Grebe Crisis at Pacific Wildlife Care

*Morro Bay, CA, October 21, 2014.* Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC) is experiencing an overwhelming influx of starving juvenile Grebes at its Rehabilitation Center in Morro Bay, CA. As of today, 89 of these pelagic birds remain in PWC care. The last week has seen the arrival of 128, not all of which have survived. Emergency calls for volunteers have gone out to bring in more help for these weak and hungry birds.

Grebes breed in fresh water but overwinter on the Pacific Ocean, many of them in Morro Bay. These birds, noted for their amazing courtship dance together, do not survive on land. Their legs, developed for swimming and diving for food, are hinged the opposite of most birds and mammals, making it impossible for them to walk. Therefore, when they arrive on our beaches, it is a clear sign that they are in trouble.

Pacific Wildlife Care, with its own wildlife veterinarian and with the mission of supporting San Luis Obispo County wildlife through rehabilitation and educational outreach, is the only wildlife rehabilitation organization in San Luis Obispo County. It accepts birds, land mammals, and reptiles. PWC’s animal count for the year, before November has begun, has surpassed the total for last year, with 2037 animals already received for treatment in 2014. Animal reports can be left at 805-543-WILD. Because transportation is limited, especially at this time, PWC depends upon the public bringing animals to the Rehabilitation Center, located at 1387 Main Street, between 9am and 5pm daily.

Pacific Wildlife Care receives no government funding. It is a 501(c) 3 organization with the tax ID number of 77-0196350. Tax-deductible donations would be very welcome, at pacificwildlifecare.org

Photo by Shannon M. Riggs