Board of Directors Approves New Wildlife Ambassador

May 12, 2014 – The Pacific Wildlife Care Board of Directors voted unanimously to apply for a native species exhibiting permit for a Long-eared Owl. If approved, this owl will be the first of its kind in our educational/outreach program. PWC has never had an educational Long-eared Owl ambassador let alone rehabilitated one. Irreparable fractures in both wings made this bird un-releasable. This delightful young owl has responded well to training and is ready to join the Educational Team pending federal permits.

Cool Facts about Long-eared Owls, Asio otus *

- The hoot of the male Long-eared Owl can sometimes be heard up to 1 kilometer (0.7 mi) away.
- Like other owls, the Long-eared has a body adapted for silent flight and precision hunting. Flight feathers with fringed edges and downy surfaces mute the sound of the owl’s passage through air. The owls gain incredible hearing from their asymmetrically placed ear openings and large, sound-capturing facial disks.

* from online resource – All About Birds

Red-tailed Hawk in flight during creance. Photo by Jeanette Stone.
In mid-April, Carla and I were on our PWC Hotline shift and we received a call from the staff at Hearst Castle. One of the rangers there was reporting a fox kit who seemed to be abandoned.

Carla consulted with Virginia and Kathy, as mammal advisors, and it was decided to give a little more time to see if its mother would return. When the kit’s mother did not return, Carla called the Center and it was determined that the little guy/gal needed to be brought in.

I drove up to Hearst Castle while Carla covered the Hotline. Everyone I encountered knew about the little fox. I was passed through the security gate and drove up the winding road to the Castle. I found the employee parking lot and was greeted by the ranger and several staff.

They had placed the little fellow in a container with lots of soft towels. What a beautiful little fox it was: covered with soft gray fur. He was very active even though his eyes were not yet open and his umbilicus was still attached.

He was crying (probably hungry!). I covered him with a soft cloth and began the trip down from the Castle. He squirmed and mewed all the way down the hill, down Highway 1 and to the Center. In fact, he squirmed so much that he wouldn't stay covered, so I turned on the heater to keep him warm hoping the heat would calm him.

This was the best rescue/transport Carla and I have experienced so far!

The fox is now at Camarillo Wildlife Rehab facility and when ready, will be released back at the Castle. Check out PWC's Facebook page for more photos and a video: www.facebook.com/PacificWildlifeCare.
A Nurturing Surrogate

photo & story by Kelly Vandenheuvel

Fiona, a Red-shouldered Hawk, was brought to Pacific Wildlife Care as a juvenile in 2007 shortly after the Center was opened. It was quickly determined that she had a deformed wing and would not be releasable.

The decision was made to try to incorporate Fiona into PWC’s Education Program. Both Kelly Vandenheuvel and Jeri Roberts worked with Fiona to train her as an Educational Ambassador. Some progress was made – however, Fiona was uncomfortable on the glove, and therefore not ideal for educational venues. Kelly agreed to keep Fiona as a potential surrogate mother for any Red-shouldered hawk chicks we might receive.

In 2010 Fiona laid her first clutch of eggs, she brooded and incubated the infertile eggs for eight weeks. Finally, in 2013 and again in 2014, after years of laying and brooding eggs, Fiona finally had a chance to raise chicks. Because fledglings quickly learn key behaviors unique to their species, this situation is ideal.

GREAT Opportunity For PWC

PWC has received another generous offer for “matching funds” (up to $40,000!) This offer will double any dollars that meet these two criteria:

NEW MEMBERS
Can YOU buy a new membership? Think of animal-loving family, friends, neighbors – Special offer: $35 annual membership (our regular membership is $50)

(We invited all 2013 animal rescuers who were not members, to join to take advantage of this offer.)

CURRENT MEMBERS
Current Member’s “increased donation” for 2014 (Any amount over what you donated to PWC in 2013 will be matched dollar-for-dollar!)

PLEASE, help us take advantage of this generous offer!

Welcome New Members

January-April 2014
Kimberly Abraham
Sharen Adams
Noel Allan
Catherine Ansolabehere
Serena Arnold
Jack & Jeri Atnip
Maricela Bachelor
Scott Baksic
Roger Barnes
Margaret & Jim Bennett
Lori Berg
Nathaniel Bittner
Lindsey Bittner
Bill Black
Mary Blackler & Phil Wagner
Samantha Bock

Joseph Johnson
Diondra Jones
Cindy Krist
Holly Le
Carrie Lee
Michelle McCollum
Kimber Miller
Lynn Morales
Philip Noel
Robert Norrington
O’Brien Building Inspections
Eileen & Gary Orback
Laura Ormonde
Corie Owen
Joe Parkhurst
Emily Pavia
Joel Pemberton
Chris Perello
Kohana Pharmacy

Alison Piemons
Alexis Poole
Justin Purnell
Jesse Radon
Samantha Randall
Christine Reddell
Kim Ridenour
Jennifer & Andrew Robillard
Michaela Rohrbough
Jody Sahaydak
Toni Salgado
Barbara Schader
Sandy Schneider
Cheryl See
Jean Shirley
Adrienne & Mark Shouse
Chris Shuck
Melinda Sinay
Nathan Smith

Kathy Sorrells
Steven Sovizral
Jennifer Steele
Carolyn Stoebig
John Stoebig
Ross Stone
Gevrey Talbert
Caroline Trahan & William Morley
David Tyra
Chelsea Ursoleo
Anneline Van Benthem
Holly Vernazza
Margaret & Jim Bennett
June Viviani
Claudia Wagemann
Michael Walker
Alicia White
Bonnie Wolfe
Caroline Woods
Eric & Bonnie Zebe

Shirley Goetz, PWC member, was successful in rallying her community to designate Avila Beach a Bird Sanctuary. Shirley (R) holds the sign with Glenn Marshall (L) from the County Public Works Department.
Yes, I would like to give wildlife a second chance

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:  q  New Membership  q  Renewal  q  Donation  q  I would like to volunteer
Please mail completed form with check to Pacific Wildlife Care, PO Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

PWC’s mission is to support San Luis Obispo County wildlife through rehabilitation and educational outreach. We envision a community aware of and responsive to wildlife and wildlife issues.

Special Thank Yous

Scout Troop 417, Cambria – donation of office and cleaning supplies

Herb & Deb Holt – monthly subscription to support fund-our-vet in addition to their monthly dues subscription!

Anonymous Member – generous contribution toward an endoscope (A medical device consisting of a long, thin, flexible tube which has a light and a video camera for viewing the GI tract.)

Dorothy Correa & Garrett Foulke – generous donation to cover the balance for the endoscope

Valentina Petrova, Wholistic Movement Center – fundraiser for PWC (over $500)

Lisa & Randy Stromsoe – purchase of six Barn Owl boxes

Chevron Oil — $5,000 donation

Thanks to our Monthly Subscribers (90) who help cover $1,600 of our $13,000/month expenses