

Stanislaus Flyer

Summer

Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center

2022

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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Creature Feature Peregrine Update

By Dr. Doug Marks

Just before Thanksgiving 2021, a family from Dos Palos brought a female peregrine falcon with a broken leg to the SWCC. That was the same day my longtime friend, Doug Adair, the Executive Director of the Alabama Wildlife Center, suffered a heart attack and passed away. I named the peregrine Adair in his honor.

She was x-rayed at Monte Vista Small Animal Hospital by Dr. Chelsea Davis. The x-ray showed a minimally displaced fracture of her right tibiotarsus bone (the lower part of the leg, just



Dr. Marks and Dr. Davis Veronica Sandow



Adair's X-Ray .

Monte Vista Small
Animal Hospital

above the toes) and a fractured right hand. The hand is the last part of the wing where the longest feathers attach. The wing fracture was stable and would heal without help, but the leg required surgery.

On December 2, 2021, Dr. Davis and I inserted small stainless steel pins through the broken bones to stabilize the fracture. The pins were held in place with epoxy cement. (See picture)

Adair recovered well from the surgery.

By mid-February, her x-rays looked quite good. The leg had healed nicely. On February 16, 2022, we sedated Adair. Dr. Davis and I removed the pins. She woke up without a problem. Later that day, she used the repaired leg to stand on while eating.

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Baby Animal Shower

By Janice Lookabaugh

The Baby Animal Shower showcases the important work we do. It has traditionally been an in-person event. Because of safety concerns during the past two years, we found creative ways to host the event using zoom presentations and videos. Fortunately, we were able to host an in-person event this year!

Between April and August, hundreds of baby birds are brought to the center every month. These birds must be fed every thirty minutes with a variety of foods, such as baby bird formula, crickets, and mealworms. It's one of the main things we do this time of year.

Those who attended the Baby Animal Shower watched a few of our baby birds being fed.

This time of year, there are up to one hundred babies in the baby bird room. Feeding them is messy, noisy, and painstaking but fulfilling. They squawk and chirp when hungry, making quite a racket. After they are all full, they quiet down. Opossums, raccoons, squirrels, and foxes must also be hand-fed several times a day.



Veronica Sandow with Athena a Great-Horned Owl Alyssa Sandoval

Kids' activities included face painting, rock painting, and other crafts.

Over thirty items had been donated for the raffle and silent auction. So many people bought tickets that we ran out of tickets.

Many thanks to the donors of the raffle and auction items. A big thank you to those who brought paper towels, laundry soap, dishwashing soap, gloves, etc., and to those who donated cash. We also want to thank everyone who shipped us items from our Amazon wish list.

The SWCC is only funded by generous people like you. Your support is very much appreciated!

We hope everyone who attended had a really great time. For those who couldn't make it, keep a lookout for next year's event.



Baby Bird Feeding

Alyssa Sandoval

Presentations featuring our non-releasable residents, including owls, snakes, ravens, crows, and squirrels, ran all day long.

All of our resident animals have disabilities that make them unsuitable for release. Some of the residents can be viewed from the front lawn. Others live in the back, where they act as foster parents.

Dissecting owl pellets is one of the more popular activities. After eating mice and other rodents, owls regurgitate the undigestible parts in a pellet. It contains the bones and fur of the animals they ate. Visitors carefully pulled the pellets apart to find the bones and try and determine what animals the owl had eaten.

Sherry Gomes brought her unique hot rod BBQ and cooked tri-tip and hot dogs. We also sold ice cream sundaes, chips, and sodas.



Owl Pellet Dissection

Alyssa Sandoval

Cindy Woolf Anderson Lauritsen Aviary

By Donna Burt

Back in late 2021, Steve Lauritsen asked if he could build an aviary in the front yard in his wife's name because his wife was quite ill. There wasn't time or manpower to immediately do this project. But I thought his reason for building the cage was so loving that I reluctantly said yes, hoping he would be patient and understanding. I just couldn't make this happen quickly.

We had already planned and funded more winter projects than we had time to do. Since all of those projects involved much-needed repairs or upgrades to pre-release caging and the laundry building, they had to take precedence.

Before we could build the aviary, we had to level the ground and have a concrete slab poured and covered with ceramic tile. Before doing that, we had to move the water faucet to make way for the slab.

We started by digging down next to the existing faucet. The pipes were embedded in a mass of tree roots. After several days of using saws, hatchets, and picks, we gave up. We dug holes where we thought the water supply line might be - lots of holes - for several days. Once we found the line, we relocated the faucet and stubbed out irrigation lines.

The aviary was the easiest part of the project. We ordered it from Corners Limited in Kalamazoo, MI, the same company that supplies our aviaries. The aviary arrived in a few weeks and was assembled in one day.



Cindy Woolf Anderson Lauritsen Aviary Donna Burt

The aviary is in a beautiful location under a large tree. However, it is still not in use.

By the time we finished, the busy season had started. We will have to wait until fall to run water into the aviary and then add screening, perches, and sheltering boxes.

I thank Mr. Lauritsen for his patience and for his donation. We all wish his wife well.

The Cindy Woolf Anderson Lauritsen Aviary is a beautiful addition to our grounds. Many birds will live out their lives there in safety and comfort.

Moving??

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

Membership Form

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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 2022

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Peregrine Update continued from page 1

I must explain that inserting and removing the pins is not as easy as it sounds. The pins are threaded like screws. They had to be screwed into and through the bone. The threads are quite fine, and bone is rather hard.

A power drill would have been nice, but we used a hand drill to turn the screws - so to speak. It is safer and gentler on the bird but ever so hard on the hands and arms.

After the pins were removed, Adair spent another couple of months gaining strength in a large aviary. On May 13, 2022, myself, Dr. Davis, and a few others released Adair near Dos Palos.

It was a wonderful and fulfilling sight to see her fly off.



Dr. Davis Releasing Adair

Doug Marks