

June 2010

P. O Box 1173 Anderson CA



SHASTA WILDLIFE RESCUE, REHABILITATION AND RELEASE

CALL OF THE WILD

530-365-WILD(9453) www.ShastaWildlifeRescue.com

Shasta Wildlife Rescue Center Needs Your Help In the Garden

Do you have a garden or perhaps you are planting one this season? How about fruit trees? If so then you may be able to provide some much needed items to help feed our wildlife.

Often times there is over production in a garden or fruit trees and therefore more than our family and friends can handle. In addition if the produce is being grown for sale there are those items that aren't saleable but would be just fine for our animals. After all, they don't care how the fruit or veggies look ~ they just have a hunger need to satisfy. These overstock and unwanted items are perfect for the

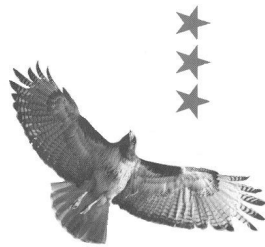
center and we would love your donations. We will even pick them up so there is no inconvenience to you.

The following fruits, vegetables and other items are needed on a regular basis to nourish the patients at Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center: Bananas, Oranges, Apples, Grapes, Pears, Peaches, Green Peppers, Zucchini and other Squashes, Cucumbers, Peas, Carrots, Green Beans, Corn on the Cob. We also need the rinds of watermelon (the inner melon is too sweet for them but the rind is

perfect) as well as steak bones.

Please consider donating any of these items to SWRR. You can call us at the center at 365-WILD (9453) or you may contact the administrative office at 378-1040.

We very much appreciate your donations and your help. Happy Gardening.



Volunteers are one of the most valuable assets the Shasta Wildlife Rescue Center has. Our volunteers take care of food preparation, feeding and other vital tasks for the rescued wildlife.

The volunteers we have now are awesome and we appreciate every one of them. But we need more. Shifts are typically four-hour shifts each and the more volunteers we have, the lighter the load for everyone. Baby birds need to

be fed every 15 minutes or so. During bird season that can mean 50 to 60 or more little beaks to be fed ~ every 15 minutes, 12 hours a day, 7 days a week!! Who do you know who might want to get involved with helping to rehabilitate wildlife creatures? Have them call our **Volunteer Hotline at 347-1747.**

There are many things our volunteers can do to help besides feedings. So please, won't you consider volunteering with

us and helping our wild creatures?

Just a note regarding tee shirts: tee shirts are available for volunteers at the center for \$6.50, there are several sizes and colors available, so be sure to get one before your size and colors are gone. Leave cash or a check in the donation box with a note that the money is for a Tee shirt.

Volunteers Needed!

Living With Wildlife

Keeping Wildlife at Bay

While they can be cute, beautiful, interesting or all of the above, wildlife is not always a welcome guest, especially if they decide to become tenants on our properties

Equipped with the right information and tools, most homeowners can learn to live with our local wildlife. For example, trimming trees and shrubbery are ways of changing a habitat to make it less attractive to unwanted flocks of birds or even snakes.

The following information may assist in keeping wildlife in their proper places. Caution should always be taken to avoid overly aggressive animals. Some wildlife are protected by Federal or State laws and regulations.

Squirrels and Other Rodents ~ To keep these animals from becoming a permanent part of the family home and yard, screen louvers, vents, and fan openings; keep doors and windows in good repair; tighten eaves; replace rotten boards; cap the chimney; trim overhanging trees; remove bird feeders or use squirrel-proof feeders; and remove acorns and other nuts from the yard. Chipmunks can be deterred by removing denning habitat which includes logs, rock walls, and stones.

Opossums & Skunks ~ Opossums and skunks become a problem to homeowners by raiding garbage cans and bird feeders; eating pet foods; and living under porches, low decks, open sheds, and other areas that provide shelter. Both animals sometimes kill poultry and eat eggs. To keep skunks and opossums from denning under buildings, seal off all foundation openings with wire mesh, sheet metal, or concrete. Chicken coops can be protected by sealing all ground-level openings into the buildings and by closing the doors at night. Foraging in garbage cans may be eliminated by providing tight-fitting lids and straps.

Bats ~ Bats prefer to avoid human contact. However, they are known to establish roosts in attics and abandoned buildings. Building and attic roosts can be eliminated by sealing entry and exit holes (after the bats



have left) with such materials as 1/4-inch hardware cloth, caulking, or wire mesh. If a bat makes its way into the house, you can usually encourage it to leave after dark by turning on lights and opening windows and doors.

Rabbits ~ Rabbits can be kept out of the garden or away from ornamental plants and small trees by using products containing repellents such as Hinder or by placing a 2-foot poultry fence around the area. It is important to bury the fence at least 6 inches beneath the surface of the ground. For information about taste repellents, check your local garden or farm center. Before using any chemical repellents, read the label carefully and check with your State pesticide regulatory agency for application guidelines.

Raccoons ~ Raccoons are attracted to easy food sources like garden produce, garbage, and pet food. To help prevent scavenging, use metal trash cans that are fastened to a pole or to another solid object. A strap or latch that secures the lid of the garbage can is also helpful. To keep raccoons out of the garden, use two strands of electric livestock fence. The strands should be placed 4 and 8 inches respectively off the ground and surround the entire garden. Exercise caution when implementing this exclusionary method in urban areas. Raccoons will also readily inhabit attics, chimneys, and sheds. Use metal flashing and 1-inch mesh hardware cloth to block entrances.

Snakes ~ The best way to keep snakes out of your house and yard is to seal cracks and openings around doors, windows, water pipes, attics, and foundations. Removing logs, woodpiles, and high grass and controlling insects and rodents are also helpful. Remove piles of damp burlap bags in areas where snakes have been seen. After the snakes have curled up beneath the bags, remove the bags and snakes from the building. To remove dangerous snakes, call a professional pest control company.

Woodpeckers ~ These birds damage buildings by drilling holes into wooden siding, eaves, or trim

boards, especially those made of cedar or redwood. If the pecking creates a suitable cavity, the bird may use it for nesting. Effective methods of excluding woodpeckers include placing lightweight mesh nylon or plastic netting on the wooden siding beneath the eaves, covering pecked areas with metal sheathing, and using visual repellents like eye-spot balloons.

Deer ~ Deer feed on row crops, vegetables, fruit trees, nursery stock, stacked hay and ornamental plants and trees. Deer can be discouraged by removing supplemental food sources and by using scare devices and repellents. The only sure way to eliminate deer damage is to fence the deer out. A wire-mesh fence is effective if it is solidly constructed and at least 8 feet high. Electric fencing also helps reduce damage.

Coyotes and Foxes ~ These animals may carry rabies and sometimes prey on domestic pets, rabbits, ducks, geese and chickens, young pigs, and lambs. Coyotes also kill calves, goats, and deer. Net-wire and electric fencing will help exclude foxes and coyotes. However, because they are good climbers, a roof of net wire on livestock pens may also be necessary.

The protection of livestock and poultry is most important during the spring denning period. Foxes and coyotes will often den close to farm buildings, under haystacks, or inside hog lots or small pastures used for lambing. Shed lambing and farrowing in protected enclosures can be useful in preventing predation on young livestock. Additionally, noise and light-making devices may keep these predators away.

Above all, if an injured or sick wild animal is encountered, be sure to call the Shasta Wildlife Rescue Center @ 365-9453 for assistance and care.



Attracting Songbirds to Your Garden



For millions of Americans, attracting songbirds to the yard is a pleasurable and satisfying hobby. Most folks feed and water birds because they enjoy the beauty and activity the songbirds bring to the landscape.

Here at Shasta Wildlife Rescue, we have a somewhat different view of this phenomenon. Songbirds are interesting and beautiful, and they certainly are fun to watch, but that is not why we go to some considerable trouble to attract as many songbirds to our yard as we can. The reason? Songbirds, if in sufficient numbers and species, will control over 50% of the pest insects in the entire home landscape!!! That is why we want to attract birds to our yard.

This section of Call of the Wild gets into practical details about how to have a large and varied population of songbirds in your yard 365 days a year. In doing so we certainly improve the quality of life in our yard, but as important, we reduce the need to use pesticides to control bad insects and we like that idea.

Songbirds Devour Bugs

Scientists have known for many decades that songbirds are critical in nature for the dampening of insect population fluctuations. They are amazing insect eating machines. Although many adult songbirds are seed eaters, most baby birds cannot digest seeds and so must be fed fresh insects. The diminutive house wren feeds 500 insects

to its young in the course of **just one afternoon!** Seed-eating chickadees and house finches glean hundreds of insects from your yard every day for their babies. Insect eating adults glean even more insects for themselves.



A tiny swallow will devour 1,000 leaf hoppers in 12 hours. A northern oriole can eat 17 hairy caterpillars per minute. As long as the bird population in an area is varied and stable, pest insect populations are generally manageable, especially in the home landscape. If the number of birds decreases, then the numbers of pest insects increase. Attracting songbirds to your landscape does not necessarily completely replace the occasional use of pesticides, but it definitely reduces the need for those products.

The More Species the Better

Songbirds are only one factor in the natural control of pest insects in a healthy home landscape. Small mammals, weather, "beneficial" insects, parasites, fungi and diseases all play a role in keeping pest insect populations at a level where their damage does not mar the appearance of the yard. Nevertheless, the more songbirds you can attract to your yard either as residents or as visitors, the fewer pest insect

problems you will ever have to deal with.

Pest insects are found all over the home landscape, in the ground, on the ground, in shrubs, in trees, and just generally flying around. Some songbirds feed while in flight. Some are foliage gleaners, and others are bark gleaners. And, there are birds that eat what they find on the ground. That means that if you can attract lots of different species of birds, then you are likely to have birds in residence that work all those different areas of the yard. So part of the fun in attracting songbirds to your yard is to find ways to entice lots of different species.

Executive Director New to SWRR

Please join us in welcoming our new Executive Director, Irish Robertson to the SWRR family. Irish will be performing a variety of duties including marketing, public relations, event coordinating and assistance with training etc. Irish comes to us with a positive attitude and years of valuable experience that will benefit the SWRR greatly. Irish will be working out of an office separate from the center and can be reached at the office phone number which is **378-1040**. You may also reach her by e-mail: irishrobertson@sbcglobal.net Irish looks forward to working with the Board of Directors and all of the volunteers at the center.

Invite the beauty of songbirds into your garden.

How Birds Feed

Birds That Feed In Flight

Birds that eat in flight dine on gypsy moths, cabbage worm moths, codling moths, cankerworm moths, leaf rollers, locusts, leafhoppers, aphids, horseflies, winged ants, butterflies, and beetles. Included in this group are the following birds:

Catbirds; Phoebes; Flycatchers; Purple Martins; Mockingbirds.

Birds That Are Foliage Gleaners

Foliage gleaners feast on leafhoppers, aphids, leaf rollers, leaf miners, cankerworms, cutworms, hairy caterpillars, tent caterpillars, gypsy moth larvae, Colorado potato beetles, and flea beetle. These include the

following: Northern orioles; Chickadees; Nut Hatches; Purple finches; Catbirds

Birds That Are Bark Gleaners

Several birds are helpful in an orchard or woodland home landscape because they eat insects and eggs found on the bark including bark borers, hibernating insects such as codling moths, trunk borers, plant lice, and bark. Included in this group are the following birds: Chickadees; Woodpeckers; Flickers; Wrens; Nuthatches.

Birds That Are Ground Feeders

Ground feeders may eat beetles, rootworms, leafhoppers, aphids,

cutworms, cabbage worms, root maggots, grasshoppers, chinch bugs, white grubs, root borers, ants, root lice, and June bugs. These birds include the following: Bluebirds; Robins; Cardinals; Song sparrow; Catbirds; Starling; Chipping sparrows; Woodpeckers; Phoebes; Wrens; Purple finches.

