One of the Best Things About Volunteering at PWC
by Bonnie Lewis

It was my first day at the Rehab Center, attending volunteer training. Toward the end, someone (I now know it was Dani Nicholson) came in and asked if anyone had time to release a pelican. My hand shot up and shortly thereafter, I found myself driving down to Morro Rock with a pelican in my car!

We opened up the carrier and out he stepped. He looked at the Rock, tested his wings, then just hunched down. He stood, took another look at the Rock, tried those wings again, and was off! We watched him circle and settle down in the bay.

We went back to the Center and expressed that we really wanted to volunteer doing those releases! It was such a thrill. I have done many things since beginning my volunteering journey (Center work, transport and now I’m serving as PWC Treasurer) but have also been fortunate to be involved in several more rewarding wildlife releases.

I recall the Blue Heron released in the Morro Bay Estuary, the Turkey Vulture in Santa Margarita (who had to be coaxed out of the carrier only to meander slowly up the trail to find the perfect tree to roost in) and then, there was the time I had a Cottontail, two owls, and an American Crow in the car all at once!

I was sent off with instructions to release one owl and the Cottontail in Morro Bay State Park, but preferably, not in the same location. A slight problem arose when I called the rescuer to let her know I would be releasing the owl that they had found, and she said, “No, we rescued a crow!” Luckily, I did have the American Crow and got that straightened out. So, I met the rescuer and family at the release site. Her children had named the Crow Chloe, and we all stood and cried as Chloe flew away.

Great Blue Herons, Fulmars, American Crows, Turkey Vultures, Brown Pelicans, owls, bunnies, Virginia Opossums: where else in the world would you be able to, not only be part of their rehabilitation, but be able to share the joy when these magnificent creatures are returned to their natural habitat?! I feel very very fortunate to have found PWC and be able to share in their mission.

What’s Inside
Grand Success for PWC! On-going Staff & Volunteer Training CCWR Appointee
New format for newsletter: See insert page Wildlife Releases - New Members Calendar - Special Thank Yous

A Letter from Erica Gomez

Dear Pacific Wildlife Care,

Once again thank you for including me in the release of the Red Shouldered Hawk on Thursday. It was really special.

We (my parents and I) were amazed at the mating ritual we thought we were witnessing. Then I realized something was wrong. One of them looked stuck in the tree and the other seemed to be trying to help it. The hurt hawk fell straight down onto the street, while the other (not seen) took flight up to the left. My parents and I ran out to the street and we noticed that the healthy hawk flew by to check on its mate. We put a construction cone in the street to protect the fallen hawk and made sure no cats got to him.

We called Pacific Wildlife Care and shortly Brenda came and picked up the hawk so gracefully and took it to Debbie who untwisted its wing.

Three days later, not expecting it, I received a call from Debbie to witness the release of the hawk. It was very special for me. We released him right in my front yard. I saw the look in his eyes when he realized he had been brought back to his territory. It was amazing to see him take flight for the first time in which it seemed he was testing his wings. And then off he went to reclaim his territory and thank his mate for not leaving him high and dry in a tree.

All humans can benefit from the teachings of our feathered friends. I will never forget this experience. And I am so thankful that Pacific Wildlife Care is here on the Central Coast taking care of all wildlife.

Sincerely, Erica Gomez
Training at International Bird Research and Rescue Center

Jeanette Stone, PWC Center Director and Claudia Duckworth, Center Supervisor, spent three days at the International Bird Research and Rescue Center (IBRRC) in San Pedro in March.

While there, they learned the latest methods for caring for seabirds and oiled birds. They worked alongside staff and volunteers washing, waterproofing and conditioning grebes, loons and murres.

IBRRC is a leader in seabird care and Pacific Wildlife Care follows their protocols. The new techniques and procedures Jeanette & Claudia learned will be incorporated into the current protocols at the PWC Rehab Center.

All PWC volunteers interested in caring for seabirds or oiled birds are encouraged to contact PWC’s Oiled Wildlife Care Network Volunteer Coordinator: Marcelle (927-1017) to learn about oil spill training. (Training available on-line as video presentations or group format at the Rehab Center)

Minnesota Raptor Training

Claudia Duckworth, one of Pacific Wildlife Care’s supervisors, attended a 4 day raptor workshop at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center on May 2-6 of this year. Established in 1974 as part of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, The Raptor center rehabilitates more than 700 sick and injured raptors each year, while helping to identify emerging environmental issues related to raptor health and populations. An internationally renowned education facility, The Raptor Center trains veterinary students and veterinarians from around the world to become future leaders in raptor medicine and conservation.

The workshop included working with veterinarians in clinical settings, observing surgeries, conditioning birds on creance, raptor handling techniques, necropsy, wound and bandaging classes. Participants did hands-on work with current patients at the center. The workshop was limited to 20 students and included veterinarians, and vet techs from all over the United States as well as abroad. Claudia hopes to share what she learned with the other supervisors and volunteers at the PWC center.
Long time PWC volunteer, Kelly Vandenheuvel, was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for The California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators (CCWR).

CCWR was formed in 1993 by wildlife rehabilitators concerned with the future of wildlife rehabilitation in California. CCWR’s membership is made up of California wildlife rehabilitators, rehabilitation and rescue organizations, and regulatory agencies. These individuals and organizations focus on the care of injured and orphaned wildlife as well as provide public education. CCWR is a progressive organization dedicated to facing the issues and concerns of wildlife rehabilitators throughout California.

More info about becoming a member of CCWR: www.ccwr.org
PWC's mission is to rehabilitate and return to their natural habitat, orphaned or injured wildlife, and to educate our community to value and respect wildlife and the environment we share with them.

Spring Sprung at PWC!
In April we took in 171 wildlife cases and in May, we saw 278!!

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

- Benefactor $2500
- Patron $1000
- Sponsor $500
- Contributor $250
- Supporter $100
- Advocate $50
- Student/Senior/Volunteer $25
- Other ______

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: o New o Membership Renewal o Donation o I would like to volunteer

Please mail completed form with check to: Pacific Wildlife Care, P.O. Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

Thank you to all who donate to make this newsletter possible. www.pacificwildlifecare.org (805) 543-WILD (9453)

Board Officers
President: Dave Klinzman
Vice President: Bob Peak
Secretary: Ken Highfill
Treasurer: Bonnie Lewis

Board Members
Center Operations Chair: Jeanette Stone
Public Relations Chair: Kelly Vandenheuvel
Educational Chair: Kathy Duncan
Membership Chair: Marcelle Bakula
Website Chair: Meg Crockett
Member at Large: Marlys McPherson

Newsletter
Editor: John FitzRandolph
Design: Quincy Storm

www.pacificwildlifecare.org
Species Released

- Alligator Lizard: 1
- American Crow: 3
- American Kestrel: 1
- Anna’s Hummingbird: 1
- Band-tailed Pigeon: 1
- Bobwhite: 1
- California Gull: 1
- California Vole: 1
- Clark’s Grebe: 1
- Cooper's Hawk: 1
- Cottontail: 4
- Deer Mouse: 1
- Eurasian Collared-Dove: 5
- Golden-crowned Sparrow: 1
- Grey Fox: 1
- House Finch: 1
- Kangaroo Rat: 1
- Loggerhead Shrike: 1
- Mallard: 1
- Muskrat: 1
- Mute Swan: 2
- Myotis Californicus: 1
- Northern Mockingbird: 1
- Opossum: 8
- Raccoon: 7
- Red-shouldered Hawk: 1
- Red-tailed Hawk: 4
- Red-winged Blackbird: 1
- Rock Dove: 6
- Turkey Vulture: 1
- Weasel: 1
- Western Grebe: 2
- Western Grey Squirrel: 1
- Western Gull: 6
- Western Screech Owl: 2
- White Dove (domestic): 1
- White-throated Swift: 1

Total: 75

New Members

- Mary Ellen Bohnsack
- Charles & Marsha Braun
- Morgan Burkey
- Sarah Clark
- Philip Colaprete
- Megan Castello
- Saul David
- Joan Day
- Florrie Decker
- LKL Dunn
- L.M. Dye
- Karen Friar
- Kimberley Friend
- Susan Garman
- Jaime George
- Devon Goetz
- Pamela Graham
- Dana Grenier
- Patricia Hookestratten
- Nell Hope
- Marie P. Huck
- Amy Hypnarowski
- Cyndy Jones
- Craig Landen
- Tessa Lange
- Jennifer Langford
- Troy Lawson
- Darcy & Bruce Lazar
- Alexa Leineweber
- Sue Linsley
- Ray Mckelvey
- Polly Mertens
- Marianne Moss
- Sharon Mulkey
- Susan Oberholtzer
- Siobhan O’Toole
- Candi Pemberton
- Armit Perry
- Michael Pieschel
- Kelly Pipkin
- Karen & David Prewett
- Shelby Rhodes
- Marjorie R. Sewell
- Susan Shaw
- Debra Stevens
- Kate Stulberg
- Kathy Tobiasson
- Victoria Trautman
- Greta West
- Ashley Williams
- Shane Yu
- Michele at Spirit Winds
- Judson Terrace Residents Assn.
**Special Thank Yous / Donations**

Melinda Alvarado, Frank Alvarado, & Greg Rose for cleaning out the leaking storage unit

Claudia Duckworth - Video camera for pelagic pool ("Hind Pool")

Michael Mathews - installing Hind Pool camera & building raptor perches

Dianne Rose - Graphics donation (New Times ad)

Dave Barrows - UV sterilizer bulb

Richard Grise for organizing donations for Eagle 81 (transport donations)

Semmes & Co Builders, Inc - Solar hot water system

Solarponics, Inc. - installation of water & radiant heating system. Plus parts and labor for a
  solar water - heating system

Reid Roofing - Roof repair

Hutch Heating and Air - Sheet metal flashings

Steve Lombardi - PWC's TV public service announcement