I’d like to introduce you to PWCS first education corvid, “Corax.” He belongs to the family that includes crows, jays, Magpies and nutcrackers. Corax is a raven and his designation in the ornithological world is Corvus Corax or Common Raven.

Corax came to the PWC Center in the Spring of 2012 as a nestling whose nest and nest mates had been destroyed. He was injured, but, as always, we hoped he could eventually be returned to the wild. Despite our efforts, Corax could not fly adequately to survive in the wild and the decision was made to include him in our education program.

Corvids are notoriously difficult to train because, despite being among the smartest of animals, they are extremely wary of new things and change. PWC is fortunate to have a young wildlife trainer, Karen Johnston, on staff who was experienced with education animals and was willing to work with me and Corax. Neither of us realized the time and energy it would take to earn this bird’s trust. Karen was faced with training a wild raven and a novice handler. We built a large aviary since Corax can fly in a limited way and developed a plan. Plan A quickly changed to Plan B, to C, and so on.

Karen was experienced with raptors and many other species but had not worked much with corvids. Everything frightened this bird: a new glove, a different bowl, a moved perch, including having him on the glove, walking around, an essential event for an education bird. Everything caused visible stress. At times, we were discouraged thinking we would have to give up and find a new home for a bird that we had come to know and care for.

At about the year mark, with time running out as Karen prepared to start nursing school, we had a breakthrough! Thanks to her skill and determination, it appeared Corax had achieved what David Jackson of “Zoo To You,” has described to us as “learning to learn.” Now, it was Karen and I who were wary. We’d been on a roller coaster ride of two steps forward followed by ten steps back. Was it real? I can only say that, so far, it is!

This journey will continue and we will have to ask our audiences to understand and help as Corax progresses. Karen has agreed to continue to work us into her busy schedule.

For me, it has been a most happy adventure of getting to know two engaging fellow beings: one small, black and feathered and the other tall, slender and wise beyond her years.
BEATRIZ BOOTHE HELPS PROTECT FLEDGLING MIGRATORY BIRDS

Story by John FitzRandolph – Morro Bay resident Beatriz Boothe saw the serious hazards that were impacting fledgling Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons along the Morro Bay Embarcadero last year and so, this past spring, so she did what concerned citizens should do – she took action.

Beatriz was shocked when she realized baby migratory birds were injured or in harm’s way when they fell from the eucalyptus trees that line the Embarcadero in front of the Dynegy Power Plant.

“It was really sad to see what happens,” Beatriz explained, after witnessing fledgling birds in the street being hit by cars. She felt heartbroken to see this carnage to migratory birds in the “supposedly avian-friendly, bird sanctuary-designated City of Morro Bay.” “I saw the feathers” from birds that had been killed, adding that she often took found orphans to PWC’s Rehab Center herself.

Here are a couple of my favorite memories: one, I was walking into the Center one day and found a Brown Pelican on top of the Pelibox that was housing a Great Blue Heron! What an escape artist! Also, there was the time when I helped Kathy and Jen catch raccoons who were ready for release. Oh my goodness! By help, I merely opened and closed the crate between raccoons, but you could hear screaming all the way inside the Center. Poor Jen got whacked by the end of the net and her glasses broke and both of them definitely had been peed on! Those raccoons were good and scared of humans (as it should be)!

Not only was I able to experience the thrills of daily tasks, but I was also allowed to assist Dr. Riggs on several of her procedures! Basically, I just monitored anesthesia and watched her in silence with my mouth wide open in amazement. It was an awesome feeling to know that we could finally do all we can for these animals in order to return them to the wild, and this is something I sincerely appreciated about working here.

There was never a lack of enthusiasm or genuine caring in each person’s work ethic, and this is what makes me so excited for the future of PWC. While sometimes it seems the only thanks we seem to get from the animals are warning growls, or trying to get away from us: I wanted to thank you all for making my internship a joy to come to every day!

She has taken the signs down now that fledgling season is over and her next goal is to have Dynegy pay for bigger, more visible signs in the future.

PWC salutes Beatriz for her vision, commitment to wildlife and her follow-through: she has made a difference, giving many fledglings a second chance!

BEATRIZ BOOTHE HELPS PROTECT FLEDGLING MIGRATORY BIRDS

Story and photo provided by EB McKibben

This summer, PWC offered student internships for the first time. After being a volunteer, I was privileged to be chosen as one of them, but, I wasn’t sure what to expect now that the Rehabilitation Center had been refurbished and a veterinarian had been hired!

I have been fortunate enough to work with many of the volunteers over the past couple of months and have truly enjoyed getting to know everyone as we struggle together with pelican poop, sifting superworms, giving a lovely young Barn Owl his medications while dealing with his very feisty sibling at the same time! (I don’t think we ever got that one down smoothly, but thank goodness they are in outside caging now!)

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Making an Impact – For the Better

--written by Pamela Hartmann

The year 2013 has given us reminders of the impact that each of us can make at PWC—whether staff, volunteer, or member—and that each of us is an essential link in the chain.

On a daily basis, volunteers clean, prepare food, feed animals, transport them, and answer phones. All of these are tasks which, if paid for, would be prohibitively expensive.

This outpouring of volunteer effort is good news. But there is still great need to fund those essentials that never seem very glamorous—Operations of the Center.

All the efforts of our veterinarian, staff, and volunteers are of no use without a place to work or an ability to pay for utilities, supplies, medications and food—lots of food. A single pelican, for example, devours $300 worth of fish in one month—and this year, we’ve taken in 75 pelicans.

Great news for our Fund-Our-Vet (FOV) Campaign!

1. We’re nearly half way to our goal to retain Dr. Riggs for 2014 and,

2. Matching Funds have been offered to YOU!

A pair of generous PWC members have offered matching funds for the FOV Campaign. That means, any amount you give (designated as "Vet Fund" on your check, or "FOV" option on-line), will be doubled!

Please, consider giving just that little extra to help us reach our goal....

Help Wildlife and Avoid Paying Taxes at the Same Time!

If you have a Simple IRA or SEP IRA* and are over 70 ½ years old, you are required by law to take your Required Mandatory Distribution (RMD) before December 31st. *applies to distributions from Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs

Did you know you can avoid paying income tax on that money by donating to P.W.C. (a qualified 501c3 non-profit) and help us serve our County’s wildlife patients?!

Please speak with your investment broker or your IRA custodian (listed on your 1099-R tax form) and consider helping P.W.C. Note: There are exceptions, so you should talk to your CPA or retirement specialist.

Younger Than 70.5 Years?!

If you are between 40-50 years old (when most plan for their estate’s future) and are writing your will and planning your estate, please think of P.W.C. as once of your beneficiaries. We’ll be doing our life-saving work of caring for wildlife well into the future.

Donation Boosts Fund-Our-Vet Campaign by Joyce Pardue, photo by Jeanette Stone

Richard Baccigaluppi presented a $1,000 check from Save a Life, a program within Save the Sea Turtles International, a Hawaii-based non-profit animal rescue organization.

“We have an ongoing commitment . . . to support all sorts of wildlife,” Baccigaluppi explains, “not just in Hawaii.” In a sense, through this donation, the animals in Hawaii are helping the animals here. The ‘Fund Our Vet’ campaign, in particular, was appealing to Baccigaluppi, who says, “I know how valuable the vet is.”

Baccigaluppi, who has been involved in animal rescue and sanctuary work in California and Hawaii, moved back to the Central Coast two years ago, where he first learned of Pacific Wildlife Care at an Earth Day booth. He was inspired to train as a volunteer transporter, bringing orphaned and injured wildlife to our rehabilitation Center.
Dear Pacific Wildlife Care,

Creating a new informational video for Pacific Wildlife Care was a very rewarding experience. In our Cal Poly Art and Design Digital Video class, taught by Bob Howell, we were assigned to collaborate with a local business and help create an informational video.

We chose to work with Pacific Wildlife Care because we thought it would be interesting, but we learned so much more than we originally expected. We were able to develop our cinematography and editing skills while also learning about caring for our local wildlife.

We had the opportunity to interact with many of the volunteers as they were working and see their dedication as they fed baby birds and other animals, washed pelicans, and assisted the veterinarian as she performed surgery on an injured animal.

We hope the video we created helps inform local residents, inspire the growth of PWC, and show how dedicated the volunteers truly are.

Sincerely,

Ellen Williams and Elise Greska

PS...The video link can be found on the PWC home page.
Turkey Vulture — Broken Beyond Repair?!  
In August, a young unlucky Turkey Vulture was brought to the PWC Rehab Center from Cal Poly's campus (found on the side of the road). Dr. Shannon Riggs learned from his radiograph (see below) that the bird had two fractured tibiotarsi. She performed surgery and pinned both broken legs. After only five weeks, this lucky bird was ready to go home! Our Benefactor & Patron Members were invited to view his release back at Cal Poly, near the Crop Science buildings. It was a successful release with a little viewing time and photo opportunity. We are sure he’ll be happy to see his old haunts and venue (aka kettle, the name of their social group) pals.

Left: Radiograph showing pin placement. Center photo: Dorothy Correa opens carrier for release. Right photo: Turkey Vulture # 13–1369 gets ready for take-off. 

EXCITING PELICAN RESCUE by Cubby Cashen, Sea for Yourself Kayaks

I was at work as usual on the beach at San Simeon Cove when a pier fisherman chatted with me about kayaking and fishing. As he walked away he added, “Oh yeah, about half hour ago, a pelican got caught in my fishing line and it’s now stuck in the kelp.”

After he showed me the pelican’s location (the bird was being pulled under water!) I rushed into my office, grabbed scissors, a personal floatation device and a paddle. Then I ran down the hill and jumped into the biggest single kayak I have.

The pelican was just east of the pier and both the bird and the kelp were entangled with a lot of fishing line. I maneuvered to see what the best tactic would be since the wind was howling, making it a tricky rescue. I grabbed some of the kelp and cut a few places on the fishing line that I thought might free the bird. Eventually, it could swim, but I noticed it couldn’t fly since its left wing couldn’t extend due to fishing line still wrapped around it.

I tried to guide it to shore by paddling next to it. I yelled up at the pier asking for anyone’s help, but to no avail. After an hour of paddling and trying to get someone out to help, I phoned my employee, Maxx Rivera.

He arrived quickly but by that time I was way over by the cove’s wall (San Simeon Point).

Maxx paddled out, and tried to catch the pelican. A few failed attempts and the loss of a towel later, Maxx lunged into the water and, while avoiding a few snaps of the pelican’s beak, got the pelican safely in his arms. Seeing that we had no tow-line to pull his kayak back, I used the fishing line and wrapped it around the back of my kayak and attached it to the front of Maxx’s.

Maxx found a submerged rock to stand on as I paddled around trying to get his kayak in position so he could get back in, while not losing or hurting the bird. After awhile, he got in safely and I paddled them both back to shore.

Over 2 hours on the water for this rescue! I’d already called Pacific Wildlife Care and they were on their way to retrieve this tired and stressed-out pelican.

Thanks to Maxx for risking his body and for all that time out on water. I know it was worth it!

(Thank you Cubby for caring & calling PWC every time you see wildlife in distress at “The Cove.” We know you gave up income as well as your time to do this rescue!)
PWC's mission is to rehabilitate and return to their natural habitat orphaned, pollution-damaged and injured wildlife; to educate our community to value wildlife including the need to respect the environment we share with them.

Special Thank Yous

Animal Care Clinic—for their open house $2500 donation

Beer, Band, BBQ for the Birds Fundraiser Sponsors: Pacific Beverage Company, Shameless, Sheila Blake, Craig Lane Masonry, Claudia Duckworth, Meg Crockett, Lee and JoDea Harry and Leopold & Murphey, DDS

Beatriz Boothe, Sharon Olson, Sheri Dorsey, Sarah Siverling—for going out looking for frightened by fireworks fledglings on 7/5 and, to PG&E—for working with and allowing Beatriz to put the signs up directing the public to PWC (see article inside).

Harvey Cohon—for over 6 years of Center Volunteer service and generosity! You will be missed (see article inside).

McKaila Lewis & Family—for once again this unselfish, generous girl skipped birthday gifts & collected for Pacific Wildlife Care over $850.00!

Baby Bird Room Staff: Joanne Aasen, Shawn Brown, Kathy Cain, Shannon Dorshey, Rebecca Fay, Ingrid Fagan, Laurie Greco, Sue Kay, Shelly Larsen, Ericka Mccann, Kelley Nelson, and all the other volunteers who helped us get through the Center's first baby bird season with so many little mouths to feed. Thank you Melinda Alvarado for coordinating the extra staffing. How did Debbie Buckheim & Rebecca Fay do it for so long on their own!?

Membership/Donations Save Lives

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

- Benefactor $2,500
- Patron $1,000
- Sponsor $500
- Contributor $250
- Supporter $100
- Advocate $50
- Student/Senior/Volunteer $25
- Other ________________

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

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

Who Me? Yes You!

Your gift makes it possible for local wildlife to receive the best possible care through PWC.

Please give generously before December 31.

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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

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