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

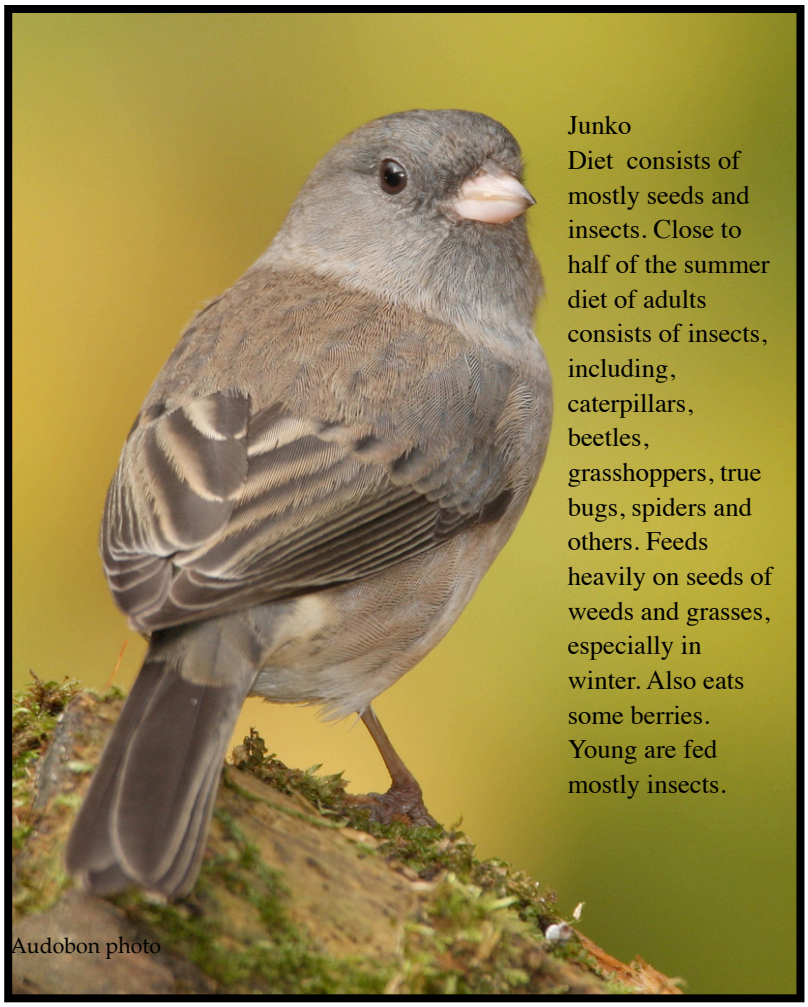
Wildlife Care of So Cal

A Wild Animal Rehabilitation and Release Organization

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

Spring 2017

Please Help Us Continue to Care for California Wildlife.



Junko
Diet consists of mostly seeds and insects. Close to half of the summer diet of adults consists of insects, including, caterpillars, beetles, grasshoppers, true bugs, spiders and others. Feeds heavily on seeds of weeds and grasses, especially in winter. Also eats some berries. Young are fed mostly insects.

Audobon photo

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.

In loving Memory of Junko or June as we all fondly refer to her, June passed away on Feb 3 2017. She has been a member of this wildlife team for over 10 years and her support has been invaluable to the wildlife who have passed through our hands. Sustainabilility comes in many forms and with so many charities needing support it is a special person who is committed and can donate to a cause that they can't touch, hold or even visit for the most part, that is the true definition of altruism. Donating to wildlife is about having a physical emotional attachement to the environment and nature and giving something back to the animals that call her home. We would send June a picture of one of our ambassador animals every Christmas with another huge thank you which immediately she shared at her senior center and then hung on her stair wall. In her return letter she wrote,

"I feel very proud that I am able to help the precious animals that come into your care" with Love June.

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!

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

THANK- YOU!!

$30.00 _____ **$50.00** _____

$75.00 _____ **$100.00** _____

$200.00 _____ **$500.00** _____

$_____ **Other Amount**

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

PLEASE MAIL TO:
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Simi Valley, CA 93065
or Paypal
www.wildlifecareofsocal.org

Conservation Begins at Home

With the devastating loss of natural habitat and urban sprawl, our back yards have become habitat and an oasis to many species of wild animals, not just birds anymore. The wildlife that we intentionally invite in and those that we don't. Most of us have backyard bird feeders and enjoy the delicate nature and antics of these little songbirds and hummers. Did you know that migrating hummingbirds and songbirds have specific yards (rest stops) that they depend on that offer critical sustenance on their migration routes, very similar to humans who use rest stops on their trips.

Birds and mammals have to forage in many different locations for a variety of natural foods – nuts, seeds, berries, insects and for the carnivores, rodents, rabbits and squirrels that will balance their diet. This foraging protects them from disease and predators by not creating larger than normal congregations in any one area, or on a regular basis, thus not being so predictable to a potential predator.

A yard that offers natural vegetation,water and shrubs to hide in is seasonal, so the birds and mammals are forced into moving on and finding new foraging spots. All of these animals play a vital role within our ecosystem.

California has a huge responsibility, humans and wildlife can have a symbiotic relationship. With all the invitations we extend to the wild world comes a responsibility which involves but is not limited to weekly cleaning of feeders to prevent the transfer of disease, planting native shrubs and bushes that offer safety, seasonal berries and nectar, not using poison for bugs or rodents, both of which can kill everything from hummingbirds and songbirds who dine on the insects to bobcats, coyotes or pets who dine on the rodents. Being vigilant on habitat safety includes keeping our small pets safe, lest they become easy prey or hungry predators. Perimeter fencing,walls and city limits offer us a false sense of security when it comes to hungry adaptable wildlife.

Our back yards can be a window to a place of natural wonder for our enjoyment and a well deserved retreat from a busy world... and contribute to the survival of our native wildlife, which have been forced into co-habitation with us and can be of great benefit...if we just let them.

Food for thought and fact ...When it comes to which animals we want to share our yards with we cannot be selective, we do not get that luxury. By feeding one specie we are inadvertently inviting the rest of the animal kingdom in as well.

Let nature take its course ... "Just not in my backyard"

Animal proofing and being pro active are fast becoming the preferred method of wildlife control. Unlike trapping and the use of poisons, animal proofing is a safe and effective solution to human / wildlife conflicts. By being proactive and eliminating the attractions that bring the animals to your home in the first place. You can condition (essentially train) the animals to stay away.

Example

A homeowner has been feeding ducks that have been visiting his property since the fall. However, it's now spring and the ducks are seeking out nesting sites and soon there will be baby ducklings under foot and swimming in the pool. He originally conditioned (or trained them) to return to his property for food by feeding them; now he must recondition them if he wants the behavior to stop.

Example

A coyote has been frequenting a particular neighborhood at night, catching mice, eating carrion, missing cat signs are going up. Then someone spots him during daylight hours and makes a hasty retreat into the house.

The coyote's behavior is being inadvertently positively reinforced by the food he is finding, and by the human's hasty retreat, he learns he has nothing to fear and a bonus ...he has found a great hunting ground. Why should he change his behavior? Unless you change it for him.

- Identify what is attracting the animal to the property or the neighborhood.
- Have props ready to scare him off (horns, hose with a power nozzle)
- Yell and scream at him Do not stop this behavior until he runs off
- Coyotes by nature are timid and scare easily
- If you are having trouble most likely so are your neighbors, its a community problem.
- By doing nothing the situation will not correct it's self.
- "In the animal world it's all about territories and behavior, not much different than our own world"

URBAN COYOTE / WILDLIFE PROJECT

Our mission is to educate people on the behaviors of urban wildlife and how to live with them.

To schedule a talk ..see insert

Rehabilitators are a special breed of human, on call 24/7, feeding all hours of the day and night, rescuing, transporting, fielding phone calls and all year long educating people on situations that involve wildlife they come into contact with. We do this with confidence and know how because of the many hours and years of training and experiences that we have under our belts. But what we can't do is perform miracles...the ultimate hair pulling heart breaking moment is when an animal dies because we didn't get it soon enough because the finders were thinking they knew what was best.

Our own dedicated hummingbird specialist writes:

A Hummingbird Death that could have been avoided

The finder who rescued this fledgling found him on the ground, a common occurrence and is not unusual, fledgling hummers often end up on the ground in their maiden flight. It doesn't mean they need to be rescued. The difference between life and death depends on the finder's next move.

These finders knew there were specialists out there,but they decided to keep the little bird because he was eating the sugar water and he was so cute. They kept him and he flew around inside their house for 2 weeks, he sat in their hand and he was doing fine. Until he stopped eating, his body temperature dropped and the little guy went into a deep torpor because he was not getting the needed nutrients to sustain motion or life ...he was dying. That's when I got the call. They were hoping that I could wave my magic wand and bring him back to life. They told me they had found the little fledgling motionlesss on the floor... For two weeks he was only fed sugar water, a food source which only makes up 15% of a their daily diet, they require proteins and other nutrients to survive. If a rehabilitator had been called immediatly they would have asked very pertinent questions and this baby could have been reunited with his mom, instead of him dieing on someones kitchen floor.

It the state of California it is illegal 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. **To disturb an active nest with eggs or babies.**You must wait until the birds haveleft the nest before removal. This is also a federal vilolation.

As always if you happen upon an injured wild animal or orphaned baby, first off make sure they are actually orphaned before you intervene, then follow the guide lines below. Stress is the biggest killer of wildlife found by the general public and, with a little knowledge the easiest to avoid,.

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. Do not talk,it can be stressful for wild animals. These are not pets.

State and Federal Laws Protecting all Native Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act:
Protects 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. 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

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SAY NO TO POISON --

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

Newsletter **Spring 2017**

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 805-428-7105
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Wildlife Care of Southern California/Facebook

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