

Stanislaus Flyer

Winter

Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center

2021

The Mission of SWCC is to promote respect for wildlife and increase the public's awareness of the importance of preserving wildlife through the care of injured and orphaned California native wild animals and community education.

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SWCC Staff

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Executive Director | Cindy Manning |
| Assistant Director | Donna Burt |
| Animal Care Manager | Veronica Sandow |
| Animal Care Coordinators | Duane Dahl Alyssa Washburn Sierra Mathiesen |

Board of Directors

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Creature Feature

Pileated Woodpecker



Pileated Woodpecker

Donna Burt

By Janice Lookabaugh

What bird looks like it has a red Mohawk haircut? It is a pileated woodpecker, of course!

On June 12, 2020, the SWCC received two baby pileated woodpeckers. They were the biggest baby woodpeckers we have ever had. Unfortunately, the male bird died, but the female grew into a wonderful adult.

Pileated woodpeckers are large, about 17 inches from beak to tail, and mostly black with a red crest and a white stripe on the neck. Their underwings are white. The forehead and mustache are red on males and black on females.

Pileated woodpeckers prefer dense mature forests. They live in the southeastern US, the east coast, and southern Canada. In California, they also live in the San Joaquin Valley and around Malibu.

Their numbers declined in the 18th and 19th centuries with the clearing of eastern forests. Since about 1900, there has been a gradual comeback, becoming common again in some areas. They may be adapting to second-growth woods and to the proximity of humans. However, they occur in low density, with fewer than about six pairs per square mile.

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New Squirrels

By Donna Burt

We have three new resident animals, a male Eastern fox squirrel, Rambo, and two female Western gray squirrels; Desdemona and Sandy. All were illegal pets.

Rambo and Desdemona are the best of friends. They would love to raise a family if they weren't different species.

Sandy is extremely socialized, which makes her more difficult to handle. Desdemona and Rambo tend to stay inside their nesting boxes, or at least stay up in the branches while we are in the cage cleaning and feeding. Sandy is another story.

She wants food, and she knows we have it. She jumps on people and sometimes bites. Therefore, we have a small wire box hung on the door with an opening we can close from the outside. It is one of Sandy's favorite places. That's where she gets walnuts. While she is happily eating a walnut, we can safely enter the cage.

Before we can move these squirrels to the display building, we have to hang wire walls for them to climb on, and pour a concrete floor.

We are using this as an opportunity to renovate all the cages in that building. The dirt floors are being replaced with new, fresh sand. And all the perches are being renovated or replaced. The animals should be back on display later this spring.



Desdemona hiding under her tail.

Donna Burt



Sandy in her safety box.

Donna Burt



Rambo taking a break.

Donna Burt

Supplies We Need

- Paper Towels
- Scrub Brushes
- Puppy Pads
- 13 gal plastic garbage bags
- Dishwashing Gloves (S & M)
- Visit our Amazon Wish List for other ideas.

Volunteers & Money

New Birds

By Donna Burt

We have a few new residents in our gazebo, or songbird display aviary. They have joined the other non-releasable small birds living in the gazebo.

Feel free to come by and say hello.

Because the display building is still undergoing renovations, and the lobby is closed to the public, these are the only animals we have on display at the moment.



Cedar Waxwing

Veronica Sandow



Fox Sparrow

Donna Burt

\$14,000 Grant

By Donna Burt

The SWCC applied for a grant for \$5,600 to build another display aviary on the front lawn. We received \$14,000!

It had to be a mistake, so I contacted the granting agency. No mistake.

The California State tax form has a voluntary donation program. You can donate to the group of your choice while paying your taxes. One of the options is wildlife rehabilitation. This program is managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Qualifying wildlife rehabilitation centers can apply for grants through this program depending upon the number of animals received each year. The SWCC qualified for grants up to \$14,000. Because of the pandemic, each qualifying center was granted the maximum amount, as long as they had qualifying projects to spend the money on.

We plan to build caging for squirrels and rabbits, do renovations and improvements on our songbird cages, and build a new songbird display aviary.

We have several new songbirds waiting to move to the new aviary.

Next year, they plan to make the granting more competitive. We are already thinking of projects to benefit the SWCC. Please, continue to donate with your taxes. It does make a difference.



White-Crowned Sparrow

Donna Burt

Native Plants

By Candy Klaschus

A couple of months ago, Donna Burt and I talked about the gardens. She mentioned the center wanted to replace the existing plants with California native varieties. I said I know Jim Brugger, the North San Joaquin Valley California native plant society's director. She asked me to contact him. Jim kindly looked at the flower garden next to the building and the shady glade by the parking lot.

He had many great suggestions for plants for those spaces.

I used Jim's list to order plants from Inter-mountain Nursery. Although most plants are best planted in full sun, Jim noted ones likely to do well in the shade. I picked plants of various heights and colors, and some that bloom at different times—spring through summer, or summer into fall.

I chose ceanothus, coyote brush, coral bells, and hummingbird sage. The sunnier garden will have two varieties of buckwheat, penstemon, sage, and several different Fuchsia varieties.

Donna has done an excellent job of setting up irrigations for all the gardens, so water will not be a problem. After native plants are established, they need little water, and it will be easy enough to check on them throughout the year.

They also attract many types of pollinators, so the bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds will be kept happy. As with any new project, it's possible—even probable—that some of the plants will not make it, but that's part of the fun. So be prepared for a very different look to our gardens in the coming year.



2020 Intake Statistics

By Cindy Manning

In 2020, we admitted 2371 animals of 154 different species. That is seven percent more than last year and the most we have ever cared for in one year.

The number of birds and mammals both increased by eight percent. The number of reptiles decreased forty-six percent. We don't get many reptiles and amphibians, so a small change makes for a large percentage.

The most commonly admitted mammals were Virginia opossums (119) and rodents; squirrels, rats, mice, voles, and gophers (68). Northern raccoons increased by eighteen percent, and rabbits increased by forty-six percent. We received eleven skunks, which is more than usual. We also received 2 bobcats, which we hardly ever get.

Our survival rates were good in 2020. Unfortunately, some of the animals we receive so badly injured that we do not attempt to save them. They are not counted in the statistics.

Fifty-nine percent of the birds we cared for were released. That is slightly less than last year.

Seventy-three percent of the mammals were released. That is six percent higher than last year.

I've separated birds into Songbirds, Raptors, and Waterbirds. Intake of raptors (hawks, owls, falcons) increased by twenty-five percent. Waterbirds (ducks, geese, gulls, and wading birds - egrets, herons, sandpipers) decreased by seven percent. Intake of songbirds (doves, woodpeckers, swallows, sparrows, finches, mocking birds, robins, crows, raven, jays, etc.) increased by six percent.

I've separated mammals into Carnivores, Rodents and Rabbits, Marsupials, and Miscellaneous. Carnivores (raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat) increased by sixteen percent. Rodents and rabbits (jackrabbits, cottontails, squirrels, mice, rats, etc.) increased by four percent. Opossums decreased by one percent. And misc. mammals (deer, bats, exotics) increased by forty-five percent.

| | 2020 | | 2019 | | 2018 | | 2017 |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | Number Admitted | Change from previous year | Number Admitted | Change from previous year | Number Admitted | Change from previous year | Number Admitted |
| Birds | 1944 | 8% | 1791 | 4% | 1716 | -7% | 1847 |
| Mammals | 402 | 8% | 369 | 3% | 357 | 6% | 337 |
| Reptiles | 20 | -46% | 37 | -20% | 46 | 35% | 30 |
| Amphibians | 5 | | 0 | | 0 | | 3 |
| Total Intake | 2371 | 7% | 2197 | 4% | 2119 | -4% | 2217 |
| Birds | | | | | | | |
| Raptors | 343 | 25% | 257 | -19% | 319 | -7% | 342 |
| Waterbirds | 221 | -7% | 238 | 16% | 200 | 3% | 194 |
| Songbirds | 1380 | 6% | 1296 | 8% | 1197 | -9% | 1311 |
| Mammals | | | | | | | |
| Carnivores | 105 | 16% | 88 | -4% | 92 | -4% | 96 |
| Rodents & Rabbits | 156 | 4% | 149 | 25% | 112 | 13% | 98 |
| Opossums | 119 | -1% | 120 | -11% | 135 | 7% | 125 |
| Deer, Bats, Misc. | 22 | 45% | 12 | -33% | 18 | 0% | 18 |

Pileated Woodpecker continued from page 1.

Pileated woodpeckers prefer to eat carpenter ants. Other ants, insects, fruits, berries, and nuts are also in their diet. They carve distinctive oval or rectangular holes hunting for ants in trees.

They use their bills to drill holes in the trees and use their long tongues to get and manipulate the food. Their tongue is almost three times longer than their beak. It has a barbed, sticky tip and tiny muscles that allow the woodpecker to bend the end in any direction.

Why is this woodpecker currently a guest at the center? She was found on a logging truck as a nestling several hours after the truck left the area. She was taken to another rehab facility first, then transferred to us because we have the resources and cages appropriate for woodpeckers.

Unfortunately, although she was ready to be released some time ago, wildfires burned the area she came from. We worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the best place to release her.

Pecking puts a lot of force on a woodpecker's brain, but woodpeckers are well adapted for that. They don't get concussions from all that pecking because their brains are packed tightly inside their skull. With little space to move around, the brain is unlikely to get bruised. Also, thick, spongy bone surrounds their brains, which helps absorb and lessen the impact. The third inner eyelid, or nictitating membrane, helps prevent the eyeball from popping out when the bird hammers on objects.

We enjoyed watching her antics; pecking at the tree branches, scavenging for ants, and her almost constant calling. We are happy to report that she was released near Mariposa on December 30, 2020.

R.I. P. Oreo

By Janice Lookabaugh

We are sad to report that Oreo, our king snake, died in October. Oreo came to the center in January 2005 as an adult, after being mauled by a cat. When she died, she was at least 20 years old. She had arthritis and a respiratory infection.

According to the San Diego Zoo, king snakes can live 20 to 30 years in captivity. After recovering from her wounds from the cat mauling, we released Oreo at the Fox Grove Fishing Access near the center. A few days later, she was found at the center's doorstep, so we decided to make the SWCC her permanent home.

Oreo went on many educational programs where thousands of children saw her. She lived in the lobby, where visitors could see her. She was a great ambassador for her species and will be greatly missed. Our hope is that at least one person will be less afraid of snakes and learns to appreciate their beauty because of Oreo.



Oreo

Donna Burt

**DONATE YOUR CAR,
TRUCK OR BOAT**

*It's
Easy*



**Tax Receipt Given
Not running OK
FREE PICK UP
Call 877-411-3662**

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Open an Amazon Smile account and designate the SWCC as your charity. It's the same as a regular Amazon account except they donate a percentage of each purchase to us.

You don't pay anything extra, but we get some, much-needed money

Baby Animal Shower Thank You

By Donna Burt

Because of Covid-19, we don't know if we can hold our Baby Animal Shower this year. Last year we made several videos and used them to put on a week-long video event. We also set up a gift drop-off in our parking lot. Everyone was so generous that we made as much money as we usually do at the Baby Animal Shower.

We would love to see you all, have BBQ, sundaes, raffle, and bring out all our resident animals. The event is a tremendous amount of work, but it is also a lot of fun.

It all depends upon the pandemic.

We will post updates on our website and on Facebook.

By Cindy Manning

A big (really big) thank you to Jane Tarabek and Karen Yingling for donating a 2004 RV and designating us as the recipient.

We received almost \$12,000 from the donation, which helped tremendously this fall.

If you are interested in donating a vehicle, call 877-411-3662 or go to our website StanislausWildlife.org.

Click on the icon of the dog in a box, which is on the lower right of the page. Charitable Adult Rides and Services (CARS) will pick up the vehicle for you and handle all the paperwork.

Moving??

If your address changes, please let us know. Send in the membership form or email: SWCCenter@StanislausWildlife.org

Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____ Phone() _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

____ Please send my receipt via email

___ New Membership ___ Membership Renewal ___ General Donation ___ Restricted Donation

___ \$20 Individual ___ \$30 Family ___ \$50 Grantor ___ \$100 Sustaining ___ \$500 Contributor ___ \$1000 Donor Other \$ _____

If you do not need a receipt, please check here _____. You'll save the SWCC the price of a stamp. Thank you!

All donations are tax deductible and gratefully accepted. Please consult your tax advisor.

Make checks payable to: SWCC, P.O. Box 298, Hughson, CA 95326 - THANK YOU!

Please email SWCCenter@StanislausWildlife.org if you would like to volunteer.

The SWCC does not sell or give addresses to anyone!

Summer 2020

Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center
P.O. Box 298
Hughson, CA
95326 209-883-9414
SWCCenter@stanislauswildlife.org
www.stanislauswildlife.org

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Desdemona and Rambo in their nesting box.