Like every clinic which rehabilitates baby songbirds, in late summer we are always racing the clock to ensure that any swallows we’ve raised at the Clinic are released in time for them to make their migration. This year was no exception. Though Cliff Swallows are the by far the most common of the swallow species we treat, we did have one late-season baby Barn Swallow in our care. Case 17-1649.

I was concerned that we’d have to over-winter this bird, as reported sightings of Barn Swallows in this area this late in the year are rare, and we had additional cause for alarm as he was the only one of his species that we had.

However, someone did post on the Ebird website that they’d seen a few Barn Swallows at the Morro Strand State Beach during the last weekend in August. Though I figured it was unlikely that the birds would still be there, I went to take a look myself on the afternoon after the reported sighting.

There, while parked on the bluff above the campground, I saw one lone Barn Swallow swooping over the treetops foraging for insects. I drove as quickly as I could back to the Center to collect our bird from the aviary, hoping that the one that I’d seen earlier hadn’t decided to move on by the time I returned.

When I finally made it back, I stood anxiously waiting for a long, long five minutes without seeing any sign of the swallow I’d seen earlier, when he finally came zipping by. I scurried to my car to fetch the carrier containing our swallow and opened it up from atop the bluff as quickly as I could.

Our bird shot out and initially headed east; away from the direction the other swallow had flown, before beginning to fly in wide circles, high in the sky. At this time the other bird flew to meet our graduate and both birds began circling together, vocalizing, before heading off together (flying south, no less).

Of all the releases I’ve been a part of, this was undoubtedly one of the most satisfying.

WILL OUR PLAN WORK THIS TIME? By Vann Masvidal

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**THE YEAR IN REFLECTION** By Kimberly Perez, President

Wow, what a wild year! (and it’s not over yet!) Just in case you missed it, Pacific Wildlife Care is celebrating its 30th Anniversary as a nonprofit and we can’t be prouder of our mission and the heart and soul that formed the foundation for which we have grown. After the SLO County Board of Supervisors read a proclamation honoring our 30th anniversary in March, we organized many new events along that theme.

In May, **Wild in the Plaza** was our first, free community event geared toward families and held at Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo. In August, **Wild at Heart** was a day of nature, art, film, education and music at Swallow Creek Ranch in Cayucos. In September, we held the **Circle of Gratitude**: Volunteer & Staff Dedication & Service Reception celebrating 30+ wild years honoring current and past volunteers and staff who continue to give and gave tirelessly of themselves to help us grow and keep us growing today (see event photos on page 3).

Coming up In November, **Soupabration**! It’s A Wild Thing! will be held at the Morro Bay Community Center. A new event has been added the day before – **Morro Bay Wild** – with tours of our Rehabilitation Center and tasting of last year’s soup winner. Don’t miss it! (Continued on page 2)
ATTENTION YOUTH

YOUTH MAKING

Interested in Film Making?

Pacific Wildlife Care is partnering with the SLO International Film Festival (SLOIFF) – “Young Filmmakers of Tomorrow” competition by sponsoring a new award, "The Wild World We Love," for Kindergarten through 12th grade youth. Youth are invited to submit an original short or animated film for possible screening at the SLOIFF, March 13-18, 2018. Entries are accepted by SLO International Film Festival through January 6, 2018. Further details may be found at https://slofilmfest.org/student

THE YEAR IN REFLECTION

(continued from page one)

Along the wildlife front, we’ve seen over 1,900 wildlife cases this year (as of mid-September), over 750 of those were orphaned and injured wildlife babies.

On average, there are 2,400 volunteer hours worked each month with over 250 volunteers in various capacities.

We’ve responded to 2,052 Wildlife Hotline calls and Rescue-Transporters have driven 27,752 miles. Our Animal Ambassador Education Team has provided over 92 presentations (as of August 31).

We had a very successful Intern Program again with the majority funded by a County of San Luis Obispo Grant.

We can’t lose sight; however, that as an organization grows, it takes more volunteers, more members, more donors to provide the resources needed to keep us operating from month to month. It costs $32,000/month, $1,050/day, for our life-saving work. 88% of all costs directly benefit the treatment and care of wildlife as well as our education program while only 10% of our costs are administrative (ex. insurance, bookkeeping, printing, postage).

Help us reach our goals by making an earlier year-end donation or consider a small increase in your giving this year. We and the animals will be ever so grateful!

THE YEAR IN REFLECTION

2018 BOARD MEMBERS

Are you interested in taking your volunteer services or philanthropy to the next level? One of the benefits of membership at Pacific Wildlife Care is the opportunity to volunteer. By volunteering and serving on a board for a mission that you are passionate about is an impactful way to offer your time and make a difference!

P.W.C. has openings on its Board of Directors. We are seeking committed and forward-thinking individuals interested in filling executive and at-large member positions on its Board.

If you are interested, please contact Kimberly Perez, president@pacificwildlifecare.org for an application.

Welcome New Members & Donors (May – Aug 2017)

As you arrived, you received a Hummingbird-shaped Wildflower Seed Packet. The green signifies the 30th anniversary with the seeds that will sprout Wild Flowers just like you, the Wild Flowers who helped us Grow & Bloom and continue to help us Grow & Bloom.

The hummingbird is generally thought to symbolize devotion, permanence, eternity and life cycles. Although not commonly known, the fluttering wings of the hummingbird move in the pattern of an infinity symbol. The hummingbird’s ability to fly backwards represents our ability to look back at our past, but not dwell there.

The hummingbird is a creature that opens our hearts and gives us happiness. In reading into this symbolism, it was easy to choose it for this event. Much has gone on over the past 30+ years, and it had to in order for things to get where we are today.

We thank you for that and we thank those working with us as we continue to move forward. I guarantee we all share the same passion for the critters with whom we share this planet!
PWC’s mission is to support San Luis Obispo wildlife through rehabilitation and educational outreach. We envision Pacific Wildlife Care as an advocate for wildlife. By sharing our experiences, we inspire community participation to reduce harm to our wild neighbors.

“Thank You to all current, new & long-time supporters and volunteers for 30 years of doing your best for our important SLO County Wildlife!”

Membership/Donations Save Lives

“Yes, I would like to give wildlife a second chance!”

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I would like information on adding Pacific Wildlife Care to my will or trust.

Visit us online at www.pacificwildlifecare.org to set up a monthly subscription or pay by credit card.

Name:__________________________________________________________
Phone:____________________________________ Email:____________________
Address:________________________________________________________
City:_________________________________________ State:_____ Zip:___________ Date:_______

Please check: ☐ New Membership  ☐ Renewal  ☐ Donation  ☐ I would like to volunteer

Please mail completed form with check to Pacific Wildlife Care, PO Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

Save Wild Babies Campaign – We especially appreciate those of you who donated to our spring “Save Wild Babies” campaign and gave more than their “usual” annual dues. Since that is the purpose of such a campaign, we likely will only hold one when we truly need extra funding due to an increase in cases or unexpected rising costs of food, medications, or supplies. We were able to raise $15,250, to carry us through the busy baby season.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

Fund-Our-Vet Monthly Donors – Meg Crockett, Craig Heyl, Debra & Herb Holt

Dedication & Service Reception – Big thanks to Jack Franklin & Matthew Franklin of Franklin Real Estate & Rentals and Wes Burk of Patterson Realty for sponsoring the Circle of Gratitude: Volunteer and Staff Dedication & Service Reception. Thanks also to the Cambria Lion’s Club for the tents, Starbucks for the coffee and Steve Super for the photography (including this group photo of reception attendees).

PWC’s mission is to support San Luis Obispo wildlife through rehabilitation and educational outreach. We envision Pacific Wildlife Care as an advocate for wildlife. By sharing our experiences, we inspire community participation to reduce harm to our wild neighbors.

Board Officers
President: Kimberly Perez
Vice President: Marcelle Bakula
Secretary: Meg Crockett
Treasurer: Larry Herbst

Board Members
Kathleen Dillon

Newsletter
Editor: Marcelle Bakula
Copy Editor: John FitzRandolph
Layout: Jeanette Stone

Thank you to all who donate to make this newsletter possible.

www.pacificwildlifecare.org
(805)543-WILD (9453)