

BIRDS, BEASTS & HURRICANES: FASCINATING ANIMAL SURVIVAL STORIES

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Photo FEMA / Dave Saville

Where do birds go during hurricanes?

- 1) Birds may leave in advance of an approaching storm.
- 2) Birds may fly ahead of, into, or through, a storm.
- 3) Birds may shelter in place.

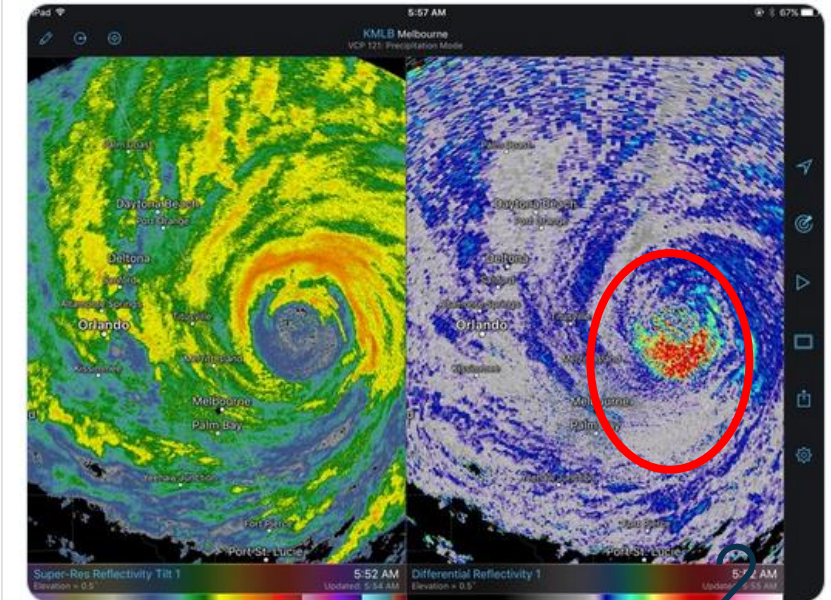


Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Jeff Last ✓
@JeffLast

Morning radar shows eye over water with biological returns, probably birds, inside. #flwx #Matthew

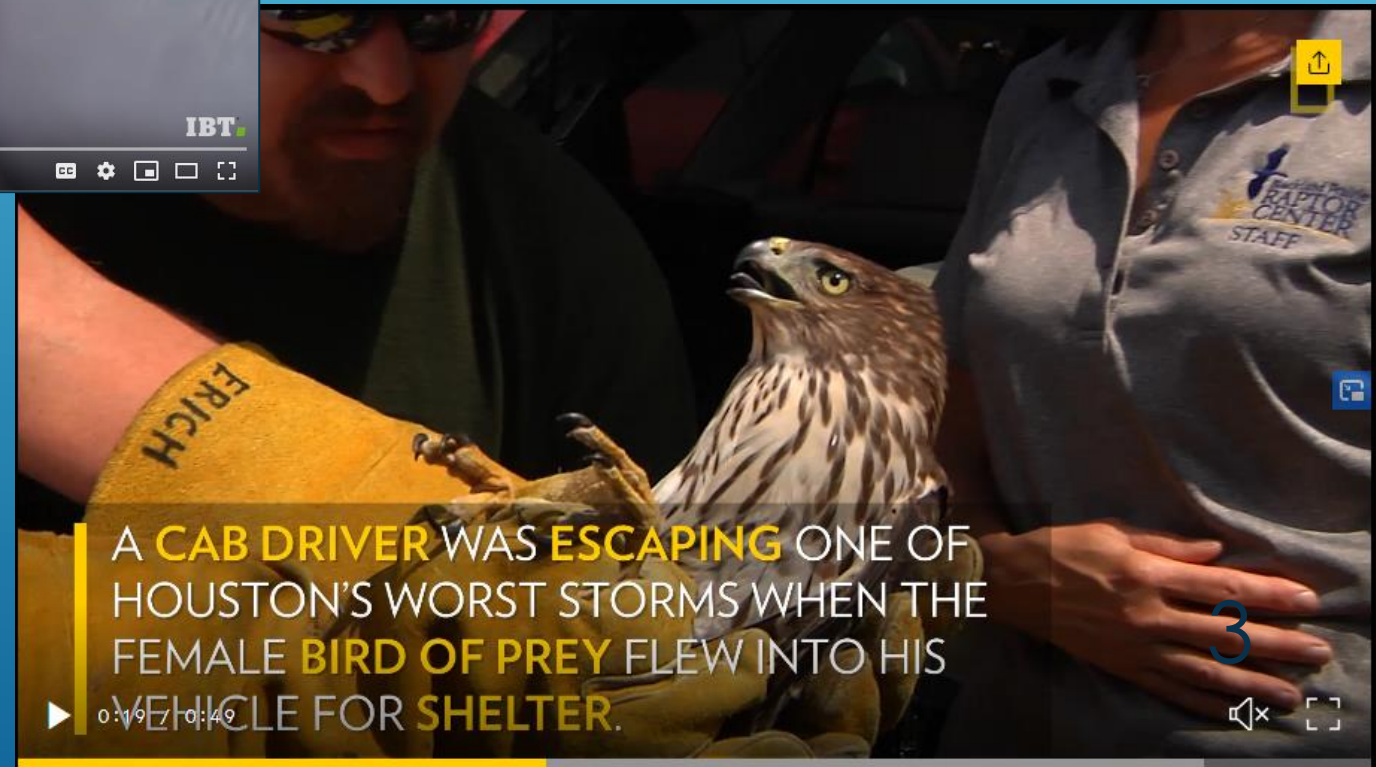


7:02 AM · Oct 7, 2016

“Harvey the Hurricane Hawk” became an Internet sensation after she took shelter in taxi cab in Houston during Hurricane Harvey August 2017



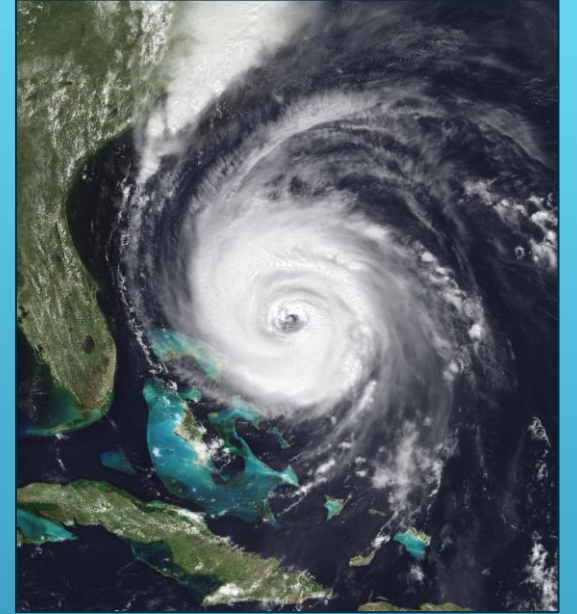
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Jjh2XdpQYE>



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/09/hurricane-harvey-hawk-rescue-video-spd/>

How to help birds after a storm

- Fill feeders with as suet cakes or sunflower seed.
- Provide water in a birdbath or other clean vessel.
- If you find an injured bird after storm passes, contact a licensed wildlife rehab center which may care for it.



Amazing castaway cows survival story with Hurricane Dorian in September 2019.

Photos: Cape Lookout National Seashore, US National Park Service





Photo courtesy Paula D. O'Malley

How have the wild horses on the Outer Banks survived hurricanes?

They move to high ground, take shelter on live oak trees, and huddle with their “butts to the wind.”

Hurricane Floyd , September 16, 1999

Worst agricultural disaster in NC's history per Jay Barnes, author of NC's Hurricane history!

Millions & millions of drowned turkeys, chickens and pigs.



Photo by DAVE GATLEY | Credit: FEMA



But
some
hogs
survived!

Photo: AP; <https://www.coastalreview.org/2014/09/hogs-after-floyd-nothings-changed/> photographer not known.

Interesting Chicken Survival Tale!

“Well known “fish liar” Rodney Kemp tells that in the late nineteenth century, residents from the island communities of Portsmouth and Diamond City would often flee by boat upon the approach of a severe storm. They would carry a few possessions with them while they visited friends and relatives on the mainland. Prior to these excursions across the sound it was common practice to gather all the chickens and tie their legs together with twine. The islanders would then place the birds on their backs in the bottom of the their boast for the journey to the mainland. Kemp says that the chickens became so familiar with this procedure that they would instinctively jump into the boats with their legs in the air upon the first signs of a storm.”

North Carolina's Hurricane History by Jay Barnes, 2001, p. 271.

Pet Dog Survival Story/Hurricane Fran

“Al’s Auto Salvage in New Bern was guarded by Petey, a junkyard dog all of ten inches tall. Skip Crayton, owner of the shop, gave him that name because of his resemblance to the mascot on the television show *Little Rascals*. On the Friday night after Fran roared through the state in 1996, flooding inside the auto salvage building rose 16 inches above the floor. The following morning, when Crayton arrived at the shop, he opened the door and out came Petey – covered up to his neck with mud and oil. Crayton reasoned that the dog must have swam for six to eight hours continuously, keeping his head just above water to stay alive. Petey slept for two days.”



In Princeville, a search and rescue team pulls a raft full of rescued dogs.
Dave Saville, FEMA News Photo.
<https://www.ecu.edu/renci/stormstolife/Floyd/images.html>



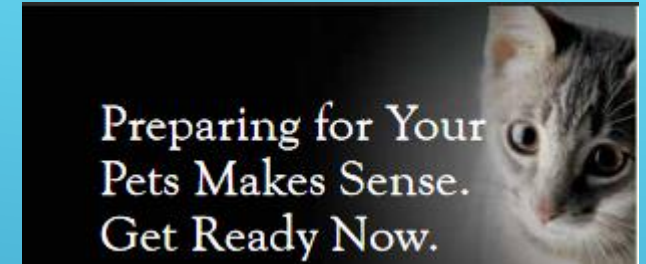
A stray dog wades through the flood waters covering Voil Lane in Greenville, N.C., to sniff out a fire hydrant Wednesday Sept. 22, 1999. Parts of Greenville flooded when the Tar River left it banks in the wake of Hurricane Floyd, that flooded communities throughout northeast North Carolina. <https://wtop.com/gallery/media-galleries/photos-looking-back-at-hurricane-floyds-destruction-20-years-later/>

Make a pet emergency plan.

- If you have to evacuate your home during a disaster, the best way to protect your pets is to evacuate them too.
- Know which hotels and motels will accept pets in an emergency. Call ahead for reservations if you know you may need to evacuate.
- Find out which shelter will accept pets. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are allowed in Red Cross shelters.
- Know which friends, relatives, boarding facilities, animal shelters or veterinarians can care for your animals in an emergency. Prepare a list with phone numbers.
- Although your animals may be more comfortable together, be prepared to house them separately.
- Make sure that your pet's vaccinations are current and that all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Many pet shelters require proof of current vaccinations.
- Consider having your pet "microchipped".

Build a Pet Emergency Supply Kit

- Food for 3 days
- Water for 3 days
- Medicines and medical records
- Pet first aid kit
- Collar with ID tag with rabies tag, harness or leash
- Crate or other pet carrier
- Sanitation supplies
- A picture of you and your pet together to document ownership if you become separated.
- Familiar items such as favorite toys, treats, or bedding.



<https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/prepare-for-emergencies-pet-owners.pdf>

For more information on planning for the care of pets during a disaster, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/pets>

Questions?

Any animal/bird hurricane survivor
story to share?