

Season 7 of Hope for Wildlife television series debuts on Love Nature this spring



A young merlin has plans of his own for this remote camera, meant to capture footage for season 7 of the popular series. Photo: Craig Ferguson

The Hope For Wildlife TV crew has finished another terrific year of filming at the rehab. We're busy editing and crafting it into Season 7, which debuts on Love Nature (formerly Oasis HD,) in Spring 2016.

This winter was the hardest in 100 years – with snowdrifts higher than your head. It hit wildlife like a hammer – and Hope's team had their hands full with animals starved out by the cold.

The first episode of Season Seven takes place entirely in the winter – showing a side of Hope For Wildlife viewers have never seen before – as the team contends with ice and snow to save seals, birds and bobcats.

Spring and summer brought more animals to the rehab than ever – and

Hope's right in the middle of her big construction project, too. It's a year of big changes at Hope For Wildlife.

The crew at Arcadia Content is thrilled to work on Hope For Wildlife and we love hearing from fans of the show. You can reach out to us on the HFW facebook page or by emailing contact@hopeforwildlifetv.com.

Thanks for watching!

Craig Ferguson, Producer



Catch up on seasons 1-5 with boxed sets from our gift shop!



the Wildside
Hope for Wildlife's Annual Newsletter
2015

North American Porcupine
Photo: Simone Deslauriers

YES! I would like to make a donation to Hope for Wildlife

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Hope for Wildlife
5909 Hwy 207
Seaforth, NS B0J 1N0



...because they matter

Charity Number 885062448RR0001

Please make all cheques payable to the Hope for Wildlife Society

HOPE FOR WILDLIFE SOCIETY | 5909 HWY 207 SEAFORTH NS B0J 1N0 | CANADA

To donate online visit www.hopeforwildlife.net and click the "Donate Now" Link

Dear Friends:

This has been a monumental year for Hope for Wildlife. In the midst of the hardest winter on record, we pushed forward with the construction of our new barn. Thanks to your generous support, we have a beautiful new facility! While there are still some finishing touches to be done, it is already obvious the positive impact the new barn will have for the care of our patients.

Between building projects and blizzards there was, of course, the wildlife. With each passing year, I continue to be surprised by what each new season may bring. Over the winter we saw animals affected by the weather in so many ways: the deep snow and ice made prey difficult to find for bobcats; the strong winds blew seabirds off-course; the long winter meant there was no food for returning migratory birds. The effects spilled over into the spring with significantly fewer nestling and fledgling songbirds, likely due to nest failures, and more orphaned mammals than usual.

There is never a shortage of hard work to be done at Hope for Wildlife, and this past year has proven to be a real challenge. It can be easy to get overwhelmed, but fortunately I am surrounded by an amazing team of staff and volunteers who support me and each other.

As difficult and exhausting as our winter and spring were, it never ceases to amaze me the kindness and dedication people give daily. I am so grateful to everyone who is a part of Hope for Wildlife. Thank you to all of the volunteers - I am blessed to have you on the team.

As we brace ourselves for another winter and cross our fingers that it isn't quite so harsh as the last one, I'd like to wish all of our friends and supporters a very happy holiday season and all the best for 2016. Thank you for your support over the past year and I hope you look forward (as much as I do) to all the great things we will accomplish here at Hope for Wildlife in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Hope Swinimer, Founder
...because they matter



Fawns in the summer Photo: Simone Deslauriers

NAME THAT BIRD

How well do you know your local species? Test your 'avian aptitude' by naming some of Hope for Wildlife's patients from 2015.



Photos: Simone Deslauriers, Jason Stewart, Nicole Payne, Hope Swinimer, Sara Seemel & Katie Hauser

Answers, top row from left: common merganser (duckling); red-tailed hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* (adult), northern gannet *Morus bassanus* (juvenile); bottom row from left: common elder *Somateria mollissima* (juvenile); common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (winter plumage)

Give a little **HOPE** this holiday season

Fall/Winter Gift Shop hours: Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am-4pm
Shop online anytime at www.freewebsite.org/hope-for-wildlife-gift-shop



Animal Sponsorship Packages

All sponsorship packages include: personalized sponsorship certificate, personalized card, photo and story of an animal in the sponsored category, fact sheet of the sponsored animal species and Hope for Wildlife sticker.

Packages start at \$75/year

Sample package shown.
Actual package contents may vary

Hope for Wildlife Merchandise

DVDs, books, logo apparel, photography and more.

Support Hope for Wildlife with gifts for everyone starting at just \$3

Charitable Gifts and Donations

Use the form on reverse or visit www.hopeforwildlife.net and click the 'Donate Now' link

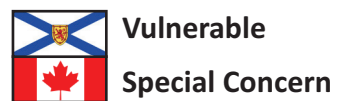


A Helping Hand for Nova Scotia's Species at Risk

While Hope for Wildlife is very proud of its stance on caring for any injured or orphaned wild animal, from field mouse to bald eagle and everything in between, it is an extra special honour to help out some of our more imperiled species. Here are just a few that have come through our doors in 2015.



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*



Peregrine Falcons are becoming an evermore common sight at Hope for Wildlife. While getting injured is certainly not good news for the individual, the fact that more are being admitted suggests that the population continues to grow here in Nova Scotia.



Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*



The decline of the Least Bittern in Canada is primarily attributed to the loss of wetland habitats which were historically drained for agricultural use. As a member of the heron family, they are also particularly susceptible to residue build-up and eggshell thinning from pesticides.

What are 'Species at Risk'?

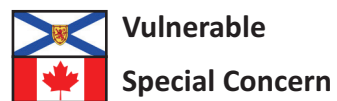
'Species at Risk' are those that are at risk of disappearing from our environment. In Nova Scotia, they are protected under one or both of the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act and the federal Species at Risk Act. They are listed according to their level of risk of disappearance.

In total there are 7 mammal, 27 bird, 4 reptile, 12 fish, 20 plant, 2 mollusc and 6 lichen species at risk in Nova Scotia.

Learn more about Nova Scotia's Species at Risk at www.speciesatrisk.ca



Snapping Turtle *Chelydra serpentina*



Swarms of snapping turtles hatched at Hope for Wildlife this year. Eggs from females that have been hit by cars are incubated on site until the tiny turtles emerge and, in most cases, are released within a few hours of hatching.



Little Brown Bat *Myotis lucifugus*



Following the alarming trend across North America and Europe, bat populations here in Nova Scotia are being decimated by White-Nose Syndrome. In 2013, all three bat species were designated as endangered under the provincial Species at Risk Act.



Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*



Nighthawks feed 'on the wing,' opening their surprisingly large mouths in flight to capture flying insects. Their decline follows the downward trend of other aerial insectivores such as chimney swift, barn swallow and eastern whip-poor-will. Changes to food sources and climate are thought to play a role in their dwindling numbers.

Photos: Simone Deslauriers, Nicole Payne, Hope Swinimer, Ronda Brennan and Katie Hauser



THE WILD WINTER OF 2015



The winter of 2015 won't easily be forgotten. But while Maritimers were busy shoveling out, the furry and feathered inhabitants of the province were struggling too. Hope for Wildlife faced a number of unique challenges over the winter season that made 2015 memorable for more than just the snow.

GOING BATTY

During the winter months, the province's native bats will hibernate while transient species will head for warmer climates. If they emerge or return too early when food is scarce, they can quickly succumb to starvation.

Hope for Wildlife saw a spike in bat admissions this winter, including two cases of the endangered Little Brown Bat and several cases of Hoary Bats (right), a species that is believed to be an irregular migratory visitor to the province.



BOBCATS ABOUND

After being told by the Department of Natural Resources in 2012 that bobcats could no longer be rehabilitated on a case-by-case basis, Hope for Wildlife set out to build a new unit to meet the requirements for a bobcat rehabilitation permit.

With a new 100-by-30-foot unit, the timing could not have been better with eight bobcats admitted over the winter months due to starvation and injury. Five of the bobcats were released in late spring, making way for two kittens admitted in early summer (above and left).

A BATTLE FOR BIRDS

With the winter pushing well into the usual spring migration season, many birds found themselves returning to Nova Scotia only to find food sources scarce to nonexistent.

Hope for Wildlife saw a flood of injured and starving woodcocks (right, top), presenting a special challenge in feeding the hungry birds their required high-protein diet of expensive insects and special bird formula.

After the story of the starving birds went national, the Sierra Club of Canada issued a plea to their supporters and raised \$4,000 in a single weekend to help pay for food to aid in the recovery of the birds. After delivering the cheque, Sierra Club representative Zack Metcalf (right, middle) had the honour of releasing one of the first woodcocks to be returned to the wild.

Seabirds also struggled through the long winter, with harsh storms and strong winds sending a variety of seabird species like the horned grebe (below, right) and dovekie (below, left) off-course and in to the care of Hope for Wildlife.

