



giving wildlife a *Second Chance*

Fall 2010

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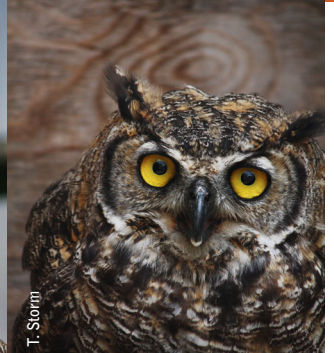
D. Christie



T. Storm



T. Storm



T. Storm

PWC's mission is to rehabilitate and return to their natural habitat, orphaned or injured wildlife, and to educate our community to value and respect wildlife and the environment we share with them.

Pelican Perils Prompt Surprise Gift

One very busy Sunday in February, Valerie Cummings stopped by the Rehab Center asking, "What's going on with my pelicans?!" She had seen an article in her local newspaper about the hundreds of pelicans stranding along California's beaches. I gave her a tour around our facility, and she was treated to a close-up view of a recuperating pelican (one of the lucky survivors).

Valerie later surprised us when she mailed a very generous donation designated for pelican and raptor care. Valerie and her late husband Jim's gift will help save many lives. We are forever grateful. - Dani Nicholson

Jim's Story

"My husband, Jim, was born in San Francisco on July 15, 1919, the first of three children. Sometime during his grammar school years, the family moved to Burlingame. First to a home on Bayswater Avenue and later to an apartment house. The family always had cats and sometimes dogs and guinea pigs which were kept in cages on the apartment roof.



Jim & Valerie Cummings

the Oakdale Property and in 1953 moved to Chico-Durham, where the almond farming was better. By the end of his life, Jim was farming pretty much organically.

We were married in 1968. I remember Jim was always rescuing some animal or another. We rehabbed many a bird in our back porch laundry room and even kept Raul the Owl (a Great-horned Owl, rescued as a baby) for several months.

As he got older, Jim became increasingly concerned about humans "making a mess" of the planet. Jim wanted to be sure that what he had worked hard for his whole life would go to help animals and the environment.

He made a provision in his Trust for funds to support the ongoing work of non-profits whose primary purpose is the protection and preservation of plant, marine and/or animal life. He wanted to create a legacy that would help preserve and protect the health and habitat of wildlife.

I hope everything is going well at the Center and with your wildlife."

- Valerie Cummings

It is in Jim Cummings honor that funds were granted to Pacific Wildlife Care this year and we are truly thankful to Valerie for carrying out Jim's wishes.

Jim's father purchased almond orchard property in Oakdale, California and that led to Jim attending UC Davis. He graduated with a BS in Horticulture in 1940 and then went straight to Ft. Ord for basic training. He spent the years 1942-1946 overseas with the 8th Air Force as a quartermaster, 1st Lieutenant. After discharge, he and his brother formed

13 Ways to Give!

1. **Monthly Subscription Membership** - The Best! Gives PWC monthly operating cash flow
2. **Annual Membership** - Our MAIN means of being able to care for wildlife
3. **Year End Donation** - Any donation amount is tax deductible - PWC is 501(c)3
4. **Gift Membership** - Perfect for upcoming holidays or any special occasion (You ask for one!)
5. **In Memory of** - Honor a loved one or beloved pet by giving in their name
6. **Visit the website** for the list of ways to support PWC via: Good Search, Cafe Press etc.
7. **Buy** a PWC t-shirt/sweatshirt, or Birdsbesafe or CatBib cat collar at the Rehab Center
8. **Look for Donation Jar** at Lemos Feed (Morro Bay), Wildbirds Unlimited
9. **Get Creative!** Save spare change, hold a garage sale, have your club sponsor an animal
10. **Estate Planning** - (Speak with your estate planner)
11. **Gifts of Stock** - Avoid capital gains & receive a tax deduction (talk to your stockbroker)
12. **Provide items from our Wish List** - View at www.pacificwildlifecare.org (lower left)
13. **VOLUNTEER** for: Phones, transporting, special events, grant writing, landscape maintenance, building projects, hands-on with the animals, data entry.



Volunteer Appreciation Picnic held July 24 at Atascadero Park

PWC President's Perch By Dave Klinzman

As Acting President of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to be involved with dedicated volunteers focused on accomplishing the mission of Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC).

Three years ago the Rehabilitation Center opened. We are currently on track to admit over 1,700 cases this year. PWC's Center is a centralized, dynamic facility providing standardized intake evaluation, case documentation, nutrition and care protocols and business administrative functions.

Yes, we've grown, but we have a lot of growing to do. Our future must include:

- A full or part-time Executive Director / fundraising professional;
- A full time Operations Director focused on animal care and facility management;
- A dedicated motor vehicle for transport.

Currently, we have an extraordinarily effective volunteer team:

The **phone volunteers** are on track to log close to 2,500 hot line calls; The **transporter volunteers** logged 2,200 miles and 60 hours in July alone; The **Center volunteers** routinely log over 1,200 hours a month giving care; In June, dedicated **home rehabilitators** logged more than 1,000 hours; The **Education and Outreach Team** has appeared with our educational animal "ambassadors" at over 50 presentations this year.

Without these precious gifts of time, PWC's mission would not be achievable, and, for that, I thank everyone involved. As important as the gift of "time," however, is the gift of "treasure." We have received generous grants this year allowing several projects to be undertaken: large pools for flight one, completion of the landscaping, a songbird aviary and, importantly, the final payoff of the building loan for the facility itself!

Membership dues and donations to the General Fund help support day-to-day operations, but these dollars from our 780 (and growing) members don't cover them all.

By signing up for a subscription membership (for as little as \$10 per month), our cash flow becomes stable. This can be done through our website or email or call our hot line and indicate your wish to establish a subscription.

Please take a moment to review the enclosed year-end pledge envelope and consider making a tax-deductible donation. Or, consider giving a holiday season gift for friends and family. It's a great way to share your interest in PWC with others!

Finally, I want to thank you all for your past and future support. Without your donations of both "time" and "treasure" we couldn't continue our important work with wildlife!

Releases (May-August)

Acorn Woodpecker	8	Cottontail	14	Raccoon	1
American Coot	1	Coyote	1	Racer Snake	1
American Crow	12	Deer Mouse	3	Red-shafted Flicker	1
American Kestrel	8	Double-crested Cormorant	2	Red-shouldered Hawk	9
Anna's Hummingbird	4	Eurasian Collared-Dove	16	Red-tailed Hawk	5
Band-tailed Pigeon	3	European Starling	3	Red-throated Loon	5
Barn Owl	6	Golden Eagle	1	Ring-billed Gull	1
Barn Swallow	1	Goldfinch	1	Robin	1
Black Capped Chickadee	1	Goose (Domestic)	1	Rock Dove	6
Black Phoebe	5	Great Egret	1	Screech Owl	2
Black-crowned Night Heron	9	Great Horned Owl	9	Scrub Jay	19
Black-headed Grosbeak	2	Green Heron	1	Snowy Egret	1
Black-tailed Deer	2	Grey Squirrel	3	Song Sparrow	1
Brant Goose	1	Ground Squirrel	4	Spotted Towhee	1
Brewer's Blackbird	5	House Finch	23	Steller's Jay	1
Brown Pelican	1	House Sparrow	12	Titmouse	1
Bullock's Oriole	2	Kangaroo Rat	2	Turkey Vulture	2
Bush Rabbit	1	King Snake	1	Unknown Bird	4
California Gull	1	Maggie	1	Weasel	1
California Quail	1	Mallard	15	Western Gray Squirrel	3
California Thrasher	1	Mourning Dove	4	Western Grebe	2
California Towhee	3	Northern Mockingbird	7	Western Gull	17
Clark's Grebe	1	Oak Titmouse	1	Western Pond Turtle	1
Cliff Swallow	11	Opossum	30	Western Tanager	1
Common Ground Dove	1	Pacific Loon	1		
Common Murre	1	Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	2	Totals	338

Rodent Solution: A Red-tailed Hawk By Meg Crockett

It began with an overheard conversation on July 26, one docent asking another if there was a solution for the bad vole (rodent) problem at the SLO Botanical Gardens. "We need a Red-tailed Hawk," came the answer; too many plants were being killed by the pesky rodents. Since I also volunteer at Pacific Wildlife Care, I wondered if PWC could help.

PWC normally releases raptors where they were found, so it seemed like a long shot. However, I checked with PWC supervisor, Melinda Alvarado. She said a Red-tailed Hawk had arrived the day before covered in sludge from the SLO Water Reclamation Facility.

"Wait a minute, I took that call on the hot-line!" I remembered. Melinda had PWC volunteer, Tamar Carmona, check the juvenile female to make sure she could fly well enough for release. She was flying quite well!

We asked PWC's Teddy Llovet, a wildlife photographer, if she would shoot the release. Debbie Hoover, at the Garden, gave permission to release the bird there.

When we arrived at the Garden there was PWC's Virginia Flaherty, coincidentally attending a birthday party at the Garden. "Tamar and I washed this bird yesterday!" she said.

Virginia put on leather gloves, took the bird out of the crate and tossed her into the air. The hawk took a one swoop around the Education Building and landed on the rooftop. After a few minutes of shaking out her tail feathers, she took off and was almost immediately joined by three other Red-tailed Hawks.

Our worries about this juvenile not being accepted by the other hawks proved groundless. She rose with two of the other hawks higher and higher until, as tiny dots in the sky, they disappeared from view. Ten minutes later she flew back for a closer look at the vole hill. Those voles will need to watch out!

Calendar Dates

October 2-3
Staff attended Oiled Wildlife Care Network's (OWCN) "Oilapalooza" Annual Conference at UC Davis
Oct. 20 Volunteer Opportunities Orientation held
October 23 (10-11:00 AM) Transporter Training Held
October 24 (12-1:30 AM) Phone Volunteer Training Held

Tues. November 9

▶ Annual General Membership Meeting (See announcement this page)

Sat. November 13 (10-Noon)

PWC Educational Turkey Vulture "Mr. Handsome" at Friends of Fiscalini Ranch Talk more info: 927-2202

Sat. December 4 (10-11:30 AM)

New Volunteer Orientation
RSVP jstone_tierney@charter.net

Sat. December 11 (10-11:00 AM)

Wildlife Transporter Training
RSVP solarken@att.net

Sun. December 12 (12-1:30 PM)

Phone Volunteer Training
RSVP dave_klinzman@yahoo.com

January

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival
PWC Booth and Sat. "Meet the Raptors" presentations

You're Invited!

▶ Annual General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 PM
Morro Bay Senior Center, Morro Bay

- Refreshments
- Brief Board Meeting
- Bring your ballots! Voting results
- Guest Speakers:
Andrea Muentzer "Gulf Coast Experience"
Jeanette Stone "PWC & Oil Spill Response"
- Animal Ambassadors: "Buddy" (Red-tailed Hawk), "Mr. Handsome" (Turkey Vulture), "Max" (Great-horned Owl), "Olivia" (Opossum), "Xena" (American Kestrel), "Morro" (Peregrine Falcon), "Jack" (Merlin Falcon)



T. Storm

Terry Cook opens the crate and back to the wild flies a rehabbed Golden Eagle. This was the first of two Golden Eagles released within two months.



K. Highfill

Solar-heated water is now being used at the Rehab Center courtesy of generous donations from PG&E, Woods Family Foundation, Solarponics, Inc. and Semmes & Company.



K. Highfill

Measuring Success: PWC Receives A One-Of-A-Kind Banding Permit

By Claudia Duckworth

As someone who has rehabilitated wildlife for 18 years, I am often asked "How do you know if what you do is successful? Do the animals that you release survive?" The honest answer is always, "We don't know."

PWC rehabilitators work hard to care for injured animals. We try to ensure that they will have every chance of surviving in the natural world. But there is no way of knowing what happens after release.

The National Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) (Department of the Interior) strictly regulates tagging or marking wild birds. Obtaining a permit requires an approved application and time served as an apprentice to a master bander. Most permits are for gathering data about breeding habits, migration, dispersal, social structure, life-span, survival rates and population growth.

Rehabbed birds skew the statistics that banders compile. They do not want data on birds that have been sick, injured or orphaned and kept in captivity for a period of time – birds that would not have survived without human intervention. This policy has prevented rehabilitation centers like PWC from obtaining banding permits. Their reasons are legitimate and I respect them.

We have been thinking for some time of a way that PWC could track our releases and hence learn what is working and what is not. PWC made a proposal to the National Bird Banding Laboratory back in February and they have recently notified us that they are granting us a one-of-a-kind banding permit.

We will be allowed to place temporary bands made of a material that will disintegrate over time on the birds that we release. We will be able to band any species as long as we can band without harm or danger to the bird. Our birds will not go into the national database used by all other federal banders, but will be for our purposes only.

This is a first for BBL and PWC is appreciative. We began banding with a Turkey Vulture in August and a Golden Eagle in September.

If you find an injured or dead bird with our band, please bring it to the center or call and let us know the species and location. The ability to track our releases is a significant and exciting step forward in our efforts to rehabilitate and release animals that will survive in the wild – and to learn how successful our rehab efforts have been!



Pacific Wildlife Care
 PO Box 1134
 Morro Bay, CA 93443

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 SanLuisObispoCA
 93403
 PermitNo.325

How about a Gift Membership to PWC (for your family/friends) or, tell them we're on YOUR wish list!

Special Thank Yous

Hind Foundation Grant (New seabird pools in Flight 1 & landscaping)
 Central Coast Wine Classic Grant (Energy-efficient window coverings)
 Jacobsen Foundation Donation
 Idler's Appliances (clothes dryer)
 McKaila Lewis (For 9th birthday, asked guests to donate to PWC, over \$550 raised!)
 Monarch Grove 6th Graders: Katie, Mariah, Olivia & Samantha (Community Action Project, yard sale proceeds to PWC, over \$350)
 Ruzena Brar and Elly Schowalter (Grant writers) and Windows into Wildlife attendees who pledged for Emerald, our commercial blender, and walk-on scale.

New Members (May-August)

Iris Alexandra	Glenn Greenwald	Sandra Olesnanik
Eloisa Armida	Ed Grimshaw	Amanda Pellicani
Bonnie Bennett	Richard Grise	Deb Ann Phelan
Kevin Bernotas	George Hansen	Helen Irene Shippee
Dianne Brink	Renn Herrera	Suzi Sisneros
Jeff Carey	Craig Heyl	Athena Stairs
Ginny Carr	Hog Canyon Orchard	Carolyn Stewart - Snow
Marianne L. Cocks	Linda Holland	Jane Sutton
Linda Collins	Amber Jackson	Camille Tovar
Virginia Cullum	Kermit Johansson	Robert Tribe
Celine & Tony DiBernardo	McKaila Lewis	Vera von Rauner
Rose Dolce-Skarphol	Gene Masuda	Kendra Watkins
Aimee Ellison	Lydia McCowin	Mark Weegar
Eryn Embree	Michael McLaughlin	Judy West
Terry Excell	Earlyne Mund	TerryAnn Willingham
Janice Godshalk	Ellis Nash	
	Pearl Nicholson	

We apologize if we missed anyone, let us know & we'll include you in the next issue

Membership/Donations

Please remember PWC in your 2010 year-end giving!

<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$2500	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocate	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior/Volunteer	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____	

Visit us online at www.pacificwildlifecare.org to set up a monthly subscription or pay by credit card

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Date: _____

Please check: New Membership Renewal Donation I would like volunteer

Please mail completed form with check to:

Pacific Wildlife Care, P.O. Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

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

www.pacificwildlifecare.org
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