



## RESPECT THE NEST

LEARN HOW ON PAGE 4

### 2021 EVENTS AT WILDCARE

#### FEATURES:

- 2020 Annual Report
- Baby Animal Yearbook
- Summer Nature Programs
- Distemper in Wildlife

# wildcare NEWS

HELPING YOU LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE    SUMMER 2021



## DEAR FRIENDS,

The last year has forced us to adapt with resilience, creativity, and team spirit to continue to provide the highest standard of care for the animals we admit to our Wildlife Hospital each year, to connect thousands of children with nature, and to advocate on behalf of our shared environment.

As we emerge from the pandemic with a renewed sense of optimism and hope, we are delighted to share some new developments:

We've reintroduced and expanded our internship program. Our interns and a small group of volunteers will work alongside our senior medical team and staff veterinarian to broaden and deepen their knowledge of wildlife rehabilitation techniques.

Our 2021 Summer Education Programs have developed as a blend of at-home activities and in-person, on-the-trail learning in small, safe groups.

Our new Respect the Nest campaign is spreading the word about the dangers to wildlife of tree trimming during nesting season, with the help of nationally acclaimed graphic artist Michael Schwab.

And we are continuing to work towards building WildCare a new home that will provide the best possible care for local wildlife. We will have more news to share on this front in the coming months.

We couldn't have made it through this very difficult time without the generosity of friends like you, who have given your support and your ongoing commitment to our mission of helping us all live well with wildlife.

With gratitude and optimism for the work ahead,

Ellyn Weisel  
Executive Director

# WILDCARE NEWS

## SUMMER 2021

### WILDCARE

415.456.7283 fax 415.456.0594

**WEBSITE** [discoverwildcare.org](http://discoverwildcare.org)

**Email** [info@discoverwildcare.org](mailto:info@discoverwildcare.org)

### BUSINESS HOURS

9AM - 5PM, seven days a week

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### IN MEMORY OF

Elizabeth Terwilliger  
& Julie Malet

### LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE.

#### Cover photo

Cover photo: A family of American Robins

**Editor** Alison Hermance

**Graphic Design** Applehead Design

**Website** Alison Hermance

Every effort has been made to ensure that the contents of this publication are accurate. We regret that we cannot be responsible for human error, printing mistakes, or variations in individual workmanship.

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**FIRST RESPONDERS**

**BECOME A WILDCARE FIRST RESPONDER AND JOIN OUR TEAM OF COMMITTED MONTHLY DONORS!**

Making a regular monthly donation is the easiest and most efficient way to support WildCare. Your contribution of any amount is securely deducted each month, directing administrative costs and channeling more of each dollar to saving wildlife.

**GIVE MONTHLY**

**LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP AT [DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/FIRSTRESPONDERS](http://DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/FIRSTRESPONDERS)**



# JOIN US AT TALONS & FRIENDS

**WildCare's Talons & Friends event will take place on July 11, 2021**

at the beautiful Cavallo Point Lodge in Sausalito.

This two-hour family event will be held outside to encourage safe gathering. Guests will enjoy wonderful opportunities to learn about wildlife, including a meet-and-greet with WildCare's live educational wild animals such as our Red-tailed Hawk and Northern Spotted Owl, our Virginia Opossum, and reptiles including Mohave the Desert Tortoise.

The event will also feature a mobile nature exhibit, an owl-themed puppet show with our Hungry Owl Project, and more. Guests will enjoy live music while gathering for a delicious vegetarian picnic box lunch, featuring a menu prepared especially for the event by the chef at Cavallo Point.

The event will culminate with a 45-minute presentation of magnificent hawks and owls from our friends at Native Bird Connections.

Learn more and explore our sponsorship opportunities at [discoverwildcare.org/talons](https://discoverwildcare.org/talons)



# TALONS & FRIENDS

✚ | wildcare | 🐾



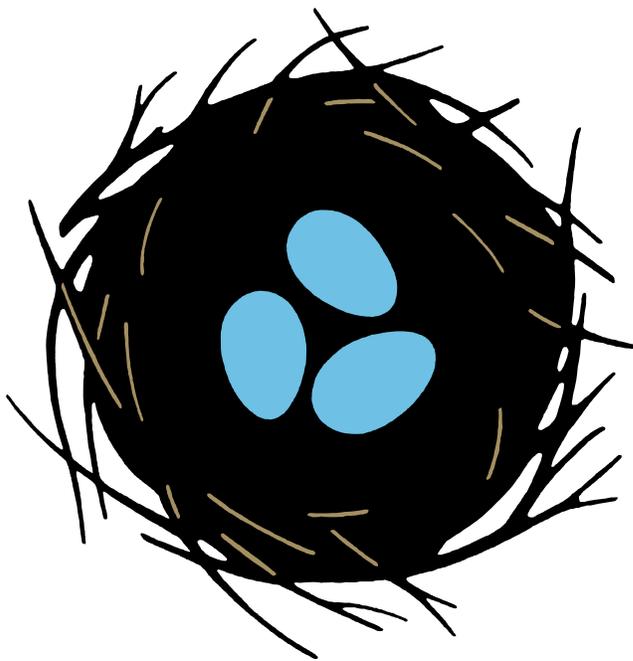
## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

# WildCare Gala

**This year WildCare's Gala will take place on August 21, 2021.**

The event will be streamed live from the Osher Marin JCC, and we will also offer special sponsorship opportunities to attend the event in-person. Our evening's celebration will include an engaging program with an exciting online auction, close-up moments with our Wildlife Ambassador animals, and presentations about WildCare's impactful work. Enjoy a tasty vegan menu and excellent wines throughout the evening.

Sponsorship opportunities and other details about this glamorous event are at [discoverwildcare.org/gala](https://discoverwildcare.org/gala).



# RESPECT *the* NEST.

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TO SAVE NESTING WILDLIFE  
DON'T PRUNE TREES AND SHRUBS FROM  
EARLY SPRING THROUGH EARLY FALL  
(MARCH THROUGH OCTOBER)

WINTER IS ALWAYS BEST  
LIMIT PRUNING TO FALL AND WINTER  
(NOVEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY)

KNOW THE LIFE IN YOUR GARDEN

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[WWW.DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG](http://WWW.DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG)

SCHWAB

ART + DESIGN CREATED FOR WILDCARE BY MICHAEL SCHWAB STUDIO / COPYRIGHT 2021

WITH THE HELP OF  
NATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED  
ARTIST MICHAEL SCHWAB,  
WILDCARE ASKS YOU TO  
PROTECT BABY ANIMALS THIS  
SPRING AND SUMMER!

*It's summer*, and even as you read this sentence, birds, squirrels and other animals are using your trees, shrubs and hedges as nurseries for their newborn and newly-hatched babies.

WildCare's Wildlife Hospital admits hundreds of injured and orphaned baby animals every spring and summer, many of them victims of tree-trimming and pruning accidents.

Nests are camouflaged intentionally, and this means baby animals too often become the victims of chainsaws and clippers.

Renowned artist Michael Schwab has created a stunning new graphic to help WildCare remind people everywhere to Respect the Nest!

From his studio in Marin County, Michael Schwab has established a national reputation as one of America's leading graphic artists. WildCare is honored to introduce Mr. Schwab's beautiful and impactful art for our Respect the Nest Campaign! Posters are available at [michaelschwab.com/store](http://michaelschwab.com/store)





Above: This hummingbird's nest is incredibly well camouflaged! Photo ©Alison Hermance

WildCare's Respect the Nest Campaign spreads awareness of the vulnerability of baby birds, squirrels and other newborn wildlife during the spring and summer months.

### When is wildlife nesting?

Although the prime nesting months for wildlife vary by region, nest awareness should begin in March and continue through the autumn.

If you can plan to trim your trees in the winter months, you can significantly reduce the possibility of damaging a nest.

It's also a healthier time for the trees, when sap production has gone down and trees will be in their dormant phase.

### How do you know that a nest is present?

From March through October, just assume there will be nests.

In Northern California, most bird species nest through spring and summer, but watch for hummingbird and tree squirrel nests as early as February!

If pruning or trimming is unavoidable, you can start by looking carefully for nests, but this is NOT a foolproof method! The photo above shows how tiny and well-camouflaged a hummingbird's nest is. This branch was cut from the tree, even after a careful inspection had been completed.

Birds camouflage their nests carefully and deliberately. Watch for the activity of adult birds to indicate a nest's presence, but

Left: Neonate baby squirrel orphaned when her nest was cut down. Photo ©Alison Hermance

remember that parent birds are very anxious to protect their young and they will often enter and exit the nest quickly. It is also not uncommon for female birds to sit on a nest for extended periods, giving no indication of their presence.

A build up of droppings, called "whitewash," may also indicate the presence of a nest, especially on the ground under the nests of raptors like hawks and owls.

Having an extra pair of eyes on the ground is helpful to avoid disturbing nests. Do your gardening, trimming and pruning with a partner so someone is always paying attention to the movements and potential aggravation of adult animals, indicating the presence of babies.

Remember that disturbing a nesting wild family can disrupt caretaking and have long-term consequences for the growing young animals.

Birds and their nests are also federally protected. It is illegal to remove a nest. Call WildCare at 415-456-7283 as soon as you notice nesting behavior, and we can help you determine which species is in residence, and tell you how soon the babies will fledge and leave the nest.

WildCare's Respect the Nest campaign is all about keeping wild baby animals with their parents, and saving our Wildlife Hospital's resources for animals that truly need our care!

Learn more about WildCare's Respect the Nest campaign at [discoverwildcare.org/respect-the-nest](https://discoverwildcare.org/respect-the-nest)

## HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A WILD ANIMAL OF ANY SPECIES NEEDS YOUR HELP?

### THE FIVE CS!

Although there are many reasons wildlife may need help, the first things to look for if you think a wild animal of any age needs rescue are the Five Cs. If an animal demonstrates any of these five symptoms, it is an emergency and he needs immediate help:

1

Is he **CRYING?**

2

Is he **COLD?**

3

Is he **COMING** toward you (approaching people)?

4

Is he **COVERED** with blood or insects?

5

Has he been **CAUGHT** by a cat or a dog?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, or if you are concerned about a wild animal for any other reason, please call WildCare's Hotline immediately at 415-456-7283 for assistance and advice.

# BABY ANIMAL YEARBOOK

EVERY YEAR WILDCARE ADMITS THOUSANDS OF BABY ANIMALS  
TO OUR WILDLIFE HOSPITAL.

MEET SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE “CLASS OF 2021”.

*In these pages you'll meet some of the first baby animals of 2021. They are all of different species, they all arrived at WildCare for different reasons, but the one thing they all have in common is the need for nurturing care, and the opportunity to grow up healthy and return to the wild.*

*Sponsor a group of baby animals in care at WildCare!  
Visit [discoverwildcare.org/sponsor](https://discoverwildcare.org/sponsor) to learn more.*



**BLACK-TAILED DEER FAWN**  
**PATIENT # 21-813**

Age: Approximately 7 weeks

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Tangled in a wire fence.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Grow up to eat poison oak.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:**  
“He must have been trapped for a while... he was very thirsty on intake!”



**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**  
**PATIENT # 21-825**

Age: 2-3 weeks

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Fell from his nest.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Sit hunched and still at dusk, waiting to catch a fish swimming by.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:**  
“I waved a smelt [a small fish] in front of him and he took it and swallowed it. Now he's self-feeding!”



**NORTHERN RACCOON**  
**PATIENT # 21-577**

Age: Approximately 3 days

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Found alone on a deck.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Rub his food under water, not to clean it, but to better “see” it with his sensitive feet.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:**  
“This baby was so young on intake that his umbilicus was still attached!”



**GREAT HORNED OWLET**  
**PATIENT # 21-896**

Age: Approximately 7 weeks

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Found on the ground after treework was done.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Grow up to provide free rodent removal services. Don't use rat poisons!

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:**  
“This owlet and his sibling both fell from their nest, but a volunteer arborist got them back to their parents' care.”



**PALLID BAT**  
**PATIENT #21-925**

Age: Approximately 4-6 weeks

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Found alone on the ground.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Hunt insects on the ground, as well as in the air.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** "This bat is very chatty and he's a great eater."



**OAK TITMOUSE**  
**PATIENTS # 21-872 AND 21-873**

Age: 3-5 days old

**REASON FOR INTAKE:** Nest fell from the tree, couldn't be returned.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Scold you loudly if you come too close to her nest.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** "These babies are timid, but they're getting better at gaping!"



**BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT**  
**PATIENT # 21-802**

Age: 1-2 weeks old

**REASON FOR INTAKE:** Alone in the road, couldn't hop up the curb.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Run as fast as 40 mph once he grows up.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** "He is more willing to eat if I keep him wrapped in a towel."



**ROCK PIGEONS**  
**PATIENT # 21-915 AND 916**

Age: 3-5 days old

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Nest was destroyed when a garage was torn down.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Grow up to spend quality time in a city park.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** "One of our volunteers has a domestic pigeon pair that is raising these babies for us. They're wonderful parents!"



**WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL**  
**PATIENT # 21-643**

Age: Approximately 7 weeks

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Fell from a palm tree and landed on her head.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Grow up to plant oak trees.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** "She is already eating solid foods and is working on cracking nuts!"



**STRIPED SKUNK**  
**PATIENT # 21-906**

Age: Approximately 5 weeks

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Natal den was destroyed when a shed was moved.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Give you lots of warning before she sprays.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** "She's already learning to forage for food... I teach them by hiding tasty treats (mealworms, grapes) in various places in their enclosure."



**MALLARD DUCKLING**  
**PATIENT # 21-805**

Age: Approximately 2 weeks

**REASON FOR RESCUE:** Got separated from his mother and siblings.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Go for a swim in your pool—please put a ramp or "frog log" in your pool to allow animals that fall in to escape.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** "All the ducklings in this group are vocal, active, and good at evading capture."



**VIRGINIA OPOSSUM**  
**PATIENT # 21-675**

Age: Approximately 12 weeks

**REASON FOR INTAKE:** Fell off her mother's back and was found alone in a parking lot.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Groom thousands of ticks off herself each year, helping protect the environment from tick-borne illness.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** "Eating great. Loves fish. Wonderfully hissy attitude!"

# SUMMERTIME FUN AND LEARNING

BY EILEEN JONES,  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**A**t WildCare, we are always thinking about how we can fulfill our education mission to get children outside and help them connect with wildlife and nature. In these ever-changing times, we recognize that parents appreciate options when it comes to finding activities for their children during summer break. With that in mind, this summer we are offering both in-person Nature Hikes and Virtual Wildlife Classes.

Join us on our Tuesday and Thursday morning hikes as we explore the edge of Richardson Bay's mud flats and rocky shore, or the brackish lagoon and intertidal zone of Rodeo Beach!

Each excursion is from 9am to noon, and will be held at the Marin Headlands in Sausalito and Blackie's Pasture in Tiburon. Our adventures will include lots of time to explore and look for insects, crabs, birds, and the myriad of life that call these bay and ocean habitats home. Games, a wildlife craft and a live animal encounter with one of WildCare's Wildlife Ambassador animals will round out each day's experience.



Meeting a banana slug on the trail. Photo ©Tory Davis

Our Director of Education and Terwilliger Nature Guides will lead activities designed to encourage learning while having fun. Enrollment is limited to 10 campers per session and hike leaders will implement social distancing, mask wearing and sanitizing protocols in keeping with CDC guidelines. Parents are responsible for dropping off and picking up their child at the hike sites.

On Mondays and Fridays we are offering 90-minute Virtual Wildlife Classes with our gifted and engaging Education Specialist. With five themes to choose from such as "Whooo Lives in the Oak Woodlands?" or "Be a Wildlife Hero!", your child will experience a mixture of behind-the-scenes-at-WildCare videos and live interactive sessions with our wildlife educator and fellow participants.

Each class includes a close-up look at one of our non-releasable Wildlife Ambassadors whose rescue stories teach us ways we can live well with wildlife. When you register for a 90-minute Virtual Wildlife Class, you'll also receive a link to our supplemental online activities for participants to enjoy at their own pace, including word puzzles, crafts, nature exploration activities, and wonderful WildCare videos.

We designed all of our summer programs for 7-11 year olds. Each program will teach an appreciation of our local wildlife, and explore what makes our Bay Area habitats unique and special. You can design a week of activities for your child by combining nature hikes with virtual classes or simply choose a program that works best for your child.

## VIRTUAL WILDLIFE CLASS SCHEDULE

(HELD MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS)

**JUNE 28, JULY 16,  
AUGUST 2**

### CALIFORNIA HABITATS

Find out why California is home to more different species of animals than anywhere in the U.S.! From the foggy redwood forest to the dry desert, investigate the amazing adaptations that help California wildlife survive in their habitats.

**JULY 2, JULY 19,  
AUGUST 6**

### FEATHERS, FUR, AND SCALES

Find out what a bird of prey, a marvelous mammal, and a remarkable reptile all have in common! Meet our non-releasable Wildlife Ambassadors and learn about their habitats, diets, adaptations, and the threats they face in the wild.

**JULY 5,  
JULY 23**

### WETLAND WILDLIFE

Which shark is born in the salt marsh? Explore this vanishing habitat to learn exactly why it is worth preserving and how you can help. Find out how restoring and protecting California's wetlands has a big positive impact on our local wildlife!

**JULY 9,  
JULY 26**

### WHOOO LIVES IN THE OAK WOODLAND?

Learn how oak trees sustain life for wildlife and humans alike in the oak woodland. Hear the stories of our Wildlife Ambassadors and Wildlife Hospital patients to understand how the food web connects their species in this important ecosystem.

**JULY 12,  
JULY 30**

### BE A WILDLIFE HERO!

Wildlife Heroes are leaders of all ages who recognize a problem and take action to work toward solutions. Investigate the issues affecting our local wildlife to find out how we can make choices in our everyday lives to have a positive impact on our environment and help wildlife!



## SUMMER NATURE HIKE SCHEDULE

### SESSION 1

Tuesday, June 29 & Thursday, July 1  
9am - 12:00pm

### SESSION 2

Tuesday, July 6 & Thursday, July 8  
9am - 12:00pm

### SESSION 3

Tuesday, July 13 & Thursday, July 15  
9am - 12:00pm

### SESSION 4

Tuesday, July 20 & Thursday, July 22  
9am - 12:00pm

### SESSION 5

Tuesday, July 27 & Thursday, July 29  
9am - 12:00pm

### SESSION 6

Tuesday, August 3 & Thursday, August 5  
9am - 12:00pm

# WILDCARE'S DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR THE CLASSROOM

BRING WILDCARE DIRECTLY TO YOUR STUDENTS THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING!

Our educators will lead students through scientific observations and active movements as they learn about some of our Wildlife Ambassadors.

With a mixture of behind-the-scenes videos and live interactive sessions with one of our wildlife educators, this engaging program will delight and inspire students to take action to help wildlife in their neighborhoods.



## HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY

**K-2nd grade, 45 minutes, \$100**

Group Limit: 30 students maximum per presentation

This presentation provides an overview of our state's wonderfully diverse wildlife. From the redwood forest to the desert, investigate the amazing adaptations that help animals survive in their habitats.

## THE VERTEBRATES

**2nd-3rd grade, 45 minutes, \$100**

Group Limit: 30 students maximum per presentation

Meet a bird of prey, a marvelous mammal, and a remarkable reptile! This program will reveal these animals' habitats, diets, adaptations, and the threats they face in the wild.

## ECO-HEROES

**4th-6th grade, 45 minutes, \$100**

Group Limit: 30 students maximum per presentation

By sharing their rescue stories, our Wildlife Ambassadors act as representatives for their species to increase awareness of their plight in the wild. Investigate the issues affecting wildlife, animals' interdependence in ecosystems, and how we can make choices in our everyday lives to have a positive impact on wildlife and our environment.



## CALIFORNIA WETLANDS

**K-6th grade, 45 minutes, \$100**

Group Limit: 30 students maximum per presentation

Which shark is born in the salt marsh? How is a wetland like a restaurant? Wade into the unique lives of the animals that pass through these watery worlds. Explore this vanishing habitat to learn exactly why it is worth preserving and how you can help. Students will examine the benefits of wetlands and find out why animals rely on them for survival. Students will gain an understanding of how restoring and protecting California's wetlands has a big positive impact on our local wildlife.

## WONDERS OF OAK WOODLANDS

**K-6th grade, 45 minutes, \$100**

Group Limit: 30 students maximum per presentation

Find out what wonders await by transporting your classroom to the oak woodland! Hear the stories of our Wildlife Ambassadors and Wildlife Hospital patients to understand how their species are interconnected in the food web. Learn how oak trees sustain life for wildlife and humans alike in this important ecosystem.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

# MEDICAL ROOM REMODEL

BY BRITTANY MORSE, CLINIC MANAGER

**Despite being short staffed throughout the pandemic, WildCare’s Clinic Manager, Brittany Morse, pushed for a long-overdue update of our Medical Room during 2020.**

As the main hub for new patient intake, X-rays, laboratory work, and surgical procedures, this space has seen its share of use and abuse throughout the years. That includes an adult raccoon who broke out of her kennel and knocked everything off the shelves in an attempt to escape, and numerous skunk-spraying incidents!

At WildCare, we are very fortunate to have a volunteer team that is deeply dedicated to the Wildlife Hospital, many of whom jumped at the opportunity to help us with the update.

The Medical Room received updated flooring, a brand new coat of paint, new medical cabinets and drawers, tons of organizational tools, and our unique, vintage medicine cabinet was refinished and looks brand new again! Without numerous generous donations from our WildCare family, we would not have been able to make this incredible transformation possible.

Thank you so much to Sandy Miller, Rudy Yam, Javier Deita, and Miguel Ita for their beautiful refinishing job on our worn-down medical room floors.

Ken Denyer and Terry Bremer were able to put a bright new layer of paint on the walls and cabinets and Ken also refinished our vintage medicine cabinet!



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**

*Above: Before and after shots show the improvement to this critical workspace.*

*Below: Ken Denyer, our painter, and Rudy Yam and Javier Deita, our flooring specialists.*



Veronica Geczi, and others who wish to remain anonymous, supplied our room with new hutches, drawers, storage totes, and numerous other organizing tools!

We are so appreciative of all our dedicated volunteers who continue to make our wildlife mission possible!



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# HOLDING MY BREATH

The diminutive California Vole and I had a similar reaction upon seeing each other, although the emotion was certainly the opposite.

As I hiked up a beautiful Pt. Reyes trail, a mother vole carrying her tiny, pink baby in her mouth, leaped into the middle of the path right in front of me. We locked eyes (I love rodents. Even if you don't, I hope you will keep reading.)

She shrieked, dropped the baby, and ran to the other side of the path. I joyfully shrieked inside at seeing something so amazing, but now I was worried for the little one. I froze and prayed the mom would come back for the baby, now squirming in the dirt. I was counting the seconds, then a minute. It seemed like forever. Finally I saw her peek out of the grass, I held my breath, and she dashed out to grab the baby and flung herself back into the green. Whew! Another human /



wildlife interaction mitigated. No rescue and drive to WildCare required today!

Honestly, I feel almost as though I have been holding my breath since March of last year as I witnessed how WildCare staff adapted to the pandemic world with

agility and fortitude. We are stronger; our programs are better and we are an even more extraordinary team for all we have managed over the past year.

When you read the organization's statistics you will agree, there was a silver lining to this crisis. Just imagine that a bare bones staff, with no onsite volunteers for many months, managed to treat even more animals than the previous year!

Due to working from home, calls to the hotline and the intake of injured animals jumped. Nevertheless, our Wildlife Hospital continued to provide the best possible care and an opportunity for a full recovery for the nearly 3,500 animals admitted. I continue to be in awe of WildCare and all that we do so well, everyday. Not even a global pandemic can stop us!

I watched the grass part quickly to my left, indicating the momma vole was getting far away from me, carrying her baby somewhere safe as fast as she could. I smiled, and I took another deep breath. Onward!

Sincerely,

Kate Van Gytebeek  
WildCare Board President





# 2020 ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS

## SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

**281,664**

WEBSITE VISITORS

**297,468**

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

**51,122**

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

**22,086**

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

**5,165**

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



### THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

*Over 15,000 individuals, businesses, corporations, associations and foundations provided funding to support WildCare in 2020, helping us raise more than \$2,806,000 to make our work possible.*



**AFTER-HOURS  
EMERGENCY  
CALLS ANSWERED  
2,243**



**HOTLINE  
CALLS ANSWERED  
11,215**

**LIVING WITH WILDLIFE HOTLINE:  
415-456-7283**

# EDUCATION

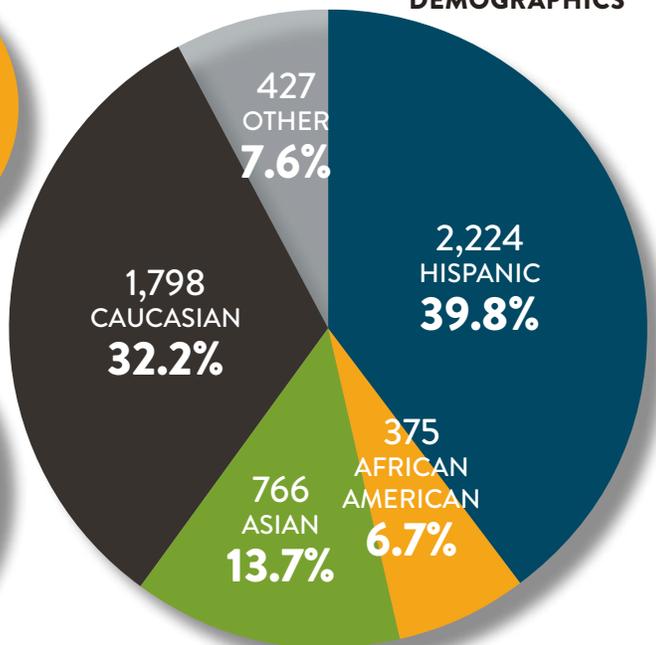
## TERWILLIGER NATURE EDUCATION STATISTICS



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM REACH

PROGRAM	# PRESENTATIONS	# PARTICIPANTS
DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS	107	2,454
VIRTUAL BIRTHDAY PARTIES	5 PARTIES	113
FREE VIRTUAL WILDLIFE CAMPS	5 CAMPS	681
COURTYARD PRESENTATIONS	(PRE-PANDEMIC)	1,386
NATURE VAN	98 (PRE-PANDEMIC)	1,944
AMBASSADOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM	22 (PRE-PANDEMIC)	543
NATURE HIKES	9 HIKES (PRE-PANDEMIC)	228
CENTER TOURS	13 (PRE-PANDEMIC)	222
TOTAL		<b>7,571 SERVED</b>
WILDCARE LIVESTREAM VIDEOS	78	<b>43,293 TOTAL VIEWS</b>
		<b>50,864 PEOPLE IMPACTED!</b>

### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS





## SURVIVAL RATE\*

MAMMALS	<b>85.4%</b>
BIRDS	<b>72.2%</b>
REPTILES	<b>94.6%</b>
AMPHIBIANS	<b>100%</b>

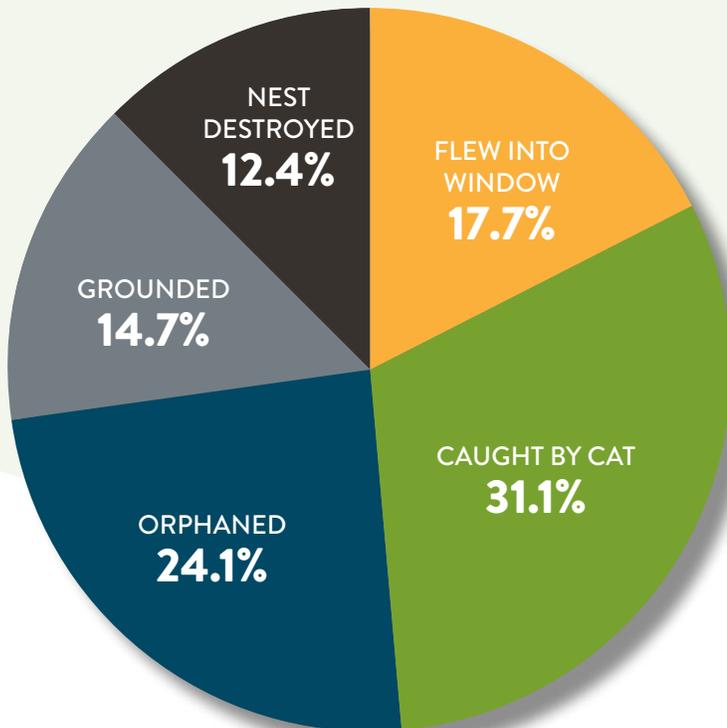
AVERAGE **76%**

(\*AFTER FIRST 24 HOURS IN CARE)

## ANIMALS TREATED BY CLASS

MAMMALS	<b>934</b>
BIRDS	<b>2,496</b>
REPTILES	<b>48</b>
AMPHIBIANS	<b>7</b>

# WILDLIFE HOSPITAL STATISTICS



**MOST FREQUENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF ADMISSION**

**TOTAL ANIMALS TREATED**  
**3,488**

**55 BABIES REUNITED**  
WITH PARENTS



# OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2020

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR WILDLIFE!

Bea Agins  
Ann Allen  
April Alongi  
Anne Ardillo  
Sarah Atherton  
Francesca Austin  
Trish Axsom  
Deb Babe  
Lacey Babnik  
Alix Barbey  
Nancy Barbour  
Anne Barker  
Bill Beech  
Keith Betkowski  
Mary Blake  
Andre Borgman  
Janeko Bower  
Terry Bremer  
Jan Bricca  
Mare Brixie  
Lucy Burlingham  
Rebecca Burwell,  
DVM, Eye Care for  
Animals  
Jim Cairnes  
Robert Carlson  
Victoria Castillo  
Renee Charnas  
Dave Chenoweth  
Tracy Christensen  
Victor Clane  
Natalie Clark  
Kiki Clarke  
Rebekah Collins  
Claire Colvin  
Peter Colwell  
Michelle Cooper  
Caitlin Cox  
Mariah Cribben  
Tom Crouse  
Mary D'Agostino  
Danielle Damico  
Leah Davis  
Lisa Davoren

Marcella Dirks  
Rebecca Duerr,  
DVM, PhD,  
International Bird  
Rescue"  
Suzanne Egan  
Marian Eschen  
Aiden Essig  
Alexei Folger  
Cynthia Folkman  
Dallas Forshev  
Amber Fua  
Heather Gamberg  
Veronica Geczi  
Haley Gee  
Lily Gee  
Jane Gelder  
Vanessa Glidden  
Brenda Goeden  
Courtney Good  
Susie Graven  
Lauri Grenn  
Rachel Griffiths  
Nancy Groom  
Maureen Groper  
Christine Hansel  
Margie Heckelman  
Alison Hermance  
Andrea Hirsig  
Paula Holman  
Christine Holmes  
Barbara Imwald  
Ralpha Jacobson  
Jill Jenny  
Noelle Jue  
Kate Keating  
Steve Kimball  
Abbey Kletz  
Rob Kline  
Rachel Klyce  
Alex Krasnov  
Susan Kreibich  
Kermit Kubitz  
Sarah Kushner

Brandy Lange  
Kenyon Larson  
Heidi Law  
Jacqueline Lewis  
Anne Libbin  
Kevin Lindsay  
Beate Lohser  
Chris Lopez  
Marghareta Luff  
Bob Lundstrom  
Heddy Lunenfeld  
Kate Lynch  
Gail MacMillan  
Tracy Manheim  
Barbara Matas  
Vaughn R. Maurice  
Ginny McGraw  
Barbara McNamer  
Jennifer Merriman  
Iliana Milan  
Sandy Miller  
Suzanne Mirviss  
Steve Morreale  
Brittany Morse  
Robyn Newkirk  
Ian Noah  
Carol Nyhoff  
Andrea  
O'Dell  
Karin Ott  
Lynda  
Pearson  
James  
Phelan  
Melanie  
Piazza  
Manuela Piha  
Toni Pinsky  
Stacy Pratt  
Fernando  
Presiado  
Barbara Pritchard  
Leilani Pursel  
Beth Ridout

Shelley Risk  
Sandra Roberts  
Alex Rockas  
Teri Rockas  
Nicole Rodney  
Kristina Rodriguez  
Shelly Ross  
Nancy Rumsey  
Magda Sarkissian  
Laura Scaparro  
Marjorie  
Scarborough  
Sommer Schafer  
Julie Schnider  
Lyanne Schuster  
Nette Scott  
Stephen Shaw  
Brenda Shea  
Amy Shipley

Janet Sinnicks  
Sarah Slaymaker  
Juliana Sorem, DVM  
Lucy Stevenot  
Linda Stiles  
Jocelynn Stone  
Geoffrey  
Strawbridge  
Chloe Sundara  
Teresa Tagsdale  
Liz Thawley  
Tatiana Torrejon  
Nicole Trautsch  
Janna Ullrey  
Kate Van  
Gytenbeek

Whitney Vickers  
Tess Waddy  
Katy Wearing  
Ellyn Weisel  
Nancy West  
Irene White  
Carol Willette  
Ellen Williams  
Melisa Williams  
Kristen Winnicki  
Traci Wyrca  
Cait Youngquist  
Onyx Yskamp Long  
Nancy Zehring  
Sandy Zuber



**WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!**

*Thank you to all of our many volunteers for the wonderful ways you help our local wildlife and support WildCare's important work for our community.*

### SO MANY WAYS TO VOLUNTEER:

- EDUCATION
- FOSTER CARE
- ONSITE
- TRANSPORTATION
- AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY LINE OPERATORS
- BOARDS & COMMITTEES
- VETERINARY CARE



# CANINE DISTEMPER VIRUS TESTING IN WILDCARE PATIENTS

BY JULIANA SOREM, DVM

**D**uring the past year, WildCare has seen an increased number of patients infected with canine distemper. Canine distemper is caused by a virus of the Paramyxoviridae family that is closely related to the human measles virus.

*While it doesn't infect humans, it does cause disease in canids (domestic dogs, foxes, coyotes, wolves), skunks, mustelids (ferrets, mink, badgers, otters), procyonids (raccoons and ringtails) and even some felids (lions, tigers and Bobcats).* The virus is found worldwide and domestic dogs are the main reservoir host (be sure to vaccinate your dog!).

Infection with the virus in domestic dogs can be subclinical or can produce any of a number of symptoms. The most common signs are respiratory infections and conjunctivitis, but more severe infections can include gastrointestinal upset, thickening of the footpads, immunosuppression, brain lesions and death. At WildCare, we have found that our wildlife patients do not necessarily exhibit the classic symptoms seen in dogs, making diagnosis based on clinical signs challenging.

It is important to identify animals infected with canine distemper quickly because the disease is fatal in wildlife, and can be spread via contact with almost any fluid



**BOBCAT PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO WILDCARE**

**Although it is very rare, Bobcats can contract canine distemper.**

**When we admitted this cat, we decided to test him for the disease due to the recent outbreak.**

In the Wildlife Hospital, we found that he was extremely emaciated, but fortunately his PCR test for distemper came back negative.

Radiographs (X-rays) and a full exam didn't reveal any injuries. However, lab tests showed that the cat had a heavy load of parasites, both external (like ticks and fleas) and internal.

The cat's teeth showed that he was a relatively young animal, which means his body should have been able to overcome infestation by parasites.

or secretion from an infected animal. The disease can also be transmitted from a mother to her young, so it is possible for infants to be infected with the virus before showing obvious symptoms. At WildCare, individuals of all susceptible species must be housed separately with strict quarantine protocols in place until we can be certain they are free of infection.

Thanks to a California Fish and Wildlife grant funded by voluntary California tax contributions, WildCare is undertaking a project to test all patients susceptible to the disease. The test is a PCR test in which viral DNA is isolated from patients' blood and urine samples and/or swabs of the tonsils and conjunctival tissue. In 2021 to date we have tested 15 animals – five raccoons, five skunks, two foxes, one coyote, one otter and one Bobcat – and have confirmed ten positive infections. We anticipate testing many more animals as our “baby season” begins to bring in litters of orphaned animals.

Access to testing will allow us to reduce and prevent transmission of canine distemper virus within the Wildlife Hospital and our foster care homes. In addition, we hope to be able to get some insight into both the geographic and species distribution of the virus within Marin County and better characterize the disease's symptoms in our wildlife patients.



Upper left raccoon photo ©Alison Hermance  
Fox photo ©Linda Campbell  
Inset skunk photo ©Alison Hermance  
Far left: The Bobcat before he was rescued. Photo ©Todd Buteux  
Bottom: The Bobcat returning to the wild. Photo ©Alison Hermance

Why had this relatively young and uninjured cat become so debilitated?

**One possible explanation for his condition is exposure to anticoagulant rat poison.**

Numerous studies have shown that these toxic poisons can inhibit the immune systems of healthy animals that eat poisoned rats and mice. A compromised immune system creates an environment for parasites to thrive more than usual. Please don't use rat poisons!

Finally, after more than a month in care, this Bobcat was ready to return to the wild. Our team was thrilled to release him near where he was found, healthy and fit once more.



# NESTING BOXES FOR MANY SPECIES

BY AMBER FUA, WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN AND HUNGRY OWL PROJECT FIELD SPECIALIST

**H**abitat destruction and the use of rodenticides and pesticides widely contribute to the decline of several species. Species-specific nesting boxes are a perfect way to attempt to off-set these issues.

Hungry Owl Project's Barn Owl box has been improved – it is larger and includes sun and wind shields to maintain comfortable temperatures. Barn Owl populations are declining, and these boxes are a perfect way to support owl families on your property, and benefit from their rodent hunting abilities.

A pair of Barn Owls with one clutch of babies eats around 3,400 rodents per year, and recently we have found that some Barn Owls are having two clutches a year. With this in mind, remember that these boxes require annual cleaning. Cleaning helps prevent illness and infection, and also avoids potential accidents, like those that result from a box being too full, preventing babies from being able to fledge out.

This species prefers open space or hillsides, and hunts larger rodents such as rats and gophers. As Barn Owls only weigh around one pound full-grown (much of their stature comes from dense feathers), hosting this species on your property is safe for your pets.

Screech owl boxes are attractive, easy to install, and only require cleanings every few years since Western Screech Owls graciously maintain their waste outside of their nesting space. This species feeds on smaller rodents such as mice and voles. They prefer lush, dense areas – so these boxes are perfect for small or shady backyards.

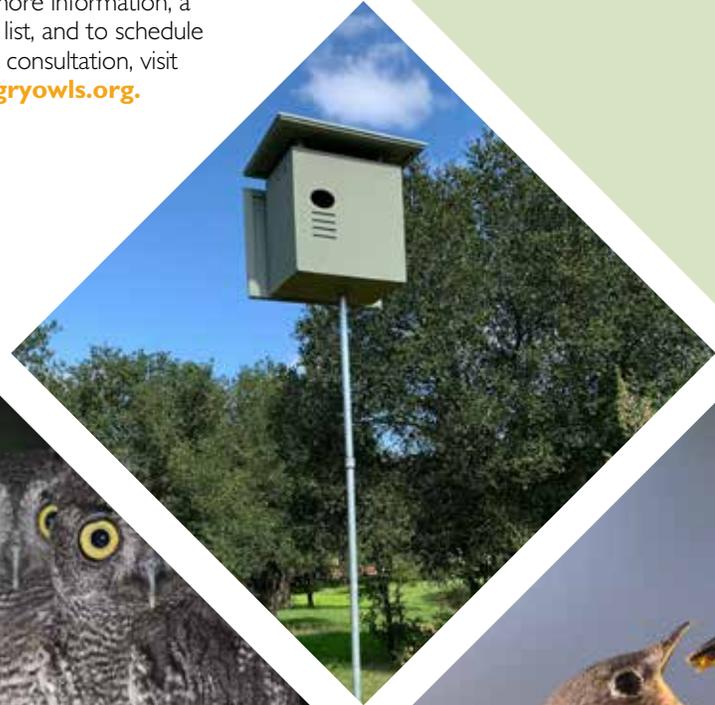
Bluebird boxes are a sensible option for insect control. They look great in gardens, yet are also effective in open grassy areas with scattered shrubbery. These boxes can even facilitate other cavity-nesting songbird species, including wrens, titmice, chickadees, and swallows. Bluebird boxes do not require annual cleaning and can go a few years without maintenance.

Bat boxes are small, flat, and can be inconspicuously installed onto the side of most structures. Bats are major pollinators and offer dependable insect control (namely against mosquitoes). Bat boxes do not need to be cleaned or maintained, as the bottom is open for guano (bat droppings) to fall from

the box. These boxes attract several species of bats such as the Myotis Bat, Mexican Free-Tailed Bat, or Big Brown Bat.

Note that the Hungry Owl Project's mission is to facilitate natural pest control in order to prevent the use of rodenticides that harm wildlife and the environment. Therefore, installation of an owl box requires the permanent removal of all rodenticides from the property in question.

For more information, a price list, and to schedule a site consultation, visit [hungryowls.org](http://hungryowls.org).



Top: Mother and baby Barn Owl  
Middle left: Barn Owl box ready for occupancy. Photo ©Jacqueline Lewis  
Lower left: Young Western Screech Owls



Middle bottom:  
Bluebird parent feeding  
chick. Photo ©Allen Hirsch

Upper right: Bat box.  
Photo ©Alix Barbey

Lower right: Screech owl box.  
Photo ©Amber Fua

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT JULIE KAYE

BY NICOLE TRAUTSCH  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Julie Kaye is a passionate animal advocate, a loyal WildCare supporter, and an enthusiastic seeker of knowledge about animals of all kinds. Her concern for wildlife, and her remarkable quest for an understanding of the natural world, is beautifully aligned with WildCare’s mission.

When she was twenty years old, having always wanted to be a flight attendant, Julie jumped at the chance to work for United Airlines, and six weeks later was working on a flight to Chicago! She has lived all over the country, but settled in Marin County in 1984 with her husband, Alan, and they have lived here ever since.

After flying for twenty-one years, Julie retired and began volunteering at Marin Humane.

*Her desire to learn all she could about the animals in their care led her to help out with just about every creature at the shelter.*

She gained incredible knowledge about a great number of animal species.

But Julie’s love for animals also extends beyond domestic species. She says her motivation to start supporting WildCare can be found just by looking out of her office window onto her beautiful and serene backyard, which is visited by many, many wild species. Watching wildlife come



through her garden every day, Julie wanted to know everything she could about the animals she saw, and WildCare became a resource for her.

In her travels, Julie has come across organizations whose treatment of animals is terribly upsetting. She is proud to support WildCare because of the unwavering standard of care set solely around what is best for patients and Wildlife Ambassadors. And, Julie enjoys knowing that she is helping WildCare give each and every animal brought to our Wildlife Hospital the best possible medical treatment.

We are truly grateful for Julie’s long history of being a generous WildCare supporter and friend. Thank you, Julie!

Above: Julie Kaye in her garden. Photo ©Nicole Trautsch

# SALUTE TO MARIAN ESCHEN

Marian Eschen retired from WildCare in early 2021, after a 20-year career with the organization, in which she made herself absolutely invaluable and irreplaceable.

Marian started her career at WildCare as the part-time Purchasing Associate. Her enthusiasm, incredible efficiency and great attitude quickly moved her into a full-time position, which meant learning how to do nonprofit bookkeeping, merchandising and financial recordkeeping from scratch.

Over the years, Marian took on an astonishing number of jobs and responsibilities for WildCare, all while developing lifelong friendships with staff, volunteers and supporters of the organization.

Many people know her best as

the voice behind WildCare's second-largest annual fundraising event, Dining for Wildlife, which was a Bay Area institution for more than 35 years.

Marian ran Dining for Wildlife, virtually single-handedly, for more than 15 years. Marian was also a driving force in the creation and execution of WildCare's Galas, our revivals of the Beastie Bargain Bonanza, and countless other events over the years.

In her position as Director of Administration, Marian oversaw a wide variety of administrative needs, including Human Resources, payroll, merchandise design and sales, and more, all while cheerfully stepping up to assist with any other organizational projects that needed her help, whether large or small.

Marian took an interest in all of the wildlife patients in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital, but her special favorites were the bats. A road trip to do Bat Boot Camp at Bat World in Texas made Marian the organization's foremost authority on bats in care for many years.

Marian always says that her true calling is to work with dogs, and her beloved pups Tucker and Tallulah shared her small office at WildCare.

After leaving WildCare, Marian looks forward to having time to travel, dine out, and spend more time with dogs of all shapes and sizes.

**THANK YOU  
MARIAN FOR 20  
AMAZING YEARS  
AT WILDCARE!**



# WELCOME



**BRIANNA BJARNSON**  
STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATE

Brianna holds a master's degree in English and has a long, diverse background in education. As a former educator and grant-funded program coordinator at Sonoma State University, she brings her experience in outreach and communications to WildCare's stewardship program. A North Bay native and nature enthusiast, Brianna began studying animals as a young child and has helped rescue wildlife. She loves all animals and her favorite place to be is out in the forest enjoying the beautiful landscape among the wildlife.



**STEVEN FLORES**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

Steven Flores is a local artist from Sutter County. He is a descendant of the Plains Nations & Mexica Indigenous peoples. You may have seen him onstage at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, or as a Master Puppeteer at Theatre of Yugen in San Francisco. He is a tinkerer, builder, stagecraft set designer, and makes jewelry in his spare time. Steven has always held a special place in his heart for our Creator's animals and believes service to them is a radical act of harmony and proper stewardship of the Earth.

# NEW WILDCARE STAFF MEMBERS



## RYANE LOGSDON

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM MANAGER

Ryane is originally from Baltimore, Maryland, but moved out to California in 2013. After graduating with a BS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Rochester, Ryane worked as a dog trainer until starting at UC Davis, where she is currently finishing up her doctorate degree in Animal Behavior. Ryane grew up volunteering at local animal shelters, the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, and, more recently, the California Raptor Center. Volunteering at the CRC, along with her graduate school teaching experience, ignited Ryane's passion for wildlife education and rehabilitation and she could not be more excited to be joining the WildCare education team as the Ambassador Program Manager!



## BRENNA MAILLET

VOLUNTEER AND  
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

A long time Bay Area resident, Brenna received her B.A. of Politics and Sociology from UC Santa Cruz after interning in the Irish Parliament, and started her career working for federal and state election races in Contra Costa County.

After a pivot into animal welfare, she managed volunteer programs for the East

Bay SPCA in Oakland and Dublin for 3 years. Her goal is to provide the most effective support for wildlife advocates. When she's not at WildCare, Brenna enjoys botanical drawing, playing tabletop games, and watching western fence lizards do push-ups on local hikes with her partner.



## ANDREA O'DELL

WILDLIFE SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Andrea grew up on the Indian River lagoon system in Florida with a love and respect for wildlife, especially manatees and ospreys. She holds a master's degree in social work and spent many years working with troubled teenagers and their families in Florida and Baltimore. She started volunteering at WildCare in 2016 and became a Wildlife Services Representative in 2020. She lives in Larkspur with her husband, two sons, dog and three cats.



## KAIJA OLLIKAINEN

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Kaija came to WildCare as Education Specialist in February 2020 after working

as an environmental educator for the last 13 years. Her lifelong love of animals led her to volunteer at a wildlife rescue in high school, conduct sensitive species surveys in California forests, and teach children how to milk goats and make cheese. During the pandemic, she created and began leading our highly acclaimed Distance Learning Programs which have engaged thousands of children in the study and appreciation of the natural world. She is delighted to share her passion for inspiring care and connection to our environment and to work alongside dedicated individuals with a shared commitment to the wellbeing of our planet and community.



## BETH SLATKIN

GRANT WRITER

With nearly a decade of experience as a grant writer and institutional giving manager for Bay Area educational nonprofits, Beth is delighted to be in a place that values wildlife and nature education. A longtime board member of International Bird Rescue, Beth became involved in wildlife rescue during the 2007 Cosco Busan oil spill. With a dual background in publishing (MJ, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism) and digital marketing for both nonprofit and for-profit organizations, Beth has been Bay Nature Institute's Director of Marketing and Outreach since 2011. In her spare time, Beth explores Northern California's wild spaces, listening for bird song and the occasional rabbit.



If you love owls, get an **OWL NESTING BOX!**

With habitat loss diminishing the amount of safe, natural nesting sites available, hosting owls on your property can help owls a lot!

**I**  **OWLS**

Learn more at [HungryOwls.org](http://HungryOwls.org)

# UPDATE ON VOLUNTEERING

**VOLUNTEERING AT WILDCARE IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE FOR WILDLIFE!**



We plan to increase the number of volunteering opportunities in our Wildlife Hospital in the near future, including youth volunteering, so please stay tuned for updates. For now, interested potential volunteers can fill out our Volunteering Questionnaire at [discoverwildcare.org/volunteer](http://discoverwildcare.org/volunteer).

Throughout the pandemic, we have not been holding in-person orientations. Instead, we are admitting new volunteers through a one-on-one interviewing process.

Interested in joining the WildCare volunteer team? As more capacity for trainings in our Wildlife Hospital becomes available, we are looking for individuals 18 and over who are fast learners, independent workers, and team players who don't mind rolling up their sleeves and helping our animals in the ways they need it most: feeding and cleaning patients alongside our dedicated staff.

Other volunteer opportunities at WildCare currently include joining our Transport Team to transfer and release wildlife patients (you'll need your own car), helping our Hungry Owl Project by building owl boxes (this is an off-site volunteer opportunity for people with experience and tools for at-home woodworking), or, if you have a passion for education, joining our Wildlife Ambassador Volunteer team.

If you have specialized skills you think would be an asset to the WildCare volunteer team, please reach out to us and we will work with you to assess needs and potential volunteer tasks.

Visit [discoverwildcare.org/volunteer](http://discoverwildcare.org/volunteer) for more information!



Top: Wildlife Hospital Intern feeding an orphaned fawn. Photo ©Alison Hermance.  
Bottom: Volunteers and staff feeding orphaned baby squirrels. Photo ©Melanie Piazza

# NATURE JOURNALING FOR KIDS



When we go outside and practice noticing what's around us, we start to be more aware of all the incredible things happening in nature.

We can use our 5 senses to make observations and piece together a story about what kinds of animals live nearby.

Identifying animals and plants adds another layer to our understanding and connection with a place.

-  Open up your favorite notebook, or make your own handcrafted notebook, and start recording your observations in your Nature Journal today!
-  Everyday, try to notice something new about a place in nature near you, whether it is a plant outside your window, an animal passing by, or changes in the sky.
-  Fill up the pages of your Nature Journal by writing, drawing, painting, or even making up a song or poem about what you noticed outside.

Here are some ideas to get started with your Nature Journal!

Look at a leaf under a magnifying glass and draw what you see

Listen to a bird singing and then draw the bird in its habitat

Watch a sunset. Then watch one another night. Color your favorite sunset in your journal

Add pressed flowers and leaves to your pages

Go on a walk to find your favorite color in nature, and then write a poem about it

Look for evidence of animals nesting in a tree

Did you see the moon yesterday? Can you find it today?

Look for animal tracks and write about what the animals were doing there

Make a list of every animal you see each day

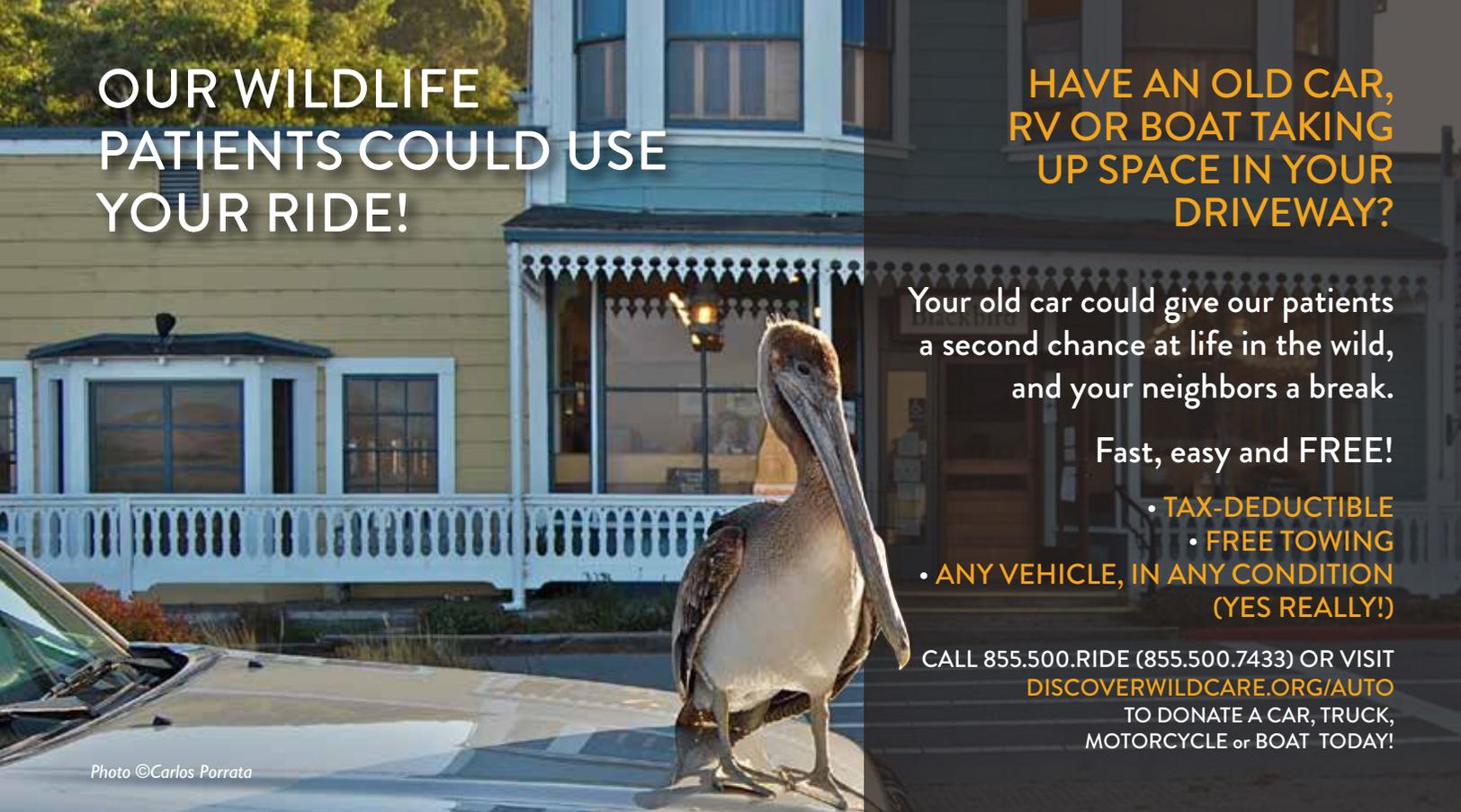
Make a treasure map that leads someone to a good view

Visit [johnmurlaws.com](http://johnmurlaws.com) for more Nature Journaling resources



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