in the wild, and what we can do to help our local wildlife. Each of these non-releasable animals has a unique story that allows our Outreach and Community Services Department to inform the public on proper ways to interact with our wild neighbors. With your support, our Outreach and Education program and these incredible animals will continue to help our local wildlife STAY WILD!

CURRENT WILDLIFE EDUCATORS:

- Kingsley, the Florida Kingsnake
- Lime, the Eastern Box Turtle
- Cabbage, the Virginia Opossum
- Brussel Sprout, the Virginia Opossum
- Cauliflower, the Virginia Opossum
- Chive, the Striped Skunk
- Rosemary, the Striped Skunk
- Pumpkin, the American Kestrel
- Olive, the Eastern Screech Owl
- Kiwi, the Barred Owl
- Brie, the Great Horned Owl

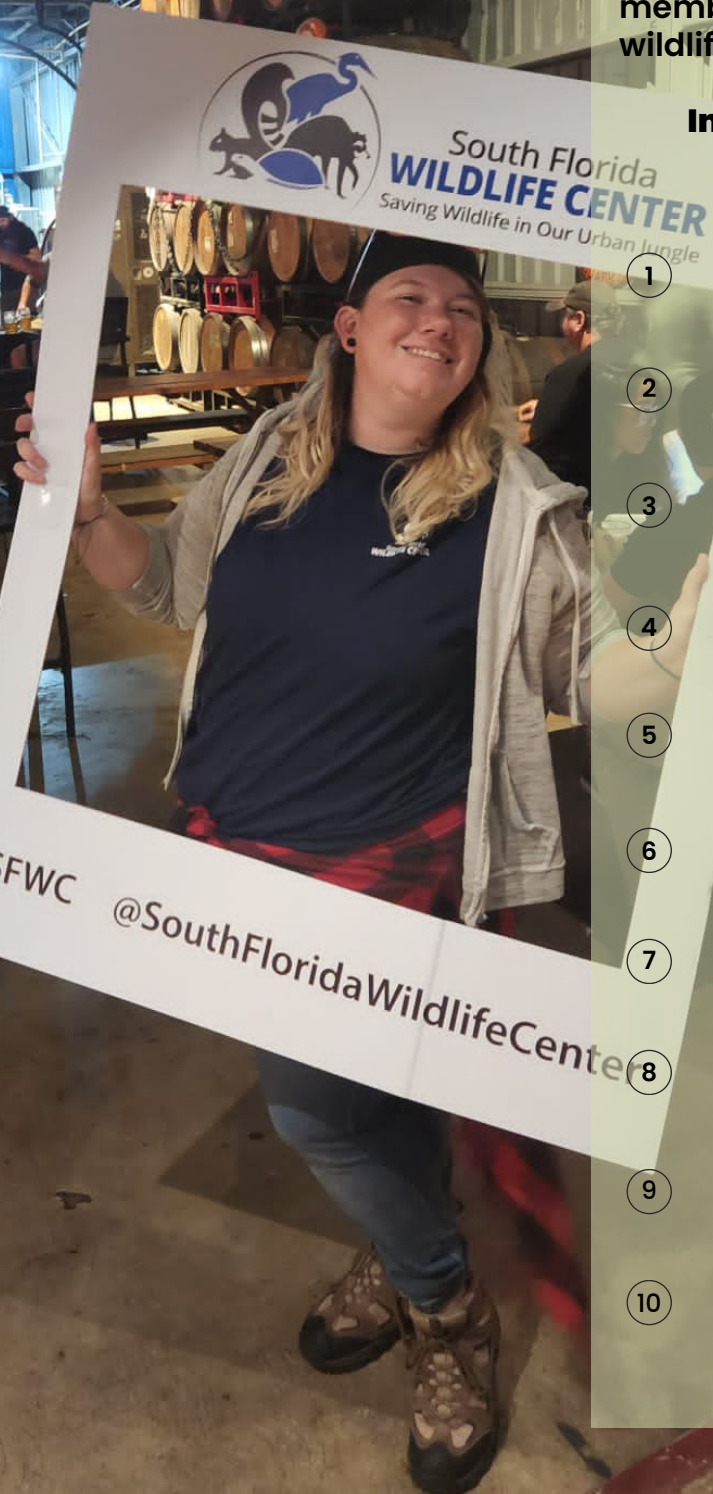
Thank you for helping us inspire the community to let the local wildlife STAY WILD!



EDUCATION & Outreach

The goal of SFWC's Outreach and Community Services Department is to promote respect and appreciation of nature by teaching children, families, and community members that they can peacefully co-exist with their wildlife neighbors.

In 2022, including our hotline, we reached 324,700 members in our community!



①	Social Media	186,810
②	Subscribers	27,760
③	Tabling at Events	6486
④	School Presentations	1700
⑤	Wild Lecture Series	611
⑥	Park Presentations	494
⑦	Speaker Requests	276
⑧	Fundraiser	250
⑨	SFWC Wild Talks & Tours	193
⑩	Community Events	120

PATIENT **Highlights**

The Barred Owl is a common species throughout Florida, making its home in mature trees of woodlands and swamps. Finders discovered this owl after it was hit by a car and transported it to the center. Clinic staff conducted an intake exam and found the owl sustained a radius fracture from the impact. Despite the injury, this patient remained bright, alert, and responsive during the exam. After two weeks in the ICU under close supervision by the clinic staff, the fracture began to stabilize. Although on the mend, this patient has a long road ahead in the rehabilitation process. Plans include physical therapy and flight conditioning before release.



The Gray Fox is an omnivorous mammal widespread throughout North America and Central America. They typically live in brushy habitats. This sub-adult male was brought to our hospital when the finder noted he was limping while walking and suspected he was hit by a car. Upon examination, it was noted he had broken canines and was not bearing weight on the right hind leg. Treatment includes appropriate medications and pain management until stable when a further assessment can be made of all injuries.



The Royal Tern is a large seabird commonly spotted along coastlines in search of fish. A staff member responded to the call when pier employees reported the tern had swallowed a hook. An intake exam revealed the bird was thin and radiographs showed a large hook in the lower GI tract with a metal leader extending towards the mouth. This patient underwent surgery to have the hook removed and is currently recovering in our ICU.



The Eastern Glass Lizard is a long, slender, legless lizard found throughout the southeastern United States. The habitat for this species includes flatwoods near wetlands with sandy soils and tidal flats. A concerned citizen brought the lizard for rehabilitation after getting caught by a cat. Fortunately, only superficial injuries were present. After three days in supportive care, this patient was quickly released back into the wild.

Northern Harriers are very distinctive hawks that can be seen flying low over open marshes and grasslands. This species relies on sight and sound while hunting. The disk-shaped facial features and the stiff, facial feathers help direct sound to the ears. Broward County employees found this juvenile Northern Harrier weak and unable to fly. An intake exam revealed the bird was stressed but had no obvious wounds or fractures. This patient is currently being monitored by clinic staff.



LOCAL Conservation

This year we saw our highest number of Yellow-throated Warblers than in previous years. From 3 in 2020 to 1 in 2021, numbers rose to 14 in 2022. While we do not have definitive answers for the sudden increase, 79% of these patients arrived at the hospital with physical injuries ranging from fractures to head trauma. Although their populations are stable, habitat loss and degradation threaten this species. Migrating at night, they fall victim to collisions with glass and other manufactured structures and can be impacted by pesticides through their insectivorous diet.



The Northern Gannet is a large-bodied seabird that spends much of its time offshore feeding primarily on fish. This year we had 35 gannets admitted to the hospital breaking our previous record in 2018 of 34. While most of these patients arrived in a weakened state, 23% were impacted by fishing gear. Every year we see patients sustain injuries from hooks and entanglement. Proper disposal of gear and recycling of monofilament line are key to fishing responsibly.



This year we saw more Black-bellied Whistling Ducks increasing from 9 in 2021 to 15 in 2022 with 53% of the patients impacted by nest disturbance/displacement. This species has expanded its range in recent years and tends to adapt well to human development, making nest disturbances more common.



The Tennessee Warbler is a specialist species that inhabits forests across Canada feeding primarily on the spruce budworm. During migration, they will head south towards the tropical forests of Latin America for the winter. Passing through Florida on their way south, this Tennessee Warbler is the only one of its kind in the last five years to be admitted for rehab. An intake exam revealed this patient had no significant injuries and was flying well. After one day in supportive care, this patient was released back into the wild to continue its long migration south.



This year we saw more than double the number of Eastern cottontails compared to 2021. Totaling 40 individuals, leading causes for admission included being found orphaned, caught by a cat or dog, and getting displaced. Following Hurricane Ian, many patients were transferred to us from wildlife hospitals along the west coast, including 18% of our cottontail admissions that lost habitat following the storm. We were thankful we could step in and assist during their time in need.

The Spotted Sandpiper is a small shorebird that can be found across much of North America. This solitary species can be spotted teetering along the edges of streams, ponds, and marshes in search of food. Although commonly seen in Florida during the winter season, we have only seen one Spotted Sandpiper in our hospital in the last five years.





Ways to get involved

DONATE GOODS

Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat to SFWC by simply going to this website and completing a quick and easy form: careasy.org/SouthFloridaWildlifeCenter. If you own property in the tri-county area we serve—Palm Beach, Broward, or Miami-Dade—and would be willing to let us release wild animals on your land, we would love to hear from you! Our lifesaving work requires various items to treat injured and orphaned wildlife. Many used household supplies such as blankets, towels and bowls are always needed to keep our wildlife hospital operating 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Check out our website for specific items you may already have.

DONATE YOUR TIME

Volunteer at SFWC alongside the staff in a variety of positions. The monthly commitment is only 9 hours per month and is tailored to your skills and desires. If not, volunteer during our scheduled one-day events either at SFWC or during one of our beach clean-ups! During baby season, we also have the unique opportunity to volunteer from home where orphaned babies need 24/7 care and go home with trained volunteers until they are admitted into the nursery.

DONATE FUNDS

Please help us continue our mission! SFWC receives no state or municipal funding. Make a one-time financial contribution online, by mail or in person. Join the flock! Make a financial contribution each month. Giving monthly is the most powerful way to create a lasting impact and make a difference in saving the wildlife of our urban jungle. Adopt an Ambassador! Your support of our Stay Wild! Adoption Program helps to provide the best possible veterinary care, staffing, training, and husbandry, as well as enclosure upkeep for our Wildlife Education Ambassador Animals. Caring for our patients requires a lot of time, love, money, and supplies. Donating wish list items helps us with the day-to-day care of these animals and supports our operational needs. Check out our Amazon and Chewy Wish Lists online!

DONATE YOUR VOICE

Sign up to receive our emails and monthly updates on what SFWC is doing and ways you can get involved! Stay updated on patient alerts, upcoming events and features of our staff and volunteers' amazing work by following us on social media. Meet the staff and some of our Ambassador Animals by joining us at our Wild Talks whether at SFWC or at our scheduled park presentations! Help us FUNdraise! Whether it's our Wildlife Photography Contest, Drink 4 The Locals charity events, or other fun activities, stop by and see what we are up to.

LEARN MORE
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Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.