Recovering Red-tailed Hawk — One Fortunate Bird

A handsome Red-tailed Hawk is alive and recovering at PWC thanks to volunteer Shelly Larsen, thanks to PWC veterinarian Shannon Riggs, and many thanks to those who chipped in to fund Shannon’s vitally important position for 2014.

On January 9th, Shelly was heading to the PWC rehab center when she observed the bird on the white line at the edge of 101 near Arroyo Grande. It appeared stunned, most likely grazed by a speeding car. Shelly safely pulled over, wrapped the bird securely in a towel and continued on to the center.

X-rays were taken and revealed a fractured jaw and broken wing. During surgery, Shannon cleaned the wound, sewed the mouth and pinned the jaw. The wing was broken too close to the joint for surgery but Shannon gave it support and as of this writing this beautiful bird is recovering.

The year 2013 was one of great progress for Pacific Wildlife Care. This began in January with the pivotal addition of Dr. Shannon Riggs, whose expertise has made it possible for PWC to make use of all manner of new treatments and medicines. Also, having a full-time veterinarian has meant that – for the first time – our wildlife patients do not have to wait for someone to arrange transport to an area vet’s office and then wait at that office for treatment, later to endure repeated trips for x-rays, surgery, and rechecks. All of these steps are now accomplished at our Morro Bay Rehabilitation Center.

In early 2013, the Center was also reorganized, streamlined, and outfitted with new equipment. These changes may seem like "old news" at this point, but they have improved our ability to function smoothly, and we are grateful for the contributions that brought them about.

More recently, we were fortunate to have two separate matching funds available to us. Last fall, we used the first, $20,000 from the Woods Family Foundation, to raise an additional $20,000 for the operating expenses (medicine, food, water, utilities, etc.) that allow us to treat all the species that come to us. The second was an anonymous matching fund offered to help us retain Dr. Shannon Riggs for 2014. We had originally received funds from the Vetter-Winters Trust for her salary for one year, through 2013, and were intent on keeping her services through the next year. We trusted that our fantastic supporters would come through with the amount needed, and thanks to several special members who put up the matching fund and many others who met the challenge with their contributions, we achieved that goal.

By the end of 2013, we had taken in and cared for more than 2,000 birds, mammals & reptiles. Thanks to Pacific Wildlife Care’s Veterinarian, Senior Rehabilitators, Volunteers, and YOU, our informed, caring members who made this possible.
Releases
Sept - December 2013
1  Acorn Woodpecker
2  American Coot
2  American Crow
1  American Kestrel
2  American Robin
6  Anna's Hummingbird
4  Band-tailed Pigeon
11  Barn Owl
1  Black-headed Grosbeak
2  Black-tailed Jackrabbit
1  Bonaparte's Gull
6  Brandt's Cormorant
17  Brown Pelican
1  California Gull
3  California Quail
3  California Towhee
2  California Vole
2  Cedar Waxwing
2  Clark's Grebe
1  Common Gray Fox
2  Cooper's Hawk
1  Costa's Hummingbird
1  Desert Cottontail
7  Eared Grebe
23  Eurasian Collared-Dove
1  European Starling
1  Fox Sparrow
1  Golden Eagle
1  Great Blue Heron
5  Great Horned Owl
2  Hermit Thrush
1  Hooded Oriole
2  House Finch
2  Lesser Goldfinch
4  Mallard
1  Mexican Free-tailed Bat
1  Mourning Dove
2  Northern Fulmar
22  Northern Raccoon
1  Orange-crowned Warbler
1  Pallid Bat
1  Peacock
1  Red-shouldered Hawk
2  Red-tailed Hawk
2  Ring-billed Gull
12  Rock Pigeon
1  Ruddy Duck
1  Striped Skunk
3  Turkey Vulture
1  Varied Thrush
43  Virginia Opossum
13  Western Grebe
8  Western Gull
2  Western Pond Turtle
1  Western Spotted Skunk
1  Wild Turkey
1  Yellow Warbler

Golden Eagle Returns Home
This adult Golden Eagle arrived at our Rehab Center on November 7 after being found unable to fly on a ranch near Creston. The bird had injuries consistent with electrocution, including a burn on her upper chest and swelling and weakness of the opposite foot. It often takes time for the extent of electrocution injuries to become apparent, but luckily, this eagle's injuries proved to be relatively minor. She rapidly recovered her strength and appetite.

After spending a week conditioning at the Ojai Raptor Center she was ready to go. The upper photo was taken shortly after releasing her from a transport carrier. She takes one look back to make sure no one is following her. In the next photo, she surveys her territory over the hills of Creston – home at last!

There is nothing more wonderful than to see this amazing animal back where she belongs.

Read the entire story and more at www.slocoastjournal.com/docs/pwc.html

Photos by Jeanette Stone

Center Facility Update: Flight enclosures 4 & 5 are re-done at last! New vertical & horizontal lath has replaced the old netting. Both flights have new rodent-proof gates, soothing green paint and all new perches. Big thanks to the tear-down team, Chris Hudson and John Feinblatt. Thanks to the paint and perch team, Jack Lowe and Donna Wright. Roger Grizzle Construction did an excellent job with the new lath in just 3 days. Kathleen pre-painted the lath materials, which helped speed up the completion date. We're going strong on projects - so stayed tuned for the next new happenings!!
Engaging our Local Communities
— through volunteer training, public outreach, events and social media

This year over 20 skills training classes for our more than 150 center, hotline and rescue/transport volunteers have been scheduled. Pictured above is Veronica Bowers, founder and director of Native Songbird Care & Conservation in Sebastopol, CA, who gave a class to our volunteers on the care and proper feeding of songbirds on January 26, 2014.

Our educational outreach and hotline volunteers interact with over 10,000 SLO County residents annually. Our wildlife ambassadors touch the hearts and minds of everyone who sees them. Outreach volunteers teach about the importance of wildlife to the overall ecosystem while our hotline volunteers focus on resolving wildlife issues in our county.

Our signature fundraisers** like last year’s Soupabration not only raise funds to keep PWC operating but encourage the public to get involved. Public events such as Earth Day & the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival raise awareness about the issues wildlife face. **Save the date for the Sixth Annual Windows into Wildlife, March 30, featuring a local farm-ag tour.

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Our PWC website, Facebook page, YouTube channel and blog help spread the word about our events, fundraisers, center & volunteer activities. You can help by ‘liking us’ on Facebook and by sharing wildlife stories with friends & family. As of February 2014, PWC will have a monthly column in slocoastjournal.com.

spread the word by sharing this important information with friends, family and neighbors. consider writing a letter-to-the-editor to your local newspaper.

**Save the date for the Sixth Annual Windows into Wildlife, March 30, featuring a local farm-ag tour.

Fawns
If you find an uninjured fawn, do not pick it up! Keep people and dogs away so that the mother can return. Fawns are often left alone for long periods of time while the mother goes off to forage.

Baby Birds
If the bird has no feathers, it is a nestling and it needs to be brought to our Rehab Center to be checked for injuries or cat/dog punctures. If uninjured, it can be returned to the nest the same day (So, try to locate the nest for re-nesting.)

Young Fledgling Birds
Most fledgling birds cannot fly when they first leave the nest. They are often found hopping around on the ground. Keep pets and children away. The parents will continue to care for and encourage them to learn to fly. This is an important learning period in the little bird’s life and lasts only a few days.

Baby Mammals
We get calls regarding raccoons and opossums whose parents have been trapped, with babies left to die. Do not trap and relocate opossums, raccoons, or skunks. The babies will soon grow up and the family will usually go on its way. If you need help, call 805-543-WILD (9453).

PWC Humane Exclusion Program
For a fifty-dollar donation, PWC exclusion experts will help homeowners with wildlife in their attic, garage or under their house or deck. They will help solve the “problem” in a humane way so the wildlife can move back to their native habit.

please share these reminders:
- don’t trim bushes or trees before checking for nests!
- never feed orphaned or injured wildlife.
- bring injured or orphaned wildlife to the PWC Rehab Center ASAP!
- keep your pet cat indoors during spring baby season.

Welcome New Members (September-December 2013)

Linda Abernathy  Joel Anderson  Pam Lock  Jamie Reed
Joel Anderson  Richard Echternach  Rhiann Maxwell  Leslie Richards
Gary Elem  Felicia Medrano  Shannon Riggs  Enrique Sanchez-Rivera
Thomas & Ruth Fetterman  Sarah Mendes  Christopher Skiff
First Unity Church of Cambria  Vita Miller  Ann Smith
Jennifer Gill  Nancy Ann Moen  Anne Spohnhauer
Shirley Goetz  Monterey Zoological Society  Wendy Stormes
Gay Grooms  Dianne Moore  Arlene Tan
Larry Hazen  Sandra Moyer  Brandon Todd
Barbara Hofer  Danny Neil  Arlene Tan
Jordyn Holt  Jennifer Nicholson  Brandon Todd
Peggy Hypse  Tristan Noack
Michael Inglis  Oso Libre Por Vida
Fallon Jeffers  Karen Ott
Linda Kipe  Pacific Beverage
Lynn Lane  Daniel Perez
Mary Langford McCrea  Briana Perry
Don Rapp  PG & E Employees Assn.
Kim Lindbery  Enrique Sanchez-Rivera

Facebook
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

Chevron Oil Corporation – for a $2,000 grant.
Glide Foundation – for a $5,000 grant.
Woods Family Foundation – for a $20,000 grant used for matching funds.
Debra & Herb Holt – for a $30 per month subscription to Fund-Our-Vet in addition to membership.
Susan Dumeyer – for mentoring our new Center Volunteers.

Duane Waddell – for donating a 2001 Nissan Sentra for PWC to sell & to Jack & Christine Lowe – for buying Duane’s Nissan (earning us matching funds from the Woods Family Foundation Grant).
Kathleen Dillon & Melinda Alvarado – for cleaning out storage areas behind PWC and for reorganizing the Center’s Baby Bird Room.
Frank Alvarado – for installing the overhead light in the intake area.
Larry Kahn – for building squirrel nest boxes.
ALL our Members – for donating to our two matching funds that allowed us to meet both of our goals!

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