

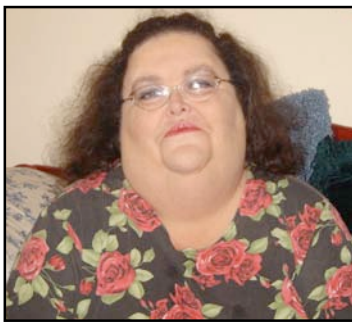


Providing rescue and rehabilitative services for wildlife in Napa County

SPOTLIGHT ON... PAT BURGESS

WRCNC'S DISPATCH OPERATOR

As Dispatch Operator, Pat holds one of the most important positions in the organization. Pat receives all incoming calls from the public. You can imagine the range of questions and situations she addresses!



In Pat's words...

I have spent most of my life in Napa Valley. I was born in St. Helena, raised in Yountville (before Vintage 1870 existed).

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Message from the President Pam Condos

Greetings Friends of Wildlife,

As we wind down from the busy season of babies being born in the spring and summer months, we reflect on the positive growth the organization has experienced over the past year.

As you may know, WRCNC is now actively looking for a place to have a permanent facility. This could be land that we can build on, or land with existing buildings that meet our needs. As far as we know, we are the only licensed Californian rehabilitation organization that does not have a place to call home. This makes our rehabilitative efforts more challenging and our community contact and educational opportunities limited.

Another growth marker is our recently revised Strategic Plan, which outlines a three-phase implementation process laying the framework for operations at the new facility.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Second Annual **ALL MY FRIENDS ARE WILD** event

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2010, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

at **SILOS Club**, downtown Napa

Check our website at www.napawildliferescue.org for upcoming details

SPOTLIGHT ON Pat Burgess continued from page 1

My high school years were spent in Napa city. I have always had a love for animals, since I was a child. Maybe because when I was about 4-5 years old our family cat saved me from being attacked by a German Shepherd. My mom told me she did it to protect her kittens, but she took her stance in front of me. She jumped on the dog's back, right in the saddle and literally rode the dog out of the driveway. Boy was his tail tucked!

I worked licensing dogs for animal control when I graduated high school. I also worked for a mobile vaccination clinic for dogs and cats for a few years.

After that I got a job as a PBX operator at an answering service. With the help of several other employees, I worked for the better part of 20 years answering phones, taking messages and giving information for several hundred clients. I learned a lot working there. How to get the information you need without upsetting the caller. How to calm the caller if they are already upset, to be able to get all the pertinent information needed.

About 3 years ago I brought an injured Scrub Jay to Silverado Veterinary Hospital as I knew it was the drop off place for injured wildlife. At that time I filled out a form saying I was interested in volunteering for Wildlife Rescue. After several attempts Jan Gates was able to reach me by phone to talk with me about volunteering. By this time I had become disabled and would not be able to attend to the birds or animals the way they needed and deserved. Jan suggested I meet her and Pam Condos for an interview about taking over the dispatch position. I was thrilled, because a way was found for me to help the animals! And as they say the rest is history. I have handled the dispatch position for 3 years now and it never gets dull.



Towhee parents responding to young calling.
photo: P. Condos



Parent feeding reunited fledgling. photo: P. Condos

New Pilot Program for reuniting songbirds

The 2009 baby bird season brought many changes, most significant was the unfortunate termination of the well-established Songbird Clinic. Searching for an alternative to deal with hundreds of incoming young birds, the Clinic staff came up with a Plan B. One part of Plan B involved negotiating with rehabilitation facilities in the surrounding counties to take our songbirds for this season. We appreciate the support of these facilities, which allowed us to continue to receive injured, ill, or orphaned birds from our Napa county community, and look forward to reciprocating services as needed in the future.

One exciting change we added as part of Plan B was a Songbird Reuniting Program. The program returns baby birds to their parents within an allowable time frame. Some, but not all young birds are candidates for reuniting. Many have been picked up by well-meaning people who think they have been abandoned or they have fallen from a nest, when they are actually where they

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Songbird Reuniting Program continued from pg. 2

need to be, and are being cared for by their parents as they learn to live on their own. Other birds are actually injured or truly orphaned. After a careful intake exam, our medical staff determines whether a baby bird is a candidate for reuniting. Reuniting baby birds with their parents involves specialized training. A core of dedicated and able-bodied volunteers successfully reunited 16 young birds with their parents over the 5 month 2009 busy season. Reunites typically take several hours of patient waiting, observing, and documenting with often multiple attempts at reuniting. There are also follow-up visits and close contact with the person ('finder') who brought the baby bird in. Our volunteers are a persistent bunch and have dedicated many long (and hot) hours of their time. The rewards have far outweighed the disadvantages when a successful reunite occurs and a baby leaves with his parents back to their natural home. We are proud of this endeavor and plan to update our training manual, recruit new volunteers, and reunite more young with their families in 2010. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a reunite volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Vickie Allen at 707- 483-3036 or 707-224-4560.

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Message from the President continued from pg. 1

The facility will grow in phases, eventually incorporating both mammal and avian care, as well as offering extensive educational and non-releasable wildlife viewing opportunities for the public. We look forward to forging strong and mutually beneficial ties with our community as part of this plan.

Human brainpower at the organization has also increased with the addition of a contracted Development Director, Diane Dame- Shepp. Diane has infused new life into the organization and spearheads our Capital Campaign and fundraising projects. We are excited about moving forward together.

Data on the number of mammals and birds received by the Napa County community and released back into the wild for the 2009 season is still being tallied. This information will be reported to the Department of Fish and Game at the end of December, and available to the public in our Spring/Summer newsletter. 2008 statistics, however, are available and we are very proud to share our rehabilitative successes with our community!

2008:	Received	Released
Songbirds:	762	71%
Other birds (hawks, etc)	48	25%
Mammals	125	60%
Reptiles	7	42%

Our organization is the only licensed rehabilitative agency of it's kind in Napa County, therefore providing a unique service to wildlife and community members. We urge you to support WRCNC as we continue to work on behalf of the wild animals that are brought to us for care. Please consider making a donation by accessing our website at www.napawildliferescue.org or sending a check to P.O. Box 2571, Napa, Ca, 94558



Napa County Supervisor Keith Caldwell with Eva and Leon Garcia (Mayor of America Canyon). photo: L. Boezeman-Cataldo



WRCNC volunteers Dotty, Jan, Lori, Donna. photo: L. Boezeman-Cataldo

First Annual 'ALL MY FRIENDS ARE WILD' Fundraising Event held April 19, 2009

The sun was shining and Silos Club in downtown Napa was booming with spectacular auction items, gourmet food, and live music!

The first annual **ALL MY FRIENDS ARE WILD** fundraising event took place on Sunday, April 19, 2009. The event was held to raise funds for a permanent facility for the Wildlife Rescue Center of Napa County (WRCNC). Currently without a home, WRCNC is looking for a land site to build on, or a site with land and buildings that may be appropriate for use.

ALL MY FRIENDS ARE WILD was a rousing success attracting a captive audience of over 150 friends and over \$28,000 to establish the WRCNC capital fund for a new home and center. Dalan Thomas tamed the crowd with his classic guitar while wine and sparkling refreshments flowed. A lively auction ensued with Marty and Barbara Nemko as the Master and Mistress of Ceremonies. A sumptuous faire was served with dancing to the *Heartbeats and Kith and Kin* that got the party on their feet and onto the dance floor.

The Honorary Committee was chaired by U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson with committee members: U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, California State Senator Patricia Wiggins, California Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, the Napa County Board of Supervisors – Brad Wagenknecht, Mark Luce, Diane Dillon, Bill Dodd and Keith Caldwell, Cynthia Saucermann – Mayor of Yountville, Jack Gingles – Mayor of Calistoga, Allen

Fish – Director Golden Gate Raptor Observatory and Jay Holcomb – Director International Bird Rescue and Research.

The list of sponsors included: Andrews and Thornley Construction Inc., Keith Caldwell – Napa County Supervisor and Peri Dean, California Wine Tours Inc., Capital Access Group – A Premier SA Lender, David and Christine Crawford, Julie D. Dickson, Richard and Carol Eyheralde, Peter A. & Vernice H. Gasser Foundation, Kathryn Oates, Martin Estate Winery, Napa Nuts Inc., Lisa Togni, Historic Napa Mill – Napa River Inn, Christina Nelson in memory of Marjorie Danver, Network for Good – Anonymous Donor, Pauli Systems – Integrated Surface Finishing Systems, Your Home Nursing Services and Westamerica Bank.

Over one hundred thirty donors gave generously of their products and services for the auction (please go our website at www.napawildliferescue.org for a full list of donors).

An enthusiastic thank you and round of applause to the first Honorary Committee, Sponsors and Donors. We are excited to announce the second annual **All My Friends Are Wild**, that promises to be more uproarious than ever! Save the date, the event is scheduled for Sunday, April 18, 2010, 4-8pm, at Silo's in the Historic Napa Mill complex. Mark your calendars! Tickets may be purchased in advance at our website: www.napawildliferescue.org

HIGHLIGHTING NATIVE WILDLIFE OF NAPA COUNTY



Female Pallid Bat in rehabilitative care with WRCNC staff. photo: J. Gates

THE FASCINATING LIFE OF BATS

The smallest mammals rehabilitated by WRCNC are the bats. There are several bat species found in our area, including Mexican Free-tails, Pallid bats, and the Big Browns. Bats are fascinating creatures; intelligent and gentle unless provoked. They play an important role in nature by consuming thousands of mosquitoes, moths and other small insects each day. These pest-eating machines are the farmer's best friends!

Bats are highly susceptible to the rabies virus, and can spread rabies if they are sick and bite a person. For this reason we at WRCNC emphasize that rescuers of bats NEVER TOUCH THE BAT WITH BARE HANDS. Use a net, a cloth, gloves, or some other protective barrier between your skin and the bat. Gently put the bat in a small cardboard container and bring it in to Silverado Veterinary Hospital.

Handling the bat with bare hands will necessitate euthanization (for rabies testing).

Sticky insect traps, like fly strips, pose a serious danger to bats. The insects caught in the glue look like a free meal to the bat, who then also gets caught in the glue. It is best to avoid glue traps of any kind, which often catch and kill wildlife. Bring in any bird or bat caught in a glue trap right away, as they dehydrate quickly. If a bat is in your home or garage, open the doors and windows as dusk falls, and usually the bat will fly out on its own in search of dinner. Do not attempt to catch the bat. Feel free to call WRCNC

RED-TAILED HAWKS



Juvenile Red Tailed Hawk. photo: P. Condos

Scientific Name: *Buteo jamaicensis* (*Buteo* is Latin for hawk, *jamaicensis* refers to where the first specimen was collected).

Size: Length: 17-22in **Wingspan:** 43-56in

Weight: Female: 1224g (average) (2.7lb) **Male:** 1028g (av) (2.3lb)

Lifespan: They are expected to live for 4 or 5 years in the wild, and have reached 29 or more years in captivity.

ID: There are three morphs for this species: light, intermediate, and dark. All varieties develop their distinctive red tails in adulthood and also have dark undersides and light flight feathers. Light morphs have a reddish-tan color on their bellies in adulthood and a mix of brown and white in their youth. Intermediate juvenile morphs are colored in a similar way to light juvenile morphs, intermediates have more patches of brown. Adult intermediates have a large reddish spot right below their heads. Dark juveniles look a great deal like dark adults, though they do not have the red tail.

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SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES continued from pg. 5....Red -Tailed Hawk

Hunting: They hunt by sitting and waiting on perches. They will also soar above fields where prey might be.

Prey: This species will eat a wide variety of prey. A typical Red-tail's diet includes mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. They are known to eat carrion.

Breeding: They build big stick nests in tall trees. Their breeding season extends from February to June. Females lay clutches of 1 to 5 eggs, which hatch after 28 to 32 days. The chicks begin to leave the nest after 42 to 46 days. The fledgling period lasts up to 10 weeks, during which the chicks learn to fly and hunt.

Range: Red-tailed Hawks are partial migrants, which means that birds in north climates will migrate south in cold weather while the birds in temperate climates will live in the same area year round. They live all over North and Central America.

Status: They are not currently listed as an endangered species, but are protected under the migratory bird treaty act.

Acknowledgements to the Raptor Center of Davis



ONE REHABILITATOR'S STORY

by Rae Sheffer

A Most Remarkable Squirrel

The most remarkable squirrel brought in this season, in my opinion, is a little guy that was dehydrated, emaciated, cold, and wheezing, about 5 weeks old. Who knows how many nights he had spent alone and cold all night with no mom to keep him warm. I didn't have real high hopes that he would still be in this world in the morning, but, he made it, with the specialized care we can provide as licensed rehabilitators. That same day, here came another little guy, about 7 weeks old, totally healthy, but hungry. My intentions were to put them together when the younger one was feeling better and on the mend. So that night they spent the night, each in their separate cage, next to each other. When I was feeding the older one the next day, he was grunting, as they do when they're that age, the younger one perked up when he heard it and wanted to be with him so much, he jumped out of his cage and onto my hand and into the others' cage with him. There was no fighting between them so I said, "well, o.k. then", they have become brothers and they are still together now and love each other. They are both very healthy now and will be returned to the wild, together, when they are old enough. I love a happy ending!

WRCNC Board of Directors

Pam Condos, President

Ellie Shattuck, Treasurer

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Directors: Jan Gates, Dotty Most, Rae Sheffer, Angela Cistone