

# Stanislaus Flyer

Spring

Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center

2020

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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Assistant Director	Donna Burt
Animal Care Manager	Veronica Sandow
Animal Care Coordinators	Duane Dahl CeCe Hurst Samantha DeKasha

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## Creature Feature

### Mourning Dove

By Nancy Haydock

Doves are one of the most commonly admitted animals at the SWCC. They represent 12% of our admissions, around 250 birds each year. About half are native mourning doves, the other half are introduced Eurasian collared doves.

Most of the doves admitted are babies. Doves build rather flimsy nests, and the babies fall out easily. The rest of the doves are adults who have collided with a car or window or have been mauled by a house cat. Besides broken bones and internal injuries, a common injury is a torn crop.

Seeds make up ninety-nine percent of the mourning dove's diet. They forage on the ground until their crops are bulging, then they rest until the meal is digested. A full crop is enormous and easily injured. Doves come in with gaping rips in their necks and seeds falling out. Although the wounds look appalling, if they are fresh, they usually heal rather well when sutured properly.

The mourning dove, *Zenaidura macroura*, is a member of the dove family, Columbidae. It is also known as the American mourning dove or rain dove. They live in open grasslands with scattered trees. They are also a game bird, and about twenty million are shot annually in the U.S. for sport and meat. They are prolific breeders and able to sustain this loss. In warm areas, one pair may raise six broods of two young in a year.

Mourning doves are about twelve inches in length with a rounded head. The tail is long and tapered with white tips. The legs are short and pinkish. Their feet have three toes forward and one pointing back. The brownish-black beak is short. Feathers are delicate brown to buffy-tan with black spots on the wings and black.

They fly fast with powerful wingbeats making sudden ascents, descents, and turns. The wings make an unusual whistling sound during take-off and landing.



Mourning Dove

Veronica Sandow

Continued on page 3

# Eurasian Collared Dove

By Donna Burt

When I started the SWCC back in 1984, I had never heard of Eurasian collared doves. Today, about half of all the doves we admit are Eurasian collared doves, *Streptopelia decaocto*.

Collared doves were introduced to the Bahamas as pets in the 1970s. Some escaped, bred, and made their way to Florida. The first Eurasian collard dove in North America was seen near Miami in 1982. Today they can be found all over North America.

Although Eurasian collared doves look and act a lot like our native mourning doves, they are not closely related.

The Eurasian collared dove is native to Europe and Asia, as its name implies.

Collared doves are somewhat bigger than mourning doves. They have a partial ring around the back of their necks, and they lack the dark spots that mourning doves have on their backs. They are also more likely to be found in disturbed or developed habitats than mourning doves.

Usually, introduced species cause havoc when they invade new areas, but the jury is still out on the collared dove. According to researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the population of mourning doves remains constant even when collared doves invade an area.

Collared doves carry both trichomoniasis and paramyxovirus. They may be responsible for spreading those diseases to other birds. In the case of trich, infected birds have difficulty swallowing seeds. They pick



Eurasian Collared Doves

Donna Burt.

them up and then drop them. When other birds pick up the seeds, they can become infected. Also, hawks and owls that eat infected doves can get trich.

There is a difference in the calls of mourning doves and collared doves, although it is somewhat difficult to explain in writing.

Mourning doves have a soft cooOOoo. The middle OO goes up in pitch. The oo at the end goes back down and may be repeated. The collared doves sound more like goo-GOO-goo. The middle is louder, but the entire call tends to stay on the same pitch and be a little faster than mourning doves.

At the SWCC, we treat the collared doves in the same way we treat mourning doves, care for them, and release where found. Always keeping them isolated from non-doves.

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## Welcome Phil McKay

By Donna Burt

Phil McKay was a founding member of the SWCC and the first president of the board. He left to become a California Department of Fish and Wildlife game warden. Now retired, he has once again joined the board of directors.

So far, he has helped by carting off the remains of the ancient songbird aviaries that we demolished because they were structurally unsound and unsafe.

Thank you, Phil.

\*\*\*



Eurasian Collared Dove

Veronica Sandow

**Mourning Dove continued from page 1**

Newly hatched babies are helpless with closed eyes and they are sparsely covered with down. Mourning dove babies are almost identical in appearance to Eurasian collared doves. But they do have one difference. Eurasian collared doves have yellow down and mourning doves have gray down.

While most birds feed their newly hatched babies insects or other food items, doves, along with pigeons, feed their newly hatched babies a secretion called 'milk' from special glands in their crop. It is not the same as milk from cows or other mammals. After a few days, the 'milk' is supplemented with seeds. The babies do not gape, like most songbirds such as robins or finches. Instead, the baby puts its beak inside the mouth of the parent bird and eats the 'milk' and seeds. Since the babies won't voluntarily open their mouths, we have to open the mouth and syringe diet into the crop.

The mourning dove's coo sounds sad as if they are in mourning, as their name suggests. The call is used to claim territory and find a mate. Pairs often nibble each other, bob heads, and coo in unison. Doves begin to breed in early March and continue into late fall.

Doves and pigeons carry a disease call trichomoniasis or trich for short. It is caused by a protozoon called *Trichomonas gallinae*, not to be confused with *Trichomonas vaginalis*, which causes a sexually transmitted disease in humans. Bird trich causes large masses of tissue, called



Mourning Dove

Donna Burt

plaques, to grow in the mouth and nasal cavities, preventing the birds from eating. The disease is highly contagious. Pigeons and doves can be asymptomatic carriers. They can have trich but appear healthy. Or they can suffer from it for a long time before eventually dying. It is treatable if not too far advanced.

However, many songbirds, especially house finches, can die from trich before they have any noticeable symptoms. To prevent the spread of this disease within our crowded baby bird room, we do not keep doves at the SWCC. All doves go into homecare while they are being hand-fed. Once they are self-feeding, we house them in aviaries that are separate from our songbird complex.

\*\*\*

## 2019 Financial Statement

**Income**

Interest	\$81
Taxable Sales	\$1,164
Direct Public Support	\$91,213
Direct Mail Solicitation	\$37,882
Indirect Public Support	\$9,376
Outreach	\$1,773
Special Events Income	\$9,085
Reimbursements/Insurance Payment	\$2,219
Restricted Funds Income	\$3,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$155,793</b>

**Expenses**

Cost of Goods Sold	\$910
Raptor Complex	\$110,233
Gardening Shed + Shelving	\$3,164
Major Equipment	\$2,181
Repairs & Improvements	\$14,345
Utilities	\$7,043
Animal Care Expenses	\$20,803
Business/General Expenses	\$4,636
General Supplies	\$11,925
Telephone/Internet	\$2,991
Insurance	\$4,907
Postage, Printing, & Fundraising	\$10,064
Labor	\$84,116
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$276,409</b>
Expenses Minus Raptor Complex	\$166,176
<b>Profit/Loss (Minus Raptor Complex)</b>	<b>-\$10,383</b>

If you simply subtract the total income from the total expenses, it looks as if we are over \$120,000 in the hole. However, most of that was spent to build the raptor complex. Money for that project was acquired in 2018. Discounting the raptor complex expenses, we spent \$10,383 more than we earned.

We did have an unexpected \$6,000 bill for septic system repairs, and we purchased a much-needed shed to store our riding mower, other mowers, and landscaping equipment.

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### Supplies We Need

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

### Volunteers & Money



## 2019 \$1,000+ Donors

Michelle Barnard  
Marty Beltran-Miknus  
Angie Bosio  
Barbara Brady-Smith  
James & Karen Clarke  
Albert Dixon  
James Doherty

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## 2019 \$50 to \$999 Donors

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## 2019 \$50 to \$999 Donors Continued

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John Lee	Hugo Patino	Frank Schumacher	William & Angela Thayer
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Janet McWilliams	Nancy & Spencer Reynolds	Rose & Tracy Grainger Stillo	Dr Gary and Babette Wagner
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Thomas Meninga	Terry Richardson	Stephanie & Paula Martelli Stolte	Rod & Rena Webster
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Donor	Memorial/ In honor of	For
Mary Ann Strom	Memorial	Bryan Parker
Roy & Vicky Ellis	Memorial	Josephine Whitmore
Sunshine Club of Turlock	Memorial	Josephine Whitmore
Kathleen Barnett	Memorial	Ryker, peregrine falcon
John & Jonell Hassapakis	Memorial	Poppy, our Scottie
Charles & Cheryl Cline	Memorial	Paul Snider
Anna Stewart	In honor of	Anna's Birthday
Ken & Paula Blackshear	In honor of	Cindy's Retirement
Ken & Paula Blackshear	In honor of	Cindy's Birthday

# Baby Animal Shower

By *Cindy Manning*

It takes many months of hard work to make the Baby Animal Shower a success. We start planning for the next Baby Animal Shower a month or so after the last one.

Many months ahead of the event, I invite docents from the Stanislaus County Library to put on a puppet show. I also invite Rich & Sherry to come with their hot rod BBQ. And I apply for a raffle permit from the state. The invitations must be designed and to the printers long before the event so they can be mailed to arrive in time.

The most labor-intensive part of Baby Animal Shower is finding donations for our raffle. Committee members and other volunteers go into the community and ask for donations well in advance of the event. Last year we had over 60 prizes that people could bid for.

We also check out our tables, chairs, canopies, displays, and other equipment to make sure it is still in good working order, and we have enough. We have to order sundae supplies, owl pellets, game supplies, and so forth. And we have to check and replace the jesses and anklets our resident birds wear. We also take the opportunity to trim beaks and talons if needed. And of course, we order new tee shirts. It can take several weeks to get a tee shirt order printed, bagged, and ready to sell. This year we have a new design, so that takes even longer.

Parking is a recurring problem. The Fox Grove Fishing Access lot looks huge, but we always have more cars than there are spaces. We ask permission to open up other areas but still run out of space.

We apologize if you have difficulty finding a parking place. To make it easier for everyone, please, follow the directions of the parking attendants.

The week before the event is amazingly busy. Besides the increasing number of baby animals we receive, we clean every speck of the center, blowing debris off the parking lot, washing windows, knocking down spider webs, trimming bushes, sprucing up the lawns, weeding the gardens, and organizing equipment.

The day before the event, we put up the canopies, tables, and chairs. Sometimes it gets quite warm, so each year we try to increase the shaded areas and places to sit. Which means buying more canopies and chairs.

All employees and volunteers work Baby Animal Shower day. Some are out with the public, but a lot are behind the scenes caring for the animals and keeping everything working. Outside groups such as the Girl Scouts or school clubs also help with the event.

\*\*\*

***Please come to the Baby Animal Shower April 25, 2020!***



Golden Eagle

Veronica Sandow0

# Help! We Need a New Shed

By Donna Burt

It may be hard to get excited about a shed unless you have a lot of expensive equipment stacked on a rotten floor inside a rusty leaky shed with a door that doesn't work. Twenty years ago, our table and chair shed might have kept the rain, bugs, and mice out, but that time has long past.

To put on events like Baby Animal Shower, we have two dozen tables, and about sixty chairs, several 10' X 20' canopies, pop up canopies, ice chests, and all kinds of smaller supplies from ice cream sundae supplies to kid's games. That is a significant investment, but it is hard to keep it safe in a dilapidated shed.

Rather than buy another simple garden shed with a limited lifespan, we want to buy a prefab building like our storage shed. These prefab buildings are double walled and insulated. They have lockable doors and windows. When placed on a concrete pad, they are waterproof and long lasting.

Just piling the tables, chairs, canopies, and other supplies on the floor is inefficient, risks damage, and makes it hard to get the equipment in and out of the shed. So, we want to buy rolling trucks (that is what the heavy-duty rolling shelving units are called) to store the tables, chairs, canopies and other supplies.

And, we can roll the equipment out to the parking lot on the shelves instead of lugging each canopy, table, and box one at a time.

We would love to have someone fund this.

Building including tax, shipping, & labor	\$5,000
Concrete pad	\$3,200
Heavy duty rolling shelving 6 at \$300 each including tax and shipping	\$1,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>



Interior® Chair and Table Cart - Double Tier - Holds 42 Chairs and 8-10 Tables



Nexel® Chrome Wire Shelf Truck 60" W x 24" D x 69" H 1200 Lb. Capacity



**Help us turn this**

**into this**

## Moving??

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

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(    ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:SWCCenter@StanislausWildlife.org) if you would like to volunteer.

The SWCC does not sell or give addresses to anyone!

Spring 2020



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### ***Golden Eagle***

Our Golden Eagle, who tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in September, is progressing well. She is now beginning her pre-release conditioning while we wait for the results of the last WNV titer. That will show if there is any virus left in her system.

For the past couple of months, she has been reluctant to fly, at least when people were present, even though she can. She is now in the 100' long eagle aviary. Our team is now encouraging the bird to fly several times a day, and she is getting stronger. There doesn't appear to be any long-lasting neurological damage.

Thank you to Dr. Davis of the Monte Vista Small Animal Hospital and Cristen Langner of California Department of Fish and Wildlife for their work with this eagle.

### ***Douglas Squirrel***

The Douglas squirrel had to be overwintered because the weather in the release site was too cold by the time she was ready for release. To keep the squirrel from going *nuts*, we give her various forms of enrichment. Thanks to Lowe's, who donated their unsold Christmas trees, we were able to turn her cage into a veritable forest! The real

trees have encouraged material gathering, climbing on natural surfaces, and stashing food in novel places just like she would in the wild.

Douglas Squirrels are highly territorial, and this one is no exception. To prevent people from getting bit, we installed a sliding door to lock her into her nest box while we're cleaning the cage. It is her cage, and humans are not permitted.

### ***Flying Squirrels***

The flying squirrels are also doing fine. Being both nocturnal and non-aggressive, there is no problem cleaning their cage. We also filled their cage with unsold Christmas trees, which they investigate and use bits as nesting material.

Both the Douglas and flying squirrels will be released as soon as the high elevation weather permits. We will be sad to see these unique animals leave, but happy to know that they are free.

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*Updates by Veronica Sadow*