



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

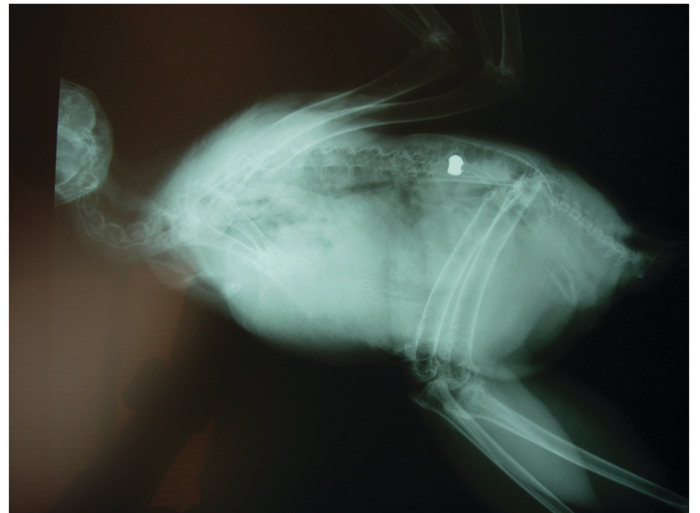
Wild Times

Justice Served

By Denys Hemen, Hospital Manager

At CWC we have received 36 patients so far this year that have been shot by a pellet, BB, or shotgun. Last year we received 51. In all of these cases the perpetrator was never known and most of the patients had to be euthanized. The animals were found by caring members of the public, unable to fly or crawl away. Most of these people had no idea that the animals had been shot and were very shocked to find out when they followed up with us over the phone. This can be a very frustrating situation for us and the public. We know there are multiple people in Los Angeles and the surrounding areas shooting wildlife, but we are helpless to address the situation without evidence. One day recently, that all changed.

A hawk was brought into our exam room unable to stand or fly. As we do with all our patients, CWC staff gathered important information from the rescuer. The rescuer told us how he found the hawk in his backyard and that he believed it was shot. He stated that he knew someone in his neighborhood that he had seen shooting birds. We quizzed him and made sure he had seen the gun in the person's hand actively pointing at birds and firing. X-rays confirmed that the bird had pellet fragments inside its body. Finally, that helpless feeling began to go away. We gave the rescuer the contact information for the proper authorities. Then we followed up with the same department. We gave the rescuer's contact information to the officer and by the next day they had contacted them. An officer arrived at the scene later that week and questioned the perpetrator who immediately admitted to the shooting. Justice had been served. Not only for the hawk but also for the numerous other birds this person had illegally shot.



X-Ray of Hawk with Bullet
Photos by Alyssa Schlange

Shooting nongame migratory birds is a federal offense and a state offense in California with fines that can reach into the thousands of dollars. This story proves that we are not always helpless when trying to protect our wildlife from poachers. Sometimes it pays off to be persistent. If we have proof, then the law is on our side. Even though our California State Park and California Department of Fish and Game departments are underfunded and understaffed, there are eager individuals who are passionate about our wildlife and are willing to serve justice. If you ever witness a person shooting non-game wildlife or shooting any wildlife in the city limits, please call the CalTIP line at 888-334-CALTIP or visit the website at www.wildlife.ca.gov/enforcement/caltip.

Inside: Orphan Care Unit, 2018 Marine Mammal Stranding Season, Gifts that Support Wildlife, Hummingbird care & more!

Orphan Care Unit 2017 Wrap Up

By Jennifer Guess, Senior Wildlife Technician



Eastern Fox Squirrel
Photo By Anne Slattery

November marks the end of baby season at California Wildlife Center (CWC). It was another year full of energetic squirrels, curious crows, grumpy mockingbirds, and aggressive woodpeckers. This year we had quite a busy season. CWC took in over 275 Eastern Fox Squirrels and over 85 Virginia Opossums between the spring and fall months. Throughout the height of summer we saw over 200 American Crows, Common Ravens and Western Scrub-jays, over 300 Mourning Doves and Band-tailed Pigeons, and 135 Northern Mockingbirds. We also had a few unique patients come through our doors. Many volunteers working in our Orphan Care Unit have fond memories of feeding our one and only Pacific-slope Flycatcher or a few of our Western Bluebirds. Even more volunteers will remember building up the courage to feed our lively Acorn Woodpeckers.

We'd like to thank all our fantastic Orphan Care volunteers for their tireless work and dedication in helping us feed and care for the almost

1,500 young patients that came through our doors for this season. We'd also like to thank our wonderful transport team who helped bring almost 300 young patients from shelters across the Los Angeles area.

We are so fortunate to have an amazing group of people committed to helping injured, sick and orphaned wildlife. I'm sure we are all looking forward to taking a deep breath and relaxing a little during the relatively calm winter months. But, don't get too comfortable; spring will be here before you know it!



Nestling Northern Mockingbirds
Photo By Alyssa Schlange

Looking Forward to the 2018 Marine Mammal Stranding Season – What can we expect?

By Heather Henderson, Marine Stranding Coordinator

California Wildlife Center responds to reports of stranded marine mammals 365 days a year. Due to birthing cycles and species-specific behaviors, there is a certain predictability to the stranding pattern. We use this pattern to approximate supply and personnel needs. Pinnipeds, such as seals and sea lions, are the primary patients we rescue and care for throughout the year. For our region, the busiest stranding months during a "normal" year are March through May, with a quick buildup and drop off at the beginning and end. However, over the past half-decade, we have not experienced many normal years.

We look at many factors attempting to predict workload and intensity of stranding patterns as we prepare for the upcoming rehabilitation season. We look at information from the rookeries where the animals are born and weather predictions to gain a glimpse into the future.

Population biologists head out to the breeding islands each fall to assess the health of the current season's cohort. They document an approximate number of births along with current body weight of pups and their overall condition. Preliminary findings for California sea lion pups are reassuring, with weights reported to be approaching the healthy range and total number of births to be average.

Northern elephant seal pups have not been born yet. They are born primarily in January and February, so we will receive their status update later.

Weather patterns have a profound effect on our pinniped populations and their likelihood of stranding. Storms can flush young animals from the beach before they are ready to head out in to the ocean. Warmer sea surface temperatures can shift food stocks (fish) farther off shore or into deeper waters.

This presents challenges for young animals who are not able to dive as deep. Foraging mothers need to travel further off shore to feed, leaving their pups for longer periods of time between nursing sessions. Heavy rains increase coastal pollution through runoff, and can contribute to toxic algal blooms, leading to less safe ocean environment for all marine life, as well as humans.

Early weaned California sea lion pups will start to show up on our Malibu beaches in December. Northern elephant pups will start to haul out on our beaches in March. Please give them space to rest and call our rescue hotline (310) 458.9453

Thanks to the amazing team of marine mammal volunteers, and all who generously donate to California Wildlife Center, we enter the 2018 season ready to respond!



Underweight northern elephant seal pup – tossing sand on the back is a normal behavior
Photo By CWC



Underweight California sea lion pup – bones of spinal column visible
Photo By CWC

Gifts that Support Wildlife

Having trouble finding the perfect gift for the animal lover in your life? Here are some gifts that support California Wildlife Center:

Animal Sponsorship

Animal Sponsorships support the animal patients at California Wildlife Center and they make great gifts! There are eight animal species to choose from and sponsorships start at just \$50! You can also add a plush replica of the animal to the package.

The gift recipient will receive:

- Certificate of Sponsorship with the recipient's name
- Fact Sheet about the animal
- Full-Color Photo of the animal



Sponsor an Animal today: cawildlife.org/ways-to-support-us

Fine Wine for Wildlife

Colcanyon Estate Wines in Malibu is partnering with the California Wildlife Center. 100% of all profits from sales of the 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot will directly benefit the animals being cared for by CWC. One order feeds songbirds at CWC for a day, two orders feed six seal pups for six weeks while three orders feed deer fawns for a week.



These wines were both recognized by Wine Enthusiast Magazine. The Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded 91 points & was selected as "Editor's Choice." The Merlot was awarded 86 points. These wines are priced at \$39 each (plus tax & shipping) and come in a two-bottle shipment with both varietals.

Wines make a great gift! They can ship anywhere in the lower 48 states and include holiday gift wrap!

Mollie Cutler Talon Necklace

This special raptor talon-style necklace was made as a collaboration with the California Wildlife Center and is available in gold and silver finishes.

30% of proceeds from the Talon Necklace will be donated to help with the rescue and rehabilitation of native California wildlife.

Purchase this beautiful necklace at www.molliecutler.com



Ways You Can Help CWC

This holiday season, consider supporting the patients at California Wildlife Center:

Purchase an item from our Amazon Wish List

Search for "California Wildlife Center" under wish lists on Amazon.com and you will see many items needed to care for wildlife. Like a registry, these items can be purchased and sent directly to CWC!

Donate a Wish List Item

Did you know CWC has a wish list of everyday items? These are gently used regular household goods like sheets and towels that you can donate to support the care of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife.

Find the list at: cawildlife.org/ways-to-support-us/our-wish-list/

Double Your Gift

Does your employer match the donation you make to non-profit organizations like California Wildlife Center? This is an easy way to double the impact of your gift. Ask your HR representative if your company has a matching gift program. They can contact CWC at heather@cawildlife.org

Cash Donation

Tax-deductible cash donations help keep California Wildlife Center operating so we can care for over 4,000 animals a year. Make your donation today at cawildlife.org

AmazonSmile

Amazon donates a percentage of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to The California Wildlife Center whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. This is a great way to give that doesn't cost you a dime!

Sign up today: smile.amazon.com/ch/95-4580790

Ralphs

Register your Ralph's grocery card to support California Wildlife Center and we receive a portion of the proceeds from your holiday grocery shopping at zero cost to you. Step-by-step website registration instructions can be found at www.ralphs.com, click on Community, click on Community Contributions, click on 'Enroll Now' or call 1-800-443-4438 for assistance.

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Operation Hummer: The Not-So-Tiny World of Hummingbird Care at CWC

By Melissa Hartman, Administrative Assistant

So far this year at California Wildlife Center, the Allen's Hummingbird is in our "Top Ten" list, meaning it is among the ten most frequent species of the 4,000 animal patients who began their journey to healing up our steep driveway framed by fragrant pine and oak trees.

It's interesting to note that the Allen's Hummingbird, this year one of every 12 CWC clients, was relatively unknown south of Ventura County fifty years ago.

The hummingbird delights and perplexes. Poet Richard Burton cuts to the observer's heart of the matter by asking "Is it a monster bee/Or is it a midget bird?" The hummingbird's astounding aeronautics and spectacular plumage figure prominently in the cultures of indigenous people of both North and South America, both ancient and contemporary.

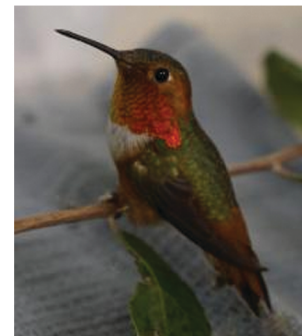
According to the Hummingbird Society (hummingbirdsociety.org), a Sedona, AZ-based educational and conservation nonprofit, here are the essential facts to know about these bejeweled stunt flyers:

- Of the 338 known species, 16 breed in the United States
- They are found only in the Americas
- It's illegal to possess a hummingbird, feather, nest or any part of it without a permit
- Do not care for an injured or baby hummingbird without a licensed wildlife rehabilitator

In addition, some of the "fun facts" to know about the Hummingbird:

- Iridescent colors of the male's gorget (throat) are actually caused by light refraction
- A unique figure-8 wing rotation allows forward, backward, sideways and straight up flight, as well as extensive hovering
- Up to 90 percent of flying time is spent hovering to feed
- They eat about 3 times their body weight per day
- Their average weight is less than a nickel

If you find a hummingbird in need of our help, line a small box with crumpled tissue. Make air holes. Gently pick up the hummingbird by the body and place it in the box. Place it in a quiet, dark location until you reach hospital staff.



Allen's Hummingbird Photo
Photo by Alyssa Schlange

Bonus question for the true hummingbird aficionada/o:

What is a group of hummingbirds called?

A CHARM