



What's Inside

Wildlife Releases
Bike Riders' Rescue
Great Horned Owl Release
What's New at the Center
Special Thank Yous
New Members
How YOU Can Save Wildlife



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.

An Appreciation of Melinda & Ivy Alvarado

by Claudia Duckworth



Pacific Wildlife Care recently needed information about the length of time each of the supervisors at the Rehabilitation Center has been rehabilitating wildlife. Melinda's response of twenty-two years brought back memories.

We spent one night giving fluids to 30 Scoters (large sea ducks) in boxes that filled the Alvarado kitchen. Many procedures were done on their dining room table. Over the years the Ivy/Melinda team has taken the most difficult and fragile animals into their care including skunks, raccoons and coyotes. For many years Melinda and Ivy did most of the PWC mammals, baby birds – even fawns. (I consider Ivy one of our best swallow rehabbers.)

Melinda spent many weeks doing physical therapy on a young injured fox and the patience and devotion that I observed continues to inspire me.

She has served in every board position, including president, and helped develop many of the policies and procedures used by PWC today. In fact Melinda worked countless hours to acquire the Rehabilitation Center in Morro Bay.

Today, we have more resources available such as the Internet, the Oiled Wildlife Care Network and International Bird Rescue Research Center. But we need to remember and appreciate those who struggled to establish and fulfill the mission of Pacific Wildlife Care long before many of us joined in to help.

Melinda and Ivy are a team and two years ago, as some of you know, Ivy's heart stopped for a period of time and she is recovering from the resulting brain injury. It is a tribute to both of them that they are back working with Pacific Wildlife Care and I wanted others to know, as I do, just how lucky we are to have them!

I first met Melinda and Ivy when I was a new and eager PWC phone volunteer and transporter. At that time, 16 years ago, Melinda's home on the Nipomo mesa was the Pacific Wildlife Care "center." She and three-year-old Ivy were not home one day but Melinda left me a note that I kept for years as a souvenir.

It read, "The hawk is in the bedroom in the back, there's a possum in the laundry room and a loon in the bathtub. Swallows are in a cage on the dining room table. Leave the woodpecker in the other bathroom down the hall on the right." This launched a long relationship and a lifetime of learning for me.

Melinda became my teacher. I soon learned she and Ivy were powerful advocates for any animal in need. It never mattered what time a call came in or how far away the animal was, Melinda responded if she was able. She bundled a sleeping Ivy into the car for the journey. I was sometimes lucky enough to go along.

As one of the few volunteers caring for mammals, she developed an interest in bats, resulting in her educational programs about the wonders of these intelligent and sensitive animals.

I have many fond memories of shared adventures, including: picking up a lonely beaver roaming the streets of Pismo Beach looking for love, and the weeks we spent training with falconer, Brad Felgar, learning creance (conditioning) for an eagle.

4 ways to help baby wildlife this spring

- 1. Fawns** - If you find an uninjured fawn, do not pick it up! Keep people and dogs away so that the mother can return. Fawns are often left alone for long periods of time while the mother (doe) goes off and forages for food.
- 2. Baby Birds** - If the bird has no feathers, it is a nestling and can be put back in the nest. If you cannot find the nest, you can make one and place it near the original nest-site. If parents do not return after a couple of hours to care for a naked, nestling bird, call the PWC hotline 543-WILD.
- 3. Young Fledgling Birds** - Most fledgling birds cannot fly when they leave the nest. They are often found on the ground. Keep pets and children away. The parents will continue to care for the bird. This is an important learning period in the little bird's life and lasts only a few days. The bird does not need rescuing.
- 4. Baby Mammals** - We get calls regarding raccoons and opossums whose parents have been trapped, with babies left to die. Do not trap and relocate opossums, raccoons, or skunks. The babies will soon grow up and the family will usually go on its way. If you need help, call our hotline for solutions.

*Well-meaning individuals sometimes try to raise orphaned wild animals. It is illegal to do so. Wild babies have specialized dietary needs and can become ill or die from improper diet. Licensed rehabilitators have the skills to feed these animals properly and to keep them wild so they can be returned to their natural habitat. **Share this info with friends & neighbors.***

Calendar Dates

January 6 & 8

Basic Rehabilitation Classes for current Center volunteers held

January 15

PWC held two "Meet the Raptor" public education events at MB Vet's Hall

February 5

New Volunteer Orientation held

February 12 / 13

Wildlife Transporter Training held
Phone Volunteer Training held

Sun. March 27, 2-5:00 PM

Windows into Wildlife III Fund Raiser
(see announcement back page)

Wed. April 6, 6-7:30 PM

Volunteer Opportunities Orientation
RSVP jstone_tierney@charter.net

Sat. April 9, 10-11:00 AM

Wildlife Transporter Training
RSVP solarcken@att.net

Sun. April 10, 11:30-1:30 PM

Phone Volunteer Training
RSVP dave_klinzman@yahoo.com

Save the Date!

Jenny Brantlee's "Yoga-thon" (Fundraiser for PWC)
June 21, 5:30 at Cloisters Park, Morro Bay

How to SAVE Wildlife This Spring

by Debbie Buckheim

Every spring, baby animals that have been orphaned or injured because their nests were damaged or removed arrive at PWC. Most people are appalled to find they have been the cause of these incidents, because the injury to wildlife is so easy to prevent: just procrastinate! Wait until nesting season is over: it really won't be long, often just a matter of weeks.

Before you cut or remove a tree, take a look to see if there are wild families already living there. If so, give them a chance to grow up and move out. Some nest in tree cavities, so check your trees thoroughly before trimming or removing. Remember to check in snags and even dead trees, as even they can be prime nesting spots.

Even trimming trees around a nest can be detrimental and can hurt the animal's chances for survival: not only because the noise and activity can scare away the parents, but because the nest's covering may be lost, exposing the babies to predators and the hot sun, wind and inclement weather.

Cutting, trimming and pruning during spring and early summer can lead to diseased trees and intrusion of pests that harm trees. Fall and early winter are the best times to trim (when trees are dormant). For more information on how to keep your trees healthy, visit www.treesaregood.com

Pruning wisely may seem like a small thing given all the dangers facing our environment and local wildlife. But every small contribution we make protecting the world around us helps improve the quality of life for all living things – including ourselves!



Bike Riders Rescue Hawk

By John FitzRandolph

Photos by Art Chapman

Art Chapman of Cambria takes a regular three times-a-week bike ride up Highway One to the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse and back. On this particular day in late November, Chapman was southbound, heading home, when he saw the two riders in front of him – Glen Baldwin and Mike Barnes – were directing traffic around a bird in the right hand lane.

As Chapman got closer he could see it was a hawk. "It appeared it had been injured by a car and so we moved it out of the lane of traffic and Mike called Pacific Wildlife Care." Baldwin and Barnes rode back to Cambria while Chapman and Greg Stone stayed with the hawk as cars whizzed by and the stunned hawk stayed put.

"It was in shock and it couldn't fly, but if you tried to get close to it the hawk would try to walk away," said Art.

The phone call to PWC set things in motion for the rescue. A call went out to Kelly, who then called Marcelle, who drove out to get the bird. I volunteered to transport and with the hawk safely aboard, I drove down to Morro Bay.

Virginia was on duty that afternoon and took the bird under her wing, so to speak. After a week in isolation at the Center, the bird was transported to Kelly's ranch in Cayucos, where she housed the hawk in her large fly pen, and on December 21st the hawk was released on a ranch near where it had

been found – about a mile north of the turn-off to Hearst Castle, near Arroyo Laguna.

"About half of our bike group was invited to the release," Chapman recounts. "It was quite fun to watch. Kelly held the hawk for a minute so we could get a picture, and before she could turn it

around to push it up into the air, it took off," Chapman explained. "It was quite a thrill for everybody who saw it."

It is reassuring to PWC volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts that more and more people around the county know to call 543-WILD when an injured or orphaned animal is found. In fact, Mike Barnes had the PWC phone number imbedded in his cell phone!



CCWR Conference



PWC attendees at Calif. Council of Wildlife Rehabilitator's Conference in Yosemite - November

(Note white in background is snow!) Seated: Jennifer Campbell, Susan Belany, Dani Nicholson, Jeanette Stone. Standing: Kathy Duncan, Jeri Roberts, Virginia Flaherty, Melinda Alvarado, Ivy Alvarado, Kelly Vandenheuvel, Marcelle Bakula.

Photo by M. Bakula

Releases (Sept. - Dec.)

Eared Grebe	3	Murrelet	1	Scrub Jay	1
Eurasian Collared-Dove	15	Northern Flicker	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Goose (domestic)	2	Northern Fulmar	4	Song Sparrow	1
Great Horned Owl	6	Northern Mockingbird	4	Turkey Vulture	1
Grey Squirrel	4	Opossum	55	Virginia Rail	1
Ground Squirrel	1	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	1	Western Fence Lizard	1
House Finch	4	Poorwill	1	Western Grebe	2
House Sparrow	1	Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Western Gull	15
Lark Sparrow	1	Red-tailed Hawk	3	Western Pond Turtle	7
Meadowlark	1	Ring-billed Gull	1	Western Screech Owl	1
Mexican Free-tailed Bat	1	Rock Dove	14	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Mourning Dove	2	Ruddy Duck	4		
					Total 200



Great Horned Owl Release

By Dani Nicholson



photo by Dani Nicholson

On June 29, 2010, an adult Great Horned Owl was admitted at the Rehab Center. Found in Los Osos in extremely bad shape, unable to stand and with obvious trauma to her head, it appeared she had been hit by a car.

The radiograph indicated that she had suffered a pelvic fracture as well as a minor fracture to her leg. In the beginning, she was completely disabled, unable to eat or stand, or offer any resistance. Her progress was slow but steady, and, after a few weeks, she began to stand for short periods of time. Over the next weeks, she began to stand for longer periods of time, but the head trauma affected her ability to eat on her own. We had to put food in her mouth which she was then able to swallow.

At one point, a vet suggested we determine her sex - if female, it was a possibility that even a *healed* pelvic fracture could affect her ability to lay an egg rendering her egg-bound and threatening her life. The blood test revealed that indeed, she was a female.

Three veterinarians examined the radiographs and felt that it would not impinge on her ability to lay an egg, so our rehab efforts continued.

After two months in our care, she began to eat on her own and then, after another couple of weeks, to try to fly. At this point, we allowed her more room to exercise (a 17' flight pen) for another month. She was transferred to the Ojai Raptor Center, where she had a 50' flight pen for an additional month and was found to be releasable.

After such a long and arduous journey, on December 16th, she was released in Los Osos at the Elfin Forest where she was found. On that cold night, she flew into the highest tree with strength. Free at last, she shook her feathers and settled in. She was home and my heart soared!

What's New at the Center

In the "quiet" time of late fall, PWC staff hosted two events inviting our \$250, \$500, \$1000 and \$2500 (and up) level members to a tour of the PWC Rehab Center to show them how we have improved the facility with "their" donations and other grants received.

- Commercial dryer*
- Walk-on Scale*
- Commercial blender*
- Aviary (two-section)
- Seabird pools, filtration system and UV sterilizers
- Solar panels & solar water heater with radiant heating
- Native plant landscaping

* Purchased with donation pledges from WiW II



Center Volunteers attend "Rehabilitation Basics" training by Claudia Duckworth & Melinda Alvarado at Rehabilitation Center in January.

Special Thank Yous

Elly Schowalter - Grant writing

Jeri & Brian Roberts - dryer

Hind Foundation Grant - native plant landscaping

Sustainable Landscaping (Mike Kilcoyne) - installation of native plants

CC Wine Classic Grant - insulating window treatments

Claudia Duckworth - purchase of UV sterilizer for seabird pool

Dave Barrows - installation of UV sterilizers

Cleve Nash - Donation of a wildlife photo to \$15+/month subscribing members

Rosemary & David Slater - Volunteer soliciting & PWC education at Farmer's Market(s)

Jenny Brantlee - Sponsoring of the January 1st Yoga-thon (and thanks to all who attended and gave their pledges to PWC)

Our Devoted Members - who gave extra "year end" donations to PWC



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**After reading our newsletter,
please pass this along to
friends, family, even your
dentist/doctor's office!**



SAVE THE DATE!
3rd Annual Windows into Wildlife Fundraiser
Food, Wine, Educational Animals, Silent Auction
Sunday, March 27th, 2:00-5:00 PM
Sculpterra Winery & Sculpture Garden

Tickets available through the PWC website: www.pacificwildlifecare.org/wiw
All PWC Members are invited to attend and bring a prospective member!

New Members (Sept. - Dec.)

Shayna Bailey
Katherine Bailey
Sonja Baker
Cynthia Barcelona
Gary Benedetti
Logan Berlinsky
Glenn Bolivar
Michael Campos

Simon Cintz
Judith Darknall
Ann Dreizler
Peter & Nancy Dufresne
Robert & Elaine Eisner
Sarah Evers
Michael Feerer
Joel Germond

Tenley Gonzalez
Wilma C. Grise
Ruby Jane Grise
Mike Groves
Don Henderson
David Henriksen
Ted Henson
Michelle Hinds

Marlene Jefferson
Karen Johnston
Mary Ann Kanna
Rachel Kofman
Nikki Laia
John Laurita
Deborah Leader
Elaine Levine

Harold Light
Natural Investments
Marge Noorigian
Rhonda Norelius
Karen O'Grady
Ramona Pacula
Jim & Kathy Pashone
Pear Valley Vineyard

Sandy Rakestraw
Suzanne Rice-Spiers
Pamela Tate
Jane Thomas
Janell Tyler
John Waid
Doris Williams
Barbara Wright

Membership/Donations

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---|-------|
| <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 | | |

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 to volunteer

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

Board Officers

President: Dave Klinzman
Vice President: Bob Peak
Secretary: Ken Highfill
Treasurer: Bonnie Lewis

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Center Operations Chair: *Jeanette Stone*
Public Relations Chair: *Kelly Vandenheuvel*
Educational Chair: *Kathy Duncan*
Membership Chair: *Marcelle Bakula*
Website Chair: *Meg Crockett*
Member at Large: *Marlys McPherson*
Member at Large: *Tamar Carmona*

Newsletter

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Design: Penny Fitzgerald
Wildlife Photos: Jeanette Stone
Thank you to all who donate to make this newsletter possible.

www.pacificwildlifecare.org
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