

Tracks



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photo courtesy Paul Morsen, Wildlife Photography

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California Quail

winters, low rainfall, great ground cover and plenty of vegetation to eat. Quail eat leafy plants, acorns, fruits and berries, leftover crops and insects.

During the fall and winter, California quail gather in groups called coveys. In a covey, the quail tend to imitate one another and exhibit cooperative behavior. For example, when one bird finds a good supply of food, it will call to the others and lead them to it. Likewise, when they perceive danger, they will warn the others with a certain call.

After laying a clutch of 12-16 spotted cream-colored eggs, the female will incubate them for 20 days. Occasionally she will lay a second group of eggs, after raising the first brood. Once the chicks are hatched, both parents tend to the young. The chicks grow rapidly and are capable of short flights by the time they are a little over two weeks of age. The average rate of mortality in young quail can be as high as 74 percent; only one bird in several thousand lives to be five years old.



photo by Paul Higgens

Who Am I?

by Mary Robichaux

Do you know what California's state bird is? It's the California quail, a ten-inch bird with a noticeable teardrop-shaped plume, called the top-knot, on the top of its head. These are elegant hen-like birds. The male is more brilliant in color because of a black throat and white stripe on its forehead and around the neck. The female has a smaller top-knot and no white or black markings.

These ground birds move about very well. They can take flight quickly but for only short distances and actually prefer to run rather than fly.

Quail can survive in a wide variety of habitats. They enjoy the open woodlands, forests, stream valleys, and suburban areas. As long as they have food to eat, water to drink and some type of cover to hide in, they are perfectly happy. You'll notice an abundance of California quail in the Sacramento Valley foothills where they enjoy mild

Tracks...

Published four times a year, **Tracks** is the newsletter for the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley. Submit photos and articles to Janet Alexander at janet_alexander@msn.com

Our Mission

To provide high quality care and rehabilitation of injured, sick and orphaned wildlife within the Silicon Valley community. Through education programs, we foster a positive coexistence between the general public and wildlife and encourage an interest in and concern for wildlife conservation issues.

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Wildlife Awareness Day 2004
...to all our participants...

Many Thanks!



photo by Paul Morsen



From the President...

It is September and the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley's 11th busy baby season is winding down. As I write this I can't help thinking how far we have come in that short time and in the five years I have been a WCSV volunteer. Even more than usual at this time of year, we are filled to the rafters with wildlife and volunteers and staff are fully stretched just keeping up with endless daily tasks. Each time I visit the Center I marvel at how we are able to do all that we do. Each day seems to bring new challenges and successes and this season is no exception. WCSV staff and board members are busy planning how best to meet the current and future needs of our organization so that we can serve wildlife and our communities with the highest quality services.

At our August and September board meetings, we discussed two of the most critical needs facing WCSV. Carmel de Bertaut, Animal Care Coordinator, Janet Alexander, Director of Operations, and Chris Simpson, Board Member, made presentations on West Nile Virus (WNV) and its impact on our area so far. It is difficult to predict just how hard hit local wildlife will be but our Center is already seeing the effects of this terrible epidemic. The cost to WCSV will be high. Witnessing the horrible symptoms of this disease is certain to cause emotional distress for our volunteers and staff. Diagnosing, treating, housing and caring for WNV victims during their long recuperation- if they can even live through the disease- has profound ramifications for our operations, facility and budget. Our discussions

centered around planning and projecting so that we can obtain the resources we need to deal effectively with this virus as it is predicted to become a serious issue for wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation organizations in our region. In addition to extra medicine, equipment, food and supplies, we need a new building in which to house affected wildlife. Santa Clara County Vector Control has advised us that we should try to isolate as many suspected and confirmed WNV cases as possible to lessen the risk of spreading the virus. Currently, we are using every square inch of our facility and we have very little capacity for increased space for isolation. Acquiring a new modular building after meeting the required County permit process, relocating the unit, reconstructing it and installing plumbing and electricity in it are all major challenges we need to face over the next several months. We need to be prepared for a possible onslaught of diseased wildlife demanding our care. You will hear more about our West Nile Virus plans and challenges as we experience the impact of the disease and ask you to help us put strategies in place to cope with it.

The second critical, but no less important, need is to hire an Executive Director who can provide the resource development, management, oversight, leadership and vision our organization requires at this point in its existence. Each year we manage, but each year is a constant struggle. We provide valuable services to wildlife and the communities we serve but we always seem to be

putting out fires and jumping from one small (or not so small!) crisis to the next. We are so busy solving the day-to-day problems of the Center and



Kathy St. John, Board President

focusing only on the immediate future that it is difficult to put aside time, energy and resources to take the first steps necessary to build the infrastructure we need for the viability and sustainability of our organization.

The board first identified the need for an Executive Director a couple of years ago. Since that time we have been doing research and analysis and putting the blocks in place for this foundation building that will enhance the present and future of the Wildlife Center. This past January at our board/staff strategic planning retreat we added hiring an Executive Director to our list of short term goals to be accomplished in 2004. After a great deal more research, analysis and discussion the board voted that we would pursue hiring an Executive Director by the end of the first quarter of 2005. We firmly believe this is the right decision for our organization at this time. An Executive Director, as a paid staff member and professional, can pay attention and respond effectively to the operations and needs of the Center in the detail and with the time, energy and skills that a volunteer board simply cannot.

Although we know this decision will challenge our already strapped budget we know that the fact is we can no longer afford NOT to direct financial resources to this critical professional leadership position. Each board member has made a personal commitment to bringing in the resources we need to make this position viable. While we approach this venture cautiously and prudently, we also look forward to this advance with great dedication and enthusiasm for the positive and necessary changes this will bring to the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley. We invite you to share our vision and commitment and help us make WCSV all that we can and should be for the wildlife and people of Silicon Valley.

Wish List

Your help in acquiring these items would be greatly appreciated. Remember your generous donations are tax deductible.

Equipment

- Heating pads (no auto shutoff please)
- Heat lamps
- Camouflage netting
- Baby bird incubator
- Pentium 4 or newer computers/equipment
- Portable generator
- X-ray machine/film
- Foot pedal garbage cans
- Aviary materials (call for details)

Basics

- Copier paper
- Laundry detergent
- Unscented toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Bleach (no UltraClorox)
- Unscented facial tissue
- 15 and 33-gal garbage bags
- Distilled water
- Esbilac (puppy formula)
- KMR (kitten formula)
- Canned cat food
- Plain millet
- Wild bird or finch seed
- Raw peanuts (in shell)
- Walnuts (in shell or chopped)
- Feline Maintenance Science Diet
- Fresh/frozen whole fish

Species Highlight: White-Throated Swift

by Sarah Kishler

Dizzying speed is the white-throated swift's (*Aeronautes saxatilis*) specialty. Able to fly at over 200 miles per hour, it is believed to be the fastest bird in North America. The speedy insect-catcher forages for its diet entirely in the air, swooping and diving to catch its prey like its cousin the swallow. The swift's swiftness no doubt also comes in handy when fleeing from predators like the Peregrine falcon.

Eating isn't the white-throated swift's only airborne activity. Truly a creature of the sky, its remarkable courtship ritual takes place entirely in flight. The male and female will face each other at a respectable altitude and then fly to each other to mate. With their bodies locked together, the pair will tumble down with each other for as much as 500 feet and then part.

In the summer months, white-throated swifts are found from British Columbia to the Rocky Mountains to the Southwest deserts to (of course) Northern California. They spend winters in Mexico and Central America.

White-throated swifts tend to nest in cliffs and canyons, but have been able to adapt to urban surroundings and will also roost in such places as freeway overpasses.

The white-throated swift is the only one of the four North American swift species with black and white coloring. Its forked tail is a little longer than other swifts' tails. Females and males are indistinguishable in plumage.



Due to their lightning pace and the inaccessibility of their nest sites, we humans still know relatively little about them. Still, hopefully the amazing facts and behavior that we *have* been able to observe will inspire us to live as harmoniously with them as possible.

Volunteer Highlight: Joe Pollick Man of All Trades with an Observing Heart

By Susan Schuller

Volunteers for the Wildlife Center often work directly with animals. But they also contribute in other creative, indispensable ways. Joe Pollick is one such volunteer, a man who combines expert technical and handy-man skills with a humbly deep respect for wildlife, and the kinship that exists between human beings and other animals.

"People need animals in their lives", Joe says. "We need wildness. A silent spring with no birds like the one Rachel Carson wrote about would be a very sad thing to endure. Too often when man and animals cross paths, it's the animals that lose. I like to think that the Wildlife Center gives the animals a better chance. The Center tries to help animals carry on the next generation of their respective species."

When Joe retired from his career as an electrician at Silicon Valley Power in 2001, he began looking for ways to make animals and nature

a more integral part of his life. One day in March of 2003, he was walking in Penetencia Creek Park and saw a sign for the Wildlife Center. "I went in and asked the person at the desk, who turned out to be Janet Alexander, if I could volunteer. She said that it just so happened there was an orientation for new volunteers scheduled for the upcoming Saturday."

Joe went to that orientation and has been volunteering his time on Thursday mornings ever since. Some of his projects include repairing the Center's water heater, fixing an electrical panel that malfunctioned, and reengineering the doors on squirrel cages to open outward rather than inward, thus eliminating the problem of the cage doors getting stuck in gravel. Joe has also enjoyed hands-on experiences with the animals. Recently, he helped care for an opossum who had been brought into the Center with serious puncture



wounds. Joe worried that the animal might not recover, but one week later when he returned to the Center he found the opossum much improved, even displaying spunky behavior.

Asked what advice he would offer new volunteers, Joe said, "Observe the animals. They will teach you what their needs are. A baby animal in an incubator for instance, wants food. It wants food from you, an utterly different species! That's the wonder! Animals are more honest than we are. Observe them: They will teach you."



As the Crow Flies *By Janet Alexander*

One day earlier this summer, we noticed a beautiful young black crow hanging about the Center. When the volunteer crews were outside feeding and cleaning the ducks, this youngster would land on the redwood fence and “talk” to them. He would follow them from one enclosure to another, hoping for hand-outs of food and just wanting to be part of the scene. Some of us would discretely leave peanuts and other (healthy) goodies for him to feed on. Over the next few weeks, he became an all-too-familiar fixture to us, landing on cars and animal control vehicles as they pulled up to the front of WCSV.

It didn't take us too long to figure out that he'd been “dumped” at our site—after some well-intentioned person had probably found him as a very young nestling or fledgling and had raised him alone for some time. In a short time, he had probably become more than this person had bargained for and therefore they thought they could just drop him off at the Center where he'd have a good chance of being cared for.

He became bolder and bolder by the day. He'd sit on the arbor by the front gate and play with spider webs for hours. He'd beg for food. He'd greet volunteers and others as they came and went. I could reach out and touch his foot and he didn't seem to mind.

One day, as Mika and I were hard at work in the front office, we heard a tap at the door. We looked toward the sound, and there he was—peering in the glass door, tapping on the glass, as if he thought he should be let inside! We started

to get more and more concerned for his well-being. We all knew it wouldn't be long before he ended up in the wrong hands.

Over the next few weeks, other young crows that had been patients at the Center were soft-released here on-site. (Soft releases are typically done at the Center, where we set up feeding stations so the animal can gradually get used to being free.)



As time passed, it appeared our friend had become the “leader of the pack” amongst this new group of birds. Crows, by nature, flock in large family units. At first he encouraged the other juveniles to socialize with us. Then, gradually, over the next several weeks, he started affiliating more and more with his “flock” than with people. We like to believe he is mentoring his new family.

Today, we still recognize him on the treetops nearby the Center, where he seems to have set up permanent residence with some of the other crows we have released this summer. He still sits on the telephone poles and caws to us, but he now also has his ‘family.’ He also does a great woodpecker imitation.

I think this bird is one of the luckier ones—he may have been raised alone by some well-intentioned individual, but fortunately for him, he was able to revert to being a real crow. Not all wild animals raised by humans are lucky enough to live a normal life, nor do all have a happy ending.

If there is a moral to this story, it would be that when you find a wild creature, call the Center and get the proper information on what to do with it. We may tell you to put it back where it was found. We may tell you to bring it to us for treatment. But we would NEVER tell you it is okay to keep it under any circumstances.

It sometimes brings a tear to my eye to watch the crow behaving as he should ... all things wild should remain wild. He lives happily amongst friends, wild and human. None of us have the right to make a wild animal into a pet. Nor does the law allow for it.

Editor's note: Wildlife rehabilitation centers never raise a wild animal by itself to avoid imprinting or socialization. A wild animal always needs to identify with its own species, and not humans. Imprinting is a process that causes the newborn animals to become rapidly and strongly attached to social objects such as parents or parental surrogates (humans in this case). Imprinting is NOT reversible. Socialization is the process by which the animal is habituated to humans, but not necessarily imprinted. It is reversible to varying degrees.

Fammatre School Makes a Difference! *By Trudi Burney*



In May of this year I had the pleasure of addressing 400 Fammatre Elementary school children and teachers in San Jose. They asked us to come and talk about local wildlife species, challenges and the rehabilitation efforts at WCSV.

Presentations to five to ten year olds are always a lively experience, with kids wiggling and giggling (especially when you show pictures of skunks) on the floor of the auditorium. I rapidly made my way through the talk and finished with a shout of “who wants to help wildlife?” They cheered in return, “I do, I do!”

And they did. Later that same month, 400 kindergartners through fifth graders participated in a walkathon that raised money for their school. Each year they also give back to the community. This year, they chose WCSV as the recipients of some of the money they collected. And, in June during our open house they handed us a check for \$500.

We are very proud of these kids and so grateful for their contribution. The funds they raised will help produce educational literature so we may continue teaching future generations.

For All Life's Sake, Keep Cats Indoors!

by Kathleen M. Cabill

Elaine was worried. Tomorrow was moving day and her cat, Olive, hadn't been home in several days. Olive loved playing outside during the day, wandering through the neighborhood, but always returned at night. Where could she be? The next day Elaine left for her new home in Sacramento, asking the neighbors and her brother to be on the lookout for Olive. She herself searched for her the next few weekends, making the drive back to San Jose, and also checked the animal shelter. Eventually, she gave up. Olive was never seen again.

Elaine is a close friend, and her story is hardly unusual. Cats that are allowed to roam outdoors face many hazards. Every year, millions of cats are run over, mauled by dogs or other cats, lost, accidentally poisoned by pesticides and antifreeze, or are harmed by cruel children or adults. In addition, cats allowed outdoors risk exposure to rabies, feline leukemia virus, distemper and feline immunodeficiency virus. They are also more likely to contract worms, ticks, mites and fleas, all of which could be fatal. It is not surprising to learn that the average life expectancy of a cat allowed outdoors is only five years. An indoor cat can expect to reach the ripe old age of seventeen.

The black cat landed with a thud on the corrugated gray roof of the shed. With a loud rustle, the air filled with house sparrows and goldfinches that had a moment earlier been tucked between the long dull-green leaves and lacy white flowers of the butterfly bush in my backyard. I shooed the cat away, happy that on this day, at least, his hunt was unsuccessful.

The United States is home to millions of cats. There are 60 million cats kept as companion animals, with only one third kept exclusively indoors. These outdoor cats, combined with the 100 million stray and feral cats roaming America, annually kill hundreds of millions of birds and more than a billion small mammals such as rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, and shrews. They kill not



only species whose numbers are plentiful, but also rare and endangered species (i.e., the Western Snowy Plover). Even if the birds escape, their lives are still in danger due to infection from the cat's teeth or claws. Many cat owners are aware that their cats stalk birds, but due to some misunderstandings, are not aware of the huge negative impact this has on wildlife.

Contrary to popular belief, feline predation is not "natural". Housecats were domesticated thousands of years ago in North Africa and they eventually spread throughout the world, arriving in North America 200 years ago. As such, they

are an invasive species, not part of the normal food chain. This means that wildlife outside of the wild cats' native range (Africa and southwestern Asia) never evolved to develop defenses against them. Furthermore, whenever a domestic cat has a successful hunt, it has reduced the natural food sources of native predators such as owls, bobcats, foxes, and hawks.

Another common misconception is that only hungry, stray cats are a threat to wildlife. Well-fed cats do stalk and kill birds. The urge to hunt is instinctive and is engaged in regardless of nutritional status.

The dead sea otter lay on the sand, its small, sleek body periodically covered with water as the waves lapped against the shore. It was eventually picked up by marine biologists and its blood drawn to test for infections. The tests came back positive for *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite found only in cat feces.

A steady drop in California's sea otter population can partially be attributed to this protozoan, which can cause swelling in the brain and is often fatal. Between 1997-2001, 62% of dead sea otters were infected with toxoplasmosis. It is probably transmitted to otters by their consumption of clams and muscles, which absorb the parasite present in the water. Otters' death rates from this disease were highest in ocean areas near where partially treated city sewage is released. Sea otters are not plentiful in number. They have been listed as threatened since 1977 and this additional disease is jeopardizing their recovery as a species.

**Come and see us...
we're online!**

www.wcsv.org



The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley is online and available to everyone. With information about what you can do to help wildlife in your area to animal descriptions to frequently asked questions, this site has it all. There is even a kids' section devoted to helping children learn about the natural world in which they live.

In addition, this newsletter will be available for download in Adobe PDF format.



Keeping Your Cat In: What to Do?

So, what's a responsible cat lover to do? Bells won't work. Cats with bells on their collars learn to stalk prey silently. Also, birds don't associate bell ringing with danger so won't move away. There are several strategies that may work, however. Please examine the list below and vow to make some positive changes today. Your cat will eventually thank you, by being healthier and able to spend many extra years with you!

- Enclosure. You can build a cat enclosure that is 6' x 6' x 6' and placed outside or on a porch. Filled with branches and a swinging tire, it will provide your cat with some outdoor exposure while keeping your cat and birds safe. A kit can be ordered for \$250. Call 1-888-554-PETS
- Cat bib. Please see the accompanying article.
- Make inside fun. When provided with an enriched environment, cats will be happy to stay indoors.
- Provide window shelves so cats can monitor the outdoors.
- Play with your cat each day.
- Set up bags or boxes for them to play with when you are away. Also provide scratching posts.
- Plant alfalfa, grass, bird seed, or catnip in containers for grazing.
- Do not dump cat litter or any pet waste down storm drains and don't flush it down the toilet. Instead, put it in a plastic bag and then into a garbage can.
- Leash-train your cat so time outside can be supervised. Attach the leash to a harness. It may take time, but cats will eventually accept it. It helps if you get the cat used to wearing the harness indoors without the leash.
- Trim your cat's claws every few weeks or glue on artificial nail caps called "Soft Paws" every two months. Never de-claw a cat.
- Convert cats gradually. Slowly shorten the length of time the cat is outside. Provide supervised visits outside.
- Don't blame your cat for killing birds. They are just following an ancient instinct. It is the responsibility of cat owners to ensure their cats are safely indoors.
- Finally, it is always easiest to start with a routine than to change one. Kittens raised indoors usually show no desire to go outside as adults. Vow that the next cat you get, adult or kitten, will be an indoor cat from day one.

Sources

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2. Paul Rogers, *San Jose Mercury News*, Friday, June 28, 2002
3. *International Journal for Parasitology*, July, 2002
4. American Bird Conservancy: Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats; www.abcbirds.org
5. Rhonda Lucas Donald, "All cats should be indoor cats" in *Shelter Sense*, August, 1990
6. Karen Commings, "From outdoors to indoors", in *Cat Fancy*, September, 1993



Keep Wild Birds Safe From Your Outdoor Cats

Do you want to help stop your cat from preying on wild birds while still allowing him to enjoy the outdoors? It's estimated that over 4.4 million birds are killed by cats in America each day. Cats are natural predators and until now it's been difficult to know how to curb their hunting instincts. Native Animal Rescue in Santa Cruz told us about the CatStop, a product that prevents cats from catching and killing birds while still allowing them to run, jump, climb trees, eat, and drink. The CatStop is a thin, neoprene bib that attaches to the cat's collar and hangs loosely over the cat's chest. It's very flexible and lightweight and is designed not to interfere with a cat's normal movements. It works by disrupting a cat's stealth and cunning at the moment of attack. You can buy the CatStop on-line at <http://www.catgoods.com> or by writing to Cat Goods, Inc. 743 Crest Lane, Springfield, OR 97477. WSCV will also sell the CatStop at the Center for \$10 as a fundraising vehicle. Stop by and pick one up and see what the CatStop customers are raving about.



West Nile Virus Update

by Susan Schulter

The sad news is that West Nile Virus has arrived in Silicon Valley this summer, and is taking its toll on our local birds. The somewhat hopeful news is that we as citizens can help prevent its spread. This article updates Tracks readers on the current and local status of West Nile Virus. For the benefit of new readers, it also recaps information covered in previous issues of Tracks.

What is West Nile Virus? West Nile is a mosquito-borne disease common in Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East. It is typically contracted when one is bitten by an infected mosquito. In human beings, the symptoms manifest themselves like the flu, and may include headache, fever, and congestion. Elderly individuals and people whose immune systems are compromised are especially susceptible. Because West Nile is a viral as opposed to bacterial infection, it does not respond to antibiotics; to date, there is no specific treatment. As yet, only one case of West Nile Virus in humans has been diagnosed in Santa Clara County. Our wild birds, however, have not been so lucky.

What is the connection between West Nile Virus and birds? Mosquitoes acquire the virus from infected birds and then transmit it to people. People DO NOT, however, acquire the virus through contact with infected birds; it's infected mosquitoes we need to avoid. In infected birds, West Nile is usually fatal. According to Carmel deBertaut, Animal Care Coordinator for the Wildlife Center, signs of infection are neurological, and can include seizures and ataxia, a condition where the bird's head turns upside-down. Infected birds behave lethargically, and often look emaciated, and their feces or droppings are green.

The bird species most vulnerable to the virus include American crows, scrub jays, steller's jays, yellow-billed magpies and ravens. These birds can die within 24 hours of becoming infected. But West Nile is also spreading to other bird species including raptors or hawks, doves, finches and sparrows. In some of these species – hawks for instance – symptoms of West Nile can take up to

three weeks to present themselves. As of late September, 2567 birds in California have tested positive for West Nile. To date, the Wildlife Center has had one crow, four Cooper's hawks and one raven test positive for West Nile.

What is the treatment for West Nile in infected birds? Unfortunately there is no way to kill the virus that causes this disease, but supportive care can alleviate the symptoms such as encephalitis, thus allowing the bird a greater chance of survival. There is currently a horse vaccine available, but it would be impractical if not impossible to inoculate every wild bird, so the best preventive course of action is to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

If you find a bird that you suspect has West Nile Virus, bring it to the Wildlife Center. Be sure to wear gloves when handling it, as you would when touching any wild animal. WCSV will provide supportive care such as fluid and anti-inflammatory drug therapy for the animals once they are brought to the facility.

The Center also turns dead birds suspected of having West Nile over to the Health Department. If you have found a dead bird, you can call this hotline: 877-WNV-BIRD.

What steps can we take to curtail West Nile? First and foremost, eliminate opportunities for mosquitoes to breed. Do this by removing all sources of stagnant water. Clean and change the water in birdbaths every day. If you have wading pools, completely replenish their water every day. Don't allow water to stand in flowerpots or plant saucers. Keep hot tubs closed, and make sure there is no standing water on your hot tub cover or in crevices. If you have a swimming pool, be sure

the filter is working well. If you have a fountain, circulate its water supply every day. If you have an ornamental pond, stock it with mosquito fish.

Keep mosquitoes out of your house by making sure all window screens are tight fitting and have no holes. Keep unscreened windows and doors closed.

Protect yourself from being bitten by infected mosquitoes by wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts, especially if you are outdoors at dawn, dusk, or two hours after dusk: These are the times of day when mosquitoes are most active. You should also apply an insect repellent containing DEET according to instructions on the label.

Probably the most important preventive measure you can take is to educate other people about West Nile, mosquito transmission of it, and the need to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Please also let them know that they are not in danger of catching West Nile virus from birds. We can all continue to share our lives with wild birds by feeding them, and providing them with water, shelter, and places to raise their young. Most of them are healthy, and their presence in our lives is a sign of environmental wellness. The ones that are sick are providing us with valuable information about West Nile, and our need to prevent its spread.

For the most current information on West Nile Virus and its status, visit the following web site: www.westnile.ca.gov. This is the California Department of Health Services' West Nile Virus home page.

Doelger Trust Challenge

In January, we were awarded a generous challenge grant from the Thelma Doelger Trust for Animals. If WCSV brings in up to \$25,000 from new fundraising strategies and donors the Doelger Trust will match these contributions with a grant in an equal amount. We have spent the past eight months thinking of new ways to harness financial support for this challenge and we have very nearly reached our goal. Board members and candidates pledged donations to start the ball rolling. WCSV supporters donated a car and some jewelry and electronics to sell for the challenge. We sent out special appeal letters to current, past and potential friends and we asked for dedicated donations at our events. As a result and as of August 20, we have raised \$20,502! We are almost there! Our deadline for raising another \$4,498 is December 31, 2004 so we have only a few short months to meet this challenge. If you like a challenge as much as we do and want to help us reach this goal, please send your donation designated for the Doelger match today.



Mange

by Michelle Beaupied

Mange is a skin disease in mammals. It can be found in a wide range of wildlife including: red fox, gray wolf, coyote, porcupine, cottontail rabbit, black bear, and squirrels. It is caused by microscopic skin-burrowing parasitic mites. Wildlife rehabilitators are most likely to encounter sarcoptic mange (scabies) and notoedric mange. Untreated extreme cases can result in the death of animals. Mange is contagious and can develop in humans.

Sarcoptic mange (scabies) affects wild canids, especially red foxes and coyotes. It is caused by the *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite and is found on body areas with the least amount of hair such as the groin, face, and legs.

Symptoms of sarcoptic mange include:

- Thinning of hair
- Loss of hair (alopecia)
- Intense itching
- Presence of abscesses
- Crusty areas on the skin
- Scabbing

- Presence of secondary bacterial infections due to abscesses and scabbing
- Presence of odorous pus
- Constant scratching behavior
- Possible rise in temperature
- Thickening and wrinkling of the skin
- Emaciation
- Weakness
- Poor vision or blindness due to crusty areas around the eyes

Crusty areas form around the eyes and limit a wild animal's vision and ability to hunt. This causes death by starvation.

Notoedric mange, common in squirrels and cats, is caused by the *Notoedres douglasii* mite. It is found mainly on the face, neck, head, ears, and elbows. Grooming can cause other areas to become infected.

Symptoms of Notoedric mange include:

- Loss of hair (though not as severe as in sarcoptic mange)
- Intense Itching
- Constant scratching behavior
- Thickening of skin
- Darkening of skin

Both sarcoptic and notoedric mange spread through direct contact. Common nests and burrows also cause mange to spread. Parasites

infect the host by burrowing through the skin. The females lay eggs as they burrow. These eggs hatch in three to four days continuing the burrowing cycle and spreading the infection. The presence of mange mites can be confirmed by examining skin scrapings under a microscope.

Treatment

Ivermectin, an anti-parasite medication, is commonly used for treating both types of mange.

Anti-bacterial shampoos in conjunction with anti-mite dips prove effective in treating mange in domestic animals but are often difficult to administer to wildlife.

What can we do?

- To prevent spreading, keep infected animals separated from uninfected animals.
- Wear gloves when handling an infected animal and dispose of gloves properly and wash hands before handling other animals.
- Properly dispose of infected carcasses. Freezing infected carcasses kills the mites.
- Treat infected dens and nests with anti-tick and mite powder.
- Ensure that wildlife in rehabilitation facilities receive proper nutrition.
- Have your domestic pet examined by a veterinarian if you see hair loss.



Don't Forget to Renew Your eScrip!

For the school year 2004-2005 eScrip members with registered cards need to renew their commitment to Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, or Lunardi's. You must renew by Nov 1 in order to continue to earn contributions from these merchants for WCSV.

eScrip has made the renewal process as quick and easy as possible. There are two ways to renew: Call (800) 801-4973 or Visit www.escrip.com and click on "YES! Renew"

Also, Macy's has just joined the eScrip program. They give 2% to 6% to selected charities as a donation.

Purchases must be made with a Macy's card, registered with eScrip. Your chosen school or non-profit organization will earn:

2% on monthly purchases between \$0-75
4% on monthly purchases between \$176-\$300
6% on monthly purchases above \$300

eScrip

CALL 1-800 254-5404 NOW!

Thank you for taking the time to show your commitment to the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley and our community.



by Carmel de Bertaut

The summer season has come to an end and we are preparing ourselves for the autumn and winter months which usually bring us emaciated juveniles, botulism and many injured animals. For the first time, we will be admitting animals with West Nile Virus and we are doing what we can to prepare for the possibility of hundreds of animals who may be brought to us infected with this disease. But I would like to take the time to tell you of two unusual cases this summer that both worked out for the best.

Adult Jay Helps Raise Young

On April 21st just as the busy season was getting underway we received an adult female scrub jay with a brood patch (a smooth area on the breast indicating that she has been sitting on eggs). She had an injured wing which was going to take a while to heal, so we knew we would not be able to get her back out to her nest. Within a few days of her admission, we received the first fledgling scrub jays of the season. We put the young birds with her in the hope she would feed them, however she didn't. Since we are always trying new methods to better help the animals in our care, we decided to put the young jays in a small cage within a larger outdoor aviary in order to emulate a more natural setting. This was done before they became self feeding. Caregivers would feed them on a regular schedule, about once every 30-40 minutes. The adult was also put in the larger enclosure. She did not seem to get too stressed when our caregivers fed the fledgling birds. Once out in the enclosure a few jays strayed out of the smaller cage and were on the ground, just like they would be in the wild. The adult began to take charge at this time. She started to feed them a little and was heard vocalizing to the youngsters. We could make no sense of what was being communicated but the young would always hunker down or hide when they heard her. It made our job a bit more difficult, but they were learning life lessons in a more natural setting with an adult of their own species. They were much better off than they would have been indoors without an adult. Throughout the season, all young jays were put out with this surrogate adult and released when ready. She stayed with us until the last of the young jays were released on August 7th. We released her here at our site with the last remaining five juveniles that she had helped raise, as she would now consider them as her social group.

Raccoon Family Stays at WCSV

Shortly after the jay's arrival, we received four raccoons less than one week old. Nothing odd there, however, their mother arrived with them! They had been found in an area where we could not be sure mom would be able to get her young to a safe spot if released back to the same location. It was decided that they would be the first temporary residents of the new raccoon enclosure we had just finished constructing.

We set a den up for them and out they went. We provided food and water. The rest was up to mother. Only two designated people were permitted to enter the enclosure and much effort was made not to disturb the family. Trusting that they were doing well, we rarely looked into the den for fear of causing the family too much stress and of habituating the young. The family remained in the enclosure until July 8th at which time they were released to a safe place where they could continue to mature in the family unit and be successful wild raccoons.

"FORE"WARD Thinking

by Trudi Burney

Take a step back to 1997, a time in which we were notified by the City of San Jose that our lease would not be renewed and we would have to move due to the planning of a golf course at our Senter road location. Now zoom ahead to 2004,. We've not only been in our new location for 3 years, we are thriving in our new home and have increased support and interest in our work throughout the county including the team at Los Lagos Golf Course, the very same course that prompted our original move.

We've formed an uncommon link with CourseCo, the management company of Los Lagos. Uncommon because you usually don't see environmental groups paring with golf courses. But Los Lagos and the Course Co management organization have taken steps to rebuild habitat which surrounds the course, limit pesticide use, monitor recycle water use and support the riparian habitat that parallels the course. The course has been carefully integrated into the natural habitat surrounding Coyote Creek. The project created enhanced setbacks to preserve the sensitive creek environment. Through these efforts Course Co was awarded the 2003 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award for Sustainable Practices. They were also the seventh course in California to be fully certified as Cooperative Sanctuary from Audubon International.

Alan Andreasen has been our champion at Los Lagos; he is the course superintendent and first approached the WCSV about collaborating on local outreach efforts. In the fall, we will present together at a school neighboring the course. Our focus being two fold, first the game of Golf is a great way to gets kids outdoors and into sports (and away from T.V.) And second, we will share local wildlife facts and ways for them to respect, enjoy, and share the environment they are playing in. If successful in our teachings, we've accomplished a great deal towards closing the gap between "using" a habitat and protecting it. This is part of the WCSV's mission, to promote living

in balance with species that surround us. It's a fact in our prosperous valley that development will occur and environmentally mindful development will help support our precious resources.

This summer Los Lagos adopted a juvenile red-shouldered hawk and is donating \$500 towards its rehabilitation costs. The raptor was released along with another young hawk at Los Lagos on July 15th with much fanfare. It was released within the riparian habitat on the course that already supports a terrific population of various birds of prey. On a recent tour of the grounds I also sighted California special species of concern White-tailed Kites, along with Black Phoebe, Red-tailed hawk, Barn Swallow, Western blue-bird, American robin, California towhee and many more too numerous to mention in one article.

For years I fought the temptation to become a golfer. My idea of an athletic adventure did not include chasing a small white ball in a cart wearing unflattering bermuda shorts.

I now enjoy the sport (it's MUCH harder than it looks), it gives me great exercise and brings me to beautiful open spaces that I much prefer over strip mall development. And in the case of Los Lagos and many other well-managed courses it brings me close to wildlife. So, I'll continue to play regardless of the uniform for the opportunity to hone my skills and enjoy open spaces. Where else can you spot a birdie while making one?



by Trudi Burney

I'm pleased to write for the education corner again. After four years on the Board of Directors my commitment towards education has increased knowing that the more we share WCSV's mission the more animals we save. How, you ask?

Our outreach programs have three main venues: schools, community events and adult programs. We go into **schools** with a 45 minute interactive presentation and depending upon the age group we may discuss the difference between domestic animals and wild animals, what wildlife lives in our schoolyards, gardens and parks, what benefits these animals offer to our ecosystem, what challenges wild animals face living so close to humans, how to tell if an animal needs your help and what to do if you find a sick, injured or orphaned animal. We staff booths at **community events** to further expand the knowledge of WCSV's existence, share the challenge wildlife faces in our region, answer questions about wild animals in our valley and offer assistance with wildlife concerns. We attract visitors to our booth by offering an educational activity along with free educational literature. **Adult programs** are very similar to our classroom programs and emphasize humane resolution to wildlife issues in the garden and around the home. All presentations give the audience a behind-the-scenes look at the rehabilitation process and ways the community can help in our program via volunteerism or donation.

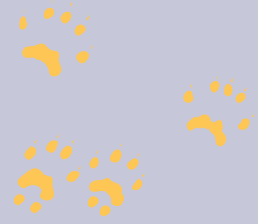
The goal of our outreach work is to lessen the number of "unnecessary" cases we care for at the Center, unnecessary as far as over-rescues, abuse and preventable injuries are concerned. **Over-rescues** come in the shape of hundreds of fledging birds and several fawns brought to us in the springtime. Once the public understands that these animals are best left alone, we've eliminated the need to care for them on-site, and have avoided a sometimes-fatal stressful situation for the young bird or deer as well.

I feel it's clear to say that **abuse cases** are the saddest that we see. As caregivers, the unnecessary pain and suffering experienced by an animal that has been abused is deeply disturbing. Sometimes our only recourse for a serious injury is euthanasia. Beyond the inhumane factor of abuse, these cases go deeper into our society's challenges and must be stopped at the beginning. It's a proven fact that children who abuse animals often grow up to commit even more violent offenses. We spend a lot of time during our classroom presentations talking about wildlife abuse and supporting a strong intolerance against it. We ask both children and adults to speak up when witnessing an abusive situation and to give a protective voice to a species that is unable to do so on its own.

At all venues we discuss ways to live in balance with wildlife that surrounds us. Reducing pesticide use will not only save lives but also bring nature back into our gardens. Keeping pet cats inside will decrease bird deaths and injuries (98% of WCSV bird cases are cat caught.) Choosing to trim trees in the winter season will help reduce the number of birds and juvenile squirrels which are cut down during spring tree-trimming activities.

Our program audiences seem to be receptive and their simple actions will help wildlife thrive in our valley. I'll be keeping you updated on our work and would welcome your interest in helping with our programs by volunteering as an educator or signing up for one of our programs for your school, community event or club function.

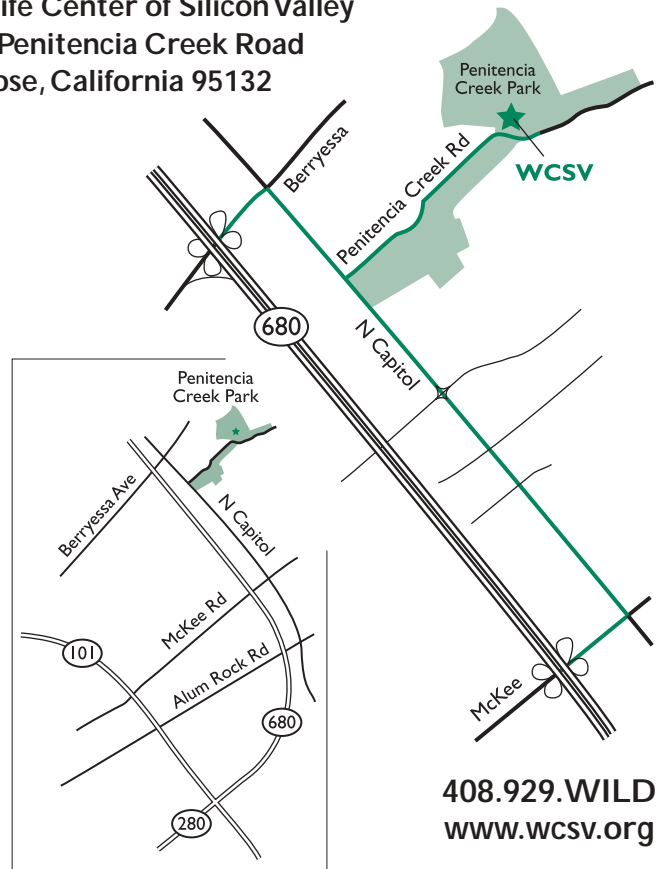
You may reach me at trudianne@earthlink.net.





How to Contact Us

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San Jose, California 95132



408.929.WILD
www.wcsv.org

This is a leased facility of the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department

We Need Your Help!

With West Nile Virus upon us, we are hoping to add an additional modular unit to our site to accommodate the influx of animals we could receive.

We not only need a modular building, we also desperately need someone with the expertise to "own" this project.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in helping us with this extremely important task, please call the Center and tell us how you can help!

West Nile Virus could potentially be a devastatingly costly venture-- we want to be prepared-- not only with a building, but with enough funds to fight back and win the battle against West Nile Virus.

Any and all ideas are welcome!



Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

A Rehabilitation, Release & Educational Facility

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