

RAPTOR REUNITE TEAM

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2021 WILDCARE ANNUAL REPORT

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wildcare NEWS

HELPING YOU LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE SUMMER 2022



the profound impact she had on the environmental movement in the Bay Area. Mrs. T's message: "Teach children to love nature; people take care of what they love."

As we resume our regular programs at WildCare, we are working on plans for a capital campaign to raise funds needed to rebuild our 60-year-old building, which is no longer adequate for providing our services to the community as a wildlife hospital and educational facility.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I sit writing this letter, listening to the happy voices of children in our courtyard enjoying Spring Wildlife Camp.

Slowly, pre-pandemic life is returning to WildCare. We have almost a complete corps of volunteers on-site, and our baby season is in full swing. We hosted our Family Nature Day for the first time in two years, and over 400 people attended in honor of Elizabeth Terwilliger, also known as Mrs. T.

WildCare's unique approach to learning is grounded in the experiential-based teaching methods developed by Mrs. T, and this annual event allows us to acknowledge

I am so proud of how our staff stepped up and leaned in during the pandemic, but we missed the larger WildCare community being here. Thank you again to all who supported our work and took care of us during the past two years.

With gratitude,

Ellyn Weisel
Executive Director

WILDCARE NEWS

SUMMER 2022

WILDCARE

415.456.7283 fax 415.456.0594

WEBSITE discoverwildcare.org

Email info@discoverwildcare.org

BUSINESS HOURS

9AM - 5PM, seven days a week

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IN MEMORY OF

Elizabeth Terwilliger

& Julie Malet

LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE.

Cover photo

Cover photo: Northern Spotted Owl reunited with her baby. Photo by George Eade

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, reducing administrative costs and channeling more of each dollar to saving wildlife.

GIVE MONTHLY **LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP AT DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/FIRSTRESPONDERS**

THIS IS A JOB FOR THE... RAPTOR REUNITE TEAM

BY ALISON HERMANCE AND
MELANIE PIAZZA

Every spring, WildCare's Wildlife Hospital admits a dozen or more baby hawks and owls that have fallen from their nests. Baby raptors fall for many reasons.

Some topple from nests that have been destroyed by wind or tree trimming, others fall due to squabbling siblings. Frequently, fallen baby raptors are older "branchers" learning to fly. Thankfully they often don't hurt themselves in their tumbles. This means that many fallen baby hawks or owls are healthy enough to be returned to the care of their parents.

Re-nesting birds of prey may sound like an easy task, but in reality, each case requires many hours of time from not only WildCare's Medical Staff, but from the multiple very knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers who make up our volunteer Raptor Reunite Team (RRT)!

When the Wildlife Hospital admits a raptor chick, the bird will receive a full physical exam including bloodwork and radiographs, subcutaneous fluids, and treatment for parasites. Once he is stable enough, we'll feed him bite-sized bits of mouse from tweezers every few hours, so

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Volunteer arborist Jim Cairnes of Small World Tree Company climbs a eucalyptus tree to reunite a baby Red-tailed Hawk. Photo © Alison Hermance

Inset: A newly-hatched Northern Spotted Owl owlet receives care at WildCare while a nest spotter confirms Mom is in the nest. Photos ©Renee Cormier and Alison Hermance



Above:
Volunteer banding a
baby Barn Owl. Photo
©Rebecca Dmytryk Inset:
Baby Red-tailed Hawk being
weighed in the Wildlife Hospital
and after being placed in a basket
nest. Photos ©James Reed (basket) and
Melanie Piazza (hospital)

that he doesn't miss any feeds while waiting to go back home. For those birds who receive a clean bill of health and do not require a stay in the Wildlife Hospital, Med Staff will activate the Raptor Reunite Team.

An RRT spotter will go to the site where the baby was found to locate the nest, often coordinating with the original rescuer. Raptors are large birds, but finding the nest can be a surprisingly difficult task, especially when we're dealing with nocturnal owls,

or if the baby in question is not a fluffy nestling but a fledgling who may have hop-flown or walked away from the nest site. Sometimes we can accelerate this process by playing recorded calls of a baby bird of the correct species begging. This draws the hiding adult birds out.

Ideally, we attempt a reunite within the first 48 hours of intake, especially if the baby is a "brancher" (a bird old enough to leave the nest and hop-fly among the branches nearby.) The risk of the parents moving away from the nest as they follow their other brancher offspring increases with every day that passes.

Once our spotters find the nest, and confirm the presence of parent birds (and, ideally, siblings), then we bring in the next integral members of the Raptor Reunite Team: a volunteer who is federally-licensed to band raptors, and the volunteer arborist.

The band placed on the leg of the nestling will identify him for life, and will let us know if the same bird leaves the nest again, or if the bird enters a wildlife hospital again for any reason within his lifetime. This allows us to track the success of the process. The volunteer carefully measures the appropriate size for the band, accounting for growth, gently applies it, and also collects other measurements of the bird in order to provide scientific data for various studies.

Coordinating with our volunteer arborist, a team member will then bring the baby to the nest site. Actually getting the baby back into the nest is probably the most challenging, scariest time in the entire process. The tree climber must be careful to not frighten any siblings in the nest and cause them to jump, and he must do the climb carefully, quietly and quickly to minimize the amount of time the raptor family has to contend with the terrifying predator (a human!) in their nest tree.

Many times the arborists are dive-bombed by the protective parents!

When the climber reaches the nest (or, if the nest was destroyed, he will attach a wicker basket as an alternative nest), the team on the ground ties the box containing the baby bird to a line, and the climber gently pulls the box and bird up. He then puts on heavy gloves (even baby raptors have big talons!), opens the box, and reaches in for the fluffy-but-fierce bird inside.

Keeping sibling birds from jumping is probably the most challenging part of the next step. This requires slowly placing the baby bird in the nest or basket, and then holding a towel or gloved hand over the baby for a minute or more to give the young bird time to acclimate and calm down. Then the climber quickly and quietly descends the tree.

With the baby back in the nest, we must then confirm that the parent birds have found and continue to feed their prodigal youngster and that the bird has not fallen to the ground again. Spotters will continue to make multiple trips back to the nest location over the following days to monitor the nest and confirm that baby and parents have settled well.

Sometimes a baby or sibling will end up on the ground more than once, and this entire process will be repeated over and over again until successful!

It is absolutely untrue that a bird or other wild animal will reject her baby if a human has touched it, and the success of WildCare's Raptor Reunite Team has demonstrated this many times. In fact, not only do we put baby raptors back into their own nests, sometimes when we have an orphan who cannot return to their own family, we can "adopt" them into another nest with young the same age, and the new parents will accept and raise them as their own! This is an additional branch of RRT, a network of birders and other organizations



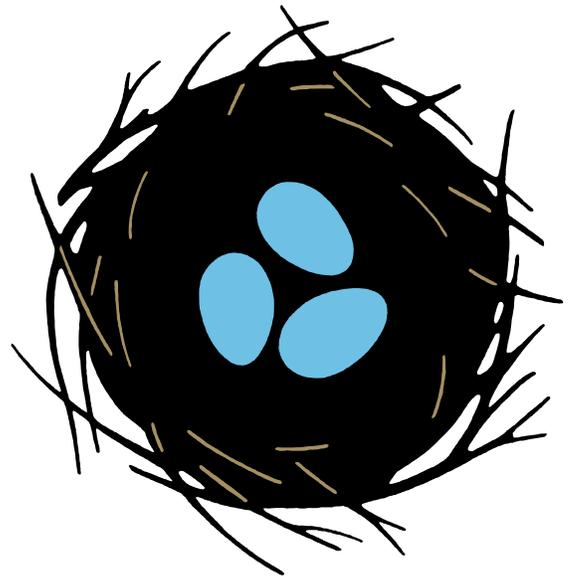
who know of and monitor the locations of active nests of numerous species throughout the breeding season.

Why do we invest so much time into re-nesting raptors?

As with all of our wild babies, it is always best that they be raised by their parents. With raptors this is especially important, as baby hawks and owls spend months learning the very difficult skill of hunting live prey. While they are learning, young raptors fail at hunting more often than not, so their parents supplement their meals during this period. At WildCare, we have very limited aviary space so we need to keep our enclosures available for injured and orphaned birds that truly do need our care. And finally, these growing babies eat thousands of mice over the course of their stay with us. Their food bills are tremendous! So, keeping healthy babies in the wild also saves WildCare a lot of money!

WildCare is incredibly grateful to the entire team of people who volunteer their time and skills to make reuniting these baby birds possible! The success rate for raptor reunites is incredibly high, especially for nestlings, and the outcomes for re-nested babies are excellent, thanks to everyone on the Raptor Reunite Team!

Above: The mother Northern Spotted Owl does not want the tree climber near her nest! Photo by Jim Cairnes Inset: RRT volunteer George Eade spotting nests. Photo from GGRO Right: Respect the Nest graphic by Michael Schwab



RESPECT *the* NEST.

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

WWW.DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG

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

WILDCARE'S SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Do you wish your children could have more environmental education opportunities? Help us spread the word about WildCare's exciting nature education programs—at school, at our site, or out in nature!



WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

There is nothing more memorable than having LIVE wild animals visit the classroom! Students will meet three of WildCare's rescued non-releasable wild animals during this unforgettable presentation.

This is an amazing opportunity to see up close the special adaptations that help these animals survive in the wild.



NATURE VAN

We bring the wild into the classroom with a visit from our Nature Van full of taxidermy, skeletons, and biofacts! This program provides an interactive opportunity to be hands-on with animals you wouldn't otherwise be able to experience up close.



CENTER TOURS

Meet our live Wildlife Ambassadors during an engaging guided tour of the non-releasable birds, reptiles, and mammals housed in WildCare's Courtyard and Museum. Explore the adaptations of each species, learn why each animal ambassador needed rescuing, and discover ways we can help protect their species in the wild. Every tour includes TWO special animal encounters with our Wildlife Ambassadors!



NATURE HIKES

Immerse students in nature with our exciting discovery hikes led by WildCare's Terwilliger Nature Guides. Students will use their senses to examine animal tracks, investigate scat, and spot wildlife, all while expanding their knowledge and appreciation of local flora and fauna. Hike locations include Muir Woods, Ring Mountain, and Miwok Meadows.

Scheduling for the 2022 - 2023 school year has already begun, and the dates are filling quickly! Scholarships are available.

For more information, please visit discoverwildcare.org/education.

WildCare's Zeva Longley Family Adventures

Aventuras Familiares Zeva Longley con WildCare



New in 2022, WildCare's Zeva Longley Family Adventures / Aventuras Familiares bring families from the Canal District in San Rafael outside on fun family outings in Marin's parks and open spaces. The goal is to make the outdoors a safe and welcoming place for all, and these hikes are full of discovery and learning for the whole family. This amazing free program is made possible through the Rainbow Sandals Foundation.

These free hikes, led by WildCare's Bilingual Nature Educator, are in Spanish. Transportation is provided. Interested in participating? RSVP is required. Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/familyadventures.

Nuevo en 2022, Aventuras Familiares Zeva Longley llevan a las familias del Distrito del Canal en San Rafael al aire libre en divertidas excursiones familiares en los parques y espacios abiertos de Marin. La meta es lograr hacer de la naturaleza un espacio seguro y acogedor para todos, y estas caminatas están llenas de descubrimientos y aprendizajes para toda la familia. Este asombroso programa gratuito es posible por medio de la Fundación Rainbow Sandal.

Estos programas, guiados por los Educadores Naturalistas Bilingües de WildCare, son dados en Español y son gratis. Nosotros proporcionamos transporte. Si está interesado en participar, favor de confirmar su asistencia. Obtenga más información en discoverwildcare.org/aventurasfamiliares.



**SATURDAY
JUNE 11, 2022**
Hike at Roy's Redwoods

**SATURDAY
JULY 9, 2022**
Hike at Rodeo Lagoon
and Beach

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 6, 2022**
Hike from Tennessee Valley
Trail to the Beach

**SÁBADO
11 DE JUNIO DE 2022**
Caminata Familiar en Roy's Redwoods

**SÁBADO
9 DE JULIO DE 2022**
Caminemos en la
Laguna y Playa Rodeo

**SÁBADO
6 DE AGOSTO DE 2022**
Caminando el Valle de Tennessee
hasta la Playa

BEAT THE HEAT, NATURALIST-STYLE

BY KATE LYNCH

One of the best parts about living in the Bay Area is that there is never a bad season to get out and enjoy nature. With our mild weather, micro-climates, and myriad of habitats to visit, there is something for everyone, all year long.

As the days grow longer and warmer, sometimes finding a place to beat the heat becomes the order of the day. Fortunately, there are plenty of cool activities that will quench your thirst for a wild time in nature!

Harbor Seals give birth to their beautiful, spotted, round-eyed pups between March 1 and June 30. You can see Harbor Seals in cool and often-foggy Bolinas in West Marin and in Sausalito, but be sure to watch from a distance and pay attention to the seals' body language. Harbor Seals are very shy and spook easily, and they have even been known to abandon pups when harassed.

Roy's Redwoods in San Geronimo features primeval groves of bay and redwood trees, as well as shady walks on a secluded ridge that also shelters fir, madrone and oak

trees. Look for Pileated Woodpeckers by day, and Great Horned Owls by night, and also keep an eye out for the "hippie trees" — hollowed-out trees where a commune made their home in the 1960s. This is a great spot to bring your furry friends, as dogs are allowed on leash.

There are currently more than 4,000 Tule Elk in California. These large and elegant ungulates give birth to their calves (which weigh only 20 – 25 pounds at birth!) in late spring and early summer, but probably the best time to visit the herds at the Point Reyes National Seashore is August – October when you can hear the male bull elk bugling, and see them angling and even sparring for harems of females.

Rodeo Beach behind the Marin Headlands is sheltered by cliffs and bounded by a lagoon. This beautiful beach is usually cool and breezy, even on the warmest days. Fly a kite or look for pelicans, comorants, oystercatchers and many other birds from the beach or the nearby cliffside hiking trails. Dogs are allowed on the beach, but not in the lagoon.



Photo ©Jonathan



Photo ©Michael Meijer



Photo ©Iwona

Leopard Sharks spawn from mid-July through August and they are one of the most common sharks in the San Francisco Bay. Where can you see spawning Leopard Sharks? Try spotting them during a cool walk along Blackie's Pasture in Tiburon! It makes sense you'll see Leopard Sharks on that walk... the word *tiburón* means "shark" in Spanish.



Photo ©srongkrod



wildcare



2022



Gala

PRESENTING SPONSOR

\$25,000

- 15 tickets to in-person event or 20 Gala To-Go boxes
- Live program recognition
- Pre and post-event recognition
- Wildlife Ambassador Segment Sponsorship
- World of WildCare Video Sponsorship
 - Highlight in WildCare bi-annual magazine

PEREGRINE FALCON

\$15,000

- 12 tickets to in-person event or 15 Gala To-Go boxes
- Live program recognition
- Pre and post-event recognition
- Wildlife Ambassador Segment Sponsorship
- Highlight in WildCare bi-annual magazine

SWAINSON'S HAWK

\$10,000

- 8 tickets to in-person event or 10 Gala To-Go boxes
- Live program recognition
- Pre and post-event recognition
- Highlight in WildCare bi-annual magazine

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

\$5,000

- 6 tickets to in-person event or 8 Gala To-Go boxes
- Live program recognition
- Pre-event recognition

NORTHERN HARRIER

\$2,500

- 4 tickets to in-person event or 6 Gala To-Go boxes
- Pre and post-event recognition

JOIN US FOR THE WILDCARE GALA ON AUGUST 20, 2022, AND PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING THIS ELEGANT EVENT!

Our Gala sponsors will receive prominent event placement, media coverage and social media mentions, as well as tickets to the event, being held this year at the beautiful Acqua Hotel in Mill Valley.

You will receive attention from a diverse audience, from educators and parents, to nature enthusiasts and animal lovers. Our events also offer wonderful networking opportunities.

As of May 2022, WildCare's email list reaches 81,595 individuals. And our social media following is robust: Facebook page reach totals 22K; Instagram has 5,700 followers; and Twitter reaches 286.1K followers.

Everyone Benefits from Planned Gifts

Discover how and why to plan a gift.



Photo ©Christopher Whittier

Your Goal	Your Gift	Your Method	Your Benefit
Make a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime	Gifts through your will or trust (“bequest”)	Include a gift of cash, property, or a share or your estate through your will or trust	A gift that does not affect your cash flow, knowing your wishes will be fulfilled
Make a gift while leaving more of your estate to your heirs	Gifts of retirement assets (e.g., 401(k), IRA)	Name WildCare as the beneficiary of your retirement plan, and pass less-taxed assets to your heirs	Avoid up to 60% income tax on your retirement assets; pass more of your estate to your heirs
Make a gift while avoiding capital gains liability	Gifts of appreciated securities	Donate appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds to WildCare to sell and use the proceeds	Make a significant gift; receive an immediate income tax deduction; pay no capital gains tax
Plan a future gift in the simplest way possible	Gift the balance of your account (POD or TOD)	Designate the balance of your bank or brokerage account, retirement plan, annuity or life insurance policy to go to WildCare	Make an extraordinary contribution that costs you nothing now and is as simple as signing your name
Make a gift and receive a guaranteed “paycheck” for life	Charitable gift annuity	Donate cash or securities in a plan where the remainder comes to WildCare after your passing	Receive higher rate of return tax-advantaged payments for life, charitable tax deduction, and avoid capital gains tax
Make a gift that preserves your assets for your heirs	Charitable lead trust	Use appreciating assets to create a trust that will provide WildCare income for a period of years, and then pass the assets back to you or your heirs	Shelter your growing assets and benefit WildCare right away; reduce or eliminate gift and estate tax

The information provided herein should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional tax, accounting, legal, or other competent advisers. Source material: plannedgiving.com

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Dear WildCare Family,

It is with deep gratitude that I thank you all, our supporters, volunteers and staff for the amazing success WildCare had in 2021. We are grateful for all of you who continue to make our essential work possible. Your support has helped us to provide rescue, rehabilitation, and life-saving veterinary care each day this past year for 3,681 animals from 230 different species, and to teach a love and respect for nature and wildlife to over 11,000 children and adults, all during the trying times of a global pandemic.

WildCare works tirelessly to provide treatment and specialized care for our wild neighbors in an old, far too small, facility. We appreciate your continued support and know that together, we can make an even greater impact to help injured and orphaned animals and educate our community about peaceful human coexistence with wildlife and wild animals' vital role in our precious ecosystem.

With 2021 behind us, we're very excited to be working on the future. Plans to modernize our facility are underway, and, although this is a huge multi-year project, which will require our services to temporarily relocate once construction begins, it will certainly be worth the inconvenience once complete.

These improvements to our campus are only possible with the support of you, our WildCare family. With our deepest gratitude, we thank you for your trust in us and your unwavering support. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Sincerely,



Vaughn Maurice
WildCare Board President

Photos ©Alison Hermance unless otherwise noted



2021 ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

280,552

WEBSITE VISITORS

286,250

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

55,453

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

22,597

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

5,684

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

912

VIEWERS HAVE WATCHED OUR 2021 WILDCARE GALA LIVESTREAM



HOTLINE
CALLS ANSWERED
12,325



**AFTER-HOURS
EMERGENCY
CALLS ANSWERED**
3,081



15,406
TOTAL CALLS
ANSWERED

**LIVING WITH
WILDLIFE
HOTLINE:**
415.456.7283



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Over 6,900 individuals, businesses, corporations, agencies, associations and foundations provided funding to support WildCare in 2021, helping us raise more than \$3,225,755 to make our work possible.



HUNGRY OWL PROJECT STATISTICS

- INSTALLED 61 BARN OWL BOXES
- INSTALLED 52 SCREECH OWL BOXES
- INSTALLED 19 BLUEBIRD BOXES
- INSTALLED 4 BAT BOXES
- CLEANED 73 BARN OWL BOXES
- A GRAND TOTAL OF 209 JOBS!
- FIELDDED 628 OWL BOX INQUIRIES FROM 26 STATES.

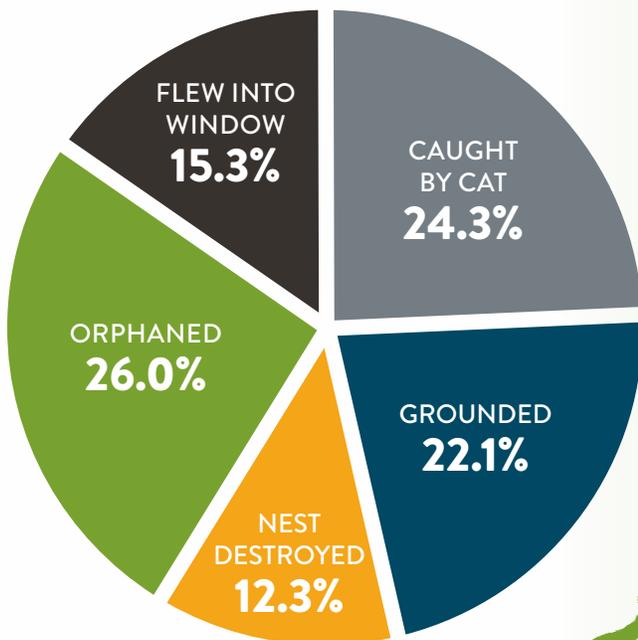
SURVIVAL RATES AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS

TREATED BY CLASS

	TOTAL NUMBER BY CLASS	SURVIVAL RATE (AFTER 24 HOURS)
MAMMALS	845	82%
BIRDS	2,789	70%
REPTILES	45	85%
AMPHIBIANS	2	100%
TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS AND OVERALL SURVIVAL RATE (based on all admissions, after 24 hours)	3,681	73%

TOTAL ANIMALS TREATED 3,681

MOST FREQUENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF ADMISSION

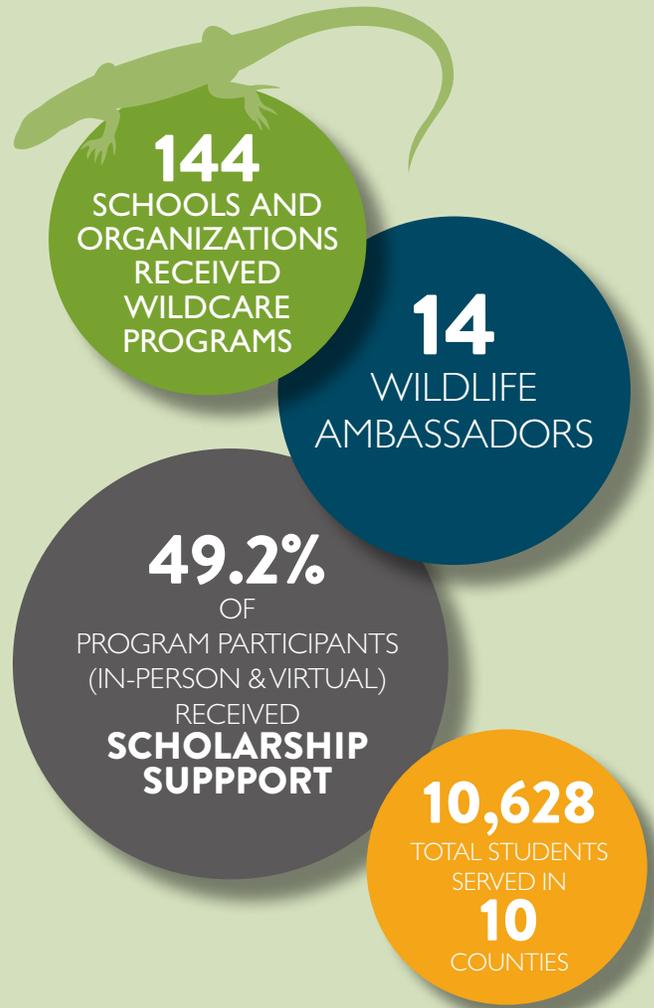


59
BABIES
REUNITED
WITH PARENTS

Two green silhouettes of a cat and a kitten are positioned on either side of the text. The kitten is on the left, and the adult cat is on the right, sitting upright.

EDUCATION STATS 2021

*2021 WAS A TOPSY-TURVY YEAR IN WHICH WILDCARE'S PROGRAMS (AND THE WORLD) HAD TO NAVIGATE "WAVES" OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, LEADING TO LAST-MINUTE CHANGES IN PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY AND AVAILABILITY.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM REACH:

TOTAL Children served: 10,628
Adults served: 650
youth served on scholarship: 5,239 (49.2%)

TOTAL number of Programs: 472
Programs on scholarships: 209 (44%)

of Presentations by Program:

Nature Van: 105
Wildlife Ambassador Programs: 40
Nature Hike Programs: 10
Center Tour Programs: 9
Distance Learning Programs: 302
Wildlife Camps: 6

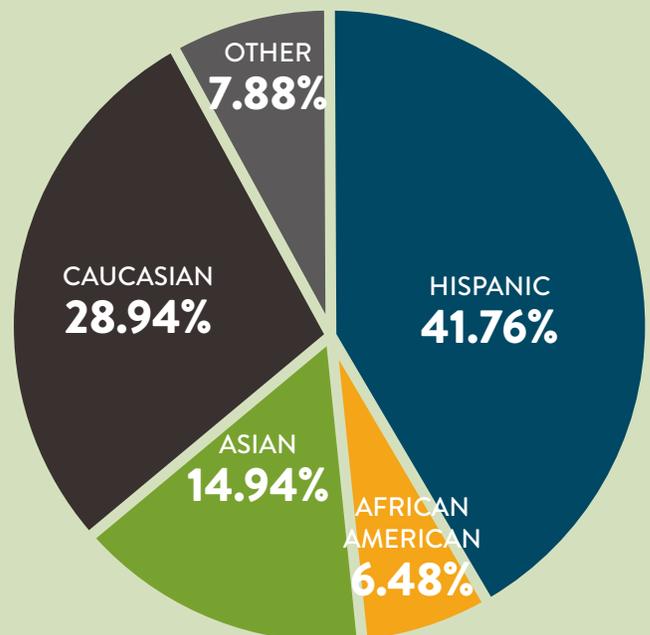
of Students Served by Program:

Nature Van: 2,368
Wildlife Ambassador Programs: 999
Nature Hike Programs: 192
Center Tour Programs: 118
Distance Learning Programs: 6,908
Wildlife Camps: 43

FREE Courtyard Presentations:

Number of Presentations: 144
Number of Participants: 814

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2021

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WILDLIFE!

Marissa Amador
Dianne Arancibia
Anne Ardillo
Sarah Atherton
Julie Austin
Francesca Austin
Patricia Axsom
Nicki Azarbakhsh
Deb Babe
Delia Badger
Alix Barbey
Nancy Barbour
Courtney Barend
Anne Barker
Lindsay Bartsh
Bill Beech
Eva Bennett
Lauren Bettino
Brianna Bjaranson
Andre Borgman
Janeko Bower
Terry Bremer
Jan Bricca
Ariana Brisco
Schofield
Mare Brixie
Lucy Burlingham
Katharine Cagney
Jim Cairnes
Dion Campbell
Bobby Carlson
Renee Charnas
Oliver Chesley
Tracy Christensen
Davina Chu
Natalie Clark
Kiki Clarke
Shannon Collier
Claire Colvin
Marisa Cooper
Mina Cosko
Elizabeth Costa
Tom Crouse
Chloe Crull
Libby Debattista

Andressa do Carmo Arruda
Sofie Dinglasan
Rebecca Duerr, DVM MPVM PhD
Sandy Edinger
Suzanne Egan
Alice Elegant
Zhanna Filatova
Debbie Fisher
Bob Flynn
Alexei Folger
Cynthia Folkmann
Dallas Forshev
Darin Freitag
Susy Friedman
Amber Fua
Heather Gamberg
Veronica Geczi
Haley Gee
Jane Gelder
Vanessa Glidden
Alex Godbe
Brenda Goeden
Susie Graven
Rachel Griffiths
Nancy Groom
Yanet Gutierrez
Erin Hankins
Christine Hansel
Tara Harris
Lynn Haug
Margie Heckelman
Nicole Hediger
Alison Hermance
Jocelynn Herrick Stone
Tammy Higgason
Andrea Hirsig
Paula Holman
Rai Holzman
Daniella Ingargiola
Barbara Inwald
Ralph Jacobson
Jill Jenny

Eileen Jones
Amy Junker
Steve Kimball
Robert Kline
Rachel Klyce
Hannah Knecht
Susan Kreibich
Veronique Krenitsky
Kermit Kubitz
Laakea Laano
Heidi Law
Cecilia Ledesma
Claire Leesh
Jacqueline Lewis
Anne Libbin
Kelly Lichoff
Kevin Lindsay
Bob Lundstrom
Kate Lynch
Amy MacDougall
Gail MacMillan
Aaron Magill
Tracy Manheim
Vaughn Maurice
Megan McChesney
Ginny McGraw
Barbara McNamer
Karen Michels
Iliana Milan
Sandy Miller
Suzanne Mirviss
Jill Mistretta
Steven Morreale
Brittany Morse
Eileen Munroe
Robyn Newkirk
Craig Nikitas
Tracy Novick
Carol Nyhoff
Sam Osborn
Lynda Pearson
Marcie Phares
James Phelan
Melanie Piazza

Manuela Piha
Toni Pinsky
Patricia Prorok
Gretchen Rau
Nathan Rawlins
James Reed
Beth Ridout
Teri Rockas
Alex Rockas
Nicole Rodney
Kristina Rodriguez
Brittany Rosario
Shelly Ross
Magda Sarkissian
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Marjorie Scarborough
Debra Scheenstra
Joel Schick
Layne Schneider

Lyanne Schuster
Deb Scott
Stephen Shaw
Brenda Shea
Ellen Shehadeh
Amy Shipley
Chris Silva
Janet Sinnicks
Sarah Slaymaker
Judy Smith
Heather Snow
Juliana Sorem
Lucy Stevenot
Barbara Stikker
Linda Stiles
Chloe Sundara

Cat Taylor
Liz Thawley
Nicole Trautsch
Janna Ullrey
Kate Van Gytenbeek
Whitney Vickers
Ellyn Weisel
Nancy West
Ellen Wu
Shulamite Yang
Cait Youngquist



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Thank you to 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:

- HELP IN THE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL
- TRANSPORT WILDLIFE PATIENTS
- EDUCATE THE PUBLIC
- CARE FOR OUR WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR ANIMALS
- JOIN THE BOARD OR A COMMITTEE
- ANSWER THE AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY LINE
- PROVIDE VETERINARY CARE

LEARN MORE AT [DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.discoverwildcare.org/volunteer)



Photo ©Holly Manley

VOLUNTEERING AT wildcare

BY DION CAMPBELL

WildCare currently has nearly 200 active volunteers, and these amazing people have their hardworking hands and hearts in all aspects of the organization. It's impossible to describe how vital they are to furthering WildCare's mission and improving the lives of animals (and people!).

Walk through our Wildlife Hospital, and you'll find volunteers handling every necessary task, from preparing the always-changing daily diets for the patients in our care, to cleaning their enclosures, assisting staff in handling intakes and exams, medicating and feeding our wild patients, tackling the inevitable laundry, dishes, and so much more.

WildCare's **Wildlife Hospital Volunteer Program** accepts adult volunteers over the age of 18. Our Student Volunteer Program is for young people, ages 15 – 17, to work in a support capacity to provide care for our animal patients.

Specially-trained **Foster Care Volunteers** care for orphaned baby animals day and night, providing in-home care for our smallest and most vulnerable wildlife patients.

Wildlife Ambassador Volunteers work with and care for our permanent, non-releasable resident educational animals, building relationships with them, presenting them to the public, and educating people about these animals' species and the specific reasons they cannot return to the wild.

Nature Guide Volunteers lead fun and exciting hikes for school children, full of exploration and learning, and our Courtyard Docents share wonderful natural history and information with visitors to WildCare's Courtyard.

Remote **E-Line Volunteers** answer sometimes challenging but always rewarding after-hours phone calls, providing valuable insight and instruction to callers from every corner of the country.

Transport Volunteers brave traffic, parking, and high gas prices to move animals and the supplies they require from point A to point B. From a carload of pigeons heading back to the city, to transporting 200 pounds of frozen smelt for our pelicans, or a single songbird ready for release—they do it all.

Learn about these and other wonderful opportunities to join WildCare's Volunteer Team at discoverwildcare.org/volunteer.



Photo ©Ellyn Weisel



Photo ©JoLynn Taylor

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: SONGBIRD FOSTER CARE

WildCare could not help all the animals we do without the incredibly dedicated help of expert volunteers.

Our Swift, Swallow and Hummingbird Foster Care volunteer, Brenda, and her partner Joel, embody the words “dedicated” and “expert.”

Every year Brenda, with Joel's help, cares for approximately 30 baby hummingbirds, 50 adult hummingbirds, 60 – 75 swallows and maybe 10 swifts. All of these birds stay in care at their home for an average of 6 - 8 weeks.

Tiny baby hummingbirds need to be fed every 20 minutes until they can eat on their own. Their diet consists of a very high protein insect slurry based on fruit flies, bloodworms and other ground insects. Swallows and swifts eat live mealworms and crickets, and they must be fed every 30 – 45 minutes.

How does this amazing volunteer arrange her life to accommodate caring for so many baby birds? Brenda says things have been easier since COVID, as she's now working from home. She used to take the birds to work and set them up at her desk!

Brenda tells us their mornings start with a cup of tea and feeding birds. That continues (every 20 – 45 minutes) until dark. Weekends are at least half cleaning, rearranging, and releasing birds etc. She has been caring for swallows and swifts since 1994, and hummingbirds for the past 10 years.

To accommodate her insectivorous (insect-eating) fosters, she cultures flightless fruit flies for the slurry, raises mealworms in a tray, and, in her two outside aviaries, she has buckets of

rotten fruit to generate flighted insects, along with flowers for the hummingbirds and bowls of mealworms for the swifts and swallows.

“We are always making food,” Brenda says. “My partner Joel does a ton of food prep for me and keeps me fed and going in the right direction as well. I couldn't do this without him.”

Although she's now a true expert, learning to care for these challenging species was a process of trial and error and reading anything she could find. She also learned a lot from the birds themselves, and other wildlife rehabilitators have generously shared their time and expertise. In particular Veronica Bowers of Native Songbird Care and Conservation, and Jeanine



Photo ©Alison Hermance

Perlman who designs specific diets for these birds.

Asked what is her favorite part, Brenda says good releases make it all worthwhile. She also loves that people are willing to pick up these birds when they're injured and orphaned, and bring them to WildCare's Wildlife Hospital. “It gives me hope,” she says.



Photo ©Melanie Piazza

**WANT TO
VOLUNTEER TO
HELP WILDLIFE?**

WildCare is accepting applications for new Wildlife Hospital Volunteers! Learn more and watch the New Volunteer Orientation at discoverwildcare.org/volunteer

MEET OUR PATIENTS!



CALIFORNIA TOWHEE
PATIENT 22-505

Admitted: Apr 9, 2022

This young California Towhee was admitted in early April after being attacked by a free-roaming domestic cat. This situation is common for towhees, as they nest low to the ground and fledge at an early age with no flight capabilities, making them more vulnerable to cats.

While often cat attacks are fatal or result in serious injuries, this little towhee was very lucky and we found him to be generally healthy. He was treated with antibiotics to prevent *Pasteurella* infection, since cat saliva can cause infection even without open wounds.

For the first day or two he was very stressed and had to be assist-fed. But with the company of another sparrow species, a Dark-eyed Junco fledgling, the towhee soon caught on. He is now self-feeding and in an enclosure with enrichment prior to transitioning to an outdoor enclosure pre-release.



BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT
PATIENT 22-565

Admitted: Apr 14, 2022

Juvenile jackrabbit 22-565 was found in San Rafael with a swollen eye. An ophthalmic exam found the young hare had an ulcer on her left eye and some blood was noted in the eye as well.

Jackrabbits are a very high stress species, especially if they are admitted at an older age like this patient was. They require specialized care and a very calm environment and go directly into foster care with an experienced volunteer or staff member. This young rabbit was very hungry at intake and she soon caught on to taking formula from a syringe. She is currently receiving pain medication and antibiotics as well as an eye ointment to treat the ulcer.

There has been steady improvement and she continues to receive follow-up ophthalmic exams to monitor the healing of the ulcer. We are hopeful that, as soon as the eye is healed, we can release her back to her free and wild home.

EVERY YEAR, WILDCARE'S WILDLIFE HOSPITAL ADMITS OVER 3,500 ILL, INJURED AND ORPHANED WILD ANIMALS, FROM OVER 200 SPECIES. MEET SOME OF THIS YEAR'S WILDLIFE PATIENTS!



VIRGINIA OPOSSUMS
PATIENTS 22-554, 555, 556 AND 557
Admitted: Apr 12, 2022

After WildCare had closed for the night, a Marin Humane officer contacted WildCare's Director of Animal Care about an adult opossum who had likely been hit by a car. Sadly, the opossum had serious injuries that were beyond repair, but we were able to save the four beautiful joeys we found in her pouch.

Although they were weak and skinny, they have rebounded beautifully after receiving a course of antibiotics and a special milk replacement formula for opossums five times each day. They are now exploring solid foods and are nearly completely weaned. Opossums grow incredibly quickly and despite weighing less than 100g, they are already approximately three months old and will be ready for release at 500g in just 4-5 more weeks.



ROLLER DISCO BARN OWLS
PATIENTS 22-173, 174 AND 226
Admitted: Feb 17 and 25, 2022

When these Barn Owls were spotted, seemingly grooving to the funky beat in the rafters at the Church of 8 Wheels, a roller disco in an old church in San Francisco, they looked like real party animals! But, when our team saw a post about them on Facebook, we knew that the owls were actually trapped inside! We contacted Craig Nikitas of Bay Raptor Rescue.

It took several days to capture the owls. Once in the Wildlife Hospital, they were found to be dangerously emaciated and dehydrated. One owl didn't survive. As our team worked to stabilize the surviving owl, the roller disco alerted us that another owl had entered the building! Capturing her, and sealing all the access holes in the old church were the priorities.

A month later, our team released the surviving owls, and even installed an owl nesting box in the bell tower of the church.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

PATTY GARBARINO

AND MARIN SANITARY SERVICE

BY MARIEL VANDERSTEEL

Marin Sanitary Service has been a longtime and generous supporter of WildCare and we were pleased to chat with Patty Garbarino, the company's President, to discuss both Marin Sanitary and WildCare's commitment to the well-being of our local environment.

A family business that includes three generations, Marin Sanitary was originally established in San Francisco on the principle that nothing should be wasted. *Today, Marin Sanitary works within Marin to recycle over 74% of the county's waste!*

Marin Sanitary and WildCare first connected around the time that the California Center for Wildlife and the Terwilliger Nature Education Center merged in the mid 1990s under the name WildCare. Mrs. Terwilliger was a dear family friend of the Garbarino family and her work, especially her environmental educational programming for youth, was an inspiration to Patty.

Animals have always been a part of Patty's life. As a young child, she remembers the rabbits, chickens and even a cow that her grandmother kept in her "postage stamp backyard" of her North Beach home. Today, Patty surrounds herself with adopted dogs and is always on the lookout for wildlife in need. She has brought in several injured animals to WildCare over the years and is grateful for the safety net that WildCare provides for so many injured animals. Even in her spare time, environmental health is on



Patty's mind. During her morning walks on a recent trip to Mexico, Patty and her family would comb the beach with bags, collecting the plastic waste they found.

Back in Marin, Marin Sanitary focuses on advocacy against single-use plastics. In addition to organizing school programming and community events, they have worked to find ways to prevent single-use plastics from becoming free floating waste in the environment.

Thank you Patty and Marin Sanitary for not only finding sustainable solutions for Marin's waste, but for your committed and generous support of WildCare! We are so grateful!

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[DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/TOMORROWFUND](https://discoverwildcare.org/tomorrowfund)



THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW?

WildCare is, too.

BY BRIANNA BJARNSON

Leaving a legacy gift in your will is a powerful way to ensure that your values will carry on for generations to come. WildCare's Tomorrow Fund is a special group of individuals who share a love of wildlife and a desire to help and protect the wild animals living in our shared habitat.

Where there is a will, there is a way to continue helping wildlife. A gift of any size makes a difference for the future. Many of our supporters are surprised to learn that they can directly include WildCare as a designated beneficiary on their insurance policies, as well as on bank, stock, and retirement accounts. Working on your legacy gift now offers you the peace of mind that comes with knowing your wishes will be fulfilled.

We were thrilled to host the first event in our Tomorrow Fund Speaker Series event at WildCare on May 25, 2022. This hybrid event featured a special presentation and Q & A with WildCare Veterinarian, Dr. Juliana Sorem (pictured to the right). It was wonderful to connect with our Tomorrow Fund members and share with them the very things that make WildCare an organization worth supporting now, and in the future.

Tomorrow Fund members ensure that WildCare can continue to provide world-class medical care to animals in need and teach

people to live well with wildlife for many generations to come. Tomorrow Fund members also receive special WildCare updates and exclusive invitations to dedicated meetings and events. If you decide to include WildCare in your will, or as a direct beneficiary on your accounts, please let us know. We would love the chance to officially welcome you to the Tomorrow Fund community and to recognize your commitment to WildCare's future.

To learn more about joining the visionary group of supporters that make WildCare's Tomorrow Fund so impactful, please contact Nicole Trautsch, Director of Development at nicole@discoverwildcare.org or 415-453-1000 x31.

Haven't yet made your will? Go to FreeWill.com/WildCare to start your will now for FREE!

WildCare Veterinarian, Dr. Juliana Sorem examines a Great Horned Owl.
Photo ©Alison Hermance.





Learn About *Hungry Owls*

BY AMBER FUA



As their name indicates, Barn Owls are known to nest in barns. However, they had many other housing options before the existence of barns, as they are capable of occupying a variety of hollow spaces. Their nests can typically be found within the cavities of trees,

caves, and even cliffs. They now often settle into man-made nesting boxes built specifically for their size and needs.

The latter option is a popular way to support local Barn Owl populations while subsequently reducing nearby rodent populations. This free and natural biocontrol is exactly why Barn Owls have been favorable tenants to farmers throughout history. Their diet mainly consists of small mammals that pose a risk to agricultural practices, such as: mice, rats, gophers, shrews, and voles.

The Barn Owl's hunting effectiveness can be attributed to their many physical adaptations, from downy feathers suppressing the sound of their movement, to eyes that are highly sensitive in low-light situations. Even the Barn Owl's heart-shaped face serves a purpose, as it aids in enhancing their sense of hearing. The stiff facial feathers curve inward to funnel sound

directly to their ears, which are asymmetrical, enabling them to better pinpoint prey. Barn Owls can actually locate and catch prey utilizing sound alone, as proven in 1979 after several tests conducted by neurobiologists Marc Konishi and Eric Knudsen.

Understanding their abilities, it should be no surprise that a family of Barn Owls can consume upwards of 3,000 rodents in a season. This level of natural rodent control by a specialized bird of prey is unmatched, and man-made options such as rodenticide pales in comparison. For more information about Barn Owls or nesting boxes to support Barn Owl populations, please visit HungryOwls.org.

Left: Photo ©Katherine Plumer, Below: Barn Owl nesting box. Photo ©Jacqueline Lewis



Hello
my name is

MARCY!

WILDCARE'S WILDLIFE
AMBASSADOR OPOSSUM

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OPOSSUMS?

1. TRUE OR FALSE:

Opossums sleep hanging from their tails.

2. WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM
NUMBER OF BABIES A MOTHER
OPOSSUM CAN RAISE?
A) 3 B) 8 C) 13 D) 18

3. TRUE OR FALSE:

Opossum mothers have a pouch
for their babies.

4. HOW MANY TEETH DO
OPOSSUM HAVE?

A) 24 B) 32 (the same as humans!)
C) 50 D) 80

5. TRUE OR FALSE:

Opossums are resistant to
rattlesnake venom.

6. OPOSSUMS ARE:

A) Omnivores (they eat meat and plants)
B) Carnivores (they eat only meat)
C) Herbivores (they eat only plants)

7. TRUE OR FALSE:

Opossums are pregnant for 2
months, about the same as dogs.

THIS OPOSSUM WAS
NAMED MARCY
BECAUSE OPOSSUMS
ARE NORTH AMERICA'S
ONLY MARSUPIAL!

Answers: 1) False - Though they do use their tails to help them climb, opossums don't hang by their tails to sleep! // 2. C - A mother opossum can have as many as 13 babies. // 3. True - Opossums are marsupials, just like kangaroos, which means the mothers have a pouch that holds their babies! // 4. C - Opossums have lots of teeth and can open their mouths SUPER wide, almost 90 degrees (like a corner)! // 5. True - This amazing resistance means that opossums can eat rattlesnakes without being harmed! // 6. A - Opossums like to eat all sorts of things like berries, nuts, bugs, and rodents // 7. False - Opossums are only pregnant for 12-13 days! Once the babies are born, they spend 2-3 months in the mother's pouch.



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