

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST RETROSPECTIVE

2023 EVENTS AT WILDCARE

FEATURES:

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
- Unusual Wintertime Ducks
- Top WildCare Social Media Posts of 2022
- Baby Squirrel Reunites

wildcare NEWS

HELPING YOU LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE WINTER 2022



Dear WildCare Community,

Hard to believe another year has come and gone at WildCare. Our dedicated staff, volunteers, and interns helped us provide care to over 3,500 animals this year. Our education team bounced back from the pandemic and resumed normal programming in schools. We served over 10,000 students, attended many outreach events, hosted Family Nature Day and were able to resume our bilingual Family Adventures/Aventuras Familiares programs.

This fall, we celebrated what makes our WildCare community so unique. We gathered to honor our volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, with over 80 attendees enjoying a lovely

Sunday afternoon in San Rafael. We also came together to thank Alison Hermance, Director of Marketing and Communication, and Melanie Piazza, Director of Animal Care, for each being at WildCare for 20 years. They are the heart and soul of our work, and we are grateful for their commitment.

Much of our time these past few months has been focused on our plan to build a new home at Albert Park for WildCare. This will require us to move offsite during construction, but we will continue our operations during the transition. We will be updating our community on the project's latest developments as we move forward with this momentous project.

As always, we are so grateful for your ongoing support.

With appreciation,

Ellyn Weisel
Executive Director

Our Wildlife Needs Your Help!

Make a donation
and your gift will
be matched until
December 31, 2022.

Make & match your
year-end gift!

Please visit discoverwildcare.org
to donate today!

Photo by Dan Pagano

WILDCARE NEWS

WINTER 2022

WILDCARE
415.456.7283

WEBSITE discoverwildcare.org
Email info@discoverwildcare.org

BUSINESS HOURS
9AM - 5PM, seven days a week

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President: Veronica Geczi
Vice President: Linda Stiles
Treasurer & Finance Chair: Robert Carlson
Secretary: Beth Ridout
Audit Chair: Vaughn Maurice

President Emeritus: Vaughn Maurice

Board Members:
Sherief Farid Darin Freitag
Rob D. Kline Magda Sarkissian
Kate Van Gytenbeek

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ellyn Weisel

WILDCARE STAFF

Steve Beatty	Brianna Bjarnson
Dion Campbell	Steven Flores
Joanne Grantz	Nancy Groom
Alison Hermance	Kelly Hoefle
Eileen Jones	Bob Kendall
Cecilia Ledesma	Jacqueline Lewis
Ryane Logsdon	Kate Lynch
Brittany Morse	Andrea O'Dell
Emily Ortzow	Melanie Piazza
Barbara Pritchard	Laura Scaparro
Janet Sinnicks	Beth Slatkin
Juliana Sorem, DVM	Christopher Steele
Lucy Stevenot	Nicole Trautsch
Marisel Vandersteel	Wyslouch
Whitney Vickers	

IN MEMORY OF
Elizabeth Terwilliger
& Julie Malet

LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE.

Cover photo
Autumn Jackrabbit by Joyce Bowes
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. Printed in USA on 30% recycled paper using soy-based ink.

SAVE THE DATE!

WILDCARE'S UPCOMING 2023 EVENTS



FAMILY NATURE DAY **SATURDAY, MARCH 25**

Learn about wildlife “Mrs. T style” at WildCare’s Family Nature Day on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Birdwatch, join a naturalist hike, meet our Wildlife Ambassador animals and more at the beautiful Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Tiburon, CA.

Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/family-nature-day

TALONS & FRIENDS **SUMMER TBD**

WildCare’s popular Talons & Friends event will take place this summer at the beautiful Cavallo Point Lodge in Sausalito.

This family event will feature wonderful opportunities to learn about wildlife including a meet-and-greet with WildCare’s live educational wild animals our Wildlife Ambassadors.

The event will also feature a mobile nature exhibit, owl-themed activities with our Hungry Owl Project and more.

Guests will enjoy live music while gathering for a delicious vegetarian picnic lunch, featuring a menu prepared especially for the event by the chef at Cavallo Point.



Details at discoverwildcare.org/talons



Join us for the WildCare Gala on **SEPTEMBER 9**

The WildCare Gala is our most elegant event of the year! Join us for a spectacular evening of wildlife and wonder in the ballroom at the Marin Osher JCC on Saturday, September 9, 2023. This glamorous event will feature a delicious vegan dinner, live and silent auctions, close-up moments with our Wildlife Ambassador animals and much more!

Sponsorship opportunities and other details at discoverwildcare.org/gala

NOVEMBER TBD

Join WildCare’s Hungry Owl Project (HOP) for a delightful evening, all for the love and benefit of owls! This event will feature a tasty special

Celebrate the HUNGRY OWL PROJECT

menu, tantalizing silent auction items, door prizes and the opportunity to learn about and appreciate our favorite nocturnal hunters.



Details at discoverwildcare.org/HOPevent

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

BY JULIANA SOREM, DVM

Life appeared to be returning to normal at WildCare early in the summer of 2022, as COVID case rates declined, our on-site volunteers returned, and our courtyard was once again filled with visitors and summer camp groups.

The apparent return to normalcy turned out to be only a brief respite, however, when we were confronted with the prospect of yet another widespread viral outbreak. This virus affected not humans but the animals in our care.

Just as there are different influenza viruses that can cause illness in humans, there are also a variety of influenza viruses that affect birds and other animals. Avian Influenza (AI) is a viral disease of birds that is caused by type A influenza viruses. These viruses are endemic in some wild birds but they can also infect domestic poultry. Different strains vary in their ability to cause disease and are classified as either low pathogenicity (LP) or high pathogenicity (HP). While low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) viruses generally cause less severe disease in poultry and little illness in wild birds, high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses

(HPAI) cause high mortality in poultry and can also cause disease in some species of wild birds.

There have been several outbreaks of HPAI in the United States. A 2014-2015 outbreak affected 49 million domestic birds and was, at the time, the costliest animal health emergency in US history. This was followed by more limited outbreaks in 2016 and 2017. Because of the virus's potential impact on the poultry industry, state and federal agencies have surveillance systems in place to try to identify and contain the virus as quickly as possible when a bird becomes sick.

Symptoms of HPAI in domestic poultry include ocular and nasal discharge, sneezing, coughing, purplish discoloration of the combs and wattles, hemorrhages on skin of the legs and feet, weakness, neurologic signs, anorexia, diarrhea and sudden death. Symptoms in wild birds can include these but tend to manifest more as neurologic abnormalities such as paddling in circles, abnormal positioning of the head and neck, wing paralysis, tremors and lack of coordination. Some wild birds – primarily some species of waterfowl – can be infected with HPAI yet show no symptoms at all. Infection occurs via ingestion or inhalation of virus particles from the nasal secretions, saliva or feces of an infected bird. In addition to being transmitted directly from bird to bird, the virus can be spread indirectly via contaminated water or on surfaces such as shoes and perches. There is no cure for the disease and there is currently no vaccine approved for use in this country.

In December 2021 the first North American cases of a Eurasian strain of HPAI were found in birds in eastern Canada, and by January 2022 the virus was detected in the United States in waterfowl in North Carolina. Because the virus can be carried over long distances by migrating birds, the virus spread rapidly from state to state. As of October 12, the virus had been detected in 42 states.



Inset: HPAI in raptors like this Peregrine Falcon is nearly always fatal. Photo by Alison Hermance.
Above: The disease causes high mortality in domestic poultry. Photo by Tony Campbell / Adobe Stock



It has become apparent that this outbreak is different from previous ones, in that this strain of HPAI is far more lethal to wild birds, particularly raptors. While only 98 cases were detected in wild bird surveillance during the 2014-2015 outbreak, there have been 2,930 detections as of October 12, 2022. In addition, this strain of HPAI is also infecting and killing non-avian species such as foxes, bobcats, raccoons, harbor seals and dolphins; the mode of transmission is presumed to be ingestion of HPAI-infected birds.

When the first cases of this strain of HPAI were confirmed in California in July 2022, WildCare began proactively implementing measures to protect our resident Wildlife Ambassador birds and to prevent introduction of the virus into the Wildlife Hospital. Several of our Ambassador birds were relocated to protected locations away from our open courtyard and hospital and our resident pool birds were moved to a covered temporary quarantine area on-site. Our courtyard and museum were closed to the public to minimize the chance of disease introduction via footwear or other fomites. All patient intakes are now being conducted at the front gate and species at higher risk of HPAI infection are first evaluated in a triage tent before being taken inside the hospital. Indoors, increased biosecurity and isolation measures are in place to prevent disease transmission within the hospital.

WildCare is collaborating with other local and national wildlife rehabilitation and animal control organizations to keep abreast of new developments and to develop strategies to identify sick birds and limit spread of the disease. We are also cooperating with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in testing suspect animals for surveillance purposes. As the seasons change, we expect that we will see a rise in cases as millions of waterfowl congregate and move over California in their seasonal migrations. This is truly an unprecedented time, and we at WildCare are doing our best to meet the challenge.

Above: Medical Staff examine a pelican in the triage tent. Photo by Alison Hermance, Inset: The triage area is covered with tarps to prevent exposure to wild birds. Photo by Alison Hermance

WildCare took a hiatus from our Living with Wildlife Photography Contest in 2022, but don't worry, the contest will be back in 2023!

WildCare's Living with Wildlife Photography Contest started in 2007. We named the contest "Living with Wildlife" because the images entered in our contest help tell the story of WildCare's work to encourage harmonious and mutually beneficial coexistence with our wildlife neighbors.

All of WildCare's programs work together to help people navigate the boundary where humans and wild animals come into contact with each other.

Every year, WildCare's photo contest receives hundreds of entries showcasing wildlife and nature from around California. A panel of judges meets to view all the images and pick the Best in Show, along with winners in each entry category (California Wild Birds in Their Natural Settings, California Wild Animals (Other) in Their Natural Settings, General Nature and Living with Wildlife). Then an online vote determines the winner of our People's Choice category.

These pages highlight the Best in Show and People's Choice Award winners since the contest began in 2007. Other winners and finalists may be viewed at discoverwildcare.org/photocontest

- 2007** - Greg Wilson - Snowy Egret and Chick
- 2008** - Laura Milholland - Lesser Gold Finch
- 2009** - Christine Hansen - Coup d'Etat
- 2010** - Richard Pavsek - White-tailed Kites Exchanging Prey
- 2011** - Christine Hansen - Marsh Wren Leap of Faith
- 2012** - Michael Hancock - Anna's Hummingbird
- 2013** - Mary Sheft - Finch with Barbed Wire
- 2014** - Marianne Hale - Raccoon Swimming
- 2015** - Joyce Bowes - Autumn Jackrabbit
- 2016** - Susie Kelly - Shorebird with Water Droplets
- 2017** - Janet Kessler - Urban Coyote SF
- 2018** - Rick Lewis - Kestrel Prey Exchange
- 2019** - Susie Kelly - San Francisco Skyline
- 2020** - Melissa Usrey - Anna's Hummingbird Getting Take-out
- 2021** - Carlos Porrata - Peregrine Falcon in Flight

BEST IN SHOW WINNERS

2007 - 2021



2007



2008

2009



2013



2018



2010



2014



2019



2011



2015



2016



2020



2012



2017



2021





2007



2008



2009



2010



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



2016



2017



2018



2019



2020



2021

PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNERS

2007 - 2021

- 2007 - Greg Wilson - Snowy Egret Sibling Rivalry
- 2008 - Christine Hansen - Tree Swallow Feeding
- 2009 - Lisa Woldin - Red-tailed Hawk Juvenile
- 2010 - Lisa Woldin - Grinning Gopher
- 2011 - Janet Kessler - Peeking Around a Tree
- 2012 - Janet Kessler - Coyote: S is for Supple
- 2013 - Gary Walter - Two Barn Owls
- 2014 - Janet Kessler - Coyote: Joyful Play
- 2015 - Greg Wilson - Four Baby Skunks
- 2016 - Brian Valente - Green Heron's Dinner
- 2017 - Melissa Usrey - Burrowing Owllet Cooling Down
- 2018 - Martha Ture - Raven with Plant Down
- 2019 - Susie Kelly - Ground Squirrel and Pigeon
- 2020 - Janet Kessler - Kiwi: a Territorial Battle
- 2021 - Janet Kessler - Coyote vs Don't Feed Coyotes Sign

HAVE YOU SEEN “WEIRD” DUCKS THIS WINTER?

WRITTEN BY EMILY ORTZOW

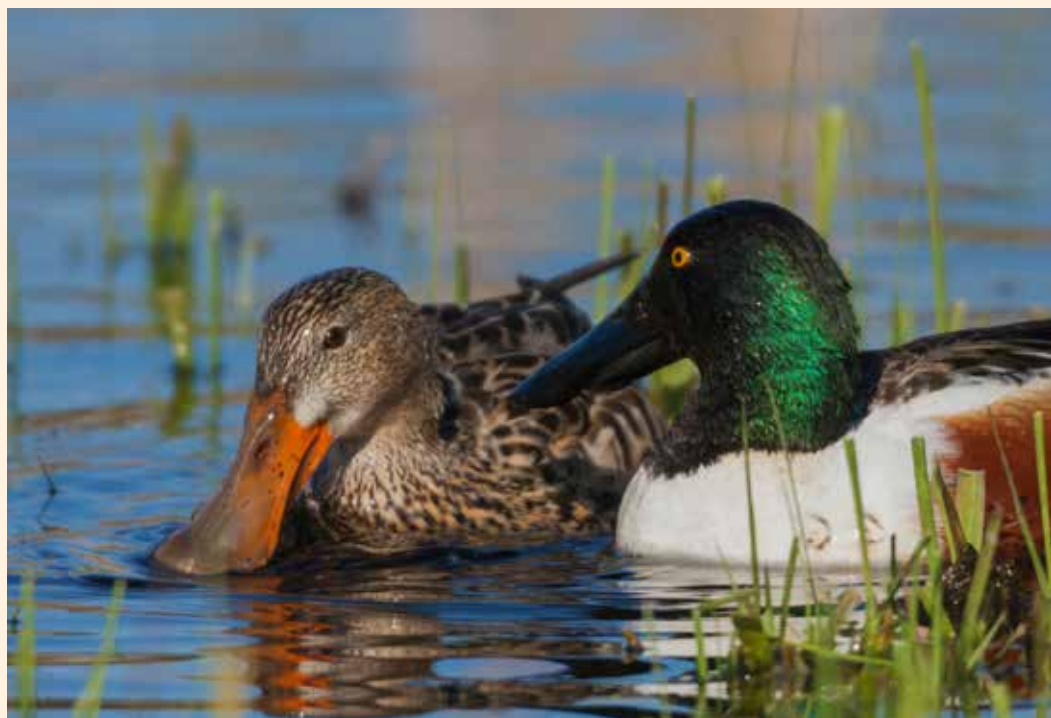
If you live in the San Francisco Bay Area, you may hear the distinctive honking echoing overhead in September and October. Looking up to the sky, you may see large birds flying in a “V” formation and happily honking together as they travel... but where are they going?

Canada Geese migrate during the fall to reach destinations in Southern California and Northern Mexico for the winter. They make this trip, like many other birds at this time of year, to escape the cold weather as the earth turns and the seasons change.

According to the Nature Conservancy, 315 different species of birds (nearly a billion individual birds) from all over the Americas migrate annually, with one of their destinations being the San Francisco Bay Area. The Bay Area is part of the Pacific Flyway, which is a coastal migratory route, and a popular rest stop, for many birds migrating between North and South America.

Due to our mild weather, some birds in California live here all year long. Some stay for the winter, while others only stop by for a couple of days before they spread their wings and continue their journey south.

Migratory birds face many challenges along their route. They face predation by larger animals, including other birds -- there have been documented sightings of Peregrine Falcons actually punching Snow Geese out



Above: Dabbling Northern Shovelers. Photo by Danita Delimont Adobe Stock, Below: Delta marsh. Photo by Sundry Photography Adobe Stock

of the air! This year in particular, migratory birds also risk not finding enough food. An algal bloom in the autumn of 2022 here in the Bay Area and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta killed many mature fish (mostly anchovies, smelt, bass, etc.). This winter, birds also risk getting sick from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) which causes physical and neurological symptoms, and is fatal for many bird species.

Many migratory birds can be seen in the saltwater wetlands and marshes around the bay. Other birds prefer the freshwater wetlands of the Delta. Migrators flock to the wetlands for an array of prey. The wetlands (both saltwater and freshwater) are rich with aquatic plants, crustaceans, shellfish,

insects, and fish. They offer great fare for birds to enjoy, whether they're herbivores, omnivores, or carnivores.

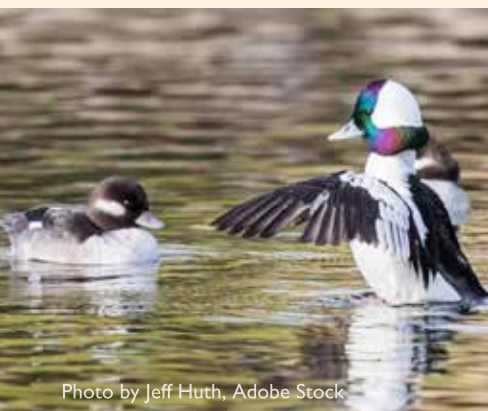
If you live in the Bay Area, you may be familiar with some of our more common waterfowl like the Mallard Duck and Canada Goose. However, during the winter, there are some special birds you can spot out on the water.

On the following page, local duck researcher, David Schek shares some neat facts about these interesting avian travelers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



NORTHERN SHOVELERS Shovelers use their spoon-like bills to filter seeds, plants, and small invertebrates out of the water. Males have iridescent green heads with a dark back, brown sides, and a white chest. During the winter, they can be found in almost any wetland or marsh, and they are easily identified by their “oversized” bill.



BUFFLEHEADS

These tiny charismatic ducks are the smallest of the diving ducks. Males are mostly white underneath with black backs. They have iridescent green and purple heads with a large white patch on their face that extends around the back of their head. They can be found almost anywhere in the Bay.

Photo by Jeff Huth, Adobe Stock

RUDDY DUCKS Ruddy Ducks belong to a group known as stiff-tailed ducks. Males in the breeding season have reddish-brown bodies, black on the top of their heads extending just below their eyes, white faces, and bright blue bills. They are excellent divers due to the far back placement of their legs on their bodies. This actually makes it quite difficult for them to walk on land; it is possible but not graceful. They prefer wetland areas with moderate to deep water.

There are many places to see ducks and other migratory birds here in the Bay Area. Good viewing locations are very close by due to our protected wetlands along the coast and around the Delta.



Photo by Tom Reichner, Adobe Stock

Here are a few places you can safely stop and spot some of these unique migratory birds: Crissy Field, Bolinas Lagoon, the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge along route 37, Suisun Marsh, the Las Gallinas Sanitary District ponds, and the Carquinez Strait.

If you'd like to watch these birds and observe some of their unique behaviors, you should bring binoculars or a scope along, as well as warm clothes, a couple of snacks, and a camera to record your observations! Bring a notebook and pencil to write down fun behavior to share with your friends (or other bird nerds) later. If you're an artist, painting with watercolors can be a great way to engage with bird watching.

Finally, be mindful of the presence of HPAI here in California, and please sanitize shoes before and after visiting sensitive habitats.

Happy Bird Watching!

FREE

WildCare's FAMILY NATURE DAY

in Honor of Elizabeth Terwilliger

Saturday, March 25, 2023

10:00am - 2:00pm

Richardson Bay Audubon Center and
Sanctuary in Tiburon, CA



Photo by Mark Decker

At WildCare's Family Nature Day, people of all ages learn about wildlife “Mrs. T style.” Common animal sightings at Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary include Red-shouldered Hawks, Great Blue Herons, Gopher Snakes, Bewick's Wrens, Red-winged Blackbirds, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Canvasback Ducks, Great Egrets, Anna's Hummingbirds, Western Fence Lizards, Garter Snakes, and butterflies.

Attendees can walk the shoreline in search of marine life including crabs and snails, use scopes to bird watch from the patio of the historic Lyford House, or join a naturalist-led hike and explore this special sanctuary. Everyone enjoys meeting WildCare's live non-releasable Wildlife Ambassadors. Dissect an owl pellet, take on the challenge of an engaging scavenger hunt and receive a reward for completion, or create a nature-themed craft to help wildlife.

Elizabeth Terwilliger, known best as Mrs. T, was an inspiration for generations of Marin County residents. Her multisensory approach to teaching children about nature engendered a lifelong love of the natural world, and a desire to protect it, in the hearts of thousands.

The children that went on outdoor excursions with Mrs. T have grown up to be among the environmental advocates overseeing the protection of Bay Area wildlands today. Mrs. T's legacy and her creative and compelling teaching methods live on at WildCare. This event was inaugurated in her honor and is held every spring! Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/family-nature-day.

SUMMER FUN IN THE FOG AND SUN

WILDCARE'S ZEVA LONGLEY FAMILY ADVENTURES

BY EILEEN JONES

This summer, families from the Canal District in San Rafael experienced giant redwood trees, sleeping Great Horned Owls, darting fence lizards, soaring pelicans, and cool ocean breezes.

Sixteen families, a hundred participants in all, joined us for WildCare's Zeva Longley Family Adventures in 2022. These nature hikes were delivered in Spanish by Cecilia Ledesma, WildCare's Bilingual Nature Educator. Each fun and informative outing focused on learning about the habitats we visited, the wildlife and plants that inhabit these ecosystems, and how they interact. Exploration time was incorporated into each hike, allowing children time to discover nature and engage in nature play.

To make these hikes accessible for all, free bus transportation was provided. Hike locations included Roy's Redwoods Open Space Preserve in San Geronimo, Tennessee Valley in Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), Rodeo Beach in GGNRA, and China Camp Beach in China Camp State Park.

In 2022, we completed the first year of our five-year grant period for WildCare's Zeva Longley Family Adventures, during which we hosted four family nature hikes and a celebratory end-of-the-season picnic, and awarded eight Summer Camp scholarships. This program is made possible by a generous donation made through the Rainbow Sandals Foundation.

Alicia House and her brother Jay Longley are the driving force behind the creation of this scholarship program to honor their mother, Zeva Longley. Zeva was a passionate and renowned local naturalist who took children out to local beaches, woods and marshes to connect them with the wonders of nature. The goal of the grant is to continue Zeva Longley's legacy of education, to make local nature more accessible to young people from low-income working families, and provide them with outdoor memories they can treasure.

Through these programs, we hope to nurture a new generation of park visitors and environmental stewards from a community that Zeva cared about deeply.



Photos by Eileen Jones and Alicia House

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BILL BEECH

BY ALISON HERMANCENCE

Bill Beech joined WildCare's Board in 2014, finding a home for himself with a community of avid animal lovers. Very soon after joining the board, he began a volunteer shift in the Wildlife Hospital.

Bill majored in Zoology at college, and he says he has always liked anything that has to do with animals. When he retired from a successful 35-year career in aircraft sales and marketing, he decided to volunteer with the San Francisco Zoo, first in the Animal Resource Center, and then as a docent.

Bill is an incredible volunteer, which the team at the zoo acknowledged by voting him to the Docent Executive Council, and then as the docent representative to the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Zoological Society.

Such was Bill's reputation as a volunteer and supporter of animals, that, when Kate Van Gytenbeek, then President of WildCare's

Board of Directors, was looking for new Board members, a mutual friend introduced her to Bill.

Bill stood out in the Wildlife Hospital, not just because he was always willing to help, eager to learn and deeply committed to WildCare's work, but also because he always dressed with style in handsome button-down shirts from his days as a docent at the zoo. These shirts featured his favorite animals, the reptiles, embroidered over the pocket.

Bill served as a distinguished member on WildCare's Board until this autumn, when his term ended. He continues to volunteer as a Sustaining Docent at the San Francisco Zoo, and he looks forward to continuing his work in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital.

He says that he very much enjoys the interaction with the people at WildCare, all of whom are incredibly dedicated to their work. He also feels strongly that his work in the Wildlife Hospital means he is "always doing something to help animals that have been mistreated by humans."

Thank you, Bill for your dedicated service as a WildCare Board Member, for your work on many committees, and your continuing service to and support of WildCare!



Photo by Bob Bloomberg



wildcare



is looking for Ambassador Volunteers!

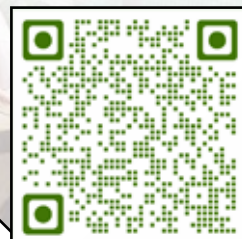
**Must be 18 years old.
Shifts are 4 hrs/week**

Ambassador Volunteers:

- **Educate** the public at WildCare and at off-site education programs.
- **Assist** in the care of WildCare's non-releasable Ambassador animals.
- **Learn** about handling, enrichment, and training techniques.

For more information, go to our website:
<http://discoverwildcare.org/volunteer/>
or contact: Ryane@discoverwildcare.org

**Apply now by scanning
the QR code to the right!**





Feeding a Great Horned Owllet. Photo by Melanie Piazza

VOLUNTEER AT WILDCARE!



Photo by Jenna Deibel

BY BRIANNA BJARNSON

WildCare would not exist without our dedicated volunteers, who work tirelessly and compassionately in our Wildlife Hospital and Terwilliger Nature Education programs. With over 100 on-site volunteers and more than 200 volunteers total, WildCare is able to further its mission of offering world-class medical care to wildlife, exceptional environmental education, and advocacy to help people live well with wildlife.

The WildCare Volunteer Department is happy to announce that we will soon be starting our 2023 volunteer recruitment for both youth and adults for our Wildlife Hospital program!

Come join our Wildlife Hospital team and learn to provide proper nutrition

and enrichment, safely handle and restrain, and even release over 200 species of sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals.

Youth volunteers must be in high school and can complete the youth application starting in December, with our youth orientation taking place on Saturday, January 14, from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Adults interested in volunteering in the Wildlife Hospital or on our after-hours Emergency Hotline can apply beginning in December and attend our live virtual volunteer orientation on Wednesday, February 1, from 6 PM to 8 PM. All training will be provided.

Please see page 12 of this magazine to learn about applying to be an Ambassador Program volunteer, and stay tuned for information about our next Nature Guide recruitment, which will take place in the fall of 2023.

If you care deeply about community and our connection with wildlife and you want to help ensure a healthy coexistence between humans and animals, please apply to be a WildCare volunteer!

UPCOMING ORIENTATIONS & APPLICATIONS

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (HIGH SCHOOL) WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Orientation - Saturday, January 14
10am – 1pm

Applications open in December

ADULT VOLUNTEERS (18+) WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Orientation - Wednesday, February 1
6pm – 8pm

Virtual orientation via Zoom

Applications open in January

ADULT VOLUNTEERS (18+)

Wildlife Ambassador Program
Ongoing applications

APPLY AT

discoverwildcare.org/ambassadorvolunteer

Top Social Media Posts of 2022

WildCare posts daily on social media with fascinating insights into the animals in our care, local wildlife happenings, and more! These are some of our most popular social media posts of 2022.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (both @WildCareBayArea) to read these and other amazing wildlife-related posts!



wildcarebayarea We already knew Wildlife Baby Season was just around the corner, but this radiograph officially confirms that it is not only well on the way, but that it begins ANY DAY NOW! This duck was brought to WildCare after sustaining injuries from a dog attack. Can you see what our med staff sees on her radiooraph that tells them it's time to

[View insights](#)



Liked by **veronicadoesstuff** and 188 others

MARCH 4



wildcarebayarea WildCare: faithfully feeds these baby bushtits every 45 minutes from dawn to dusk

Bushtits: 🐦 🐦 🐦 🐦 🐦 🐦

16w

charliejstephenswriting As a volunteer I can say they are

[View insights](#)



Liked by **veronicadoesstuff** and 406 others

JUNE 20



wildcarebayarea Did you know that the San Francisco Bay Area is home to three distinct species of tree squirrels?

The Eastern Grey Squirrel is probably the most common overall, with the Eastern Fox Squirrel being more common in the East Bay. Western Grey Squirrels are the only native tree squirrel species found in California and

[View insights](#)



Liked by **veronicadoesstuff** and 559 others

SEPTEMBER 23



wildcarebayarea Glue traps are cruel and inhumane and they should never be used in any situation! The person who trapped these two songbirds had set the glue trap atop a tall fence, probably intending to capture rodents that run along the fence line. Unfortunately, the trap snagged these Oak Titmice instead.

See how we care for these songbirds recovering in the Wildlife Hospital (and watch one be released!) and read and share useful infographics created by Unity College Master's student, Maya Feldman, to help spread the word

[View insights](#)



Liked by **veronicadoesstuff** and 403 others

SEPTEMBER 26



wildcarebayarea It's Fuzzy Friday and these rambunctious raccoons are making a SPLASH!

To make the most of the late summer heat wave we treated our raccoon patients to a fun splash pad. Thanks to a well-placed hidden camera we all get to enjoy the shenanigans that

[View insights](#)



2,937 views

SEPTEMBER 9

FOLLOW US!



FACEBOOK
@WILDCAREBAYAREA



INSTAGRAM
@WILDCAREBAYAREA



TWITTER
@WILDCARE



YOUTUBE
@WILDCAREBAYAREA



wildcarebayarea This Western Burrowing Owl, a pint-sized predator, weighs only around 100 grams - that's about as hefty as a bar of soap. He was brought to WildCare suffering from severe wounds that were consistent with a dog bite. Knowing that the bird had been found with these injuries in a popular dog park, we could infer what had happened to this little owl. Burrowing Owls, historically found in only a few places in California, one of them being our beautiful Bay Area, are steadily decreasing in number and are considered a "Species of Special Concern." There is only one thing

[View insights](#)



Liked by **veronicadoesstuff** and 229 others

SEPTEMBER 20

✿ | wildcare | 🐾 2022



WildCare's 2022 Gala was a WILD

success, thanks to the event's generous sponsors and donors, and everyone who attended, both in person and online, on August 20, 2022.

The 2022 WildCare Gala was a hybrid event, streamed via YouTube to viewers live from the beautiful Acqua Hotel in Mill Valley, California. A select audience attended the event in person, enjoying the filming of the livestream "cabaret style."

Situated on the picturesque shores of Richardson Bay, the in-person WildCare Gala at the Acqua Hotel featured gorgeous views, delicious vegetarian and vegan hors d'oeuvres, a signature cocktail, plus fun meet-and-greet experiences with WildCare's Wildlife Ambassador animals.

It was a wonderful evening, with both onsite and online attendees gaining heartfelt insight into the work WildCare does to help people everywhere live well with wildlife. Mohave the Desert Tortoise was the break-out star of the show, demonstrating his love of watermelon to the delight of all attendees.

The event, of course, was a fundraiser for WildCare, and we are thrilled that the 2022 Gala raised over \$265,000! These funds will help WildCare care for many injured and orphaned wild animals in our Wildlife Hospital in the year to come, and will also help us continue to advocate for wildlife and teach thousands of adults and children to love and appreciate nature.

To see more photos and other details from the event, visit discoverwildcare.org/gala.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1. Marcie and Bobby Phares; 2. Kuosen Fung, Elyn Weisel, Bill Beech, Kate VanGytenbeek, Linda Stiles, Rob Stiles, Helen Fung; 3. Gala floral arrangement; 4. The Instant Wine Cellar; 5. Greg Quiroga and Alison Hermance onstage; 6. The Gala crowd; 7. Ryan Logsdon and Mohave the Desert Tortoise; 8. Luke Masefield, Magda Sarkissian, Nicole Trautsch, Lydia Sarkissian, Bill Bullock; 9. Veronica Geczi

Photos ©Drew Altizer Photography

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

RACHEL GRIFFIN

BY MARIEL VANDERSTEEL

Rachel Griffin, a New York Times bestselling author, calls the beautiful and lush Pacific Northwest home. Her work is based in young adult fiction and is inspired by the magic of nature around her: "I learn or see or hear something new practically every time I'm outdoors—I love listening to the birds and watching the rabbits and squirrels," she says.



We were deeply moved by Rachel's kindness and generosity and were absolutely delighted that Rachel was able to visit us onsite and meet Sequoia. Rachel agreed

it was a special occasion, "The moment that stands out most is when I was able to visit WildCare in person and meet Sequoia...I had done so much research on this species of owl for my book, and I never thought I'd be able to see one in person because they're so rare. Meeting Sequoia was an incredible experience for me (I instantly started crying!), and one I will remember forever."

Rachel, we will also remember this incredible story for a long time to come and are so glad your creativity led you to Sequoia and WildCare! Thank you for your caring and inspiring support of the work that we do – we are incredibly grateful!

Rachel's introduction to the WildCare community is an unusual and interesting one. Earlier this year, she approached us to partner with WildCare for the release of her new young adult fiction book, Wild is the Witch. A prominent character in the book is a Northern Spotted Owl and Rachel had heard about a Northern Spotted Owl that happens to be very near and dear to our hearts here at WildCare: our very own Wildlife Ambassador, Sequoia.

Rachel very generously decided to turn this special connection into a pre-order campaign to benefit WildCare: a donation from the pre-order of Wild is the Witch would be gifted to WildCare to specifically benefit Sequoia's care.

The campaign raised enough funds to cover all of Sequoia's food for a year as well as her supplements, vaccinations and lab work!

To learn more about Rachel's work, please visit her website: rachelgriffinbooks.com

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY TO PROTECT WILDLIFE TOMORROW.



PLEASE INCLUDE WILDCARE IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN.

CREATING A WILL IS A
POWERFUL WAY TO SUPPORT
THE PEOPLE AND CAUSES YOU
CARE ABOUT.

WE'VE PARTNERED WITH
FREEWILL TO GIVE YOU AN
ONLINE TOOL TO WRITE YOUR
LEGALLY VALID WILL IN UNDER
25 MINUTES FOR FREE!

MANY PEOPLE ALSO LIKE TO
INCLUDE A GIFT TO WILDCARE
TO SUPPORT OUR WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION AND NATURE
EDUCATION AS WE CREATE A
MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY WITH
WILDCARE AND WRITE YOUR
FREE WILL NOW.

DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/TOMORROWFUND

MEET OUR PATIENTS!

**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!**



NORTHERN RACCOON 22-2311

Admitted: July 23, 2022

This unusual, "blond" raccoon kit was admitted to the wildlife hospital at only 10 weeks old after being found hiding under a shed. The finder tried to lure the young raccoon out with some wet cat food, but ultimately contacted Marin Humane for assistance.

Once in care, this kit was treated for severe anemia (caused by fleas) and dehydration, which made it clear that he had been without his mother for some time.

This young raccoon's leucistic color morph is uncommon and caused by a

partial reduction in melanin. WildCare has successfully raised and released "blond" raccoons before, so, once an initial quarantine period had passed, this raccoon was combined with two other similarly-aged orphaned raccoons. Raising baby animals with members of their own species is crucial for developing species-appropriate behaviors, despite being raised in a wildlife hospital.

Very soon we upgraded this "blond" raccoon and his two normally-colored companions to one of our largest outdoor enclosures and they were released back to the wild at the end of November.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS

22-2543, 22-2565, 22-2658

Admitted: August 13, 2022

This trio of mockingbird youngsters all came from different clutches in mid-August, and they were some of our last baby birds of the season.

Songbird babies grow quickly, and two of these three babies were out of the nest and hopping not long after coming into the Wildlife Hospital. As our baby birds grow, we give them more space and enrichment to encourage natural behaviors such as foraging. When we admitted a third mockingbird fledgling, we graduated the three together to one of our larger enclosures and gave them plenty to do!

Slowly all three young mockingbirds weaned themselves off of hand-feeding and we moved them into one of our "pre-release" outdoor aviaries. This time in an outdoor aviary is critical, as it allows our hand-raised patients to spend time away from their human caregivers and develop a healthy wariness of humans. It also helps them build flight muscles and



stamina, and learn natural behaviors that are key to survival.

This group of three spent several weeks outside enjoying a variety of enrichment, including scratching around in dirt for bugs, plucking natural berries off of branches, and getting plenty of exercise (mental and physical!) in preparation for their return to the wild.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

22-1299

Admitted: May 26, 2022

This Red-shouldered Hawk nestling was found on the ground under a nest in Fairfax. Upon admission, it was noted that he was suffering from spinal trauma and had severe weakness in both of his legs. Radiographs did not show a full spinal fracture, so Medical Staff began daily physical therapy, including time in a custom raptor hammock, to help this young raptor regain use of his legs.

After six weeks of intensive care, this hawk was finally able to stand, perch, and fly normally! You can see him standing with other orphaned Red-shouldered Hawks (wearing the green leg band) in this photo.



He had improved dramatically, so he was sent to a larger aviary for flight conditioning and to learn how to hunt before release. It took until the end of July, but this hawk finally made it back to freedom and was released near his original finding location to live out the rest of his life in the wild.



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

22-2853

Admitted: September 13, 2022

This handsome adult Anna's Hummingbird was admitted into our care after being attacked by other hummingbirds. Although they seem small and delicate, hummingbirds can be quite fierce and territorial and fights between them are not uncommon.

This patient suffered head trauma and a minor wing injury. Initially he was depressed and had difficulty staying upright, but with food, pain management, and supplemental oxygen, he perked up.

This bird is currently in home-care with our hummingbird expert, Brenda. After sufficient cage rest and supportive care he will be evaluated for release and hopefully return to his home territory.

COMMON RAVENS

22-1156, 22-1157, 22-1158, 22-1159

Admitted: May 20, 2022

These four Common Ravens were perfectly healthy and being raised in the wild, when a tree trimming job destroyed their home. Trimming trees during wildlife "baby season" (March through October) poses a huge risk to wild birds and mammals, who nest in the safety of trees all around our homes.

When these four arrived at WildCare, they all received full exams and prophylactic dewormers, and were started on medications to ensure proper bone growth and feather development. There is a high risk for imprinting with young birds as intelligent as ravens, so we set them up in a quiet aviary until they could be transferred to a more raven-appropriate location offsite.



In collaboration with two other wildlife hospitals, we were able to rear these ravens with seven others until they were old enough and had developed the skills necessary to survive in the wild.



A SQUIRREL STORY:

Reunited and it feels so good!

If the conditions are favorable, most of the tree squirrels in our area will have a second brood of babies in late summer and early autumn. Conditions were indeed favorable in the fall of 2022, when WildCare's Wildlife Hospital admitted a near-record second brood of 105 orphaned baby squirrels.

Most of these young squirrels remain in care at WildCare for more than two months, but we return about 20% of our baby squirrels to their mothers' care. Yes, it's possible to reunite baby squirrels!

Setting up a reunite attempt takes hours of time, but it is absolutely worth it when it is successful, because caring for these special orphans requires a considerable amount of time, effort and resources.

A nest of orphaned eyes-closed baby squirrels will be in care at WildCare for 10-14 weeks. Baby squirrels go into care with a dedicated Foster Care volunteer, who will feed them specialized squirrel formula every 3 - 4 hours (around the clock!) while they're young. As they age, baby squirrels move into larger caging and

learn to eat nuts, acorns, fruit and other nutritious foods, still requiring daily ongoing care. Even releasing healthy rehabilitated squirrels takes time and manpower.

Not only do reunites save WildCare's resources for injured and orphaned animals that truly need our care, it is best for both the baby animals and their mother to reunite the family whenever possible.

How does a squirrel reunite work?

First, a caring person must rescue the animals and bring them to the Wildlife Hospital.

Then our Medical Staff does the intake and medical exam, and evaluates and stabilizes the little ones, while our Front Desk team talks to the rescuer to determine the situation, the location (the exact tree!) and other details including permission for us to go on the property. These details are absolutely necessary for a successful reunite.

If the baby squirrels receive a clean bill of health, we must next organize someone

who can take the babies to the reunite site, set it up and stay to wait/watch. We have the best success with reunites that happen immediately after the babies are rescued, or at sun-up the following morning, but we have seen reunites succeed up to three days later.

In the best-case scenario, the homeowner is willing and able to monitor the reunite box from inside a building.

The tree trimmers who cut down a nest of Eastern Fox Squirrels brought the babies to WildCare, where our team determined that the baby squirrels were stressed and dehydrated, but not injured.

We gave them subcutaneous fluids (and microchipped them), and reached out to the homeowners about a possible reunite. They were uncertain, but agreed to let us try once the tree trimmers had left.

Upon arrival at the site, our team was very concerned that all of the trees in the yard had been removed, leaving nothing but piles of logs and branches. Although squirrels will generally have more than one nest, what were the odds that this squirrel mother had built a nest in a neighboring tree?

Fortunately, playing a recording of a baby squirrel's call brought an agitated female fox squirrel charging down the fence line. This was the mother squirrel, and she wanted her babies back!

The team and the homeowners set up a reunite box with a heat source, showed the babies to the mother squirrel, and quickly left the area.

Over the next several hours, the family watched through the window, recording the scene and sending play-by-play text updates to WildCare as the mother squirrel came back for each one of her babies. She even took a break between numbers 3-4 as she was exhausted and it was hot!

The family was so excited to be able to witness the event! They are now wonderfully aware of their squirrel neighbors, and they were so grateful for the opportunity to reunite this

squirrel family. They also said they wish they had known about the nest, as they would have postponed doing the tree work. Remember to “respect the nest” and schedule all non-emergency tree work in November, December and very early January before next season’s hummingbirds and tree squirrels begin nesting.

If you find a baby squirrel on the ground a reunite may be possible, but **please never attempt to reunite a squirrel (or any wildlife) family on your own.** The babies must be checked for injuries, and the reunite must be set up properly to protect the young animals and the wildlife family.

Always call WildCare at 415-456-7283 if you find an injured or orphaned animal.

*Facing page: Orphaned Eastern Fox Squirrels in care.
Photo by Alison Hermance
Below: Two mother squirrels bringing their babies back to the nest. Photos by Linda Tarantino and Mei-Ling Fong*



Did you know Virginia Opossums will travel up to two miles a night to find food? This fun fact is what inspired our newest Wildlife Ambassador opossum’s name, **Milo!**

Milo arrived in WildCare’s Hospital in early April with six siblings, still in the pouch of their mother, who was very ill. While the mother opossum didn’t survive, all of Milo’s siblings were thriving. Milo, however, wasn’t gaining weight as quickly as he should, which earned him the nickname, “Little Man.” In addition to his small stature, Milo was lagging behind his siblings developmentally and behaviorally – he showed no fear response to predators. Our medical team quickly realized this little opossum would not be able to survive in the wild and he was officially brought on as our newest educational Wildlife Ambassador!

Milo made his debut at WildCare’s Annual Gala, where his naming rights were auctioned off to help raise money to treat the baby opossums (and other wildlife) WildCare helps every single day.

Milo has recently started traveling offsite to education programs and has already educated dozens of students in the Bay Area about how wonderful Virginia Opossums truly are!

His curious disposition (and love for yogurt) make him a wonderful Ambassador for his species.





Luckily, the babies were in good shape! Baby Barn Owls need to eat every three hours, so a member of our Medical Staff took them home overnight to feed them. The next day we were able to get a new box up with the help of All About Owls. The parents returned that very evening and continued to care for their young.

This was a lucky case in which the owl family had a happy ending. Barn Owl boxes are a newer invention and we continue to learn more about how to make them last, what's safest for the owls, and which boxes the owls prefer. If you had your nesting box installed more than ten years ago, we highly encourage you to reach out to the Hungry Owl Project (hungryowls.org) to be sure it doesn't come down while an owl family is at home.

With breeding season starting earlier every spring, late fall and early winter are the best time of year to replace your box. We all want the safest homes we can provide for our feathery friends.

Learn more about owls and owl nesting boxes at hungryowls.org

*Left: Baby Barn Owls in care after their nest box fell down. Photo by Jacqueline Lewis
Below: An adult Barn Owl. Photo by Gary / Adobe Stock*



How old is your Barn Owl Box?

BY JACQUELINE LEWIS

This summer, WildCare received multiple calls about Barn Owl boxes falling apart. These boxes were installed over fifteen years ago and they very desperately needed to be replaced.

Unfortunately, some of these boxes were also very occupied! With the help of our dedicated WildCare and Hungry Owl Project volunteers, and our friends

at All About Owls, we were able to get new boxes up and safely transfer the owl occupants.

Before it could be replaced, however, one box fell thirty feet with a family of owls inside! The mother and father Barn Owls took off before the tumble, but the brand-new hatchlings came down with the box. The homeowners took quick action by bringing in the baby owls to WildCare where our medical team assessed their injuries.



QUAIL LIFE!

You wake up _____ and realize you're a quail! Not

ADVERB

just any quail, a California Quail. You have _____

COLOR #1

and _____ feathers and a _____ feather

COLOR #2

ADJECTIVE

on top of your head. You are one _____ California

ADJECTIVE

Quail. _____! You're hungry! You _____

EXCLAMATION

VERB

around, looking for _____ food. You found

ADJECTIVE

_____. They are

ADJECTIVE

COLOR

INSECT, PLURAL

trying to _____ away.

ADVERB

VERB

You _____ eat them up with

ADVERB

_____ bites.

NUMBER

ADVERB

Yum! Being a quail is _____.

ADJECTIVE



Graphic by Peony / Adobe Stock



76 ALBERT PARK LANE
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901
415.456.7283
DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS, WI
PERMIT NO. 73

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR AND JOIN AN AMAZING TEAM OF WILDLIFE SUPERHEROS!

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 saving wildlife.



Photo ©Carlos Porrata

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP AT
[DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/MONTHLY](https://discoverwildcare.org/monthly)