

Call of the Wild

Summer/Fall 2016



Shasta Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Inc.



NEWS down at the CENTER

With our Center Coordinator
Marianne Dickison



This unusual Baby Bird season is coming to a close with about 300 animals less than a typical year. We have had just over 800 intakes and folks are wondering why it has been such a slow season. There are many reasons for this change. The weather at the start of the season was unusually rainy. We have been educating the public about leaving seemingly abandoned animals be as they are unlikely orphaned. Habitat loss has taken its toll on the amount of successful wildlife out there. Disease like West Nile and Distemper is likely another cause. Despite the slow season, we can be proud that we are doing our part to keep wildlife flourishing. Our release rate is still one of the best in the state!

Featured Outshelter Volunteer

At Shasta Wildlife, our organization is only as good as our volunteers. If it weren't for people like Kaye Allen, the Owl Expert, this wouldn't be quite the great institution it is. Kaye has been with Shasta Wildlife for a staggering thirteen years. Her experience raising barn owls began when she adopted an educational owl named Ollie. After fostering some chicks with Ollie, Kaye found she had a knack for owls and truly enjoyed caring for them. Since then, in her own words, "it's just been owls nonstop for nine years."

Kaye is someone who loves barn owls, and for good reason. To her, Barn Owls are special because, for one, they are some of the most effective rodent control around. According to Kaye, a single barn owl can eat up to twenty mice in a single night, making them a boon for farmers who benefit greatly from the rodent population control that the owls provide.

Clearly these magnificent birds are beneficial to both humans and to the environment, and, thanks to Kaye, there are a lot more of them keeping a watchful vigil over the fields of Northern California.

She estimates that she has cared for nearly one hundred barn owls over the years, which means less pests for farmers and more graceful, majestic birds of prey soaring silently over moonlit fields while we're at home asleep in our beds.



By: Jeremiah Baxter

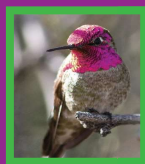
Kar's Korner

Hummingbirds may have mites but they're not the type that suck blood like other mites.

These mites are flower mites and they're just hitching a ride on the beak/nose of the hummer.

When they realize the hummer is going to the particular flower their species resides in, they run down the beak of the hummer as fast as a cheetah would run.

By: Karlene Stoker



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In Recognition and Memoriam of Daryl Chase, Raptor Specialist

Shasta Wildlife Rescue has seen many volunteers come and go, each contributing to the character, the atmosphere, and the tradition of the organization. One of these people, a long-time volunteer of fifteen years and one of the most talented raptor handlers to ever be a part of our institution, Daryl Chase, is sadly no longer with us. His time at the center is given meaning and value by the volunteers whom he has educated in the art of rescuing, caring for, and releasing raptors, and the lives of those raptors, many of which he personally rehabilitated. Daryl had been with the Center since 2001 as a vital volunteer and the authoritative and knowledgeable leader of the respectable age Shasta Wildlife magnificent birds of prey is exemplified in the



On his way home from releasing yet came upon a cluster of people on the side of they were gawking at an injured bald eagle, his home for emergency care. After being to the UC Davis Raptor Center where it could skilled and knowledgeable professionals long after Daryl passed away, the eagle miraculously recovered and was released in the very spot in which it was found. More Bald Eagles were seen circling above, and Daryl's last rescue was reunited with its family. The story of Daryl's last rescue is just one example of his tireless dedication and devotion to Shasta Wildlife Rescue and the beautiful raptors that still circle the skies and hunt in the fields thanks to Daryl Chase.



another hawk, this time in Burney, Daryl the road. Upon investigation, he found that which he promptly collected and rushed to stabilized and evaluated, the bird was sent be cared for and rehabilitated by the most around. Not



By: Jeremiah Baxter

Tina Thorne:

Unsung Co-Founder & Original Director Revealed!

Most of us have seen the names Eloise Kuntz, Jim Miller, and Renee Miller somewhere or another at Shasta Wildlife Rescue's HQ and avian care facility in Anderson River Park, and recognized that these were the people who brought our organization into existence decades ago. However, recent events have given even our most senior members pause. . . It was revealed to us that Tina Thorne, a previously unknown yet vital figure in Shasta Wildlife's history, was in fact a co-founder alongside Dr. Kuntz and the Millers and was our organization's first Director. Thanks to Tina Thorne, Shasta Wildlife was able to, in its infancy, operate out of space graciously allocated by Haven Humane at their facility on



Placer in 1982. Before that, Shasta Wildlife was an organization without a home, and was only able to care for the area's sick and injured wildlife out of the homes of the institution's founders and earliest volunteers. Without Tina Thorne and the other co-founders, Shasta Wildlife would not be the stellar organization of five hundred members and roughly seventy active volunteers that it is today.

By: Jeremiah Baxter

Slide into a New Adventure

The OWCN Report

It's official, our application to become a member organization of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) is finally in. Scheduled for review by the OWCN selection committee this September, our application's submission comes after we were contacted by OWCN earlier this year, encouraging us to apply.

Established in 1994, OWCN is an oiled wildlife response organization funded by the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), a program of California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comprised of 35 member organizations throughout the State — aquaria, universities, scientific organizations, and rehabilitation groups — OWCN is stacked with professionals and volunteers that work the frontlines of oil spills in California, recovering and rehabilitating oiled wildlife.

Historically, OWCN has primarily responded to marine oil spills. This year, the network is expanding their wildlife rescue capabilities inland by fielding new member organizations, training more rehabbers, identifying at-risk inland species, and developing cleaning and rehabilitation protocols for those animals. Why the sudden concern over inland oiled wildlife? Since about 2010, a marked increase in the amount of oil being transported into California by railway has led to a corresponding spike in railway spills.

Between 2010 and 2013, the State's total petroleum spills jumped an alarming 86%.

As oil by rail increased, so did concern for the safety of our inland waters. Rail lines intersect inland waterways at over 7,000 locations in California, which puts large expanses of ecologically valuable habitat and wildlife at risk for contamination.



That's where organizations like us come in. During a spill event, after OSPR determines wildlife is at risk, they'll call OWCN, who will decide what's needed based on the scope of the spill. Sometimes they send out a few staff members, sometimes they activate the entire state-wide network of member organizations and facilities.

If SWRR were accepted as a member organization, our personnel would undergo the oiled wildlife recovery and rehabilitation training necessary to join a spill response mobilization effort if called upon by OWCN.

In Northern California, OSPR and OWCN have determined that we have several "high hazard" areas, meaning areas that are both ecologically sensitive and prone to train derailments. The Feather River Canyon, Cantara Loop near Dunsmuir, and Donner Pass are among them.



These inland environments provide unique challenges to oiled wildlife response efforts. Not only can the terrain be difficult, the wildlife that inhabits it is entirely different from the marine environment, which sees largely oiled birds, small mammals, and sea turtles.

In addition to mammals (beaver, river otter, even black bear) and birds (raptors included), at-risk inland species included reptiles and amphibians — an area not previously dealt with in the marine environment. While protocols for many of those inland animals are still being developed, OWCN is already on the ground working towards the best level of readiness possible, which includes creating partnerships with experienced organizations dedicated to the best practices in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. We suspect that's why they called us. ;)

By: Elliot Owen



Veteran Educational Owls Find New Purpose

Captain and KeHwani have been with Shasta Wildlife Rescue for over 15 years. They are two of the most magnificent Great Horned Owls I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. According to Kaye Allen, the Center's resident owl expert, KeHwani was electrocuted and brought to Shasta Wildlife in the late 90s. She's been on our education team ever since. Captain, who has been with us even longer, was found as a chick and kept as a pet by John Q. Public, who mistreated and malnourished him until they were caught and Captain was liberated from them. His malnutrition left him feeble, and he had developed rickets, a bone disease, by the time he was found. Truly, both of these gorgeous raptors have had hard lives, but now they have renewed purpose as the foster parents of three Great Horned Owl chicks whom they care for as if they were their own. Kaye explained to me that Captain and KeHwani are able to teach the baby owls everything they need to know from inside the aviary, from how to eat to the correct noises to make. Thanks to the two older owls, the babies can get the knowledge they need with minimal interaction with humans. Captain and KeHwani are just as important to the rehabilitation process as any of us for these three owl chicks, ironic as it may seem, being owls themselves. The intriguing and fascinatingly complex nature of the relationships between Great Horned Owls in captivity and in the wild is just one more wonder to be learned and observed by the hardworking and dedicated volunteers who make Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation not just a possibility, but a reality.

By: Jeremiah Baxter



Photo by: Kaye Allen

Ask A Rehabber

Dear Patti B,
Are all hawks in the same family?

Yes, they are of a family known scientifically as Accipitridae Family. However, there are two distinct subfamilies of Hawks. The Buteo's are broad-winged, big-bodied, soaring birds. They eat mammals, reptiles and amphibians. They weigh between 1-3 pounds. Buteo's in our area include the Red-Shouldered, Red-Tailed, Swainson's, Rough-Legged and Ferruginous hawks.

Accipiters are smaller Hawks with short rounded wings, long tails and are able to maneuver well in forested areas. Their diet consists of birds. Accipiters in our area include the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. (Goshawks live in the area at higher altitudes). The Sharp-Shinned hawks catch birds in mid-air and may be hunting near your bird-feeder.

By: Patti B

Send your "Ask A Rehabber" questions to kimbaxter@hughes.net

You Might be a Home Care Wildlife Rehabilitator if...

You stop every 15 minutes while grocery shopping to feed the things temporarily residing in your purse that you picked up on your way to the grocery store.

There is more frozen animal food in your freezer than human food.

You have Bactrim and milk replacer in your refrigerator at home at all times.

You don't think it's strange at all to have dead animals in your freezer at home.

Feathers in your hair are not a fashion statement.

Safeway gives you a quiz on exactly why you want raw ground beef heart.

Courtesy of Kar Stoker

Got one of your own? Send it to kimbaxter@hughes.net and see it in the next newsletter

Volunteer Help Wanted

Shasta Wildlife Treasurer/Bookkeeper

If you love working with numbers and are good with QuickBooks, then you just might be the essential volunteer we need to manage our finances. It is generally a 3 hour a week commitment. If interested email Carole Berry at ddb1014@aol.com

Van Donation Needed

Shasta Wildlife could really use a van or SUV type vehicle to transport animals, pick up supplies and other activities we are involved in away from the Center. If you can help email Don Neptune at dnep1@aol.com

Pet Carriers Needed

Shasta Wildlife desperately needs Pet Carriers big enough to transfer Hawks and Owls. The carriers need to have handles on top. If you can help, email Marianne at dearmom992@aol.com

Fund Raising

Do you shop at Amazon? If so, please Remember to use the "Smile for SWRR".

How about Food Max? Give them our number and they will donate 3% to SWRR.

Salmon Festival

Kim would love some help working our booth at this year's salmon festival on October 15th For more information, contact Kim at kimbaxter@hughes.net

Small Mammal Team Member

Take your rehabbing home with you! Foster orphaned squirrels and other small mammals in your home. Must have a minimum of one successful year working at the Center. If interested, email Kar for details.

patches93@c-zone.net

Large Mammal Home Care Rehabilitator

Coyotes, Foxes, Racoons and other mammals require specialized home care. Do you have what it takes to rescue these plus-size critters? Must have a minimum of one successful year working at the Center. Contact Marianne for details.

dearmom992@aol.com

Hollianne's Rescue Adventure

On August 10th we received a call from a man who claimed to have found a Peregrine falcon near Pit River Powerhouse out past Burney Falls. The man was unable to bring the bird to us so I agreed to drive out to get it. After getting lost twice and driving 10 miles on a one lane road with a rather terrifying 1000 foot drop on one side (I might be exaggerating a little), I finally reached my destination where I was told I needed a hard hat, long pants and closed toed shoes to enter the powerhouse. After I told them I forgot my hard hat in my other car (seriously though, who carries around a spare hard hat??) I was provided an escort who graciously allowed me to enter the building in my capris and flip flops. (I know, not good raptor-rescuing attire but I was told the bird was contained.) Four flights of stairs and several curses at their lack of an elevator later I was brought into their control room where the man handed me a small box, clearly not big enough to hold a Peregrine falcon. I peeked inside to see the absolute CUTEST (sorry, Marianne) little bird I had ever seen in my life, though I didn't recognize the species. After getting the man's information I left to once again brave that God-forsaken road and make my way back to the Center. After a total of 4 hours and 150 miles driven I arrived at the Center where Kaye Allen identified the little ball of adorableness as a Pygmy owl. I wish I could say this story had a happy ending but, sadly, the poor little guy didn't make it through the night. However, I highly recommend Googling these little guys, as they are very interesting, like the fact that they hunt during the day and prey mostly on songbirds. We at Shasta Wildlife encounter a wide range of animals but once in a while we're fortunate enough to happen upon something a little different. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to learn about a species I was unfamiliar with.



By: Hollianne Valentine

**Shasta Wildlife Rescue
PO Box 1173
Anderson, CA 96007**

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Our Mission: we are an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, orphaned and injured wildlife in Northern California. Through all of our activities we educate and encourage our community to value the connection between people and the natural environment.

View us at: www.shastawildliferescue.com Contact us at: info@swrr.com 365-WILD

Ash Throated Flycatchers

Like many birds, the ash throated flycatcher is a beautiful and elegant creature of the sky. They can quite easily steal a person's attention and affection with their soft colors and beady eyes. At Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, they are sure to have stolen a few.

Ash throated flycatchers may not be the largest bird, but neither are they the smallest. In size, they range from 7.6-8.6 inches long and weigh 21-38 grams. They can often be identified by their ash colored throats and chests as well as their light yellow bellies, rusty brown backs, and the fluffed feathers on their heads. Ash throated flycatchers normally eat arthropods and small fruit but they do occasionally take interest in small reptiles and/or mammals which, in turn, helps keep the populations of their prey in balance.

By: Sarah Worthington

