

Call of the Wild

Shasta Wildlife Rescue & Rehab



Summer/Fall 2015

Busy Spring & Summer Season

The Center closed on August 31st, after a busy season. We had record high numbers of intakes in June and July.



We rescued the American kestrel chick (pictured on the left) on a hot day in June. He was barely able to stand, but within an hour of being re-hydrated, was feeling feisty enough to try to grab us with his tiny talons. He was released about a month later, back to the area he came from. You can learn more about kestrels (and other birds) at: www.allaboutbirds.com.

Here is a note from Shasta Wildlife Center Coordinator Marianne:

Were we busy this summer or what?

Several people have asked how our intake numbers compare with previous seasons. Here's what I can tell you:

Although we opened on our regular opening date (the first Saturday in May) there had already been a number of intakes and releases of small songbirds. The month of June was extremely busy with approximately 275 intakes. Comparing that to the previous 5 years at the wildlife center, we were about 200 intakes higher this year by the end of June. July was very busy; intakes in August leveled out. Comparing the number of intakes this year to previous years, we were dozens above previous seasons, but boy, were we busy in June!

Everyone who provided care for any animal in any capacity should be very proud of their work and the difference they have made in the lives of the animals.

Fundraising Efforts

Generous donations pay for wildlife care.

In the past Shasta Wildlife had its annual Run for the Wild, a 5-mile and 2-mile run/walk, as a fundraiser. After the Run in 2014, we realized we were making very little money with it while there was quite a bit of work involved to make it happen. The Board of Directors decided not to hold it in 2015 and to concentrate on smaller fundraisers.

Our other annual event, the Open House/Baby Bird Shower, in the first week of April, was a huge success this year. Last year the event took in \$350; this year it netted \$1,101!!! Thanks to the Record

Searchlight for great pre-event articles and collecting donations in their lobby; and to Red Tail Publishing for attending the event with their wonderful children's books.

Notice Save those used inkjet cartridges! Office Max in Redding is offering store credit to Shasta Wildlife for empty cartridges; each cartridge earns us a \$2 credit. You may turn them into the store. Give our phone number (365-9453) for us to receive credit.

Want to help animals on your own time? Sign up at Amazon.com through the Amazon Smile program to have .5% of your purchases go to Shasta Wildlife. Register at <http://smile.amazon.com/> and type in Shasta Wildlife Rescue as your recipient.

For donations or memberships, please contact Janet Story at: 347-9409.

Bald Eagle Rescued *Far away in Lassen County*



This beautiful bald eagle was rescued by Shasta Wildlife volunteers from a hydropower plant near McArthur.

The females of raptor species are heavier than the males. Based on her weight, this was a female. After being transported to the Center in Anderson, she was fed small fish that had been provided by Coleman Fish Hatchery. We fed 30 fish at a time, which disappeared very quickly. Here you can see her when the tray was empty. Each time the fish were gone, she would put one toe on the tray, rather like she was pointing out there was a lack of fish. After we collaborated with CA Fish & Wildlife, and the Raptor Center at UC Davis, she was

able to be returned to her home and family. See a short video about her rescue and release at: <https://youtu.be/8zzzIDhtg8Q>

Volunteers are Awesome! Many lives depend on them

Volunteers are more than the backbone of our organization—they are the entire body! Although the Center is only open during the hatching season from May to September, some volunteers work year round, answering calls and rescuing injured animals.

In July, we had an appreciation luncheon for last winter's volunteers (pictured). Recently, we had our annual Volunteer Picnic for all the volunteers who worked in the Spring and Summer.

For more information about volunteering visit our website shastawildliferescue.com or contact Marily at 474-5803.





CA Department of Fish & Wildlife *Q & A about feeding wildlife*

Feeding wildlife can do more harm than good

Question: Our neighbor feeds wildlife three-day-old bread on a regular basis. The wildlife consists of deer, turkeys, birds, and other mammals. Although this neighbor has been told this is not good for the animals, the person continues. What can be done to stop this person from feeding people food to wildlife?

Answer: While feeding human food to wildlife makes those doing so feel good, in the long run it is often to the detriment of the animal recipients. Although many animals will eat stale bread when offered, temporarily satisfying their hunger, in reality, many human foods-especially bread-lack the protein and nutritional components animals need for good health. Although your neighbors may be well-intentioned, they are actually being very selfish. They are hurting the wildlife and their neighbors by encouraging wild animals to get too comfortable around humans. When animals concentrate around food they are more likely to spread diseases to each other and to domestic pets. When wild animals lose their fear of humans they can become very aggressive. Coyotes, in particular, are well-known for eating small pets because they do not differentiate between the food you leave for them and other prey items, like dogs and cats. People often think they are just feeding cute, furry critters, like squirrels and raccoons. If they were to put a surveillance camera out, they would likely be surprised to find out what's actually eating the food at night. They would probably be appalled to discover animals fighting over the food, and that they're keeping the neighborhood rats fat and happy. In addition, there may be a local ordinance that bans feeding of some wild animals. Regarding deer, there is a statewide ban feeding big game, which includes deer, bear, elk, antelope, and bighorn sheep (CA Code of Regulations Title 14, section 251.3). You may want to contact a local game warden to report your well-meaning but stubborn and misguided neighbors. Their actions may cause them to be guilty of a misdemeanor, which may carry fines. For more tips on preventing wildlife-human conflicts, please visit: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild>

Shasta Wildlife Education Programs, on the road again

The Education Team presented many programs this year, with Rocket the gray fox, Autumn the red-tailed hawk, Kewhani the great-horned owl, Sundancer the turkey vulture, and Whistler the Western screech owl. At least 150 people attended each of the monthly programs at Burney Falls State Park.



Kewhani at Burney Falls

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Closing words from rehabber Arlene Powers

Feathered brothers and sisters, you came to us broken and as you bled.....we saw you desperate, dehydrated, desiccated, diseased, distressed, emaciated, famished, frayed, frightened, helpless, hungry, ragged, ravenous, shaken, shocked, shot, sickly, stressed, stunned, tattered, thirsty, traumatized, torn, weary and wounded. Defiantly, you stood us off with your last breath as we tried to tend to you. We saw you come in as cute, naked, fuzzy, cuddly youth, as mischievous, defiant adolescents, as fierce, regal rulers of the sky and as cunning, maimed elders whose time on earth was almost done. You endeared yourselves to us, bit us, charmed us, footed us, delighted us, hissed at us, talked to us, mantled at us, and graced us with your presence.

Some of you mended and were able to go on your way, never looking back. Some of you were injured in ways that prevented you from going, so you stayed with us to teach us.....And we came to love you. Others were too far gone, and you went home - where you fly free from pain with the Great One. All of you have touched us, and we are changed because of you.