



CALIFORNIA  
WILDLIFE  
CENTER

# Wild Times

Dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of Southern California's sick, injured and orphaned wildlife



Photo by Jennifer MaHarry

Christine Frost releases a rehabilitated Red-shouldered Hawk while Animal Care Technician Denys Hemen observes. Christine won the opportunity to release the hawk by placing the highest bid in CWC's first ever wildlife release event posted on Ebay.

The Red-shouldered Hawk was originally found just down the road from CWC's facility by a staff member. It had been hit by a car and was unable to stand or use its legs. After caring for the injury for over a month it was released just a short distance from the location where it was discovered. A short hike through the Santa Monica Mountains brought the hawk to its home. A happy ending to a fun story is what CWC is all about, and in this case it also helped raise much needed funds to care for California's imperiled wildlife. More auctions are scheduled for 2014 and information on these and other donation opportunities are available on our website and Facebook page. Check out [www.cawildlife.org](http://www.cawildlife.org) for more information and find out ways you can help sick, injured and orphaned California wildlife!

## A Bid for Wildlife Freedom

Online auction lets one lucky person release a hawk

By Marine Mammal Coordinator Jeff Hall

On a recent exploration of the Ebay website I came across some interesting items. There was a \$20 bill being sold for \$100. I also found a book on how to properly fold a tinfoil hat to prevent mind control. The book was currently selling for 99 cents so obviously I bid on it. One can never be too careful. California Wildlife Center (CWC) has placed items on Ebay for auction as well. We've sold an ultrasonic cleaner and X-ray supplies to raise money for animal care. Recently, our Animal Care Technician Denys Hemen came up with a fundraising idea using Ebay and one of our most popular events, a wildlife release. For the first time ever CWC auctioned off the opportunity to release one of our rehabilitated patients. There were a number of requirements the winner had to meet. First, they had to be available during the time we expected our patient was ready to be released. Second, they had to be willing to travel wherever the release was happening because CWC always releases wildlife back into the area where it was found. Finally, the winner had to have a passion for wildlife! Christine Frost met all the requirements and was the winner of the online auction to release a Red-shouldered Hawk back to the wild. Beating out a number of other bidders, Christine won the auction with the final bid of \$250.



Photo by Jennifer MaHarry

A hike through the forest not far from CWC's Santa Monica Mountain facility leads the team to the area where the rehabilitated Red-shouldered Hawk was released.

**Inside:** CWC's future is looking bright, find out our plans for 2014 & new construction projects improve animal care for many species



## A Note from our Executive Director

After all of the transformations of 2013, you would think that we'd be looking forward to a back-to-business-as-usual in 2014 – but where would the fun be in that? So we dive full-throttle into 2014 with all of the usual excitement, plus a whole host of new things to look forward to.



Photo by Jeff Hall

CWC Executive Director Marcella Bell.

Don't forget, now is the time to remind your neighbors and friends to halt any tree trimming plans until the fall.

### Gearing up!

It's hard to believe, but babies have already begun to trickle into the center. Fortunately we've spent the winter months preparing and are ready to welcome them in our newly painted Baby Care Unit (BCU). Additionally, we were lucky last year to receive extra support from our friends at the Norris Foundation, so we will also be welcoming adult patients to recuperate in our new wall caging units in ICU and our post-surgery isolation and recovery area.

Don't forget, now is the time to remind your neighbors and friends to halt any tree trimming plans until the fall.

Finally, our permanent marine mammal rehabilitation facilities are now complete and ready to accept our first regular season Northern Elephant Seal pups for rehabilitation.

### Shake, rattle, and roll!

If you volunteer with us you might have heard about some of the big changes to our volunteer programs here at the center. These include a new scheduling system, and brand new ways to volunteer at the center. We hope these changes will help us ensure that our volunteers get the credit they deserve for the great work they do, as well as to ensure that our patients get all the care and attention they need for a quick recovery.

### New at HQ!

Our administrative office is excited to unveil CWC's brand new membership program in 2014, and to announce the theme for our 2014 Wild Brunch: Call of the Wild! This theme was provided to us by center supporter, Stephanie Ray, via our "Brunch on Us! The 2014 Wild Brunch Theme Contest" on Facebook (make sure to like us to keep up with other fun contests, gorgeous photos, and news from around the center).

### Too big for our britches!

Our biggest aim, focus, and hope for 2014 is to identify a new location for the center – so keep your eyes and ears on the lookout and don't be shy about sending in suggestions. We've outgrown our current space and eagerly look forward to moving to a new location with enough room to house our enclosures, our growing patient load, our administrative offices, and our hopes and dreams for an education center!

### Little feet!

And last, but hopefully not least, I am personally excited to welcome a new arrival to my family in 2014. I'll be out of the center for a few months on maternity leave, but look forward to my return in June!

# The Future of California

The search for a new location begins as CWC continues to grow

By CWC Board President Victoria Harris

Since 1998 the Center has been located on a 3-1/2 acre parcel of land in Monte Nido generously provided by California State Parks. During the ensuing 15+ years we have built numerous species specific outdoor enclosures, a hospital, surgical suite and even an elephant seal pup rehabilitation facility to accommodate the increasing number of wildlife patients we see each year.

It has become apparent that in order to take care of our increased patient load we will need to look for another location that will provide us additional space. Ideally we would love to find property that is currently on sewer (to better handle the thousands of gallons of waste water produced by our elephant seal pups) – and somewhere relatively close to our current location. We could expand our hospital and intensive care facilities as well as adding additional aviaries.

The new facility would include an education center to better enable us to provide programs on co-existence to the communities we



## Ready for a New

Upgrades to the enclosures and streamlining the Marine Mammal

By Marine Mammal Coordinator Jeff Hall

Sometimes all you need is a fresh coat of paint to make something feel brand new. Sometimes you need to rip everything down to the foundation and start over. Then sometimes a little paint and some remodeling will be just right. CWC's Marine Mammal Enclosure went through some improvements over the winter season. A quarantine area was added to sequester ill patients from healthy ones. The layout of the center pen was modified to be a large open space that can hold more pools and haul out areas for the animals. The biggest addition is a 1,100 gallon pool that is three feet deep. The deeper pool will allow marine mammals to improve their diving and hunting skills before their big release.

In addition to physical improvements of the enclosure, the Marine Mammal Department is also restructuring the way volunteers are scheduled and trained. Long gone are four hour training sessions with endless descriptions, graphs, demonstrations and slide shows. On-the-job training will provide volunteers a more meaningful learning experience and promote individual improvement in areas they are most interested. One of the biggest changes of all is the combining of the Marine Mammal Rescue Team and the Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Team into simply the Marine Mammal Team. It will be a wonderful "all hands on deck" approach to rescue and rehabilitation that will hopefully improve the quality and capacity of care at CWC's current location...with eyes on the future for a new location!



# California Wildlife Center

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serve – as well as limited short term housing for the 15-20 interns and externs we host each year.

We're currently working with State Parks to see if there might be another property that could meet our needs – in the meantime if anyone has a property that they might consider donating, please call Marcella or Victoria at the Center!



Image by EV Studio

This is an example of our hoped for new education center.

## Spring Season

Marine Mammal Department will improve care and response

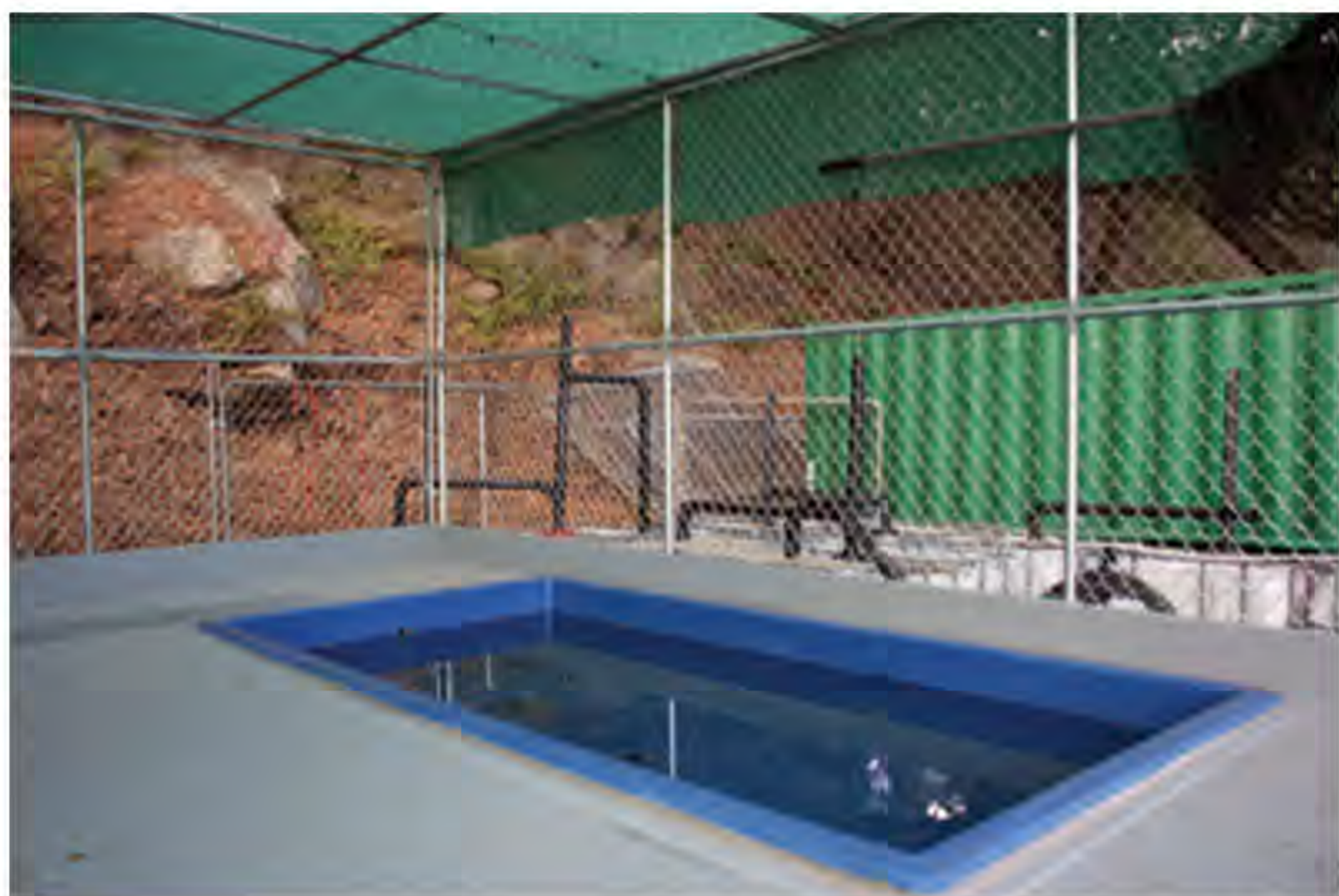


Photo by Jeff Hall

A new 1,100 gallon pool was constructed in the Marine Mammal Enclosure. This pool, along with many other upgrades, will allow for improved care of marine mammal patients. CWC anticipates 20 to 30 Northern Elephant Seal patients during the 2014 season.

## Volunteer Appreciation: Jerry Murphy

Right there when needed

By Animal Care Coordinator Denys Hemen

California Wildlife Center wouldn't be the same without Jerry Murphy. Jerry is one of our Tuesday morning volunteers and is going on his 10th year at the center. He has seen the center grow from a single room to a place literally bursting at the seams. Before Jerry began volunteering he made his living working with musicians (including Neil Diamond, Bob Dylan, and Barbra Streisand!!) to get them from city to city by booking hotels, busses, and air travel during their tours. He once spent 13 days in Japan with Bob Dylan!

Jerry began volunteering because of his love of animals, but as soon as the word got out that he could swing a hammer, he got involved in construction projects big and small. He has played a huge part in the growth of the center by working on large aviaries and helping build what is currently our ICU.

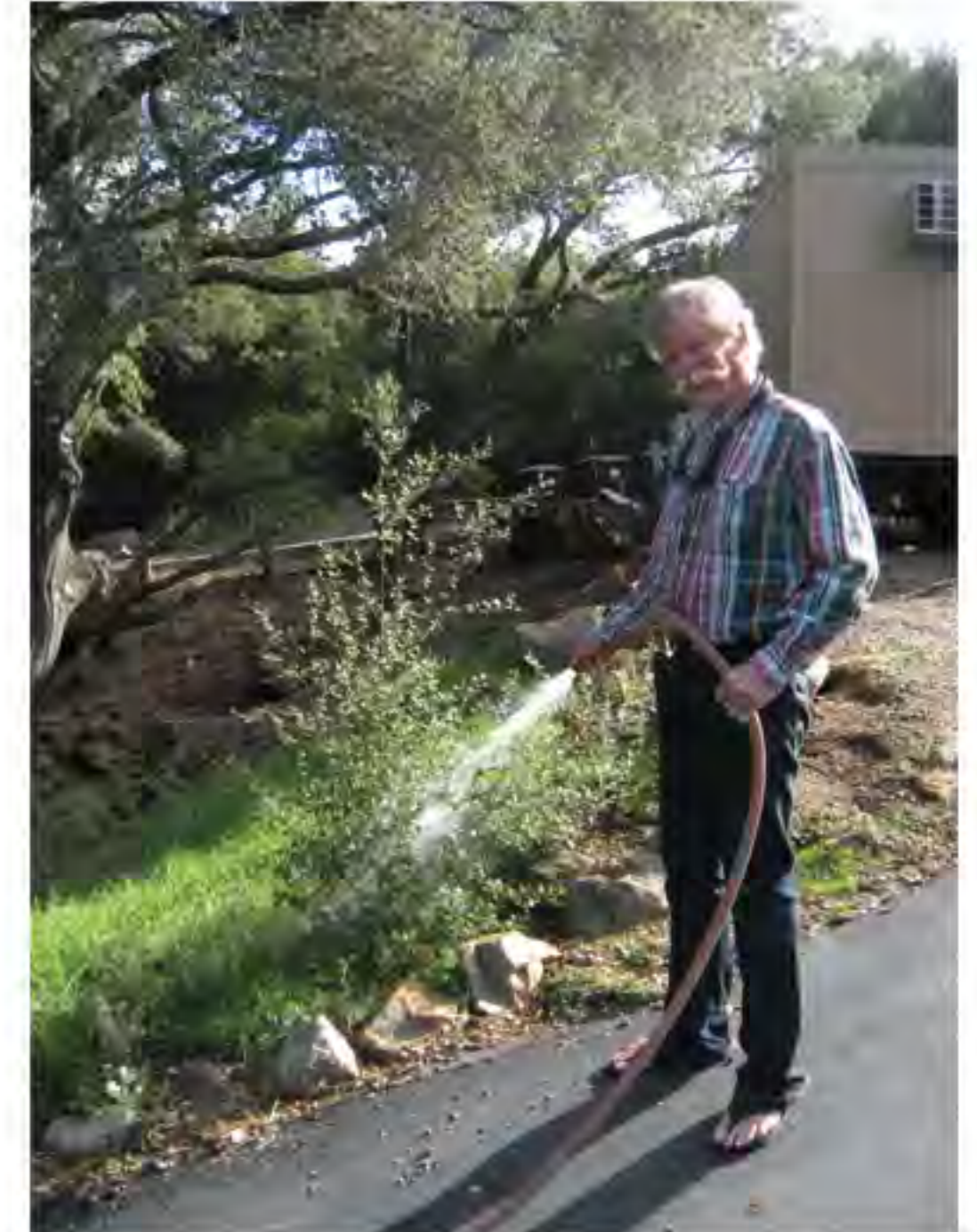


Photo by Jo Joseph

CWC Volunteer Jerry Murphy volunteers in many aspects at the center.

Jerry's favorite animals to work with are the raptors. On his off days he likes to take his boat out to watch seals and sea lions off the coast in Oxnard. You may also see him driving around in his Ford Cobra or his Harley, zipping through the canyons, but always breaking to take a peek at wildlife through his binoculars.

People from all walks of life come to volunteer at California Wildlife Center. If you have a love for wildlife and want to help, check out our website [www.cawildlife.org](http://www.cawildlife.org) and sign up for a volunteer orientation today. There are many ways to help out.

## Eagle Scout Project

By Animal Care Coordinator Denys Hemen

Here at CWC there are an infinite amount of projects that need to be done. When we need something that will take a long time to complete or require a large team to accomplish, we call in the big guns.... the Eagle Scouts! Many of our enclosures were built by teams of scouts. They are an invaluable resource. This newest edition was built by Hank Petersen and his team from Troop 54. This huge enclosure



Photo by Kim Barker

CWC Board President Victoria Harris stands with Eagle Scout Rayne Hernandez, Executive Director Marcella Bell and Hospital Manager Jo Joseph in front of the completed squirrel box project.

measures 50 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 8 feet tall. It can be divided in two sections or left completely. Hank did an excellent job and his work will benefit many animals over the years by giving them sufficient room to exercise before being released. If anyone reading this knows of a Scout Troop or other group interested in helping us out with all types of projects big or small email me at [denys@cawildlife.org](mailto:denys@cawildlife.org) and let me know. Once again Hank, thanks for all your hard work, you did a fantastic job!



# Wild Times

Publisher: California Wildlife Center  
Editorial/Design: Jeff Hall

## Contributors:

Kim Barker Denys Hemen  
Marcella Bell Jo Joseph  
Jeff Hall Donna Mahan  
Victoria Harris Jennifer MaHarry

## Board of Directors

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Hospital Manager:  
Kristin Joseph  
Animal Care Coordinator:  
Denys Hemen  
Animal Care Coordinator:  
Jenn Guess

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Volunteer Coordinator:  
Gill Verner

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California Wildlife Center  
P.O. Box 2022  
Malibu, CA 90265  
Phone: 818-222-2658  
Fax: 818-222-2685  
Emergency Hotline: 310-458-WILD  
Hospital: 818-591-WILD  
Email: admin@cawildlife.org  
www.cawildlife.org



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P.O. Box 2022 Malibu, CA 90265

## How Can You Help California Wildlife?

A California Wildlife Center volunteer helps in more ways than one

By CWC Volunteer Donna Mahan

Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes and with all kinds of skills and interests. If you were the neighborhood kid who brought home baby birds to care for, our Baby Care Unit might be a good fit for you. We raise hundreds of orphaned and injured birds and mammals every spring. If you like to be hands on with wildlife from hummingbirds to pelicans, skunks to squirrels, our ICU might be a good fit for you. You will get the best free wildlife education available!

Not every volunteer has an interest in all aspects of the operation of the California Wildlife Center. Some volunteers are happy coming in to help with laundry and dishes. Others like to come in and make diets and keep the kitchen tidy. During the busy baby care season starting in April, we need all of the hands we can get.

If you've read our newsletters and articles in the papers and thought you'd like to help, but didn't think you'd feel comfortable handling a hawk or owl or opossum, you can still contribute. If you have a green thumb and are interested in gardening, we need you. If you were the kid that liked bugs, we need your help with our mealworm and cricket "farms". If you sew, you can help by making opossum and squirrel pouches and the hundreds of "softies" we use each week in baby care. If working on the computer is your thing, we can use someone to do intakes during the busy season. Or, if you'd like to volunteer in our administrative offices, there are always tasks to do. We frequently have plumbing, carpentry and electrical projects in the works. Tell us your skill and we'll tell you how we can use you.



California Wildlife Center volunteers work in all aspects of animal care. Each year volunteers donate thousands of hours to help care for the over 4,000 patients CWC accepts each year, like this Black-headed Grosbeak.

Photo by Kim Barker

[www.cawildlife.org](http://www.cawildlife.org)