Sometimes it takes more than a village. Great Horned Owl 16-2693, admitted to PWC December 14, 2016 with a fracture to the right ulna, also required a lot of time and a little luck.

December 15: Veterinarian Shannon Riggs attempted to repair the fracture. She reports he was prepped for surgery when she and Rehabilitation Technician Jennifer Campbell noticed “no heart sounds . . . Seemed like bird had expired.” They “performed chest compressions, and heart sounds returned.” The bird had dodged a bullet. Four days later, a second attempt at surgery was successful, and on January 11, the pin was removed.

Moved to an aviary at the Clinic, he did not seem able to get up to the higher perches. Not a good sign. The Creance Team was called in. (The word creance, from French, refers to the cord on which a raptor is flown—a skill from falconry.) Because raptors require incredible athleticism, the bird must exhibit the ability to fly to the end of a 150-foot line ten times, with strength and good form. In four sessions, this bird proved to be a low-energy, reluctant flier. Another bad sign.

March 16: Moved to a flight enclosure on Kelly and Art Vandenheuvel’s ranch for conditioning, he didn’t fly well there, either.

May 1: He was returned to the Clinic and taken out for creance May 5. The team was tense, the consequences do-or-die. But to everyone’s amazement, he flew beautifully—strong and to the end of the line ten times.

One last obstacle: most tail feathers were broken, requiring Shannon Riggs to perform another skill from falconry—imping, in which feathers are replaced, using bamboo skewers as splints.

Healed, conditioned, and well-feathered, GHOW 16-2693 was finally released May 11 by volunteer JoAnn Smith, in San Miguel, where he had come from.
A HUGE Success!

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary, “Wild in the Plaza” was a free family day event at SLO Mission Plaza. Unique craft projects (making birds and animal masks), wildlife face painting, dressing up as a favorite animal and parading through the Plaza contributed to a joyful experience. Attendees saw a juggler riding a unicycle, hoops and silk fan performers, and strolling musicians added an element of spontaneous fun. Appearances by our Wildlife Ambassadors gave an up close view of SLO native wildlife.

Joining us were local non profits (who share our commitment to wild animals and wild places) who provided skits, activities and some of their own educational animals.

This day was made possible by a thoughtful gift from Joan Gellert-Sargen.

Welcome New Members & Donors (Jan – April 2017)

Laura Abate
Elizabeth Allstadt
Nicole Alper
Corrine Ardoin
McKenna Ashton
Jill Austin
Linda & Robert Bailey
Amanda Bassetti
Maria Bennett
Christina Berry
Willie Bermudez
The Boyer Family
Tina Browne
Lisa Bruce
John Burrows
Claudia Cadwallader
Michele Calbert
Hayley Cameron
Cayucas Cellars
Black Hand Cellars
Moonstone Cellars
Charmaine Taylor
Fang Ying Changala
Jennifer Chen
Lynn Compton
Martha Connor
David Cravy
Diana Crudeli
Jessica Crutchfield
Codie Davis
Jamie Depew
Helene & Bob Dolan
Mark Dragna
Diane Dutra
Eric Eldridge
Kenneth Emmer
Sara Esposito
Justine Evans
Nancy Farrell
Jordan Farrell
Danielle Ferraro
Raye Fleming
Briana Foster
Sarah Friar
Garrett Frice
Laura Fulton
Clint Gans
Miles Garcia-Scott
Kathleen Garrett
Tyler Gilberg
Jennifer Hajdu
Dylan Halland
Ellen Hays
Ciara Helland
Jennifer Holohan
Anezka Jahnner
Lois Johnson
Tristen Joy
Joseph Kasper
Ruby Klett
Michelle Kraker
Ted Labrenz
Laurie Lackland
Judelom & Tim LaSalle
Kathy Latt
Alya Lemos
Abe Lincoln
Mia & Solina Lindahl
Joyce Loeffler
Maria Loe
Nan Lund
Teresa Marcial
Chateau Margene
MCV Wines
Larry Meredith
Patty Moreno
Kim & Chuck Mulligan
Alexa Nino de Rivera
Noonan Family
Craig Nuttycombe
Laura & Zachary Oates
Kevin Ohm
Kirk Olsen
Marilynn Pass
Kara Pecson
Mardell & Bob Perez
Lori Perry
Ann & Richard Pettit
David Platt
Jackie & David Pope
Fawn Portugal
Dena Price
Eric Putter
Miguel Quiroz
Alex Rossen
Baylee Rowley
Frances Rushing
Chuck Sawyer
Charles Schenk
Paulette Scoville
Linda Scott
Barbara Scott
Samantha J. Seastrunk
Vincent Sementelli
Claire Sheehy
Gigia Sherman
Susan Sloan
Bev Sloyer
Julie & Ray Smith
Sherry Sobek
Shawn & Robert Stephens
Brandon Stidum
Laura Swartz
Sampa Tacorda
Bert Tibbetts
Claudia Torkelson
Scott Trees
Jeanne Tsujimoto
Doug Tuthill
Andrea & Archie Waterbury
Gerald Werner
Drs. D. & J. Wiest
Beverley Williams
Twin Coyotes Winery
Cutruzzola Winery
Camdilla Wirth
Marion & Paul Wolff
Ann Wright
Cathy Wright
Alice York
Brandon Young

Clockwise: Face painting by Kaya; Melinda Alvarado, PWC’s “bat lady;” generous event underwriter, Joan Gellert-Sargen; costumed critter; street faire entertainers; PWC volunteer, Bob Peak in his Osage Sky people, Eagle Clan ceremonial dress. Photos by Jeanette Stone & David Wolfson

Terry Cook showing Buddy’s beautiful red, tail feathers to the Kindergarten classes at the Cambria Historical Museum. Photo by Consuelo Macedo.
Kayak anglers who launch vessels from the Leffingwell Landing site in Cambria, then butcher their fish and toss the carcasses on the beach, are potentially putting wildlife at risk. PWC volunteers Susan and Mark Garman have focused for several years on this issue.

Through their continued activism and with the cooperation from California Fish & Wildlife and State Parks officials, the Garmans raised critical awareness by facilitating the printing and posting of a steel sign at Leffingwell Landing that reads, “Fish waste kills!”

The sign, also deployed on the pier at San Simeon Cove, urges fishermen to “Keep fish waste away from birds.” For one thing, fish waste presents peril for birds, because when birds get fish oil on their feathers, that contamination allows water to penetrate through their protective feathers. “Soggy seabirds are in danger from cold and starvation,” the sign explains.

Secondly, when pelicans are attracted to fish waste they risk getting bones stuck in their throats or pouches. Normally, pelicans dive for small surface fish (which they swallow whole) but they cannot digest bones from Rockfish, Cabezon or Lingcod whose dorsal fins have strong, sharp spines. When a pelican has bones stuck in its throat or pouch, it can no longer feed itself, and can slowly starve to death.

There are remedies for fishermen: a) take fish scraps home to fertilize the garden; b) deposit fish carcasses in bins with secure lids; or c) keep fish on ice and butcher them at home.

Young people from ages 5 to 17 are invited to enter an original picture of one of the following animals in its native habitat:

Pelican – Peregrine Falcon – Owl – Racoon

Artwork should be on a 8 ½ x 11” sheet of paper, and have their full name, age and contact information at the bottom. Any art medium is eligible, but it must be original. (Only one entry per person.) Please submit artwork by July 31st at any County public library or Arts Obispo, 1123 Mill Street, SLO.

Exhibition of the artwork will be displayed on Saturday, August 5 (Wild @ Heart Fundraiser) & Thursday, August 31, at Steam Alley (during SLO’s Farmers Market).

Pacific Wildlife Care retains full ownership and reproduction rights for all artwork. Permission to use artwork to promote PWC’s efforts is assumed unless otherwise indicated.
“P.W.C. depends on our members & donors to care for the orphaned, injured and oiled wildlife brought into our care (nearly 3,000 cases per year)”

IT'S ANOTHER BUSY BABY BIRD SEASON!

The Baby Bird Room (BBR) is quite full with staff and volunteers now scheduled three shifts per day from 8 am to 8 pm. As soon as the babies are self-feeding they are moving into the outside Aviary Annex.

As of this writing, we have many different species in the BBR including: Northern Mockingbird, House Sparrow, House Finch, California Towhee, Brewer’s Blackbird, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Scrub Jay, Black Phoebe, Hooded Oriole and Killdeer (in addition to the usual baby doves & rock pigeons).

It's a non-stop, constant challenge to keep the babies fed every half hour! Hats off to our BBR volunteer “bird moms/dads!”

Memberships/Donations Save Lives

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

- Benefactor $3,000
- Patron $1,500
- Sponsor $600
- Contributor $300
- Supporter $150
- Advocate $60
- Student/Senior/Volunteer $30
- 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

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