Red-tailed Hawk Release  
by Michelle Hind

Last year I became aware of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks (RTHA) nesting in Eucalyptus trees behind my house. The RTHAs had a favorite branch and they engaged in flying acrobatics and calling to each other.

After a few months it became apparent: they were raising chicks. Two juveniles called for food very loudly all day long. I got to see the young RTHAs fledge and learn to fly.

This year, I saw them again soaring and calling to each other. I got caught up watching their aerial ballet. For four weeks I saw them numerous times daily. The Saturday before our Windows into Wildlife fundraiser, I witnessed an especially amazing acrobatic display by the male.

Strangely, on Sunday morning, I did not see either bird. I went to the Center for my shift, and interestingly, my neighbor brought in an injured RTHA. Steve, a fitness fanatic, regularly runs up our mountain. He found an RTHA struggling. He wrapped the bird in his shirt, placed it in a carrier and brought it to the Center.

The RTHA was diagnosed with a head injury, so he was kept for treatment.

Meanwhile, I did not see “my” pair that day or the next. I saw a lone RTHA chasing away Turkey Vultures near where Steve had found the hawk he brought in. Tuesday, as I played with my dog, a lone RTHA circled the field. It called and circled quite high. I saw no hawks Thursday or Friday and at no time did I see any in the Eucalyptus subsequent to the injured RTHA’s appearance at the Rehabilitation Center.

Some time later I got the OK to release the RTHA we had. Steve went with me and we found a nice flat spot near the stand of Eucalyptus. I gently eased the RTHA out of the carrier and we backed away. He sat still with his mouth open. The wind blew his feathers. We backed further away. He looked around. The wind blew again. He closed his mouth. Then, he was up and off! He flew directly to the Eucalyptus trees.

Ten percent of sales goes to PWC!

Ten percent of sales goes to PWC! Save up your nursery and garden purchases for the weekend of June 23 and 24th, Sage Eco Gardens & Nursery (1188 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos) will be donating 10% of all your purchases to PWC. Also visiting will be some of Pacific Wildlife Care’s amazing educational ambassadors including raptors and mammals. Your purchases will not only enhance your garden, but benefit us in our wildlife rehabilitation efforts.

Grant Award

We are happy to announce that in April we were awarded a $10,000 grant from the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund which is designated for the purchase of food for raptors and seabirds while in our care. We are actively pursuing other grant opportunities and welcome recommendations of any other grantmaking organizations you may know of that include wildlife in their categories of interest. If you have suggestions, please email them to: mleefidler@sbcglobal.net

Introducing a New Committee  
by Meg Crockett

A group of volunteers formed the Recruitment and Retention Committee this past winter. Their goal was to enhance and support the activities of Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC) while adhering to and being consistent with PWC’s mission in recruiting and retaining volunteers.

One of the major tasks accomplished so far has been to write and conduct a survey of 131 volunteers. Seventy-five responses were received. Of those, 46 are Center Volunteers, 28 are Transport Volunteers, 26 are Phone Volunteers, 5 are Home Rehabilitators and 9 responded “other.” Sounds like 114 doesn’t it? But no, a lot of our volunteers wear more than one hat! The range of time they had been volunteers with PWC was: 10% for 5-10 years, 19% for 3-4 years, 31% for 1-2 years, 14% for 7-11 months, and 27% for 6 months or less.

Our respondents ages varied: 3% were under 20, 12% were in their twenties, 8% in their thirties, 14% in their forties, 27% in their fifties, 32% in their sixties, and 4% in their seventies. The top reasons for volunteering with PWC were: 1) “PWC is doing excellent work which I feel is important,” 2) “It gives me a way to give back,” and 3) “I am truly inspired by the mission of PWC.”

The respondents gave many thoughtful and useful suggestions for improvements to the organization which the committee is sharing with the Board of Directors, the Center Supervisors, with other appropriate committee Chairs and with the Volunteers themselves. Additional comments can be sent to yols4pwc@pacificwildlifecare.org.

The committee is available to speak to organizations and groups that have potential volunteers, members, or donors.
Meetings:

Public Events:

Calendar Dates

Orientations/Trainings:

Volunteer

Kai’s Story by Richard Grise

PWC’s youngest active member is 5 year old Kai Johnson. A remarkable person not only in his appreciation of and ability to identify all of the wildlife in the wall photos and art at the PWC Rehabilitation Center’s lobby and conference room, but back at home in Nevada, Kai sprang into action after his first visit in 2011. He saved for a year, and last month, donated 100% of his savings to PWC in order to “...help animals get better and give them a better chance and also, some food.”

Kai again spent a week on the Central Coast in January 2012 with his family and his one request for was to see PWC’s Rehab Center, so, he joined me on a brief tour in February. On site, donning his PWC logo shirt and safety glasses, Kai already knew that “towels are used to cover the animals’ eyes,” that “opossum are more like kangaroos than rodents,” that the “soft crates help the birds’ wings get hurt less,” and that “the outside aviary was the place the birds practiced before they went back home into the wild.”

Pretty amazing at 5 years old (with exuberant confirmation by Liam, his 3 year old brother). Their pure joy and wonder at the Rehab Facility helps us to also see the operation through fresh eyes and with a renewed spirit.

I am encouraged and grateful to this next generation and proud to know this amazing and supportive family. Kai’s special thank you artwork (below) is posted on the Center’s bulletin board and his energy and passion still lingers in our halls. Kai Johnson and his family exemplify those relationships we hope to foster throughout the years and who will be our future in wildlife rehabilitation and education.

Maybe you know folks eager to become involved? We welcome memberships to all ages, and encourage community advocates and support at many levels. What stories are you helping PWC unfold?

How children can help Pacific Wildlife Care by Marilyn Fidler

Many of our members ask about how children can become involved with Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC). Although people who work with wildlife must be at least 18 years old, some of our enterprising younger members have been successfully raising funds for PWC.

Most recently, for a school project, Jessica Thompson and her mom Toby sold home-baked cookies in front of Spencer’s in San Luis Obispo. They raised over $125 in just four hours to support PWC! At this writing, they plan another appearance at Farm Supply in San Luis Obispo on May 5. Knowing Jessica’s impressive salesmanship and her enthusiasm, she is bound to have another successful day. If you and your children are interested in doing something similar, please send an email inquiry to mleefidler@sbcglobal.net

Other young supporters have helped PWC by collecting items from our wish list including:

- newspapers
- towels, blankets and sheets
- cleaning supplies such as sponges, brooms & mops
- unscented bleach, laundry detergent and dish soap
- toilet paper, facial tissue (unscented), paper towels
- hand sanitizers (pump dispensers)

For a current PWC wish list, please go to:

www.pacificwildlifecare.org/center_wishlist.html

Special Thank Yous

- Melinda Alvarado, Virginia Flaherty & Ken Highfill - generating the new preventive Humane Eviction and Exclusion Program.
- Neil Charboneau - seabird pool cleaning
- Josh Cohen - cage enhancement and seabird pool monitoring
- Kai Johnson - for breaking his piggy bank for PWC! (see related story)
- Bellvue-Santa Fe Charter School students, Denae Fickes and Isabella Fernandez - fundraising efforts
- Bob Peak - for his efforts in successful re-nesting program
- All who attended the Windows into Wildlife fundraiser - for helping us raise nearly $7,000 of our $10,000 Fund-a-Need goal and thanks to all volunteers who put on the event.
A group of firefighters in California Valley had discovered a nestling Great Horned Owl on the ground the evening before my Phone Volunteer shift. They watched it as it lay under the bushes until morning. The mother was talking to the baby, but did not appear to be feeding it.

After consulting three different raptor advisers, and determining that the owl was uninjured, it was advised that they should fashion a nest and put the owlet in it and place it near the old nest. They battled an aggressive mother, a biting owlet, (and even the station’s resident cat), but they remained steadfast. Using their longest ladder, they navigated through the trees to get the owlet re-nested. They tied the makeshift nest to the tree with wire and watched until its mother took over. When we spoke, we joked that the owlet should be their new station mascot, possibly named Vicious’! If another baby owl falls from a tree, this department will know who to call. Congratulations California Valley firefighters!

Welcome New Members
(January-April)

Rosemary Canfield
Rita Carlson
Carmel & Naccasha LLP
Helen Compton
Ron Dickey
Susan Dumeyer
Carolyn Elliott
John Feinblatt
Denae Fickes
Carla Flanders
Jennifer Foca
Sarah Garland
Burton Harris
Steve & Cindy Heaton
Donna Hoag
Kelly Hood
Carlene S. Howland
Nancy Ingalls
Wolfgang John
Juliana Johnson
Amy Johnson
Kai & Liam Johnson
Jane Jorgensen
Gene & Mimi Kalland
Shelly Larsen
Sandra c. Lett
Margaret Levine
Judi Lindsay
Marguerite Lyons
Emily Malan
Leslie McGarry
Tim McLaughlin
Lois Merritt
Tari Metcalfe
Priscilla Mikesell
Nancy & Bruce Morene
William Moses
Amy Naff
Ann E. Parker
Richard Pearsall
George Pecci
Deborah Penn
Eric Peterson
Rachel Pindroh
Sherry Pogorzelski
Ryan Purtill
Joanne Richards
Hayley Seitz

Frank Silva
Laura Sparks
Kaitlin Stallcup
Jessica Stief
Ilona Stone
Julie Thompson
Victoria Tyman
Linda & George
Van Housen-Vadney
Yolanda Waddell
Walt Weller
Stephen Williams

Species Released
January-April

American Coot 1
American Crow 3
American Kestrel 2
American Robin 1
Anna’s Hummingbird 1
Barn Owl 8
Black Phoebe 5
Black-crowned Night Heron 1
Brandt’s Cormorant 1
Brown Pelican 2
Brown Rat 1
California Quail 1
Cedar Waxwing 2
Clark’s Grebe 2
Cliff Swallow 2
Common Murre 8
Cooper’s Hawk 1
Cottontail 2
Eared Grebe 2
Eurasian Collared-Dove 9
Golden-crowned Sparrow 2
Gopher 1
Great Horned Owl 2
Hermit Thrush 1
Horned Grebe 3
House Sparrow 1
Mexican Free-tailed Bat 1
Opossum 12
Pacific Loon 2
Pallid Bat 1
Raccoon 5
Red-shouldered Hawk 3
Red-tailed Hawk 2
Ring-billed Gull 1
Rock Dove 4
Screech Owl 3
Swainson’s Thrush 1
Turkey Vulture 2
Western Grebe 8
Western Grey Squirrel 2
Western Gull 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
Total 114

Fabulous food tables designed by PWC volunteer Donna Herbst.

Volunteer, Tera Galanti and wildlife ambassador, Xena the Kestrel, in front of the “fund a need” Raptor poster.

Volunteer Jenni Clayton meets Morro, PWC’s wildlife ambassador Peregrine Falcon.

Volunteers, Marty Brown (R) pointing to the talented Leonna Martinez (L), responsible for the beautiful WIW poster artwork.

Table Photo by John FitzRandolph
Photos (below) by Debbie Buckheim
Enjoy Fine Dining While Supporting PWC

Currently: 16 plus local restaurants with more added all the time! Sign-up your credit card at http://escrip.rewardsnetwork.com then every time you use that credit card Pacific Wildlife Care will get up to 5%. All you have to do is eat fine foods!

- Mama’s Meatball
- Splash Cafe
- Laguna Grill
- Thai Palace
- Chino’s Rock & Tacos
- Basil Thai Restaurant
- Cass Winery
- Fat Cats
- Petra Mediterranean Pizza
- SloCo Pasty
- Buffalo Pub
- American Sheep Bar & Grill
- Marston’s Bar & Grill
- Vallarta’s Bar & Grill
- Chilli Peppers
- Taco Roco

Membership/Donations Save Lives

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

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

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

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