



giving wildlife a **Second Chance**

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Summer 2009



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.

A Journey Interrupted *by Claudia Duckworth*

Phalaropes are tiny open ocean birds that breed in the Arctic and winter on tropical oceans. There are three species; Red, Red-necked and Wilson's that appear here on the Central Coast of California.

This year, in mid-May, Richard Rowlett, a NOAA scientist who tracks whale and seabird migrations from the Piedras Blancas Light Station, reported thousands of Red and Red-necked Phalaropes moving north off our coasts.

They were traveling in large flocks with tens of thousands of other birds including several species of Loons, Cormorants, Murres, Auklets, Shearwaters, Whimbrels, wandering Tattlers and others along with various marine mammals. At almost

the exact same time, a Red-necked Phalarope was brought into the PWC Center covered in oil.

Phalaropes are interesting in that it is the females who are brightly colored and who display to attract the less conspicuous males. The males brood and raise the young while the female leaves to find another mate. Our bird was a female. She was so tiny, it was frightening to wash her for fear of causing injury, but we did. Eventually, she regained her waterproofing and literally flew out of the hospital pool up to the ceiling of the seabird room.

We released her at Morro Bay on Sunday and on Monday, Mr. Rowlett sent an email listing the bird species seen that

day migrating north. Among his listings was a rather odd one: an adult Red-necked Phalarope amongst a pack of ten Pacific Loons.

Loons are quite large birds, so this was comparable to a hummingbird flying with a flock of crows. She was the only Phalarope spotted that day and I'd like to believe it was our bird, back on her way to the Arctic with an interesting story to tell her friends.



Red-necked Phalarope

WANTED

Pacific Wildlife Care is searching for a few strong leaders to join the Board of Directors and help guide PWC into the future. The PWC Board is a group of talented, dedicated volunteers who set the direction of the organization, ensuring financial sustainability, fulfilling its goals and promoting its mission.

To qualify, we ask that you have a passion for the natural world and its inhabitants, have a proven history of civic involvement, and are dedicated to PWC and its good works.

Nominations are open to all members. To learn more about the selection process, to nominate yourself or another qualified member, please contact Jeanette Stone at 805-462-0643 or email jstone_tierney@charter.net.



Full Circle by Maureen (Mo) Lannan

Pacific Wildlife Care's Swimming Pool is for the Birds! Literally.

Greg Hind of The Hind Foundation provided the funds for Pacific Wildlife Care to purchase a custom designed 12' X 5' fiber glass swimming pool for the expressed purpose of rehabilitating pelagic seabirds. The pool will speed the rehabilitation process significantly.

Pacific Wildlife Care is a primary facility in the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. Oiled birds routinely come into the Center for treatment. The pelagic pool is one of the most important elements in successfully rehabilitating seabirds. PWC wishes to thank Greg and Jane Hind for their support.

On March 20th, I received a call about a downed hawk in Templeton. The phone volunteer asked if I could rescue it. I am also a phone volunteer but I rarely go out to capture wildlife. However, raptors are my passion and though I'd never done it before, I said I would certainly try.

At the site I saw the Red-tailed Hawk, with an injured left wing. It resisted, but with a quick drop of a towel (to reduce stress), I captured him.

Throughout the next week, I checked on him often. Then, one day he was gone – he had been transferred to Kelly (one of our permitted rehabbers) who has a large flight cage on her property.

A funny "French" word:

A month later, Claudia (one of our Center supervisors) put out a call for anyone interested in being trained in "creance." Creance is the long, light fishing line or nylon cord used to "tether" a raptor for training

purposes. Before releasing a raptor, its wings must be strong enough to thrive in the wild.

An anklet and jesses are placed on the raptor's leg; a lead-line is attached to the jess, and on the end of the lead-line a creance is attached. A sturdy fishing reel feeds out the creance, allowing the bird to fly the to length of the line and land.



Photo by Maureen Lannan

Next steps:

The raptor is then taken to an open space and placed on a perch. The hood is removed. It can fly up to 150 feet away and is slowed down with some pressure as it reaches the tether's end.

After taking the creance class an email came from Claudia: she had a raptor ready for creance. On Saturday we met at the Center, and much to my surprise, it was the hawk I had captured back in March!

A local school offered the perfect site. The creance was attached; we placed him on the perch, removed his hood, and watched as Virginia held the reel. Off he flew. His wings looked great! After his third flight, he was winded. We did two more flights and took him back to the Rehabilitation Center.

Three days later, we drove to a large, empty field, set him up, stood back and waited. Within seconds, he was off. Marcelle, Claudia & I took turns on the creance reel. After ten flights, with his wings and legs doing beautifully, he was not out of breath!

On Thursday, April the 6th, after Kelly had him banded, Kelly, Virginia, her brother-in-law, Mike and I met at the original rescue site along with a thrilled Mr. Jensen (the original "rescuer") who stood ready with his camera. Kelly removed the hawk from the crate, placed him on her gloved arm, and we waited.



Photo by Virginia Flaberty

Not yet realizing he was free, he sat there. Kelly added up and down arm movement and he took off for a nearby pine tree. He turned, looked at us, and off he flew – free!

There you have it: full circle! For PWC volunteers and those reporting injured and orphaned animals - This is what it's all about: **THE RELEASE!**

Removing Hooks & Fishing Line from a Brown Pelican - A Volunteer's Perspective

— By Tamar Carmona

It took three people to remove multiple hooks from the Brown Pelican. One stabbed the left side of her neck; another sliced her neck's right side; a third pierced the webbing of her left foot.

Bluish fishing line wrapped around her, preventing flight. Under her left wing a festering, apparent, seal bite added to her woes.

While we worked, pelican lice swarmed up our arms. Mite spray on her only hastened the lice's exodus. This infestation – even in her mouth – indicated she had been a prisoner of fishing paraphernalia for many days.

Left alone, she would have died a slow, unkind death.

Removing the hooks with forceps and bold cutters was delicate. We cut where they attached to the line, then pulled back through the entry holes so the barbs would not cause further harm. We cleansed and wrapped her wounds and tube-fed her pain medication and fluids. She's alive and healing.

Fishermen need to be reminded, as do we all: leave no trace.

For further information www.pierwatch.org

Fish hooks embedded in a Pelican's neck or chest is an ugly picture and costly for PWC. Rehab (4-8 weeks) costs add up fast: \$250 for food (they can eat up to their weight daily in fish), \$100 for medication, and \$150 in veterinary bills for a total of \$500.00 (That's 20 PWC member's annual dues for just one injured pelican!)



Acorn Woodpecker	1
American Coot	1
American Crow	2
American Kestrel	2
Anna's Hummingbird	2
Band-tailed Pigeon	6
Barn Owl	2
Beaver	1
Black-headed Grosbeak	2
Black-tailed Deer	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	4
Brewer's Blackbird	4
Brown Pelican	5
California Quail	1
Cedar Waxwing	1
Clark's Grebe	2
Cliff Swallow	7
Common Loon	1
Common Murre	10
Cooper's Hawk	1
Cottontail	10
Dark-eyed Junco	1
Goldfinch	1
Gopher Snake	2
Great Egret	1
Great-horned Owl	5
Western Grey Tree Squirrel	5
Ground Squirrel	6
Hermit Thrush	1
House Finch	10
Lesser Goldfinch	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Mallard Duck	27
Northern Mockingbird	3
Mourning Dove	6
Virginia Opossum	20
Pacific Loon	1
Pigeon Guillemot	1
Raccoon	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	5
Red-tailed Hawk	5
Red-throated Loon	1
Red-throated Phalarope	1
Ring-billed Gull	2
Screech Owl	1
Scrub Jay	3
Spotted Skunk	2
Snowy Egret	1
Stellar's Jay	1
Swainson's Thrush	1
Thrasher	1
Tree Swallow	2
Turkey Vulture	1
Western Bluebird	1
Western Grebe	5
Western Gull	3
White-tailed Kite	2
TOTAL	200

Many of you are familiar with Cleve Nash—if not from knowing him personally, then through his photography or involvement in various organizations and publications supporting wildlife conservation.

Until 2007, Cleve worked for Tri-Counties Regional Center, San Luis Obispo, in social services quality assurance. Ruth Vasconcellos, in looking for a group home setting for her adult autistic son, Chris, called Tri-Counties and says this about her experience:

“It was a daunting task and I traveled from Santa Maria to Paso Robles looking at every home and work program available. I had called Tri-Counties for assistance with this task and was put in touch with Cleve. I don't know how I ever could have sifted through such an abundance of information without his insight and wisdom. He was honest, open, and most compassionate. He truly made our son's adjustment to the Central Coast a positive one and one in which he has grown to new horizons. God bless this dear man and his help in this quest.”

Upon retirement, Cleve stated that his plan was to spend his time with his photography, riding bicycles, and “many other ways to avoid honey-do jobs.”



Photo by Teddy Lloveret

We would have to ask Cleve's wife, Anne, how he's doing at avoiding the honey-do jobs, but know from the quality of his photographs that he has succeeded wildly in that endeavor. His love of each of the animals he captures with his camera's eye is obvious. Always respectful of their comfort zone, he waits patiently and, eventually, gets images that allow us to share their beauty in natural settings.

Cleve's most recent act of generosity is an offer made through his website, www.clevenash.com, to give a free mounted, matted, and framed 8" x 10" print of their choice to anyone who supports PWC with a monthly subscription donation of \$15 per month or more. We are fortunate to have this kind, elegantly-gifted man as a supporter of our work here.

Thank you to our New Members March, April, May, June

Laurie Abshire	Viv Goff	Joe O'Donnell
Kimberly Allen	Kyla Grafton	Betty Jo O'Henley
Antonia Balaban	Gabi Grether	Dawn Owens
Chris Bedwell	Steven Grossman	Karen Pederson
Grady Bell	Tony Hake	Tina Pinson
Janice Biggs	Ashley Harris	Lia Rabellino
Brenda Buckley	J. Scott Hawley	Joyce Rabellino
Wendy Butler	Jed Hazeltine	Sandi Rakestraw
Roxanne Castro	Meg Henry	Stephanie Raphael
Donna Chin	Jean & Frank Herrold	Sylvia "Gaye" Richardson
Patrick Coady	Jill Hillary	Janice & Ken Scotto
Claudia Coleman	Judith Iversen	Jay Slean
Christine Collie	Celene Joza	Ashley Steiner
Terrance Cook	Kathleen Kent	Phillip Strahl
Katelyn Cottle	Katherine Koch	Janet Swanson
Cathy Darling	Michael Krebsbach	Paula Teplitz
Mick Davoudian	Joshua Lange	Veronica Uralle
Julia Donath	Judy Lewis	Jason & Kim Van Dyke
Brian Dunn	Louis Love	Julie White Eyes
Enos-Culver Family	Cheri Lucas	Jackie Wright
Lila Ewbank	Heather Lucio	Christine & Alan Yecny
Jamie Flatebo	Lee Marfaglia	Marilyn Zahm
Frank Freitas	Rachel McDowell	
John Gault	Dianna McFarland	
Linda George	Dena Neill	

If we missed you let us know and we will list you next time.

We Thank you!

BJ Semmes <i>Hose for the pool vacuum</i>	David & Rosemary Slater <i>Ensure, pens & pencils</i>	Bob Nyby <i>animal crates</i>
Gregg Norton <i>Coastline Pool Service Pool vacuum head & handle</i>	Jacki & Brent Rucker <i>load of mulch/chips</i>	Sheila Blake <i>PWC's "special" Angel for getting whatever we need!</i>

Be an Angel and visit www.pacificwildlifecare.org/center_wishlist.html

Membership/Donations

“Yes, I would like to give wildlife a second chance!”

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior (65+) | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | | |

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

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

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Please check: New Membership Renewal I would like volunteer

Please mail completed form with check to: Pacific Wildlife Care, P.O. Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

How a Monthly Subscription Membership Benefits YOU & PWC:

YOU don't need to think about it - it's automatically deducted from your credit card or PayPal account

PWC can rely on funds to purchase medications and pay vet bills

YOU get to set the amount you can afford (\$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 a month or more!)

PWC will send a Cleve Nash framed wildlife photo of your choice if you subscribe \$15 or more per month

YOU get the Second Chance Newsletter & notification of released animals

PWC can continue to rehabilitate & return orphaned and injured wildlife to SLO County

YOU are a part of a non-profit organization and you realize a tax-deductible donation

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