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Dear Friends.

Spring training time... with warmer weather and longer days most of us want to spend more time in the outdoors, enjoying wildlife, waterfalls and wildflowers, but at WildCare, Spring training has taken on an entirely new dimension.

The specialized nature of WildCare's work means our volunteer training programs must be of the highest quality possible to deliver outstanding programs and

services. At the same time, we want our volunteers' experiences to be both challenging and fulfilling.

With that in mind, WildCare has developed and implemented enhanced training for both new and continuing volunteers. The restructured hospital training program that began in January attracted over 200 people! And more Terwilliger Nature Guides are in training this winter/spring than in past years. These guides will enable WildCare to serve more children with our existing programs, and launch a weekend family hiking program that will begin in August.

New training techniques extend to our Wildlife Ambassador program as well. WildCare is fortunate to have Sarah Mullen and Sherri Lippman, talented

and experienced animal trainers, willing to volunteer to share their specialized knowledge with staff and volunteers. We will offer special interpretive training sessions for our members and visitors to watch so you can see for yourself how the Ambassadors respond. The schedule appears on the back page.

This spring we also welcome Maggie Sergio as Director of Wildlife Solutions. In February, Maggie was appointed to the Integrated Pest Management Commission of Marin County, where she will advocate for the most humane, non-lethal solutions to wildlife conflicts. Marge Gibbs has joined WildCare as Van Naturalist. Former Wildlife Technician Livia Stone assumes the new position of Hospital Manager, enabling the hospital staff to expand its ability to network with other wildlife experts and contribute to broader studies that positively affect wildlife.

This issue's annual report highlights many of WildCare's achievements in 2008. While challenging times may lie ahead, your support makes it possible for us to look back with pride at what we have accomplished, and to look forward with optimism and dedication to the work ahead.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Wilson Executive Director



Marge Gibbs Nature Van Naturalist



Maggie Sergio Director of Wildlife Solutions

wildcare news

volume 13, number 1 spring/summer 2009

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WildCare advocates for wildlife for a sustainable world.

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POSTMASTER send changes of address to WildCare, 76 Albert Park Lane,





I news & notes I

spring baby shower

Our annual Mothers Day event, the Spring Baby Shower, will be held on May 10 in WildCare's Terwilliger Nature Education Center in San Rafael,

2-4pm. This is a family-friendly event, free for WildCare members, who'll get the chance to see wild baby animal feedings and meet our Wildlife Ambassadors face to face. Kids will enjoy the crafts, activities and snacks.

Members are donors who have contributed \$35 (\$25 seniors/students) in the last 12 months. If you are not sure about your membership or would like to become a member, email jolynn@ wildcarebayarea.org or call 415-453-1000, ext. 20. Or just come and join at the door!

happy bird day!

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) was created in 1993 by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. IMBD is now the premier education project of Environment for the Americas (www.birdday.org). IMBD continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird - its journey between its summer and winter homes.

IMBD officially takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, a perfect time for those of us in the middle, but this date doesn't work well internationally. In the southern latitudes, migratory birds have left, heading for breeding sites in the north. Farther north, the birds haven't arrived. Most U.S. and Canada events take place in April and May, while fall events are the norm in the Caribbean and Latin America. Now IMBD is celebrated almost year-round.

Join WildCare Naturalists at Muir Woods on May 9 to celebrate and learn what you can do for migratory birds that run into trouble while flying through the Bay Area. We'll be there from 8am to 2pm with avian Wildlife Ambassadors to help interpret!

earth stroll

WildCare will be at Crissy Field to join in Earth Stroll, a family-friendly event that encourages people to get out into the parks and to get active. Buy an all-activity passport for \$8, and come visit WildCare's booth. Then stroll on to the members' tent, where Wildlife Ambassadors will meet the public at 1pm and again at 2pm. Earth Stroll starts at 10am on April 18 and goes through 3pm.

get out that camera!

Join Ranger/Photographer Craig Solin on a short hike through the Cascade Canyon Preserve, ending with a chance to photograph wildflowers and one of Marin's best waterfalls with one of WildCare's favorite photographers.

Although this is not a WildCare event, WildCare's Living with Wildlife Photography Contest deadline is September 18. This will be a great chance to get those winning shots! Meet at Doc Edgar Park (corner of Hickory Road and Cascade Drive in Fairfax). Bring a camera and a tripod if you can. Sunday April 19, 10am to noon.

> news and notes continues on page 10



local heroes



How do you dispose of a 2,000-pound mammogram machine? There's no punchline. It's a problem. When WildCare needed to find a new home for a mammogram machine we could no longer use, we didn't know where to start. Do they contain hazardous materials such as lead that we have to worry about? It was costly equipment in great condition that someone could really use. Who else might be able to use it? It was a huge and heavy machine. Would we be able to move it without damage? Where would we find a truck that could transport it?

Chris Sparks, owner and founder of Eco-Haul, solved the problem for little more than the cost of hauling it to Oakland. Chris identified another non-profit that could put it to use. Vida (Volunteers for Inter-American Development Assistance) provides assistance to health institutions for people in Latin America. Vida (www. vidausa.org) was able to ship the machine to a clinic in South America.

EcoHaul (www.1800ecohaul. com) specializes in reuse, recycling, and donation as an environmentally responsible waste removal and disposal solution. Their businiess model embodies a deep concern for the environment and an effort to make positive, sustainable change profitable. In an industry and society that desperately need new business models, EcoHaul offers a stellar example of one that diverts good usable material from our landfills.

Thank you for helping us do the right thing for people as well as for wildlife!

back from the brink: brown pelicans

2009 has brought good news and bad for California Brown Pelicans. While rehabilitation organizations were reporting unusually large numbers of sick and emaciated pelicans in California this winter, on February 5, 2009, the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to remove the Brown Pelican from the list of species considered to be endangered by the State of California.

the good news

This delisting marks the first endangered species that the state has ever deemed to have recovered. The acknowledgement of success with this species is a significant conservation achievement for California, the United States and all involved. It indicates that the Endangered Species Act, in conjunction with a well-managed recovery plan, can bring a species back from the brink of extinction.

"Every Californian should be proud of this landmark decision," Commission President Cindy Gustafson said in a news release. "This is a story of magnificent success. In the 38-year history of our protection of endangered species under the act, the California Brown Pelican is the first species to fully recover. We hope to have many more." The Peregrine Falcon is due for possible delisting in the near future.

The delisting recommendation made to the commission by Depart-

ment of Fish and Game biologists is based on studies that show an increased breeding population of Brown Pelicans on West Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands, where there are now an estimated 8,500 breeding pairs. This is the only area in California where these birds nest.

Brown Pelicans nearly went extinct due to DDT, along with Bald Eagles and other raptors. Between the 1940s and 1960s, DDT was the most widely used insecticide in the world. DDT wasn't banned in the United States until 1972, but because DDT can take up to 15 years to break down in the environment, its residual effects remained well into the 1980s.

the bad news

While this is a success story for the recovery plan, it is not necessarily great news for pelicans. Jay Holcomb, Executive Director of the International Bird Rescue Research Center writes, "As an indicator species, this pelican is still highly vulnerable to oil spills, domoic acid events, fishing tackle entanglements, direct cruelty situations, changes in food supply (fish), exposure to botulism and other pollution that it encounters on a daily basis."

the current news

The problems many pelicans encountered this winter is a case in point. Pelicans are migratory, and a large number of birds were found exhausted, emaciated or dead, mostly in Southern California. Initially domoic acid poisoning (sometimes erroneously called a "red tide" event) was suspected, but tests indicated that it was not the cause. "Only four of 19 birds tested showed signs of the toxin, and only at low levels," said David Caron, a biology professor at the University of Southern California who supervised the testing.

A leading theory is that global climate change and abundant food caused about 4,000 pelicans to remain in Oregon and Washington months longer than when they would have normally left to migrate south. Then many of the birds got caught in record freezing December temperatures, stressing their bodies and leaving them without food supplies.

Jamie Ray, Executive Director of San Francisco Rescued Orphan







Winter can be a difficult time for seabirds that rely on fish like California Brown Pelicans. Global climate change may be affecting them. Brown

Pelican photos by Tom Grey; photo of Brown Pelican being medicated in WildCare's clinic courtesy of Melanie Piazza.

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Adult and juvenile Brown Pelicans are dependent upon small fish in shallow waters. Photo by Christina Brandon

Mammal Program, attended the California Fish and Game Commission meeting in Sacramento, and reported that officials now think frostbite was another factor. This would explain the skin injuries seen on many of the birds.

"Though they appear to be suffering from a variety of ailments, 60 to 65 percent of the pelicans have dead and blackened skin on their feet and feeding pouches. Such tissue damage is consistent with frostbite, Michelle Bellizzi of IBRRC reported.

the future

Brown Pelicans remain a fully protected species under Fish and Game Code Section 3511(b) and may not be hunted or taken in any way.

"While it's great the pelican numbers have increased," Jamie Ray continued, "I'm concerned that, with anchovy and herring populations on the decline, delisting pelicans may be premature."

"It's hard to know if this is going to become a trend, and not just occur in El Niño years. The effect of ocean temperature changes is unclear, but herring and anchovy are documented to go further out and deeper when the water is warmer, and sea birds typically feed in shallow areas. If small fish go further out and into deeper water, competition from marine mammals such as seals and whales that prey on these fish in deeper water will also make them harder for birds to catch.'

recovery

Criteria used by the California Fish and Game Commission to delist the California Brown Pelican relied most heavily on the following:

- 1. The breeding population of the of Brown Pelicans in the Channel Islands now exceeds the five-year standard of the recovery plan.
- 2. Brown Pelicans have returned to former breeding sites in the Channel Islands, and numbers on Santa Barbara Island have increased substantially.
- 3. Productivity now meets or exceeds the five-year standard noted in the recovery plan
- 4. Young at West Anacapa Island have achieved the fledgling standard for delisting in nine consecutive years.
- 5. Despite known threats, the breeding population in California has increased substantially.
- 6. Most nesting sites are located in protected National Park Service areas.

For more information on Brown Pelicans, visit www.ibrrc.org.

volunteer spotlight



Cynthia Folkmann has been caring for injured and orphaned birds since 1996 when she began working in WildCare's birdroom. The photo above shows Cynthia (center) with two other songbird volunteers. Susy Friedman (left) joined the shift in 1997, and is still working on Tuesday mornings with Cynthia. Suzanne Brumbach (right) worked at WildCare until 2001, when she moved out of the area. and continues to support WildCare with donations.

Cynthia has a gentleness that makes her a good fit for the highstress songbirds that come to WildCare's hospital. She also steps up to help when she sees a need. For the last several years, Cynthia has been our behind-the-scenes seamstress. At home, she sews the basket covers that prevent our small, injured patients in cage-rest from escaping, and our fledgling orphans from proving to us that they can fly before they have been moved to an aviary.

Our older fledgling songbirds are transferred to wire cages, but as they are learning their new flying skills, they are in danger of damaging their feathers on the sides of the wire cages. Cynthia's sewing skills prevent this, too. Shadecloth netting inside the wire ensures they keep those newlygrown feathers intact.

Cynthia and her husband Frank have been members of WildCare since Cynthia began to volunteer, renewing their commitment each year and contributing to special projects such as our raptor flight aviary in 1998 and our new roof in 1999.

living with woodpeckers

by Maggie Sergio, Wildlife Solutions

"The Rossmoor Retirement Community in Walnut Creek is a luxurious development with lush golf courses, gardens and ponds adjacent to open space in Walnut Creek. In 2007, some of the residents began to have problems with Acorn Woodpeckers using parts of the buildings for acorn storage. The Homeowners Association secured a legal depredation permit from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to hire an exterminator to shoot 20 of the birds. It did not solve the problem. In 2008 they secured a second permit to shoot 50 more.



Acorn Woodpecker with Insect Photo by Greg Wilson



Acorn Woodpecker and granary tree Photo by Tom Grey

an ounce of prevention

The situation at the Rossmoor Retirement Community reminds us to consider the impact we have when we encroach upon open space. WildCare seeks to find ways for people to co-exist peacefully with our wild neighbors, and we, among other wildlife organizations, have offered to help Rossmoor residents solve their problem humanely.

in the beginning...

State and local municipalities now require Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) before any homes, buildings or communities are constructed. It is a great start! But if the findings of the EIR aren't implemented, problems will result. If open space and natural habitat are destroyed, local wildlife will be forced to find other ways to survive.

The problem at Rossmoor is an excellent example of what can happen when people ignore an EIR. The initial EIR report required by the City of Walnut Creek for the Rossmoor Retirement Community mentioned the heavily wooded area nearby, and advised against building too close to the natural habitat of many species. The developers chose not to follow this guidance, and as a result, the colony of Acorn Woodpeckers was displaced.

The developers also chose to use a lower grade, imitation stucco that is soft and easy for the woodpeckers to drill into – which the birds did and continue to do. If the developers had constructed the buildings further from the open space, as the EIR recommended, the residents could have avoided conflicts with local wildlife.

shouldn't green and sustainable include wildlife too?

The U. S. Green Building Council provides standards for environmentally sustainable construction. They have developed a Green Building Rating System known as LEED, an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Efficiency Design. Since its inception in 1998, LEED has focused primarily on energy-efficient design, the use of sustainable woods and materials, and reducing the carbon footprint when erecting building structures.

Currently, there are no "wildlife friendly" design standards incorporated into the LEED rating system. WildCare would like to see standards that take into consideration any materials that could potentially be inviting or encouraging to local wildlife. At Rossmoor, the synthetic stucco material was very inviting, and an easy substitute for their displaced habitat. One cannot blame a woodpecker for acting like a woodpecker.

the good news

LEED is an open and transparent process. The technical criteria proposed by the LEED committees are publicly reviewed for approval by the membership organizations that currently constitute the USGBC. As the standards for LEED continually evolve, there is the opportunity to incorporate wildlife-specific standards that minimize the impact our office buildings, homes, schools and other structures have on our wild neighbors.

Through our education programs and public awareness campaigns we strive to help people better understand the behavior and habits of our wild neighbors so that events such as Rossmoor's woodpecker problem can be avoided in the future.

To learn more about this and other wildlife issues visit www.wildcarebayarea.org.











Photos (from left) by Trish Carney, JoLynn Taylor, Mary Pounder, Trish Carney, JoLynn Taylor

Dear WildCare Member.

WildCare celebrated a number of wonderful accomplishments this past year, including another year (the third in a row) of operating in the black. Many thanks go out to Karen Wilson and the incredible staff for managing things so well, as well as to the terrific volunteers and the great Board. Here are some of the highlights from 2008:

nature education: Because of the support of our scholarship donors, no child is ever turned away for lack of funds. Last year we were pleased to be able to hire Juan-Carlos Solis as our Education Director, a new position that will help WildCare provide greater leadership in nature education. We have continued to improve the courtyard this past year, and several new Wildlife Ambassadors have been added.

wildlife rehabilitation: Thankfully there was no major environmental disaster this past year like we had the year before with the Cosco Busan oil spill. But even in a "normal" year, WildCare still treats up to 4,000 sick and injured animals, and that requires the efforts of a dedicated staff and many volunteers. During this past year remodeling improvements to the hospital helped the staff and volunteers work more effectively. Also, volunteers received more extensive training for emergency situations, so we will be better prepared in the event of another disaster like the oil spill.

wildlife services: WildCare continues to advocate for wildlife as its mission. Sometimes these efforts are more short-term, such as advocating successfully to stop the mass killing of the Fallow and Axis Deer at Point Reyes National Seashore. But sometimes advocacy efforts take years, like those we initiated to raise awareness of the plight of migratory songbirds.

Advocacy was also realized through other actions. Wildlife Solutions humane wildlife service helped show homeowners and businesses how to live well with wildlife. The Convio web hosting and software we began to use in late 2007 was put to hard use in 2008 with action alerts about urgent wildlife issues. Also through Convio, we established a monthly eNewsletter that expands our ability to educate people across the Bay Area, prevent injury to wildlife, and to reach them with timely issues.

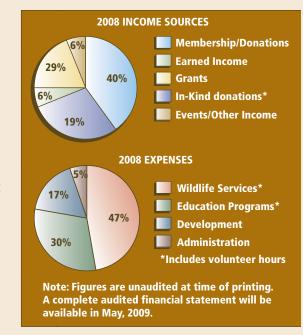
strategic plan: Earlier in 2008 the WildCare Board, along with senior staff, held a retreat, and with the help of a planning consultant laid the groundwork for the creation of a Strategic Plan. The planning process took place between February and June, and with the outline completed, Karen Wilson drafted the final plan that was adopted by the Board in August. The new plan sets forth six core strategies that will help WildCare continue to show people how to live well with wildlife. Over the next five years there will be an increase in the reach and effectiveness of all programs, as well as planning for an improved and expanded facility.

financial outlook: Toward the end of 2008 we became aware of just how big the effects of one of the worst economic downturns we have seen in decades would be. As it turned out, WildCare was able to still meet its budget and closed the year on a positive note. This next year promises to be an even more challenging one than 2008, as we remember that the wildlife we are trying to protect doesn't recognize a bad economy. This year we will need the help of our donors more than ever so we can continue the great programs at WildCare.

On behalf of the WildCare Board of Directors I want to thank the dedicated staff, fabulous volunteers, and the generous donors and supporters who make it possible year after year - to help WildCare continue to be such an important community asset.

Susan Rusche, President of the Board of Directors

(Kusche)



financial support

In 2008, 3,973 individuals, businesses, corporations, associations and foundations provided funding to support WildCare.

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Robert and Elza Burton

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Photos (from left) by Julie Hanft, David Taylor, Alison Hermance, Ken Schopp, Trish Carney, JoLynn Taylor, Susie Kelly, Julie Hower, Trish Carney, Lauren Slater

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wildcare 415.453.1000 annual report 2008











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841 donors

\$1 to \$99

2,675 donors

in-kind goods and services*

250 donations 200 donors \$105,000 in value

*This includes event auction items and vehicle donations.

nature education

In 2008 over 40,000 people from nine Bay Area counties experienced WildCare's Terwilliger Nature Education programs.

no child left indoors

13,725 children were served through the following programs, including 3,727 school children from socio-economically underserved families.

terwilliger nature van

59 schools 274 presentations 5,212 children engaged

terwilliger field trips

47 schools 85 field trips 1,909 children participated

terwilliger nature camps

15 camp sessions 223 children engaged

terwilliger nature kits

41 schools 144 kits 6,000 kit experiences

teen wildlife academy

46 teen participants

junior botanists

270 participants 134 certificates awarded

special programs

Birthday parties, center tours, courtyard events, SEED (School Environmental Education Docent)

86 programs 813 children and adults participating

adult volunteer hospital classes

29 classes 269 volunteers trained

WildCare visitors

15,700 courtyard and museum visitors 1.952 wildlife rescuers

wildlife ambassador programs

844 presentations 5,295 individuals involved

volunteer support

In 2008 more than 345 volunteers donated over 39,000 hours of their time, valued at over \$355,000.

1,000-2,000 hours

Veronica Bowers* Alex Godbe** Françoise Samuelson** Kim Sandholdt

500-999 hours

Mary Pounder* Mary Blake** Brenda Göeden** Diana Manis* JoLynn Taylor*** Frances Weigel

200 - 499 hours

Anne Barker* Lucy Burlingham** Terri-Lynn Costello Sherry Dean Cindy Dicke*** Vanessa Glidden*** Martha Hagler Andrea Hirsig Kelle Kacmarcik* Nancy Knight Mari Litsky Gail MacMillan Christine Margle* Lynne McCall Rachel Poni Marianna Riser*** Susie Sasso* Brenda Sherburn* Lori Saul* Lauren Slater Livia Stone Goody Thompson Melisa Williams

150 - 199 hours

Sandy Barth Emily Baumbach Rich Dahlgren Arlene Davis*** Darla Deme**
Cynthia Folkmann** Susy Friedman* Shirley Gans**** Miles Kihara

*5-9 years' service **10-14 years' service ***15-19 years' service

Linda Knight Paula Landdeck Lillian Lessler Sherri Lippman Connie Long Jain Martin Sarah Mullen Helen Norris Erik Peerand Tynan Peterson Jeanine Richardson*** Maggie Rufo** Ken Schopp Lyanne Schuster* Stephen Shaw Amy Shipley Joanne Sidwell Janet Sinnicks* Rebecca Smith* Rava Smith Julie Soucek Sonza Van Herick Elizabeth Verschell

100-149 hours

Melanie Aller Jess Bailey Pamela Ball Nancy Bisio Sherry Bradley Lindsey Campbell Spencer Coster Kim Davalos Nancy Dawson Carole Haan** Stephanie Helbig* Annette Herz Kyndra Homuth Chris Karl Molly Kiefer Roberta Koss Lynda Larsen' Ashley Macholz Tracy Manheim* Robin Minor M. L. Oxford** Cheryl Parkins Melanie Piazza* Emma Rigge R. J. Roush Maggie Sergio Sindy Smart Stacy Soderborg

50-99 hours

Anne Ardillo** Ygrayne Bajema Sharon Bale Susan Betfarhad Alicia Blose Amy Blower* Evan Brooks* Anne-Marie Cadieux Seth Coad-Douglass Caylen Cole-Hazel Claire Colvin Sarah Cronin Susan Crowell Marilyn Dehnert Page Drummond* Jessie Fields continued on page 4

****20-25 years' service *****26-30 years' service

Glenda Queen William and Karin Rabin

Rand-Montgomery Fund

Diane and Jason Roberts

Anne and Richard Ruben

Victoria Ann Rupp Susan Sasso

Sue and William Rochester

Janine and Alan Reid

Nagaraja Rao

Steve Rempe

Fllen Ross













Photos (from left) by Melanie Piazza, Anne Barker, Veronica Bowers, Anya Pamplona, Trish Carney, JoLynn Taylor

Dunlin

Volunteers continued from page 3

Diana Gallagher Mike Gallagher Gina Gillombardo Lars Gilmore Sam Gleason Brenda Göeden Heather Gordy Debra Greene Julie Hanft Samantha Helbig Thomas James Peter Kerner Sarah Koenig Nicole Kretz Karen Lechner Emma Liffick Susanne Lyons George Mainas ♥Julie Malet***** Nicole Markey Susan Matross Madeline McGinley Kristin Meuser Elliott Moon Jessie Petersen* Natsuko Porcino Gemma Prater Barbara Pritchard* Janet Rahlmann Zach Rosen Erica Rudolph Miia Rule Dede Sabbag**** Maya Sampath Lydia Sanella Suesan Saucerman Bennett Schalich Vivian Skinner Ariane Trelaun Piera Von Glahn* Noreen Weeden Selena Weinstock Liz Wildman Cecelia Winfield Nancy Wright**

1-49 hours

193 volunteers

veterinarians

Dr. Kenneth Bacon* Dr. Rebecca Burwell Dr. Scott L. Ford Dr. Deborah S. Friedman Dr. Lynn E. Lankes Dr. Debra Scheenstra* Dr. Patricia J. Smith

Dr. Brian Spear

nightline

Volunteers listed below donated 5.760 additional hours to staff the night telephone line

> Trish Carney Darla Deme Vanessa Glidden*** ♥Julie Malet** Diana Manis* Gail McMillan

Robin Minor Melanie Piazza* Mary Pounder* Maggie Rufo** Linda Schmid*

wildlife hospital

In 2008 WildCare treated over 200 separate species of wild animals and gave 3,424 ill, injured or orphaned animals a second chance.

avian: 2,606

Acorn Woodpecker Allen's Hummingbird American Avocet American Coot American Crow American Goldfinch American Kestrel American Robin American White Pelican Anna's Hummingbird Ash-throated Flycatcher Band-tailed Pigeon Barn Owl Barn Swallow Bewick's Wren Black Phoebe Black Rail Black Swift Red-winged Blackbird Black-crowned Night Heron Black-headed Grosbeak Black-throated Gray Warbler Brandt's Cormorant Brant Brewer's Blackbird Brown Pelican Brown-headed Cowbird Bufflehead Bushtit Button Quail California Quail California Towhee Canada Goose Cedar Waxwing Cherry-headed Conure Chestnut -backed Chickadee Chukar Clark's Grebe Cliff Swallow Common Goldeneye Common Loon Common Murre Common Poorwill Common Raven Common Yellowthroat Cooper's Hawk Dark-eyed Junco Double-crested Cormorant Downy Woodpecker

Eared Grebe European Starling Fox Sparrow Glaucous-Winged Gull Golden-crowned Sparrow Great Blue Heron **Great Egret** Great Horned Owl Greater Scaup Green-winged Teal Hermit Thrush Herring Gull Hooded Oriole House Finch House Sparrow Hutton's Vireo Japanese Quail Killdeer Lesser Goldfinch Lesser Scaup Lincoln's Sparrow Mallard Merlin Mew Gull Mourning Dove Nashville Warbler Northern Flicker Northern Harrier Northern Mockingbird Northern Rough-winged Swallow Northern Saw-whet Owl Northern Spotted Owl Nuttall's Woodpecker Oak Titmouse Orange-crowned Warbler Osprey Pacific Loon Pacific Slope Flycatcher Peregrine Falcon Pied-billed Grebe Pine Siskin Purple Finch Pygmy Nuthatch Red-breasted Sapsucker Red-necked Phalarope Red-shouldered Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Red-throated Loon Ring-billed Gull Ring-necked Pheasant Rock Dove Ruby-crowned Kinglet Ruddy Duck Sharp-shinned Hawk Song Sparrow Spotted Towhee Steller's Jay Surf Scoter Swainson's Thrush Tree Swallow Turkey Vulture Varied Thrush Violet-green Swallow Virginia Rail Warbling Vireo Western Bluebird Western Grebe California Gull Western Gull Western Meadowlark Western Screech Owl Western Scrub Jay Western Tanager White-breasted Nuthatch

White-crowned Sparrow White-tailed Kite Wild Turkey Wilson's Warbler Winter Wren Wood Duck Wrentit Yellow-rumped Warbler Swan

mammalian: 777 American Badger Audubon's Cottontail Big Brown Bat Black Rat Black-tailed Deer Black-tailed Jackrabbit (Hare) Bobcat Botta's Pocket Gopher Broad-footed Mole Brush Rabbit California Ground Squirrel California Meadow Vole California Myotis Bat California Red-backed Vole Coyote Deer Mouse **Dusky-footed Woodrat** Eastern Gray Squirrel Fox Squirrel Gray Fox Ground Squirrel Hoary Bat House Mouse Little Brown Bat Merriam's Chipmunk Mexican Free-tailed Bat Mink Northern Raccoon Pacific Shrew Pallid Bat Striped Skunk Townsend's Long-eared Bat Virginia Opossum

Western Gray Squirrel eason for admission Abandoned/Lost Approachable, lethargic emaciated, sick Attacked by wild animal 104 Beached, grounded Caught by cat Caught by dog Caught in trap, excluded 40 Found dead or dying Poisoned, shot, fishhook Stuck, tangled in man-made object, oiled, unsafe location Transferred, consultation

reptilian and amphibian: 39 California Newt

California Red-sided Garter Snake California Slender Salamander Chameleon Coast Terrestrial Garter Snake Northern Alligator Lizard Northern Pacific Rattlesnake Pacific Giant Salamander Pacific Gopher Snake Red-eared Pond Slider Turtle Russian Tortoise Sharp-tailed Snake Western Fence Lizard Western Pond Turtle Western Toad Western Yellow-bellied Racer

wildlife services

In 2008 our Live Well with Wildlife programs worked to prevent injury to wildlife through public education, outreach and advocacy.

wildlife protection issues

11,212 advocates engaged in 4 advocacy issues

online and print outreach

20,000 people reached via WildCare newsletter and monthly eNewsletters

hungry owl project

295 owl/bat/bird boxes placed 150 owl box plans provided 40 presentations given 1,845 individuals engaged

living with wildlife hotline

5,475 calls answered

wildlife solutions

450 home solutions advice 175 structures inspected 139 damaged structures repaired 417 animals humanely excluded

wildcare 415.453.1000 annual report 2008

patient gallery

Mink (#1684) was brought to WildCare for a consultation by Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue (SCWR) on October 30, 2008. Weighing a little over one pound, the little animal had been found hiding under a lawn mower by a Santa Rosa resident, who was surprised to have been able to capture it. Weasels are known for their ferosity.

In members of the weasel family and other carnivores, tameness can indicate distemper, or that the animal had been kept illegally as a pet. At first the assumption was that it had been mistaken for a ferret and kept as a pet, but a number of puncture wounds suggested it may have been caught by a particularly aggressive cat.

Mink are native to Northern California, but generally do not inhabit areas near humans, so its habits are not well known to rehabilitators, and #1684's behavior was unusual. However, at WildCare's recommendation, SCWR put him on a course of antibiotics, and as he began to heal, he became more and more fierce. He was released in Santa Rosa in November.

Cedar Waxwing (#3070) flew into a window at Rachel Hubbard's home in San Rafael on February 1, 2009. Cedar Waxwings migrate into this area in the winter to feast on pyracantha and toyon berries. This bird hit the window so hard that the top of its beak punctured the bottom and stuck there. Beaks, like fingernails, are made of a renewable protein called keratin. The beak would heal eventually, but the bird was badly stunned, and blood in its mouth suggested possible injuries.

Medical staff disengaged the beak and palpated (examined) the bird's bones for signs of fractures. The bird was reluctant to flap or fly, but no injuries were apparent, and he was given cage rest for several days. By February 10 he was eating, perching and flying well, with no signs of injury, and he was released the next week so he would not miss his normal migration.

Great Horned Owl (#1654) was found dead in Mill Valley by Lowell Sikes, and brought to Wild-Care on October 19, 2008. Lowell had installed an owl box he purchased from WildCare's Hungry Owl Project, and was very interested to know what might have killed this beautiful bird.

Examination revealed a fat, apparently healthy bird with no signs of trauma, but a very white mouth, indicative of internal bleeding. A necropsy (animal autopsy) confirmed this. Laboratory results confirmed that the liver sample tested positive for Brodifacoum and Bromadialone, long-acting anticoagulant rodenticides. These results support a diagnosis of rodenticide poisoning.

Someone in the area was poisoning rodents, and incidentally, their predators. In an effort to prevent future poisonings of birds and other wildlife, Lowell posted notices in the neighborhood asking people not to use rodenticides.

Eastern Gray Squirrels

(#0079-0080) arrived at WildCare on February 12, 2009, the first of the season's orphaned baby mammals. The tiny squirrels still had their umbilical cords attached, and weighed less than 18 grams (6 oz.) when their nest fell from a tree in Mill Valley. After an unsuccessful attempt to reunite them with their mother, they went to foster care with WildCare Squirrel Team Leader Lucy Burlingham.

For the first week, the infant squirrels required feeding about eight times daily, around the clock. Once they were stable and a little older, the number of feedings decreased as the quantity of formula increased, and by February 21, they were being fed six times daily with no 3am night feeding. They will remain in care until they are approximately 12 weeks old, and can be returned to the area they were found.



Photo by Melanie Piazza



Photo by Tom Gree



Photo by Christina Brandon



Photo by Rue Burlingham

little boxes on the hillside..

by Andrea Hirsig with Mari Litsky

One sunny spring afternoon, a group of Marin gradeschoolers watched the main event of the day: flashing blue, a small pair of devoted Western Bluebird parents swooped industriously in and out through the tiny hole in a redwood box, ferrying bugs to the peeping babies within. Having spent the past weeks installing the box and carefully monitoring the birds' home-making progress, the kids watched the goings-on above their heads intently, savoring the direct results of their efforts – more bluebirds!

Placed throughout Marin County through the WildCare Hungry Owl Project Bluebird Program, nest boxes like this one provide much-needed homes for Western Bluebirds, and foster a deep connection between the area's human residents and the petite blue birds. And here's the good news: you, too, can be a part of the Bluebird Box Revolution!

it's a seller's market

House-hunting Bay Area humans face an unstable market these days, and the local cavity-dwelling bird population is faring no better. In nesting season, bluebirds must stake out territories in open green spaces with dead trees or fence posts for holes: not an easy task at the best of times. And even if a promising site is found, there's no guarantee that a House Sparrow or starling couple hasn't gotten there first! Competition for a shrinking number of cozy tree

holes is a formidable problem that has caused a severe decline in the bluebird population over the past century.

That's where you come in. According to conservation authorities like the North American Bluebird Society, the single most effective way individuals can help bring back the bluebird is to provide nesting sites by setting out boxes.

a season in the life of a nest box

When students at one Marin elementary school noticed a male bluebird "hanging around" one day last March, they hoped that the nest boxes the school had just installed would catch his eye. Sure enough: by early April, he had been joined by a lady friend, enticing her with a flamboyant, wing-fluttering "dance" performed

atop one particular box. Soon the pair was seen carrying bits of dry grass into the chosen box, and in mid-April the students observed a shallow cup of carefully woven grasses inside. The nest was complete.

Checking the box interior weekly, the kids observed as a clutch of light blue eggs appeared in the nest. The parents spent the next two weeks incubating the eggs in shifts, and on May 5, the class discovered that they had been replaced by four tiny, fuzzy babies. They grew quickly as the parents flew in and out of the hole nonstop, keeping the cheeping yellow beaks supplied with tasty morsels. The children caught sight of a fledgling peeking out on May 25th, getting its first glimpse of the world outside the box, and within the next two days, all four babies took successful first flights, cheered on by the human kids.

if you build it, they will come!

Setting up a nest box, or even a "trail" of multiple boxes, is simple and simply rewarding: all you need is a bit of open space. WildCare's Hungry Owl Project Bluebird Program supports a growing legion of box hosts. The program offers pre-assembled boxes for a reasonable price (they'll even



Notable for their acrobatic flight and beautiful coloring, bluebirds have long been a symbol of domestic bliss, but ironically human encroachment has made it difficult for the birds to raise families, by depriving them of nesting sites. Photos by Jeanne Dammarell



School groups keep records of all they observe while monitoring the bluebird boxes. Photo courtesy of Mari Litsky

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bluebird nest boxes

- It's best to have bluebird boxes in place by mid-March.
- Pick a spot in an open, grassy space with scattered trees, at least 100' from woodland.
- A good bluebird box should be perchless, well ventilated, watertight, and easy to monitor.
- A small hole (1½") keeps starlings from moving in.
- Setting the box 5' off the ground on a metal post discourages predators but allows monitoring.
- Always place boxes in areas free of herbicides and pesticides.

help you install them). The boxes are also a great educational tool: program coordinator Mari Litsky (a former teacher herself), offers warm support to classroom teachers in bluebird-related curricula, box monitoring and updates via email and in person.

The best thing about a bluebird box? If you build it, they will come! To learn more about how to set up your own boxes, visit the Hungry Owl Project Bluebird Program at www. hungryowl.org/bluebirds.html.

For more information about Western Bluebirds, visit North American Bluebird Society: www. nabluebirdsociety.org; Nestwatch: watch.birds. cornell.edu/nest; Hungry Owl Project Bluebird Program: www.hungryowl.org/bluebirds



The babies' progress is carefully checked using a small mirror. Photo by Mari Litsky

don't try this at home!

by Melanie Piazza, Director of Animal Care

One summer my family found a dead squirrel in the road in front of our house. Three starving baby squirrels appeared a few days later, desperately seeking food. My parents searched for help, but back then in our East Coast state there were no wildlife rehabilitation organizations. We tried to raise the orphans ourselves, but despite how fiercely we loved them and wanted to do the right thing, none of them survived. Sadly, this story is still happening today, even though California has wildlife rehabilitation centers in almost every county.

legal protection for wildlife

Every state has its own laws regarding wildlife rehabilitation. In California wildlife is considered to be property of the state, and it is illegal to possess wildlife without the appropriate license. Hunters must have hunting licenses, and wildlife rehabilitators must have rehabilitation permits.

The law requires that people who find injured or orphaned wild animals bring them to a licensed rehabilitator within 48 hours of rescue. Even veterinarians, unless they are licensed to treat wild animals, are required to abide by this law, although they are permitted to stabilize an injured animal before transfer. These are good laws, and here's why.

why a rehabilitator?

WildCare treats over 200 species of wildlife every year. Each species requires a specific diet, appropriate socialization with its own kind, proper temperature and caging. Some carry pathogens that are harmful to people; some carry diseases that are contagious to other animals. After food or treatment, some animals may appear able to suvive a return to the wild. but without knowing an animal's natural history, release may just doom it to slow starvation or predators.

Rehabilitators are trained to take all of this into consideration when a wild animal is brought in for treatment. Just as in human medicine, wildlife rehabilitation staff and volunteers are required to continue their professional education every year. Things change and new techniques are developed.





The Northern Mockingbird on the left was hand raised on seed and fruit on the advice of a vet-erinarian. His feather condition and broken feet reflect a serious dietary deficiency and improper caging. The healthy mockingbird on the right received the correct diet and caging. Photos by Melanie Piazza, Veronica Bowers





Even the untrained eye can tell that the Common Raven on the left is in bad condition. Compare it to the one on the right which received the correct





These two Violet-green Swallows were rescued by children, kept in a box and fed cottage chees and hamburger for two months before bringing them to a wildlife rehabilitator. After almost a both were released. Photos by Veronica Bowers

The wild animals we share this world with deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Unlike the circumstances that resulted in the death of those baby squirrels so long ago. we now have the means to provide knowledgeable and professional care to wild animals in distress.

For more stories and information about wildlife rehabilitation, visit www.wildcarebayarea.org.



Flies you say? When you think of flies, you probably think of the common housefly, the one we see on rotting garbage and dog excrement, but flies come in many shapes and sizes. Here are a few local flies you might see this spring:



Bee flies are large, fuzzy flies with long legs and a notably long proboscis, that make a buzzing noise in flight, indeed resembling Bumblebees. However, if you look closely you can tell that they have only one pair of wings, and their antennae are entirely wrong for a bee, and they're fast, really fast, with a great ability to hover. So if you notice a bee that just seems too fast for a bee, it is probably a bee fly.

Snake flies are easily recognized by their small head and long, slender

"neck," which is actually the elongated prothorax. It can raise its head above the rest of its body, much like a snake preparing to strike.

Golden Dung Flies are well named, because dung is everything to them. They mate upon it, lay their eggs on it, their larvae feed in it, and their pupae develop in the soil underneath it.

In an effort to attract a female, male dance flies swarm, flying up and down in a sort of dance. They capture an insect and hold it as an offering for females. Females seem to choose the male with the most enticing prey offering.

news & notes

from page 3

summer camps heat up

You don't have to be an adult to be a naturalist. All you need is a fascination with nature and a love of the environment.

Children are born naturalists. Do you know a child with a great willingness to explore, get dirty and learn about everything that walks, swims or crawls? WildCare's Summer Camps will give that child the chance to practice these skills.

Through games, crafts, experiments, exciting live animal meetings, and hikes, we will learn more about our wild neighbors.

To register, visit www.wildcarebayarea.org to download the registration form, or contact Anya by phone at 415 453-1000 ext. 12 or email anya@wildcarebayarea.org.

2009 gala

Nearly 300 festively-attired Wild-Care supporters attended our 2009 Gala on February 6 this year.

All enjoyed a glittering Silent Auction, excellent food by McCall and Associates and dancing to *Swing Fever*. Our Wildlife Ambassadors made appearances too, and a good time was had by all. Visit our website for the photos of this sparkling event!

remembering Vivian Trost

A long-time resident of Marin County, Vivian Trost, who passed away last spring, was known for her love of education, nature and wildlife. Vivian grew up in the Marina District of San Francisco with her family, and attended Dominican College in San Rafael. Following graduation, she married Charles Trost, and raised their son Robert in Ross, and later, in Tiburon. Eventually she moved into the Oakmont retirement community in Santa Rosa. There she enjoyed golf and the tranquility of her home, where, while sitting on her back porch, she appreciated birds and other wildlife.



Vivian watched Marin County change and grow over the years, and was concerned, in particular, about the negative effects of that change and growth on wildlife and the environment. Including WildCare as a primary beneficiary in her estate planning allowed her to make a significant and lasting impact on a cause she held near and dear.

Vivian remembered WildCare, and we will remember her.

Vivian Trost December 18, 1918 - May 24, 2008



what's wrong with this picture?

The people in one of these houses are going to have problems with wildlife in and around their house, especially at night. The people in the other house will sleep soundly. Can you find the twelve differences?





4. A pet dish outside offers food to 6. Open holes in the eaves let rats, 5. A broken air vent allows wildlife 3. The opening under the porch squirrels and bats into the attic. nvites animals to build dens. animals both day and night. access to the crawlspace. easy access to food scraps for opos-1. Spilled seed under the bird feeder predators like coyotes and bobcats. 2. An open compost heap provides attracts rats, which attract larger

to bats, rats, squirrels and raccoons. an invitation to opossums, raccoons, predators like coyotes and bobcats, 8. A broken attic vent allows access 9. An unsecured bag of cat food is and is a danger to songbirds.

skunks and rats.

10. A loose garbage bag is another food source for all wild animals,

11. Fallen fruit attracts deer, raccoons, foxes and opossums.

house gives rats, squirrels and rac-12. Tree branches touching the coons access to the roof.

with wild animals. Here's why:

sums and rodents.



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I schedule of events I

spring/summer, 2009



museum and courtyard programs

wildlife ambassadors*

Ambassadors in WildCare's Courtyard Pool bird feeding FREE daily at 12:30 & 4:30pm An Insider's View: Ambassador enrichment sessions FREE Mondays and Wednesdays,

11am-12:30pm; Fridays, 12:30-2pm

events

WildCare at earth stroll

Crissy Fields, April 18, 10am-3pm www.presidio.gov/calendar/earth Call 415-561-7765 to register.

WildCare at international migratory bird day*

Muir Woods, May 9, 7:30am-2pm FREE www.nps.gov/muwo/planyourvisit/events.htm or call 415-388-2596 for information.

spring baby shower

Mothers Day at WildCare Sunday, May 10, 2-4pm Call 415-453-1000 ext. 13 to register.

hungry owl project

Marin Art and Garden Center afternoon with birds of prey

April 18, 2-4pm www.hungryowl.org or call 415-454-4587 to register. nature education programs Call 415-453-1000 ext. 12 to register. families in nature hike

August 1, 10am-noon

wildflowers field trip

Saturday, April 4, 9:30am-12:30pm

summer nature camps

Wild Moms and Dads, ages 3-K June 8-12, 9am-noon **FULL**

Animal Adaptation, grades K-1 **FULL** June 15-19, 9am-noon

Animal Adaptation, grades K-1 June 15-19, 1-4pm

Water, Water Everywhere, grades 2-3 June 22-26, 9am-3pm

Radical Reptiles, grades 1-2 June 29-July 2, 9am-3pm FULL

Helping Hands for Wildlife, grades 3-4 July 6-10, 9-3

Nature Detectives, grades 2-3 July 13-17, 9am-3pm

Weird and Wonderful, grades 1-2 July 20-24, 9am-3pm

*Outdoor Adventure, grades 5-6 July 20-24, 8:30am-2:30pm *This camp is off-site at China Camp, with an overnight on Thursday

Creatures of the Night, grades 2-3 July 27-31, 9am-3pm

Helping Hands for Wildlife, grades 4-5 August 3-7, 9am-3pm



Animal Senses, grades K-1 August 10-14, 9am-3pm **FULL** Animal Neighbors, ages 3-K August 17-21, 9am-noon **FULL**



wildlife rehabilitation programs

new volunteer orientations

Orientation for adult volunteers is offered annually in January. Other orientations and basic skills classes may be added in the summer. Please call WildCare or visit our website for status updates on orientations and new volunteer classes.

classes for volunteers

105-Introduction to Baby Mammal Care Saturday, April 4,10:30am-12:30pm 202C-Captive Care for Corvids May 30, 10:30am-12:30pm 202D-Captive Care for Ducklings April 19, 1:30-3pm May 3, 1:30-3pm 209- Introduction to the Med Room April 28, 6:30-8pm June 8, 6:30-8pm 203S - Introduction to Squirrel Care April 25, 10am-noon 221-Raccoon Rehabilitation May 16, 1-3pm

^{*}Pre-registration is required for all programs and events except those noted with an asterisk; call 415-453-1000.