

Tracks



Volume 11
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Summer 2005



*Red-tailed Hawk Nestling
jbcphotos.com*

What's inside...

Who Am I?
A master at the game
of charades



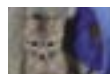
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Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous*

The killdeer is one of the most widespread shorebirds in North America. It can be found not just on shorelines but in wetlands, grasslands, golf courses, lawns, and other open spaces. Its diet consists almost entirely of the insects it finds in these places, and, despite its name, it is not actually any threat to deer. The name comes from the loud, wailing call it makes (it is also no accident that its scientific name includes the word “vociferous,” which Merriam-Webster defines as “marked by or given to vehement insistent outcry!”).



Killdeer

Who Am I?

by Sarah Kishler

Once you're acquainted with the killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), you'll never use the phrase “birdbrain” in the same way again. This clever member of the plover family pulls an elaborate trick to protect its young from predators (killdeer eggs and chicks are easy targets because their nests are on the ground). The bird begins to stagger, dragging one wing along the ground as if it is broken. Once a hunter's attention is properly distracted by this display, the killdeer's problems are suddenly over and it swiftly flies away to safety.

A quick wit since birth, a killdeer chick can stand, run, and feed itself immediately after hatching, making it a precocial bird. Parents are still around for a while just in case the broken wing act comes in handy.

Precocial birds are hatched with eyes open, and covered with down. Precocial birds leave the nest within two days and follow their parents but feed on their own. The young are usually brooded by the parent birds for warmth until feathered. Examples of precocial birds are chickens, ducks, turkeys, quail, and pheasants.

Altricial birds are hatched in a relatively underdeveloped state— eyes closed with little or no down, and are incapable of leaving the nest. Altricial birds are completely dependant on their parents for food and warmth. Examples of altricial birds are crows, jays, finches, mockingbirds, robins and sparrows.



Mallard Ducklings
jbcphotos.com



Acorn Woodpecker
jbcphotos.com

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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Grey Fox
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Photos by John Caddell of jbcphotos.com are of animals at WCSV



From the President...

Many events are making this season one filled with excitement and interesting challenges. This summer we are having the unique experience of caring for four juvenile foxes. The foxes are receiving high quality care, but additional space is needed. Following an article published in the San Jose Mercury News, readers generously donated enough to allow us to build an enclosure that will meet the needs of predatory mammals for years to come. We are also having two new fundraising events this summer and fall to add to our general fund and benefit all wildlife. You can read more about all of these events in this issue of Tracks.

Finally, another important event that has happened this season was our annual Wildlife Awareness Day, where the public is invited to learn more about what we do. Our goal is to have every single person in this valley know that we are here to help, and are a resource for both rehabilitation and wildlife education. This annual day helps to spread our message. Highlights of the day included several educational shows featuring North American birds and mammals such as a golden eagle, a Harris' hawk, a porcupine, a huge opossum, a red fox, and even bats! As the animals we care for are released back into appropriate areas within our community, they cannot become habituated to humans. For that reason, we always make available programs that utilize non-releasable animals, animals that for whatever reason cannot survive on their own, and whose temperament is suited to educational programs. A slide show describing rehabilitation "behind the scenes" was also a popular choice. Rounding out the day we had drawings for wildlife-related items, a paint-your-own birdhouse table, and educational displays and games. Thank you for all who were able to attend. If you couldn't come this year, we hope to see you next year!

As you read this issue of Tracks, you may notice that this feature is focusing on raptors, the hunters of the sky. Raptors, birds of prey which include hawks, eagles, falcons and owls, have long held a fascination for people throughout the world. The word raptor comes from the Latin root that means "to seize and carry away," and is assigned to any bird that

catches prey with its feet. Both their grace and strength led early people in European, Asian and Native American cultures to believe that these birds had supernatural powers. In the American southwest, the golden eagle inspired Native American legends of the Thunderbird, who brought summer thunderstorms that enriched the earth, providing bountiful crops and abundant wildlife. As a totem animal, the owl symbolizes wisdom and freedom, a messenger of secrets and omens, a link between the dark, underworld and the world of light. Hopis see burrowing owls as guardians of all underground things, including seed germination. In Greek mythology, Athena, goddess of wisdom, had an owl as her symbol, honoring this night bird by making it her favorite feathered creature.

I remember well the first time I saw a barn owl up close. It was my first year of volunteering at the Center, and I was assisting another volunteer with cleaning the aviary that housed juvenile barn owls. As we quietly approached, hissing filled the air, the sound of snakes. It was quite an unexpected bird call from a creature with a white, heart-shaped face! That day I learned that, while beautiful to look at from a distance, owls must be treated with respect and dignity. Sadly, although many people are enthralled by birds of prey, many of the populations of hawks and owls throughout North America are in decline. Frequently I stop by a field that is one of the few areas left in this Valley where one can see burrowing owls. Each spring that I have been watching them, I see less mated pairs guarding their nesting holes, as their space is being crowded out. It is so



Kathleen Cahill, President

poignant, watching the parents protecting their offspring against predators, knowing that the biggest hazard they face is one they cannot see or guard against. Three main threats of raptors are loss of habitat, secondary poisoning from eating rodents that have been poisoned with pesticides, and being hit by cars. By caring for animals that have been adversely affected by their encounters with human civilization, and by educating the public about peaceful coexistence with wildlife, we at the Center hope that in some small way we can help turn the tide and make a difference in the lives of these wonderful, majestic birds as well as all other wild animals. This issue is dedicated to all of those, our volunteers, staff, and donors, who help make that happen. I invite all of you to attend our special fundraiser this fall, Winging it at the Winery, to help us in our efforts to secure funds to continue to spread our message. With community support, we can give wildlife a second chance and make a difference.

**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.

Special Focus: Owls

by Shira Grubl

When one thinks of owls, one rarely envisions something the size of a tennis ball with wings that hunts by day (the northern pygmy owl), or a long-legged creature only slightly larger that inhabits burrows (the burrowing owl). Yet both of these birds live in Silicon Valley, and an adult of each species was admitted to WCSV in April. This was more than a little bit out of the ordinary. Most years, we receive mainly barn owls and screech owls. This year, in addition to the four species mentioned above, we also received several great horned owls (see the “Who Am I” column in the Spring 2005 issue of Tracks).

With such an interesting parliament of owls in rehabilitation, it is not surprising many of them arrived with interesting histories. Below are the stories of three particularly unusual cases.

The Increasingly Rare Burrowing Owl

There are some animals that I wish never to see at WCSV— not because they are dangerous or difficult to handle but because their numbers have dwindled so dramatically that I don’t want the responsibility of treating one. With only approximately 100 individuals in Santa Clara County, and less than 10,000 statewide, the burrowing owl—a federally designated species of special concern— falls squarely into this category. This is why I was dismayed and worried when I walked into the Center one day to see “burrowing owl” scrawled on the list of patients.

Found at a construction site in downtown San Jose unable to fly, it was brought to the Center for evaluation. There were two pressing questions to answer about the burrowing owl: was it healthy enough to be released, and if so, where did it come from? The first question was difficult to answer. Although the owl had no physical injuries, it did exhibit the odd behavior of flying straight up in the air. Because WCSV has little experience with burrowing owls, we could not

confidently say whether or not this was abnormal. In order to get expert advice, we contacted the Audubon Society for the name of local biologists who work with burrowing owls. A few phone calls later, biologist Lindsay Harman arrived to examine the owl. She confirmed its good health and informed us its behavior was perfectly normal— useful information for the future if another burrowing owl is brought into the Center.



Burrowing Owl

Now, for the second question: could there be a colony of burrowing owls at the address downtown where the owl was found? Since burrowing owls will make every effort to return to their burrows, it would be best if the owl could go back to the burrow it came from. Arriving at the address, we found a brand new apartment building. The fields on either side of it were under construction. If the owl had in fact once lived here, it would not be able to any longer. After consultation with several biologists, it was decided that the owl should be released at the San Jose Airport, the last stronghold of burrowing owls in Santa Clara County.

On the day of the release, we drove the owl to the designated area. The owl exploded out of the carrier as soon as it was opened. In its first few seconds of freedom the owl headed away from the airport, then turned and flew off over the long term parking area. Its flight looked strong as it disappeared into the distance. If you look closely, you may catch a glimpse of it next time you are flying out of San Jose.

Special thanks to Susan Bell at the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, biologists Jack Barclay and Lindsay Harman of Albion Environmental, Inc. and Sally Reynolds of Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The Barn Owl That Wouldn’t Give Up

It was a dark and windy night and somewhere in San Jose a young barn owl blew out of its nest. The next morning, a concerned citizen discovered the owl in his driveway and rushed it to WCSV. On arrival, the nestling owl was wet and shivering with cold. The first priority was to warm it up, so we placed it in an incubator with hot

Barn Owls
jbcphotos.com



Its story is an example of the amazing resilience of young animals. Sometimes, just when things look most bleak, a juvenile will overcome seemingly insurmountable injuries and remind everyone of the wonderful surprises that can occur in wildlife rehabilitation.

Special thanks to Adobe Animal Hospital of Los Altos.

water packs and waited anxiously to see if it would survive the morning.

By noon, the owl had regained a normal temperature and could withstand a full exam. We found it was missing a talon on its right foot, but more worrisome was the swelling on its right wing, indicating the possibility of broken bones. Since we do not have an x-ray machine, we scheduled an appointment for the owl at Adobe Animal Hospital, a veterinary facility that graciously donates its services for some of our more critical cases. The injuries seen on the radiograph were bad: the owl had three broken bones in the metacarpal region, equivalent to the hand/wrist area on a human. Such an injury would mean little possibility for release in an adult, but at a mere three weeks of age, this owl's bones had not finished growing and stood a chance of healing well. We scheduled a follow-up appointment in six weeks, and waited. It was a long wait. Four weeks after the barn owl was admitted, it still hadn't gotten up off the ground. Things didn't look good for the little owl. But then one day, Carmel, the Center's Animal Care Coordinator, entered its enclosure to discover the owl looking down on her from its perch high above!

On re-check at Adobe, the owl appeared to have made a complete recovery. The outlook for this barn owl is now good, and it is being raised with several other injured and orphaned barn owls.

Screech Owl Mystery Solved

Some things you just have to chalk up to being one of the mysteries of life. And that is exactly what we did on the afternoon of Saturday, June 5th when an Animal Services Officer brought in a fledgling screech owl from the Almaden park system with a bizarre injury: just the tips of its feathers appeared burnt. Since all of the feathers on the owl were singed, it was difficult to say what caused the injury. When a second Animal Services Officer brought in another young screech owl from the same area with the exact same injury the very next day, we could no longer write the case off as a freak accident. It was time for sleuth work.

The first step was to pinpoint the exact location where each owl had been found. This involved collaborating with the Animal Services Officers and park rangers, all of whom were very helpful. With a hand drawn map from San Jose Animal Services Officer Kim Flores and precise directions

from a San Jose Park Ranger, I set out to scout the sites. I visited the spot where the first owl was discovered without seeing anything strange. At the second location, just a short walk away, again I saw nothing. Then I had a breakthrough. The answer was right over my head—the high tension power lines that ran adjacent to Guadalupe Oak Grove Park were almost certainly the source of the owls' injuries! The owls probably collided with a power line on their maiden flights out of the nest.

The hazards of high voltage power lines are just one of the many dangers facing young animals in urban areas. Until recently, birds did not have to contend with power lines. At WCSV, one of our jobs is to try to reduce the damage caused when wildlife runs afoul of urban development by treating and releasing these unfortunate animals. As for the two screech owls in question, we're happy to report they are doing well. We hope to release them after their first molt when they have a new set of feathers. With any luck, they'll steer clear of any power lines in the future.



Screech Owl

Predatory Mammal Project

by Janet Alexander

Earlier this year, WCSV decided that a predatory mammal enclosure should be at the top of our needs list. It is a project we have talked about for the past three years. When we received three young foxes in early May, we decided there was never a better time than the present to act upon our desire to build it. I contacted Linda Goldston, a reporter at the *San Jose Mercury News*, and she eagerly agreed to write a feature article on the foxes and our need for greater space to care for them and other mammals.

A day after Ms. Goldston's article appeared on May 25th, donations started pouring in at a rate that was hard to keep up with. The response was just overwhelming! By the third week we had collected over \$11,000 in donations.



Just days after the article appeared, I received a call from the office of Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor Pete McHugh with the offer of a grant in the amount of \$12,000 for any costs directly related to building this project (design and construction).

So, with a total of about \$28,800 (we had about \$5,600 in designated funds before the article appeared) we are in the midst of building a state-of-the-art predatory mammal enclosure – with recirculating ponds, landscaping, live video feed, natural dens, solar energy ... the works. We hope to get approval from the County Parks and Recreation Department soon, pull together our drawings and plans and commence building this structure before year's end.

Soon we'll have a wonderful enclosure in which to raise our predatory mammals and extra funds to oversee the lengthy care and rehabilitation process. We owe a huge thank you to Mercury News reporter Linda Goldston for writing such a wonderful piece on the foxes and Center. We are so grateful to all the wonderful folks who cared enough to help WCSV realize our goal of building the enclosure.



Editor's note: The number of foxes has now climbed to five. The group is doing well— eating, playing, growing. They receive very hands-off rehabilitation so that they develop to adulthood without imprinting or socializing with humans. They will be released as soon as they exhibit the ability to fend for themselves.



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



"Winging it at the Winery"

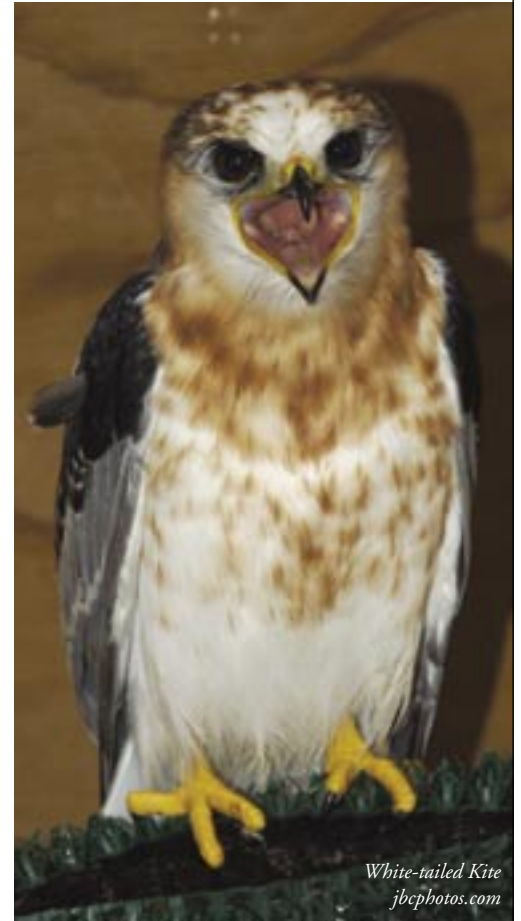
Raptor Release Set for September 24th

On a warm autumn evening a WCSV rehabilitated raptor will spread its wings and fly to freedom over a historic winery in the Cupertino Hills of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Please join us for this very special occasion.

"We're not sure yet what species of raptor we'll be able to release, although more than likely it will be an owl since they are nocturnal," says Carmel de Bertaut, Animal Care Coordinator for WCSV. "So far this season we've helped eight barn owls, five great horned owls, five screech owls, one burrowing owl, one pygmy owl, five American kestrels, seven red-tailed hawks, 25 red-shouldered hawks, and ten Cooper's hawks. We receive a variety of raptors throughout the season, so we're hopeful we'll have one or several birds ready to release then."

The raptor release is not the only reason to attend the "Winging it at the Winery" benefit for WCSV. There will also be three non-releasable raptors on display, allowing guests to mingle and get a good look. "We released our rehabilitated great horned owl but, after successfully landing in a tree, she fell like a stone and lay on the ground. We took her back home. Close inspection revealed that she has a detached retina, making her unreleasable. She's been a great wildlife ambassador ever since. Great horned owls have among the largest eyes of any owl species and they rely on their sight to capture prey. Imagine having eyes the size of grapefruits!" says Karen Hoyt of SkyHunters, a nonprofit dedicated to public education and conservation of raptors.

The "Winging it at the Winery" benefit takes place on Saturday, September 24, from 6 – 9 p.m. at Picchetti Winery. Founded in 1896 in the foothills behind Stevens Creek reservoir, it is one of the oldest wineries in California. Guests can sample "flights" of wine, including Picchetti's excellent Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs, Cabernets and more while savoring an elegant tapas buffet dinner. When not distracted by the flock of some twenty peacocks that roam the grounds, guests can participate in silent auctions and lively raffles – all for the benefit of the wild animals in our neighborhoods. Tickets are \$75/person and must be purchased in advance. Please order your tickets by calling 408.929.9453 by September 13th, and be sure to save the date!



White-tailed Kite
jbcphotos.com



Blue Heron
Theresa Kiteley

Don't Forget to Renew Your eScrip!

For the school year 2005-2006 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 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

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

West Nile Virus

Summer Predictions and 2005 Update

by Susan Schulter

As all Santa Clara County residents know, this past winter's rainy season was long and productive. Although rain is welcomed in our dry climate, a downside is that lots of rain increases the likelihood of lots of mosquitoes, and mosquitoes increase the potential for further spread of West Nile virus. This article is an update regarding the steps our County Health Department and Vector Control district are taking to curtail the virus. As private citizens, we can also play a crucial role in the curtailment effort, so we have included tips for doing just that.



To quickly review, West Nile is a mosquito-borne disease common in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East, which began appearing in North America some four or five years ago. The virus is contracted when one is bitten by an infected mosquito. You cannot get West Nile Virus from an infected bird or mammal! This misconception has probably arisen due to the fact that most birds that become infected with West Nile through a mosquito bite eventually die. People encounter the dead bird, not the mosquito, so they incorrectly assume that the bird can transmit the virus to them. It cannot. West Nile symptoms in people include headache, fever and congestion, and are potentially most problematic for elderly individuals and children.

According to Noor Tietze, Scientific and Technical Services Manager for Santa Clara County Vector Control, reducing mosquito populations is the ultimate way to prevent West Nile spread. To that end, Vector Control has divided Santa Clara Valley into thirty different sections, and set mosquito traps in each one. When a high volume of mosquitoes is trapped in a particular section of the valley, Vector Control grinds the mosquitoes together, and then tests the entire batch for the presence of West Nile. To date, July 2005, the mosquito traps have not yielded any positive West Nile results. However, eleven dead birds have tested positive, and this is a higher number than at the same time last summer. Vector Control also continually monitors our local creeks for infected mosquitoes, inspecting them along with other likely mosquito sources, and tests for the virus every ten days. They also work with local cemeteries to remove mosquitoes

from urns and other areas where they might accumulate. The greatest challenge, according to Noor Tietze, is backyard sites where mosquitoes may be multiplying, but where privacy issues make it difficult for Vector Control to gain access. To that end, he says, there is much that we can do as private citizens to help. Here are some recommendations:

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 the 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. The local Vector Control can provide you with these. Horses are susceptible to West Nile, so if you own a horse, consider having it vaccinated, and keep mosquito fish in its water trough.

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.

Another Vector Control West Nile detection project involves testing sentinel chicken flocks. These flocks are housed in coops in various locations throughout Santa Clara County. Unlike wild bird populations that move around, the sentinel chickens are stationary and can therefore provide information about infected mosquito populations in specific areas. Every week, small blood samples are drawn from the chickens and tested for the presence of West Nile antibodies. If antibodies are found, then infected mosquitoes are likely in the area, and Vector Control knows where to set more mosquito traps and/or impose further means of mosquito control.

It's crucial that we educate other people about West Nile, mosquito transmission of it, and the need to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. When we share West Nile information with others, let's emphasize that we do not get West Nile virus from birds; we get it from mosquitoes. 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.

Billie Zwolinski Wins Both a National and a Local Award

by Patricia Abreu

Billie Zwolinski is a remarkable woman who is a lifelong champion of animals. She is a quiet, modest, unassuming, hardworking, kindhearted person who has helped and loved animals her whole life. For the past four years, Billie has been an outstanding volunteer at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley.

In June, Billie was chosen to receive the Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) Kindred Spirit Award. In April, Billie was chosen to win a Crystal Bowl Award from the Junior League of San Jose (JLSJ). In November, Billie was given the WCSV Volunteer of the Year Award.

DDAF created the nationwide Animal Kingdom Kindred Spirit Award to acknowledge individuals who have shown extraordinary compassion toward animals and to inspire other people to do the same. The award consists of a letter of commendation from the executive director of DDAF, a certificate of recognition, and an Animal Champion pin. "The winners of the Kindred Spirit Award ... prove that one person really can help make this a kinder world" according to the web site: <http://www.ddaf.org/kindredspirit/>. Along with famous television host Bob Barker, Billie received one of the 27 Kindred Spirit Awards given out this year.



In April, the JLSJ held its 36th annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the San Jose Convention Center to celebrate the everyday successes of local volunteers. At this luncheon, the Junior League honored 110 outstanding volunteers in our community with Certificates of Appreciation and they honored 16 top volunteers with Crystal

Bowl Awards. Billie was chosen as one of the 16 Crystal Bowl Award Winners as a tribute to her accomplishments. Visit <http://www.jlsj.org/sanjose/index.jsp>.

In 2004, Billie logged in over 1200 volunteer hours working with the wildlife at the WCSV, giving medical care, cleaning cages, preparing food and feeding the animals, answering the telephones and counseling citizens on their animal concerns, transporting animals, and doing homecare for juvenile raccoons, squirrels, and ducks. With only three paid staff, the WCSV relies heavily on the time and talent of over 125 volunteers to keep the Center going year after year. At our annual volunteer party in November, Billie was celebrated as our Volunteer of the Year, and amid a round of applause, she was given a pair of sturdy work gloves.

When Billie came to WCSV, she wrote on her application that she believes that every baby deserves a chance to grow up. Billie truly embodies the saying attributed to Mother Teresa: "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." Billie spends thousands of hours doing small things with great love: she has spent the past four years of her life helping those who truly cannot help themselves—injured and orphaned wildlife.

For ten years prior to joining WCSV, Billie volunteered in a Pet Therapy program. Twice a month for ten years, Billie would visit the Veteran's Hospital in Palo Alto and the Children's Hospital at Stanford with her beloved, gentle animals: her dog, Punkin; her rabbit, Jeff; and her cat, Amelia. Together with her well-loved and well-trained animals, Billie brought comfort and hope to many sick and dying people through the Pet Therapy program.

Billie grew up traveling every year, from Canada to Central America, from Florida to California, and numerous states in between. Her first dog was Peppy and she has loved many cats and dogs since then. In 1963, she moved to California, and she currently shares her home with her partner and loving husband, Paul, their cats, bunnies, and dog. She is the mother of three sons, a former nurse, and now a full-



time volunteer wildlife rehabilitator. She is an exceptionally kindhearted, hardworking, gifted person who deserves this nationwide and local recognition for her compassion for animals.

WCSV is recruiting new board members

The WCSV board of directors is actively and strategically recruiting new board members to help us achieve our mission and long and short-term goals of serving Silicon Valley's wildlife and community. We are looking for talented, dedicated professionals who can make a strong commitment to working as a team and individually to help WCSV thrive and grow. Board members contribute anywhere from 5 to 10 hours per week on board work, attend a monthly board meeting, and head special committees and projects. We are currently seeking people with skills and experience in the following areas: fundraising, public relations, nonprofit organizations, business management, human resources, accounting, marketing, event planning and law. Interested individuals are asked to fill out an application form, submit a resume, and participate in an interview. We also have a probationary period in which candidates work on a project with a mentor and attend three board meetings. If you or someone you know would make an excellent candidate, please contact Patricia Abreu at patricia@wcsv.org or 408.323.9133.



by Carmel de Bertaut

We are about halfway through our busy wildlife season and have had a constant flow of admissions daily. Here are some highlights of what we have seen so far this summer:



Western Bluebird

Western bluebird:

July 1st we received a fledgling Western bluebird, a bird we rarely see. As we did not have other bluebirds to raise him with, we set him up with a group of American robins as both species are in the thrush family. He had a large bruise on right leg upon admission and is doing well. He should be ready release in a few weeks.



Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk:

Also July 1st we received a fledgling Swainson's hawk. This species of hawk is rare in the South Bay Area and is declared a threatened species in the state of California. We will continue to raise him so he can be released back into the wild by September in time for him to migrate to Argentina. Swainson's hawks

are predominantly insect eaters during the non-breeding season and switch to rodents during breeding and rearing of their young. They are larger than red-shouldered hawks but smaller than red-tailed hawks.

Vaux's swifts: Life at WCSV is hectic but going well— every 40 minutes or so our timers go off which signals another feeding. As the incubator with six nestling Vaux's swifts is opened for feeding, they can be heard throughout the building announcing their whereabouts in very high-pitched calls. Vaux's swifts nest in dark hollow areas such as chimneys. The parents, who have no sense of smell, need to hear their young in order to locate them for feeding.

Other animals in our care include: jays, crows, mockingbirds, swallows, several species of hawks and owls, kestrels, raccoons, foxes, opossums, squirrels, and more. We will continue to admit, feed, clean and, the best part, release young wildlife until the season comes to an end sometime in September. The end of summer signals the beginning of the fall/winter season— when animal intake slows down enough for us to catch our breath and prepare for the sick and injured patients this new season will bring.

Photos by Carmel de Bertaut



Red-tailed Hawk
jbcphotos.com



Canada Geese
jbcphotos.com



Green Heron
jbcphotos.com



Nuttall's Woodpecker
jbcphotos.com



Great Horned Owl
jbcphotos.com



Virginia Opossum
jbcphotos.com



Raccoon
jbcphotos.com

by Trudi Burney



School's out! Summer's here and warm weather allows for lots of outdoor time. We hope you have the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the various habitats our valley offers along with the different animal species that share our environment. Please take time and enjoy their song and beauty, and respect them from afar without jeopardizing their safety or yours. The mammals and birds within our region with have important roles to play in supporting our land. Let's leave them to do their job and protect them from harm.

Since the beginning of the school year we've entered several classrooms and have taught over 848 children from Hubbard Elementary, Northwood School, Arbuckle School, Morrill Middle School, Guadalupe School, Dove Hill Elementary and Independence High School. We hope the kids and young adults we've taught during the school year will take into the world lessons learned of co-existence, habitat preservation and other ways of helping wildlife as they enjoy their summer activities.

Our education programs do slow down during the summer but still continue during June, July and August at community festivals, service clubs and summer camps. I'd like to fill up our summer schedule even more with additional venues. Please contact me at tab01@sbcglobal if you have an outreach opportunity for us. Have a fun summer!

Birdies on the Green

August 29, 2005

At the Villages Golf & Country Club

\$160 entry fee per player

Includes

Range balls and driving range

Round of golf

Box lunch

Player gift package

Buffet dinner

Awards



Golf Tournament & Dinner

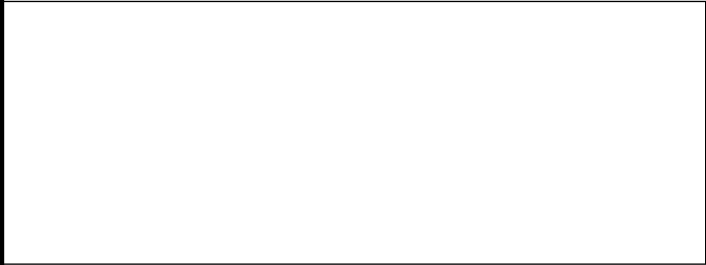
Please visit our website at www.wcsv.org for more information and registration forms





Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley
A Rehabilitation, Release & Educational Facility
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Winging it at the Winery



Great horned owl nesting that fell from a 45-foot palm tree in San Jose - flying soon in a neighborhood near you!

"It's my party and I'll fly if I want to"

Raptor release & elegant tapas benefit dinner at Picchetti Winery

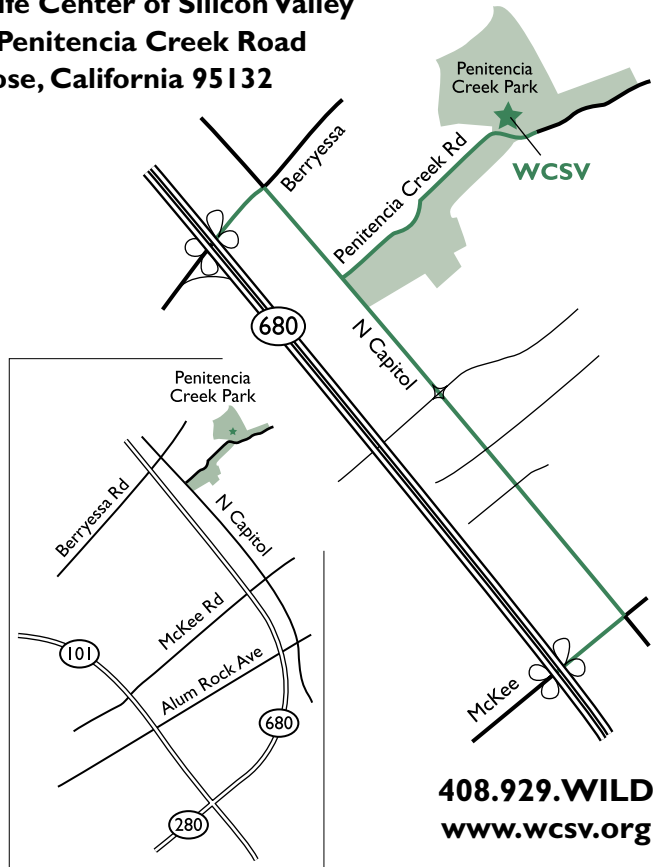
Celebrate while we release one of our rehabilitated raptors
 Meet & mingle with owls, kestrels and more
 Savor "flights" of wine & an elegant tapas buffet dinner at a historic hillside winery
 Enjoy silent auctions & live raffles

Date/Time: Saturday, September 24, 6-9 pm
 Location: Picchetti Winery, Cupertino Hills
 Tickets: \$75/person. Please order tickets by Sept. 13th
 Call (408) 929-9453

Buy your tickets now and save the date!

How to Contact Us

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



408.929.WILD
www.wcsv.org

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