U R B A N W I L D L I F E

Wildlife Care of So Cal

A Wild Animal Rehabilitation and Release Organization

P.O. Box 941476 Simi Valley Ca 93065 www.wildlifecareofsocal.org 805-581-3911

spring 2016

Please Help Us Continue to Care for California Wildlife.

Songbirds and Smell

Seabirds and Vultures may be the avian world's super smellers, but it's beginning to look as if smell plays a role even in the lives of songbirds, which have relatively small olfactory bulbs. Biologists at Germany's University of Bielefeld, recently tested the ability of fledgling zebra finches to recognize relatives by scent. When the finches in their lab hatched, the researchers took them from their parents and put them in a different brood. After 20 to 23 days, the young birds were offered a choice between a nest box smelling like the nest they had hatched in or the nest in which they had been reared. The finches approached the nest that smelled like their genetic parents. That a songbird could recognize its kin "based on olfactory cues alone was a radically new insight," Krause says. Scientists in Germany have shown that another small-olfactory bulbed bird, the European starling (right), relies on its sense of smell to select aromatic (and parasite-resisting) plants for its nest. A study of blue tits on Corsica showed similar behavior, with the birds bringing to their nests pungent herbs such as lavender and mint. Birds have provided abundant evidence that they respond to the body scent they produce. www.nwf.org

European Starling

Did You Know?

There are NO City, State, or Federal agencies that rescue, rehabilitate or even fund the rehabilitation efforts of our injured and orphaned native wild animals. We have to pay them in permit fees to help these animals.

The community loves the fact that there are places they can call when they find an injured wild animal, that are knowledgeable and can give the animal a second chance - but there is a cost.

Individuals are making the difference. Without our help they will be euthanized.

PLEASE join us with your donation!

WE CANNOT DO THE WORK WE DO WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.

Rehabilitation is very expensive: permits, food, medications, caging the list goes on. Your donation of $30.00 or more will entitle you to continue to receive our educational newsletter!

WCSC is a non - profit, all volunteer organization and all contributions are tax-deductible. # 77-0390358

THANK- YOU!!

$30.00 _____ $50.00 _____

$75.00 _____ $100.00 _____

$200.00 _____ $500.00 _____

$_____ Other Amount

Consider donating to wildlife as a gift, or in a trust for that wildlife fan in your life.

PLEASE MAIL TO:
Wildlife Care of So Cal
P.O. Box 941476
Simi Valley, CA 93065
or Paypal
www.wildlifecareofsocal.org

Biologists are discovering that many avian species rely on scent for feeding, breeding and other behaviors

"Birds paying attention to scent "radically alters our view of how and why birds behave,"

Hagelin says. "I suspect that birds use their noses in a variety of ways that we are only now beginning to understand. It didn't help that one of the greatest bird men of all—artist and ornithologist John James Audubon—himself claimed that birds could not smell. Audubon "proved" this in the 1820s in an experiment testing the ability of turkey vultures to follow their nostrils to carrion. The ornithologist concealed a rotten hog carcass under some brush. When no vultures came calling, he concluded they were incapable of detecting the carcass. (We now know that turkey vultures have a fine sense of smell, but they like their meat recently deceased, not reeking.)

Ideas about birds' sense of smell began to shift only in the 1960s, when physiologist Bernice Wenzel of the University of California–Los Angeles began focusing on the study of olfaction in birds. One of her early experiments—involved measuring the heart rates of pigeons while they were exposed to a stream of unscented air followed by air to which odor had been added. To Wenzel's surprise, the scented air made the pigeons' heart rates spike. More investigations followed, involving a range of bird species. Wenzel ultimately demonstrated that even birds with very small olfactory bulbs have the ability to smell. (The olfactory bulb is the part of a vertebrate brain that processes odors.)

Birds and Nesting, when to trim the trees

As early as February and into the spring and summer months, all birds, including migrant guests are nesting and having babies in our beautiful migrant state of California. They find nesting sites in the most peculiar of places...in depressions in the ground, parking lots, over grown grass fields, wood piles, dead branches, palm trees, hanging flower baskets, wreaths on doors, even bumpers of motor homes! And low and behold even in the trees. Anything that has been stationary for a while is up for grabs. Most birds, not unlike people pick nesting sites where they feel safe, next to water, food, and cover from the elements.

Unfortunately, in the spring people get spring fever and want to get out and manicure yards, trim trees, prune shrubs, clear brush, clean up property, and take the motor home on a trip ! ... Sheesh, what are we thinking !

All of the above are valuable nesting sites for an already threatened songbird population. They have adapted to urban pressures and structures and are changing their behaviors on where and what is a suitable and safe nesting site. By avoiding the nesting season altogether and doing our tree trimming and yard cleanup between November and February...before they nest ...we can help these aerial beauties and valuable members of society in raising their offspring.

Birds conceal their nests carefully and will not be visible by the casual glance; but some birds give obvious clues to their presence and activity, if you know what to look for.

1) Under trees look on the ground for concentrations of white-colored droppings, or pellets (owl castings) then check the branches and vegetation above; as you walk through an area, look for birds flying in and out of vegetation close to you and intensely scolding you, possibly diving at you; a sure sign they are nesting and have a family there.
2) Sit patiently and watch for birds that may be bringing nesting material or food repeatedly to one place.
3) Hire a reputable tree company to inspect the tree for active nests before signing any contract..they should do this free of charge and then if active bird nests are found secure the company for future trimming, when the babies have fledged.

For The Love And Safety of Birds

Assisting Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Babies

Unlike human babies, wild babies are not constantly watched by their parents and spend large amounts of time alone. In many cases, wild babies should be left alone. In the event you do find a baby bird unless you know that the parents have been killed or it is obvious that the baby is injured, observe the animal and the area from a distance to make absolutely sure the parents are not around before you intervene. Each year, especially during springtime, we get many calls from well-meaning and caring individuals who assume they have found an orphaned baby bird. They may have come across a bird that is partially feathered sitting on the ground below a tree and automatically assume that they fell from the nest and need to be helped. At this stage in a bird's development, such birds are considered "fledglings". Fledglings normally will jump or fall out of the nest. This is their flight training stage. The mother bird will then continue feeding the bird on the ground until the bird is able to fly, which usually only takes a few days, these fledgling birds should be left where they are, and dogs, cats, and people kept away. (This does not apply to crows. They are raised completely in the trees and need to be off of the ground,for their parents to continue to care for them.) If the baby is naked or has pin feathers, although we now know birds have a sense of smell they still will not mind if you place that baby back in the nest. Once the baby is removed from the area and transported to a local veterinarian, animal control or a rehabilitator, the resources available to us to return that baby, if he is healthy are limited.

All animals, except young babies, will perceive the human rescuer as a predator and will suffer considerable stress during the rescue process. Keep talking and noise to a minimum while you are handling them. Small birds and mammals may be handled by gently cupping in your hands or throwing a light towel (hand or dishtowel) over them. If the bird is stressed by your approach, the towel can be held in front f you as a cover until it is thrown over the animal. Once the animal is in the dark and remains there, it will calm down.

1. **Keep the animal warm, covered, and in dark quiet surroundings.** Give a baby mammal several T-shirts, towels, or an old sheet to hide in. For an injured animal or a baby without feathers / fur, or a cold animal, place a small jar or zip lock bag filled with warm water and wrapped in several layers of socks inside the box, beside it. The layered materials will quickly create a warm environment. If a heating pad is used, it should be placed so that it is only half under the animal (so that if it overheats the animal can get away from the heat source).
2. **Handle the animal as little as possible.** Do not disturb it or repeatedly uncover and check on it. If you must handle it, all movements should be performed slowly. Try to cover the animal before attempting to pick it up. Do not feed unless instructed to by a rehabilitator and never force an animal to eat.

It is illegal in the state of California to:

1. **Trap or kill native wild animals** unless you have a permit from your local animal warden, a fishing or hunting license and are complying with those laws, or have been given a permit from the US Department of Agriculture APHIS-ADC (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Damage Control) to eradicate a nuisance animal population.
2. **Keep native wild animals as pets.** This applies to mammals and birds, although reptiles up to five per species are exempted (we still discourage collection of native reptiles). Non-releasable animals may be kept for educational purposes under restrictive permits issued by the State and either the US Department of Agriculture(mammals) or US Fish & Wildlife Service (birds).
3. **Rehabilitate wild animals without a license.** The license must be issued by your local State Department of Fish and Game, and in addition, to rehabilitate birds a license must be issued by US Fish & Wildlife Service.
4. **Release any wild animal into the wild except through a licensed rehabilitator;** release any exotic animal into the wild. (An exotic is a non-native species such as a ferret, prairie dog, sugar glider, non-native reptile, or exotic bird. Sale, purchase, and ownership of exotics are governed both by the State and local jurisdictions.
5. **To Disturb an active nest with eggs or babies.** You must wait until the birds have left the nest before removal.

State and Federal Laws Protecting all Native Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act:
(MBTA) is one of the nation's oldest environmental laws passed in 1918, states it is unlawful "by any means or manner to pursue, hunt, take, capture, collect any migratory bird or any part, nest or egg of any migratory bird(or) kill" any migratory birds except as permitted by regulations issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Migratory birds are birds that include all native birds in the United States, with a few exceptions. https://www.fws.gov/policy/m0208.pdf

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other federal laws protect native and migratory birds, their eggs, and breeding grounds. Although these laws are complex, we interpret them simply to mean that birds and their eggs must not be disturbed unless the birds are orphaned or injured.

Wildlife Care of So Cal
A Wild Animal Rehabilitation and Release Organization
PO Box 941476 Simi Valley, Ca. 93065

SAY NO TO POISON --

Don't go for the bait... it's killing our wildlife.

Individuals are

KEEPING IT WILD

by making a difference at home.

Newsletter **Spring 2016**

Wildlife Care of So Cal

WCSC (formerly Wildlife Care of Ventura County) was founded in 1994 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) all volunteer organization, which holds permits through the City of Simi Valley, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife and US Department of Agriculture.

Our organization is permitted to rehabilitate all native wildlife; with the exception of bear, mountain lion, and deer. Our volunteers specialize in one or more species, and operate as a team of dedicated, and highly trained individuals. We work very closely with veterinarians who provide medical care, x-rays, surgery and humane euthanasia when necessary. Beyond the immediate benefits of helping wildlife in need, WCSC provides a valuable service to the entire community by making help accessible to those who find wildlife in distress, and educating the public on living with our wild neighbors.

Director, Anna Reams
P.O. Box 941476
Simi Valley Ca, 93065
Information Hotline 805-581-3911
www.wildlifecareofsocal.org
Wildlife Care of Southern California/Facebook
Southern California Protecting and Outsmarting Wildlife in your Backyard/Facebook

Our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and release, wildlife as well as educate the public on how to coexist with our wild neighbors.