



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

December 12, 2025

Small Actions, Large Impact: Help Wildlife From Home

There are so many small actions that can make a big difference in the lives of wildlife that live among us, and many can be done from the comfort of your own home!

Here are 10 small ways to make a big impact for our wild neighbors:

1. **Anticollision Window Films:** A significant number of our avian patients are admitted due to window strikes. With many different variations, these films can be purchased online or at various home improvement stores. These stickers, usually iridescent and low profile, alert birds to the window and signal them to change their flight course.
2. **Remove Standing Water on Your Property:** Still water provides an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, which in recent years have sometimes carried West Nile Virus. Birds may feed on these mosquitoes or be bitten by them, and if they become infected, the deadly virus can spread through the local bird populations.
3. **Clean Bird Feeders:** Proper sanitation of seed and hummingbird feeders is essential to minimize the spread of disease. Learn about how to clean your feeder [here](#).
4. **Alternative Pest Control Methods:** Rodenticide can have severe negative effects on our native wildlife. When used to control rodent populations, it unintentionally harms other non-targeted species. Additionally, these toxic substances persist in the environment, making their way through the food chain and accumulating in soil, water, and vegetation. CWC strongly encourages the use of alternative pest control. Consider using essential oils, ensuring your home has no rodent access points, leaving pet food inside, cleaning up fallen fruit from surrounding trees, and/or implementing owl boxes for natural alternatives to rodent control.
5. **Tree Trimming:** Stick to trimming trees during the months of November- January. Native birds are protected under the "Migratory Bird Treaty Act," which safeguards actively nesting birds from being disturbed. Trimming is usually safe to do in late fall and early winter, as nesting season is generally over by November. However, always inspect bushes and trees before trimming regardless of the season.
6. **Native Plants:** Planting native plants not only supports a healthy native ecosystem but also helps reduce the spread of invasive species. Native plants provide essential food, shelter, and nesting materials for local wildlife.
7. **Cover Your Pool:** We often receive calls about ducks residing in pools or ducklings getting stuck in swimming pools. An easy way to prevent this is to keep your pool covered whenever it's not in use.
8. **Turn Off Lights:** Because many birds migrate at night, it's important to reduce light pollution. Aim outdoor lights downward and turn off indoor lights when they're not needed to help keep birds on their natural flight paths.
9. **Avoid Single Use Plastics:** Reduce single use plastic consumption for cleaner habitats, fewer wildlife entanglements, and to minimize the risk of foreign object ingestion.
10. **Help Wildlife and Pets Coexist:** Keep cats indoors or in "catios" and supervise dogs. Free-roaming pets can injure, stress, and kill wildlife.