

Tracks



Volume 11
Number 1
Spring 2005



cover photo: www.jbcphotos.com

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Who Am I?

by Janet Alexander

This very large owl with prominent ear tufts is strikingly beautiful, not to mention quite powerful. The largest of American “eared” owls, the great horned is exceeded in size only by the much rarer great gray owl. It preys on a variety of creatures, but prefers small mammals as the staple of its diet.

It is one of the first birds to nest, laying its eggs as early as late January. They do not build a nest of their own but utilize the abandoned nests of other birds such as the hawk, crow and heron. They may also use squirrel nests or hollows in trees. They are extremely aggressive when defending the nest and will continue to attack until the intruder is driven off or even killed. Normally, two to four eggs are laid and incubated by the female only for 26-35 days. Young start roaming from the nest onto nearby branches at six to seven weeks, when they are



Great Horned Owl

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*

called “branchers”, but cannot fly well until they are nine to ten weeks old. They are fed for another few weeks as they are slowly weaned. Families remain loosely associated during summer before young disperse in the autumn. Adults tend to remain near their breeding areas year-round while juveniles disperse widely, in the fall and winter. Territories are maintained by the same pair for as many as eight consecutive years, however, these owls are solitary in nature, only staying with their mate during the nesting season..

Permanent residents of the Bay Area, great horned owls vary in color from reddish brown to grey or black and white, depending on location and race. The name is derived from tufts of feathers that appear to be “horns” which are sometimes referred to as “ear tufts” but have nothing to do with hearing at all. The large feet are feathered to the ends of the toes, and the immature birds resemble the adults. Females are 10 to 20% larger than males.

The male’s reverberating call “*hoo-hoo hooooo hoo-hoo*” can be heard over long distances during a quiet night. Both sexes hoot, but males have a lower-pitched voice than females. Other sounds include a catlike “*MEEE-OWww*”, barking, hair-raising shrieks, coos, and their favorite activity at the Wildlife Center, beak snapping.

Great horned owls hunt by perching quietly and watching for prey, or by gliding slowly above the ground. From high perches they dive down to the ground with wings folded, before snatching prey. A great horned owl may take prey two to three times heavier than itself.

A long-lived owl, captive birds have been known to live 29 to 38 years. In the wild great horned owls are known to live up to 13 years. Most mortality is related to man - shootings, trappings, road kills, electrocutions, and of course habitat loss. Their only natural enemies in this region are other great horned owls.

Editor’s note: the nestling owl pictured above was approximately two weeks old upon admittance to WCSV, weighing 277 grams. When he was transferred to WERC, another rehab center, five days later to pair up with a surrogate parent for role modeling, he weighed in at 573 grams and was feasting on nine to ten mice per day!

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@wcsv.org

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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Black-crowned Night Heron
www.jbcphotos.com



From the President...



Barn Owl
www.jbcphotos.com



Hummingbird
www.jbcphotos.com



Bufflehead
www.jbcphotos.com



American Robin
www.jbcphotos.com

You will notice a new photo and name accompanying this column. After four years of serving on the Board of Directors, two as Vice President and one as President, Kathy St. John has stepped down. Over the years Kathy has donated thousands of hours of her time, on everything from fundraising and helping with the business of operating the Center to caring for opossums as a member of the home-care team. Thank you, Kathy, for all that you have contributed. After taking a well-earned rest Kathy expects to return to writing grants for special projects and, of course, continuing as a home-care volunteer.

This is my fifth season working at WCSV, and includes two years of being a Center animal care volunteer and four years on the Board of Directors, three as the Secretary. During my time on the board I was fortunate to work with three very able Presidents: Kathy, Trudi Burney and Debbie Champion. I look forward to following their tradition of dedication to WCSV.

As I begin my term as President, WCSV is entering into its twelfth busy season. As you can tell from the warm weather and the quickening of life around us, spring has fully sprung! Signs are everywhere. Recently, while walking along a lake at a local park, I was treated to the pleasure of watching a trio of red-winged blackbirds among the reeds on the bank. One was defending his territory against other hopeful males. It was quite a sight, each male attempting to out-do the others by displaying the red colorings on each wing. He with the largest red patches wins. Inside our Center, there are also obvious signs of spring. Our rooms and enclosures are filling up with this year's babies: birds, opossums, raccoons, and squirrels. WCSV is burgeoning with life!

We are very excited about this new year, and have many plans in our ever-continuing quest to improve our services. New animal care classes will be offered to our volunteers; our education team has also added to the variety of classes offered to the public, as well as increasing the number of venues visited; we are in the midst of planning for our annual Wildlife Awareness Day



Kathleen Cahill, President

(see the ad in this issue); and we have initiated several new fundraising strategies. Of course, our main and most essential need is funding our basic operating budget. We must meet our day-to-day expenses for food, medicine, utility bills and salaries, but we have also named two stretch goals should funding become available: a predatory mammal enclosure and a commitment to increasing our staff. Our number of employees is still holding steady at three, and we are stretching our current staff quite thin.

In addition to our annual goals, 2005 proves to be a first for us in a few other ways. Two events are coming up this year that we have never offered before. This summer we will be holding a golf tournament as a way to have fun, enjoy the outdoors, test your skills on the green, and raise money for our Center. Even if you don't golf, you can show your support by coming for dinner and a silent auction. Please see the ad in this issue for more information. Our second big event will take place this fall at a local winery. Included in the evening's entertainment will be dinner and a talk by a wildlife expert. You will also be present at the release of one of our rehabilitated animals, a raptor. Look for upcoming notifications as the event draws nearer. We hope to see you all there.

On behalf of all of us at the Center, I thank you for your continued support and wish you the very best.

Species Highlight: **The Bobcat**

by Sarah Kishler

One of the most versatile of felines, bobcats can be found in deserts, swamps, river basins, and forests. Locally, they roam the mountains that shape our valley. They are aloof creatures and are rarely observed in the wild.

The bobcat (*felis rufus*) is the smallest member of the lynx family, usually weighing 15 to 20 pounds. It can also be distinguished from other cats in the family by the white tip on its short tail, the characteristic that gives the bobcat its name.

Both diurnal and nocturnal, bobcats are most active just before sunrise and just after sunset. Bobcats are expert hunters who prefer rabbit and hare, but they will readily adapt to other prey if their favorite food is not available. They will also eat squirrels, mice, and birds, and have been known to kill animals as large as deer. Despite its resemblance to the housecat, it would be a grave mistake to underestimate the bobcat's ferocity. Although bobcat attacks

on humans are virtually unheard of, treating a bobcat like a cuddly kitten could really get you in trouble.

Both females and males are territorial creatures who mark boundaries with urine, scent, and feces. A female bobcat's home territory can range from two to forty square miles, seldom overlapping with another female's territory. However, a male bobcat's territory will often overlap other male territories and usually contains several female territories.

Although the bobcat is the most common wild feline in North America, its numbers have decreased in recent decades due to loss of habitat (it has vanished from many agriculture-heavy Midwest states) and hunting (bobcat pelt became highly valued in 1970's and California's fur trapping season now lasts from November to February). It is important that we continue to allow this beautiful and fascinating creature to thrive in our state.



Bobcat

Editor's Note: If you should encounter a bobcat, young or old, injured or orphaned, please do not attempt to approach it or pick it up. Contact the appropriate authorities—the Wildlife Center or the animal control agency in your area can advise you as to the best course of action. Even the youngest of cats are extremely fractious. Unconscious animals can suddenly awaken and cause harm to the well-intentioned rescuer.

Saving BARAC

by Trudi Burney

Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BARAC) is a 17-acre slice of Silicon Valley's rural past, an unlikely oasis of watermelon patches and apple trees in the heart of the valley's hottest commercial district. It is also the last open space area of the region and is under threat of development.

BARAC is located in the city of Santa Clara on North Winchester Boulevard across from Valley Fair Mall. This open space is considered the state's leader in rural/urban issues: health, the environment, sustainability, recycling, and pollution prevention. The land and its buildings are in line for being listed in the National Historic Registry.

The space provides habitat for urban wildlife residents such as raccoons, opossums, finches, starlings, hawks, and various sparrows. Flocks of migrating Canada geese stop to rest and feed each winter. The property also supports a pair of breeding red-shouldered hawks.

In January of 2005 the Board of Directors for the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley passed the motion to endorse the Save BAREC organization in its efforts to remain agriculturally zoned.

For more information on BAREC link to www.savebarec.org or call 408.292.9595.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley is seeking to fill several volunteer positions. If interested please contact us for more information:

- ◆ Animal care at the Center
- ◆ Summer internships
- ◆ Educational outreach
- ◆ Office work
- ◆ Landscaping
- ◆ Facilities planning
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Bookkeeper
- ◆ Board members



Volunteer Perspective

by Shira Gruhl

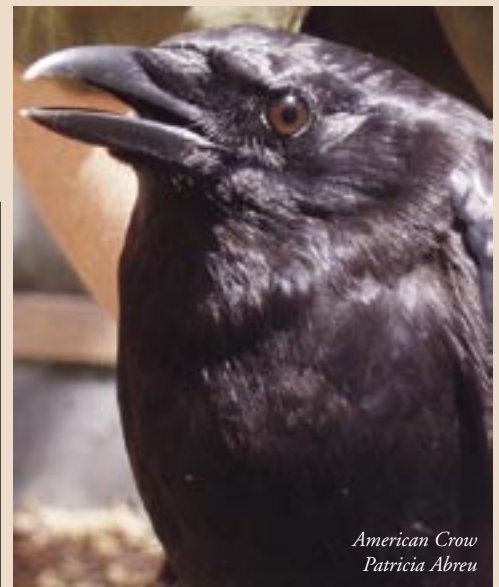
When I moved to Silicon Valley from the East Coast three years ago I felt as if I had moved to a desert devoid of wildlife. None of my favorite animals were to be found - no frogs in the driveway, no cottontail rabbits on the lawn; even the fireflies were missing! Determined to find the animals in this strange place, I eventually found my way to the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley. My volunteer experience began with a crash course in basic animal care and has been an ongoing learning experience. One of the first challenges I faced was the daunting task of bird identification. Never an avid birder, I didn't know the difference between a house finch and a mockingbird when I first started - a fact I did my best to hide! However, with the aid of a few library books, I quickly learned to recognize the more common species seen at WCSV.

An even bigger hurdle proved to be learning how to work around wild animals. The ideal rehabilitator is quiet, confident and quick. Being less than perfect, I often caught myself talking to creatures in the beginning. While talking to a domestic animal may be soothing, it is anything but that for a wild one, and risks making young

animals tame. I also had to resist the urge to make eye contact with animals, a trademark of predators. Many times I have found myself staring down critters only to remember they think I am about to eat them for lunch! It still takes constant vigilance on my part to keep from staring.

Outside of WCSV, a funny thing happened as I acquired new animal skills - I began to notice wildlife I had never seen before all around me! The first group of animals I learned to really see was the birds I had initially struggled so much to correctly identify (although since I have also learned to appreciate many mammals). At Foothill College, I watched birds feeding their fledglings on the lawn while students walked by a few feet away, completely oblivious. A friend pointed out dozens of cliff swallows nesting in one building's eaves. The cacophony made by the young was unmistakable, yet the previous spring I had walked under the same spot and failed to hear it. At home, I noticed a pair of lesser goldfinches building a nest in the tree in front of my house.

Not only was I seeing animals I'd never seen before, but I also had a new found appreciation for them. As I watched the cliff swallow parents feed



American Crow
Patricia Abreu

their young, I remembered that often they had to be force-fed at WCSV because without their natural diet of flying insects they usually wouldn't gape for food. When I first spotted the nest-building lesser goldfinches outside my house, not only did I know their name, but also that they were a delicate songbird whose young are notoriously difficult to raise in captivity due to their extreme sensitivity to changes in the environment.

If anyone had told me that all I needed to do to discover the wildlife around me was to volunteer at WCSV, I wouldn't have wasted a whole year in the area before starting! Now that I have begun, there is no turning back, for with my new powers of observation, Silicon Valley looks more like a jungle than a desert!

**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 kid's 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.



Barn Owl Nestlings
Janet Alexander

Leave the Fawns Be...

They're not really lost in the woods!

by Janet Alexander

Many of us find it invigorating to go for a hike in the woods in spring — wildflowers, vibrant green foliage, and — if you're lucky enough to spot one — a newborn fawn camouflaged in the leaves. We want to remind hikers or residents of the hills, however, that while a fawn found alone in the woods or even on the roadside may seem vulnerable, they are rarely lost.

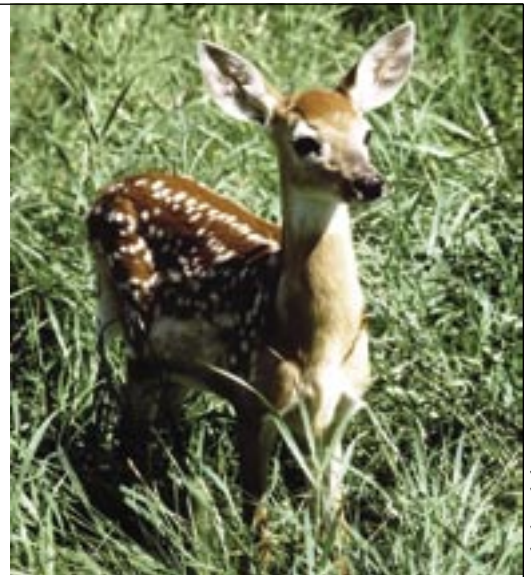
Well-meaning people often think they're saving a fawn when they find them alone and take them home to try to care for them. In truth, the mother doe is likely nearby and letting nature protect her fawn by using his spots to conceal him. Actually, fawns are born scentless; the camouflaging spots and being left alone by the parent are what keep them safe from predators.

Most fawns received by WCSV each year are brought to us when people pick them up thinking they're lost or abandoned.

Does usually give birth in the spring and early summer to one, two and rarely even three fawns. She'll nurse the young ones, then leave them for several hours at a time to graze for food. Her scent, if mother stayed, could attract predators to her youngster. Later in the spring and summer, when he's older and strong enough to run from danger, he will start to follow the mother and learn to graze on desired trees and shrubs.

The moral to this saga is to practice tough love if you stumble upon a young fawn—please leave him where he is. The exception to this advice is if the animal is clearly injured.

In most cases, this is true of any wild animal ... it is usually better to leave the young animals where you find them—where they are meant to be—free and wild!



Black-tailed Fawn

Fawn Transportation Needed:

With arrival of spring, the Deer and Fawn team is seeking volunteers to help with transport and assessment of new fawns. We currently have three rehab sites: one each on the east and west sides of the Valley and one in the Gilroy area. Fawns are stabilized upon arrival and stay at our satellite facilities until September. Volunteers will be trained and supervised. They should have a vehicle large enough to hold a medium to large size animal crate and a cell phone for quick response. If you are interested please call Dina Hawkins at 408.838.0433 or e-mail her at DinaHawkin@aol.com.

Donate Stock to WCSV

The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley welcomes gifts of stock. We transact immediately upon receipt and will provide a tax-deductible receipt upon completion.

Ameritrade Account 779-776792
Phone: 800.454.9272

- Held stock at another firm: you may transfer from your firm to Ameritrade's DTC# 0188
- If you hold Stock Certificates: fill out a third-party release form found at www.ameritrade.com
- If you hold stocks at Ameritrade just call and transfer internally

If you need assistance with any transaction, please contact Janet Alexander at 408.929.9453 ext.303.



Brandt's Cormorant
Carmel de Bertaut

WCSV Hosts 1st Annual "Birdies on the Green" Golf Tournament

This year we are excited to announce our first-ever charity golf tournament, "Birdies on the Green" dinner and auction! It will be held Monday, August 29th at the Villages Golf and Country Club in San Jose.

If you are interested in participating in this event, there are a variety of ways you can help.

100% of the proceeds from this event will go directly to the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley in support of the thousands of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals we care for each year. If you have any questions, please email chris@wcsv.org, call the Tournament Hotline at (408) 929-9453 ext 361 or go to www.wcsv.org/newsitems/golf.htm



Western Screech Owl
www.jbcpphotos.com

1. **Golden Eagle Sponsorship:** For a donation of \$500, you will receive a Tee Sponsorship including a sign on a tee box and a wall plaque for your office or lobby thanking you as a Golden Eagle Sponsor. You will also receive one entry fee for the tournament, including dinner. In addition, a post-tournament thank you certificate to all participants/contributors will prominently display your name as a Golden Eagle Sponsor.
2. **Soaring Eagle Sponsorship:** For a donation of \$250, you will receive a Tee Sponsorship including a sign on a tee box and a certificate thanking you for your generous support for our cause.
3. **Bald Eagle Sponsorship:** For a donation of \$125, you will receive a Tee Sponsorship including a sign on a tee box.

4. **In-kind or Cash Donations:** We are looking for assistance in any of the following areas: Silent auction merchandise, gift certificates, beverages, pre-golf lunches, raffle prizes or cash.
5. **Play Golf!** We are seeking golfers – individuals, twosomes, threesomes and foursomes. The cost is \$160 per person (\$150 if registered by July 20) and covers green fees, cart and dinner. **Check in from 10:30-11:00 AM; lunch from 11:00-11:30 AM and 11:30 AM shotgun/scramble format tee-off.**
6. **Dinner/Auction:** Even if you don't golf, come to the dinner-only portion of the event for a fun social gathering and a delicious gourmet dinner served buffet style. The cost is \$35 per person. We will have a raffle and silent auction where you can bid on multitudes of wonderful items.

2005 WCSV Volunteer Orientation Schedule

Wednesday	June 8	6:15 p.m.
Saturday	June 18	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	July 6	6:15 p.m.
Saturday	July 23	3:00 p.m.
Wednesday	August 10	6:15 p.m.
Saturday	August 27	10:00 a.m.

Additional WCSV orientations to be scheduled, as needed.

Schedules are subject to change and enrollment is limited. Please call ahead to confirm.

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
- Large & x-large kennel cabs
- Baby bird incubator
- Pentium 4 or newer computers/equipment
- Aviary materials (call for details)
- Portable generator

Basics

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



House Sparrow
www.jbcpphotos.com

2004 Annual Report

Waterbirds

American Avocet	10
American Coot	10
Black-crowned Night Heron	3
Black-necked Stilt	1
Blue-winged Teal	2
Brandt's Cormorant	5
California Gull	41
Canada Goose	29
Canvasback	1
Common Golden Eye	1
Common Loon	1
Common Merganser	1
Common Murre	1
Common Snipe	1
Double-crested Cormorant	8
Forster's Tern	1
Gadwall	10
Great Blue Heron	3
Great Egret	3
Greater Yellowlegs	1
Green Heron	5
Green-winged Teal	1
Heermann's Gull	4
Herring Gull	4
Killdeer	10
Mallard	486
Mew Gull	2
Northern Shoveler	179
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Ring-billed Gull	1
Ring-necked Duck	1
Ruddy Duck	3
Short-billed Dowitcher	3
Snowy Egret	6
Unidentified Duck	5
Unidentified Gull	4
Virginia Rail	2
Western Gull	1
Western Sandpiper	3
Subtotal	854

Raptors

American Kestrel	17
Barn Owl	36
Cooper's Hawk	52
Great-horned Owl	5
Merlin	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1
Peregrine Falcon	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	18
Red-tailed Hawk	19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8
Western Screech Owl	15
White-tailed Kite	2
Subtotal	177

Songbirds

American Crow	189
American Goldfinch	18
American Robin	112
Barn Swallow	2
Bewick's Wren	8
Black Phoebe	24
Black-headed Grosbeak	5
Brewer's Blackbird	28
Brown-headed Cowbird	31
Bullock's Oriole	10
Bushtit	29
California Towhee	52
Cedar Waxwing	7
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	12
Cliff Swallow	42
Common Raven	1
Dark-eyed Junco	11
Golden-crowned Sparrow	5
Hermit Thrush	13
House Finch	383
Lawrence's Goldfinch	9
Lesser Goldfinch	33
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Nashville Warbler	1
Northern Mockingbird	130
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1
Oak Titmouse	3
Orchard Oriole	1
Pacific-sloped Flycatcher	3
Red-winged Blackbird	3
Song Sparrow	1
Spotted Towhee	1
Steller's Jay	7
Swainson's Thrush	4
Tufted Titmouse	1
Unidentified Songbird	8
Western Scrub Jay	104
Western Tanager	3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4
Subtotal	1300

Other Birds

Allen's Hummingbird	3
Anna's Hummingbird	122
Band-tailed Pigeon	8
California Quail	26
Common Poorwill	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Mourning Dove	601
Northern Flicker	6
Nuttall's Woodpecker	12
Ring-necked Pheasant	1
Turkey Vulture	1
Vaux's Swift	9
White-throated Swift	7
Wild Turkey	3
Subtotal	802

Bats

Big Brown Bat	1
California Myotis	2
Hoary Bat	1
Little Brown Bat	2
Mexican Free Tail Bat	11
Red Bat	1
Yuba Bat	1
Subtotal	19

Predatory Mammals

Bobcat	2
Coyote	1
Gray Fox	4
Raccoon	104
Striped Skunk	9
Subtotal	120

Rodents

California Ground Squirrel	64
Eastern Fox Squirrel	103
Eastern Gray Squirrel	468
Field Mouse	21
Muskrat	2
Pocket Gopher	9
Sonoma Chipmunk	2
Townsend's Gopher	1
Unidentified Mouse	3
Unidentified Rat	21
Unidentified Rodent	8
Unidentified Squirrel	36
Western Gray Squirrel	6
Subtotal	744

Other Mammals

Black-tailed Deer	33
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	14
Brush Rabbit	4
Coast Mole	1
Cottontail Rabbit	10
Townsend's Mole	3
Unidentified Rabbit	1
Virginia Opossum	504
Subtotal	570

Reptiles

California Kingsnake	1
Garter Snake	1
Gopher Snake	1
Western Pond Turtle	1
Subtotal	4

Non-Native Species

(Includes rock doves, domestic ducks, house sparrows, starlings and others)

Subtotal	1062
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GRAND TOTAL 5652



2004 Financial Overview

INCOME

Aggressive fund-raising tactics including membership drives, appeals and a challenge grant raised income values over the previous year's achievements.

Membership	26,362
Donors (Corporate and Individual)	74,706
Appeals	54,928
City Contracts	123,877
Events	4,499
Grants	26,000
Special Funds	15,242
Other	11,606
TOTAL INCOME	\$337,220

EXPENSES

In the midst of economic challenges WCSV continued its services by expense analysis and reduction, investigating pro-bono assistance, and seeking avenues of potential shared resources.

Animal Care	38,538	Fundraising	7,177
Site	8,277	Insurance	1,808
Payroll	125,315	Equipment Rental	16,491
Utilities	21,610	Office Supplies	3,620
Postage	7,299	Merchandise	7,190
Professional Fees	22,053	Other	8,379
Education/Outreach	1,557	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$303,736
Printing and Reproduction	34,422	NET INCOME	\$33,484

Impound

The Wildlife Center does not limit its cases to native or uncommon wildlife. Each animal throughout the county is given equal respect and care with the goal of a healthy release back into local habitat.

City	%
Campbell	5%
Cupertino	3%
Los Gatos	4%
Milpitas	4%
Monte Sereno	--
San Jose	63%
Santa Clara	9%
Saratoga	2%
Sunnyvale	6%
Other	4%

Phone Support

WCSV receives thousands of phone calls each year concerning wildlife issues. Staff is available seven days a week to help with inquiries ranging from nuisance complaints and potential rescues, to species specific questions. After hours, calls are monitored and supported by volunteers.

City	%
Campbell	3%
Cupertino	2%
Los Gatos	4%
Milpitas	2%
Monte Sereno	1%
San Jose	66%
Santa Clara	6%
Saratoga	2%
Sunnyvale	4%
Other	10%



*Perigrine Falcon
Carmel de Bertaut*



*Raccoon
Carmel de Bertaut*

Many Thanks!

We cannot continue our efforts without the help of the public, the cities we serve and especially our volunteers, who provide care and medical attention to the thousands of sick, injured and orphaned animals each year.



by Carmel de Bertaut

As you read this, our staff and volunteers will be busy caring for a full house of orphaned (and injured) wildlife. This year's baby season has started slowly but we know it is just a matter of days before timers are going off in the baby bird room indicating yet another round of feeding and everyone is working long hours keeping the animals cleaned and fed. To date, we have received mallard ducklings, hummingbirds, rabbits, squirrels, opossums and a great horned owl.

We can never predict what kind of season we are going to have but we feel safe in saying that (unfortunately) we will be admitting many animals with West Nile Virus infection this year. We will make our best attempt to save those we can. On a positive note, we received several crows that we suspect may have had the virus and are very pleased to say that with our help, two have recovered and will soon be released. This may not sound like a huge success, but given corvids' (crows, jays and magpies) susceptibility to this disease and their high mortality rate from it, two is a good number. It is important for this family of birds that their immunity is built up over time, which they can then pass to future generations so as not to cause huge reductions in their populations.

We would like to remind you that if you see a young animal that you think is in need of help, call us before picking it up or bringing it in. Fledgling birds spend time on the ground before flight and continue to be cared for by the parent birds. Deer and rabbits leave their young alone during most of the day while out foraging for food. If you call us we can advise you whether the animal really does need help.



Gray Fox
Carmel de Bertaut



Chipmunk



House Finch



Raccoon

by Trudi Burney

As you read through this issue of our newsletter you'll find that 2004 was a record year for WCSV. We cared for more animals, answered more phone calls, earned (and spent) more money in doing so. The ever-increasing awareness of our organization and the services we provide is indeed paying off with the number of animals we save each year.

Our education and outreach efforts also increased. Local community events and classroom presentations spread throughout the valley. All together we reached an impressive 30,000 people.

We've been on the front lines facing coyote challenges. Our message of co-existence is important for all species we share our habitat with. We've increased our curriculum to include a class on animal rehabilitation, hummingbirds, squirrels and coyotes. We hope to develop many more classes this year including one on habitat, opossums and the nocturnal world. We further intend to improve our outreach booth with grant-based funds for a professional looking (and portable) unit.

Thus far in 2005 we've been off and running with presentations not only to schools but also to surrounding city governments. We are asking each city to help us broaden awareness of the WCSV services of wildlife rehabilitation and education. Look for us in city links, parks and recreation classes and community access television.

During classroom presentations, I often wonder what parts of our messaging the students are best absorbing. I love it when we receive letters and cards directly from the kids about our classes. For the second year in a row Sandy Miller's 7th grade class at Morrill Middle School in San Jose has participated in a WCSV poster contest. The students were to take notes during one of our presentations and submit a drawing and messaging over what they learned. The response was both overwhelming and very touching. We received over 100 posters with messages varying from keeping cats indoors to protect wildlife, trimming trees in winter vs. spring, and calling the Center with injured wildlife. Far too much talent to try and choose winners. What a hard job that was! In the end First Place went to Hai Trieu Nguyen Le, Second Place winner Han Nguyen and Third Place Brandon Monelo. We also couldn't resist the creative work of Rhenchie Apelo, Joanna Ho, Mark Fuqua and Jessica Salas and gave them honorable mention awards. All the posters will be hung in our training room. Feel free to come by and see these wonderful works of art.



Great Horned Owl
www.jbcphotos.com



Hooded Merganser
www.jbcphotos.com



Black-tailed Jackrabbit



WILDLIFE AWARENESS DAY

FREE ADMISSION!

Donations of paper towels, unscented facial tissue, and Feline Maintenance Science Diet (dry) are greatly appreciated.

Learn about our wild neighbors
Educational booths
Live animal educational programs
(Wildlife Associates & Bat Conservation Fund)
Fun children's games Refreshments

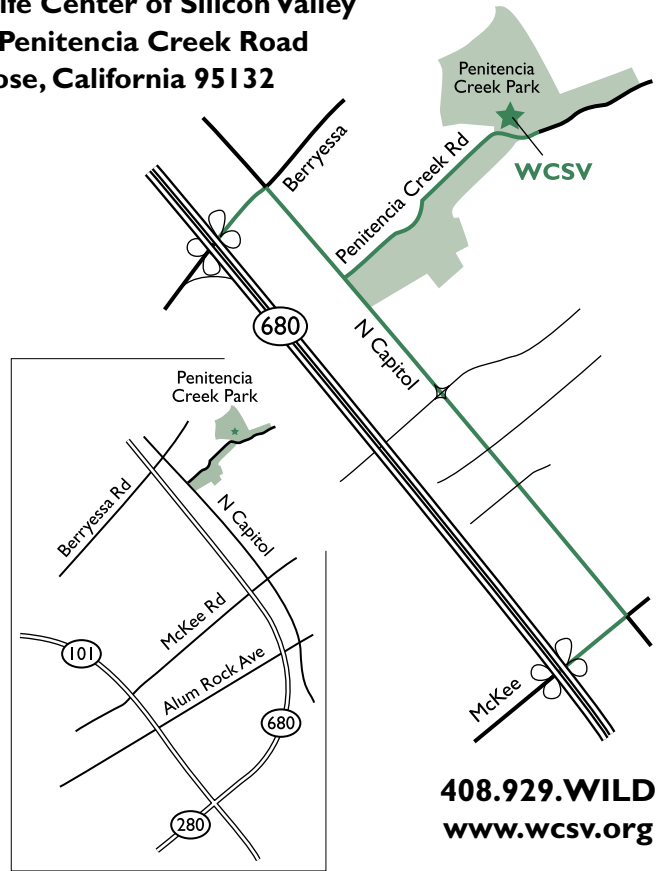
Penitencia Creek Park, San Jose

Saturday June 11, 2005

10am - 4pm

How to Contact Us

Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley
3027 Penitencia Creek Road
San Jose, California 95132



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



Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

A Rehabilitation, Release & Educational Facility

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