



# California Wildlife Center

## Patient of the Week

June 19, 2026

### Patient of the Week - The Bright Bushtit Pair



Bushtit gaping in nest.

Our NICU recently admitted two Bushtit nestlings after they were found on the ground following a fall from a tree. The pair was quickly rescued and brought to CWC for care. Sadly, their other nestmates did not survive the fall. These tiny patients are now safely housed in an incubator, where they are receiving specialized care, including formula feedings every 30 minutes and husbandry support to help them grow strong and healthy.

Bushtits are small, social birds that travel and forage in flocks. Their diets consist of small insects that they find on leaves and twigs. Bushtits build intricate hanging nests that they hang off branches and tree trunks. They utilize the elasticity of spider webs to make the base of their nest and add other plant materials to cushion and camouflage the site. Their nests can take weeks to build and are often a collaborative effort of not just the male and female pair, but also others in the flock. An active nest will host all those who helped build it.

The Bushtit patients have a good appetite and are taking food well. The pair will continue their stay in the incubator until they begin to show signs that they are ready to leave the nest. Once out of the incubator, they will be moved into an enclosure in the NICU where they will learn to self-feed and be given enrichment activities to encourage species-specific behavior. The future is looking bright for these small Bushtit patients.