

# Together We Make a Difference

# The Bird Rescue Flyer

Volume XXIV, No. 1

Winter 2007

## **Upcoming Events for** **January Through** **May 2007:**

*Unless otherwise noted events  
are to be held at the Center.*

### **Community Education Basics**

*Call the Center at 523-BIRD  
to be added to the list.*

### **Field Rescue**

Sun., April 1st, 2:00pm

*Call the Center at 523-BIRD  
to reserve a spot.*

### **Volunteer Orientations**

Sun., Mar. 25th, 3:00pm

Tues., April 10th, 7:00pm

Sat., April 28th, 3:00pm

*Call the Center at 523-BIRD  
with any questions.*

### **Phone Team Training**

Sun., April 15th, 1:00pm

### **Junior Volunteer Training**

*Please call Kate at the Center  
at 523-BIRD for information.*



## ***Presidents' Message***

Another year has come to an end and as I reflect upon the last three years, I can say with great joy that it has truly been the best year yet. Many people are responsible for this success. First and foremost, I want to thank all of the Area Coordinators for their great efforts in their own areas as well as their participation in the Operations Committee. This Committee has really taken ownership of the Center and is greatly responsible for our achievements and successes in 2006.

As we all know, Rehab is a main focus for who we are and what we do as a Center. Tom Whiteman assumed the leadership role for Rehab this past year and I cannot say enough good things about the excellent guidance and management which he has brought to this area. Much well-deserved credit also goes to the efforts of the Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors who helped to implement and guide Rehab's reorganization. Many thanks to all of you and to all of the volunteers who helped to make 2006 a great baby bird season.

Tom also refined the soft-release program enabling it to further develop to the point where we were very successful at getting babies out and released in a timely fashion and in a way which gave them their best chance of acclimating and surviving. Many thanks to the soft-release providers who provided the release sites and their time and who gathered much useful data and follow-up information which further enabled us to fine-tune this program.

The Rehab staff met for an all day nutrition symposium in early December to review diet changes and baby bird development. Much of this work was enabled by the Fish and Wildlife Commission grant which we received earlier in the year. The level of understanding and analysis performed by the participants was both impressive and very rewarding. As a result of these discussions, further study is taking place in preparation for a second meeting scheduled for early 2007. The final results will include a report for the Fish and Wildlife Commission as well as an even better level of preparation and understanding as we get ready for the 2007 Baby Bird Season. The increasing sophistication of the knowledge of this group is exciting and their efforts will help to insure even better bird care in the coming years.

*...continued on page 2*

*Hospital hours for injured or orphaned wild native birds are 365 days a year. You are welcome to come see local hawks, falcons and owls used in education. Visiting hours are 1:00pm to 4:00pm on the first Saturday and the third Sunday of each month.*

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A smooth transition of leadership is taking place in the Resident Bird area. Kit Daine will be stepping down and Rob Diebold will be assuming the role of Area Coordinator. Kit, however, will still be very involved and will hopefully be with us for many years to come. Many, many thanks to Kit for the tremendous job she has done these last years to reorganize and lead this area to the level of excellence which it now enjoys. As a testimony to the structure which she established, this year's crop of new handlers passed their final exam with the highest degree of competence and proficiency we have ever seen. This is due to the training program and rigorous attention to detail which Kit has established and passed on to Rob, the trainers and all of the handlers. Thank you all for an excellent job and for making this a program of which the Center can be proud.

The Phone Team, thanks to Janet Bosshard's leadership, continues to improve. We had our first training session for new recruits and are now reviewing the comments to refine our approach for the next group. Training consists of in-class training followed by individual sessions with Janet actually answering the phones. Many thanks also to all of the "old-timers" who attended the training to provide feedback from their perspective of experienced phone team members.

Hopefully you have all had a chance to check-out our new web site. Again, many thanks to Mary Ellen King for all of her work with this site. We have received many, many positive comments from the public and other organizations. We will continue to develop this site to serve as a source of information on current events and offerings at the Center.

Our main activity for early 2007 will be focused on recruiting new volunteers. We need to ensure that we have sufficient numbers of people for rehab. In addition, we are concentrating our efforts to recruit both phone team members as well as field rescue people from all parts of the County. Please encourage anyone interested in the phone team to call the Center and ask for Janet Bosshard. This job is great for anyone but is ideal for those who feel that they cannot be on their feet for the hours which the Rehab area requires. Anyone interested in Field Rescue should call the Center and leave a message for me. The first training session for new field rescue volunteers is Sunday February 25th at 3:00pm at the Center. Please spread the word!

Charles Kennemore is now hard at work putting the final touches on the 2006 bird database and we will soon have year-end reports ready for the Federal Fish and Wildlife and State Fish and Game. Charles and Barbara Jean Veronda have continued to work together to fine-tune the database which will allow Barbara Jean to provide up-to-date information on Field Rescue people to the phone team. We look forward to getting this up and running.

A very big "thank you" to all of you who helped, both with your time and money, to make 2006 such a great success! We look forward to more great success in 2007. We will be able to achieve this only with the help of all of you so please continue to be generous with your time and donations. The Center and the birds need you!

Happy New Year!

– Your Board President, Alida Morzenti

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***Bird Rescue is always available  
online at:  
[www.birdrescuecenter.org](http://www.birdrescuecenter.org)***

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Articles, pictures and information for  
The Bird Rescue Flyer are to be  
e-mailed to Pamela Kennemore at  
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The Bird Rescue Center,  
P.O. Box 475, Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
Attn: Pamela Kennemore

### **Special thanks from BRC to...**

**Dr. David Rupiper and Dr. Ray Visco,**  
for their donations of supplies, as well as their time  
and their continuing veterinary care of our resident  
and rehab birds.

#### ***Windsor Raley's Market***

Thomas Kitchen, produce manager and John  
Moore, store director for their continuing supply of  
fruits and vegetables each week.

#### ***The Teddy Foundation***

for continuing significant donor support  
of the BRC's programs.

### ***There Is A New Supervisor In Rehab***

Her name is Audrey Nickles and she began her on-the-job training on 12/18. She has completed her probationary trial period and has been with Tom, Tosca, Julia and the other Assistant Supervisors to learn the necessary skills to become an independent supervisor. Please make her feel welcome if you see her at the Center and be sure to introduce yourself to her. By the time baby bird season starts, Audrey should be ready to be in charge of her own shift.

### ***Sonoma Mountain Journal***

**8-18-06** – A cold foggy morning with one owl on the big tree's huge trunk. He's all fluffed up and very visible with a white eyebrow line and spotted feathers all across the back of the head. Where's his "bud"? It's barely a minute til he appears. Both sit with wings out, then fold them and look damp and bedraggled. The jungle gym of branches bounces with their departure.

**8-30-06** – If you can't sleep at our house you can substitute counting owl calls for counting sheep. At twelve second intervals the juvenile whistles, hour after hour through the night. At dawn the young owl watches two deer pass below and five hummers sip juice from the blooming red salvia. 7:30 p.m. brings loud reverberant pounding and calls of the pileated. It's wonderful! Both owlets call at the same time but different voices, one higher pitched and more strident. Quail conversations go on as day ends...thirty are now scurrying past the feeders and settling down for the night.

**9-11-06** – Two white-breasted nuthatches call back and forth with a nasal "yank, yank, yank". They visit the feeder area and trees below the driveway. A western tanager gives its burry call---in migration now?

**9-12-06** – Ken works on the big downed tree--careful to keep watching what's supporting it since it hasn't broken off but is splintered and pretty solidly attached 15 feet off the ground. He takes a midmorning break for coffee and the newspaper as

### ***Attention All Fisherpeople***

In recent years there has been increasing incidence with many species of birds getting caught in fishing line that acts as an invisible trap for birds and water fowl. When someone leaves fishing line tangled in bushes or trees, the birds cannot see the line, and they may become accidentally entangled. The harder the birds struggle, the more tangled they become, and the greater the damage to their delicate legs and wings. Sometimes they hang upside down, unable to break free. If not rescued promptly, serious injury or death is the usual result.

Monofilament fishing line discarded in the environment is hazardous to anything that tangles with it including people, wildlife, and family pets. Thousands of birds, marine mammals and sea turtles are killed or maimed by derelict fishing line every year and human interactions with discarded line often lead to disaster.

If you see fishing line that has been discarded please place it into a trash can. Coming upon an animal or bird that has been drowned due to entanglement is a very unfortunate and upsetting. If you know a fisherperson or are one yourself, take responsibility and dispose of the line properly.

he sits in his truck. Millie and I walk over to inspect what progress he's made. We hear a loud crack and I look up. No sign of squirrels or any cause so we turn and move away from this huge trunk. When we're 20 feet away the tree breaks and falls with a crash. The "crack" was significant! Both of us a little shaky, Ken and I inspect the tree. His chainsaw is under it but has only a crack to the safety lever; his hardhat is on the other side of the trunk, with a vertical branch driven into the ground beside it. Luckily he was not working when it rolled a little and fell and luckily Millie and I took the crack to be an uncertainty and we walked away. I bring us cups of hot tea and comment that we probably both need a stronger shot in it. We're both shaken by how close a call that was! MaryEllen arrived to pick up the projector ( I had told her I would not leave the property with Ken working alone on the big tree. Another good call!) This treefall leaves a BIG open space. We can't see any sign of the white-flowering or the pink-flowering currants; are they mashed under all the tree debris? Cleanup will take time and a lot of effort. We talk about some brush piles—to clear debris but also to offer cover for the birds. It's a warm night with lots of bats flying about then settling in to digest their food. A banded one rests on the door. Coyotes call across the valley.

**9-14-06** – CT visitors arrive: "the moms" and sister Jan. After the long flight and drive from San Francisco

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they sit in the warmth of the front porch in late afternoon with buddleia, butterflies and hummingbirds to entertain them.

**9-19-06** – Bats are on the door and seen by Mom and Jan. We explain to Mom Hichwa that “Yes. The bats are on the door INSIDE the garage at night.” It’s news to her!

**9-21-06** – At 7 a.m. the owl whistles from the pond side. I locate him and let mom know. She wraps a blanket around her and sits for 30 minutes, watching him here on the tree trunk (now horizontal), now there atop a skinny vertical branch, now reporting that “he’s flown down”.

I thought she meant down the hill along the driveway so Millie and I are startled when we walk out and he flies up from the pond just ahead. Oops! We duck and turn directly away. He perches, doesn’t seem to care about us, and returns to bathe. He’s last seen on a long flight down the driveway. Mom got to see him at 20-power in the spotting scope, filling the field of view! As he sat atop the skinny broken branch he gave us spectacular views---eyes, feathers, feet, beak. He looks healthy. Tonight he’s whistling from across the road.

**9-22-06** – The whole crew of visitors sits out on the front porch to watch the bats emerge from the nearby crevice. We get out the “bat detector” to hear their clicks. (I’ll bet this is not their typical entertainment in Connecticut!) Two deer come by to nudge the feeders and drain seed out—directly into their mouths.

**9-23-06** – Ken works on the tree and watches out for birds. A Wilson’s warbler visits the pond along with many chickadees. Clean-up is SLOW; it’s a BIG tree. Some bent-over currant bushes begin to emerge from the debris. The brush pile is working as towhees leap in and out and the quail walk over, under and through it.

**9-25-06** – A very early a.m. send-off by a deer at the feeder at 4:15 a.m. as the CT crew heads back home.

**10-1-06** – We return to 3 deer, 31 quail and 19 bats.

**10-9-06** – Varied thrush give their distinctive one-note call; they’ve returned for winter.

**10-11-06** – A warm enough night for several bats to swoop low overhead as Millie and I walk up the path. An hour later, inside the garage are 28 bats shingled in the center of the door. A big crowd!

**10-13-06** – I step onto the back porch at dusk and hear a Western screech owl call directly behind the house. I know there are two nest boxes there; will he ever use one for roosting or nesting?

**10-16-06** – A Bewick’s wren pops up from the new woodpile. The big fallen tree has created woodpiles with nooks and crannies, brush piles for cover, perches of varying sizes for various birds and long walkways for quail exercise. Varied thrush call and hop on the ground beside the driveway amid quail galore.

**10-19-06** – A spotted towhee pops out of the brush pile. An owl hoots—the female from its pitch and cadence; is it time for pairing?

**10-20-06** – A small agile hawk zips past and through the trees; he’s gone in the blink of an eye. A nuthatch calls as he inches his way down the madrone tree.

**10-27-06** – We’re off to the coast. Passing Crane Park I catch a glimpse and pull off the road, quickly bailing out of the car while grabbing the small “car binoculars”. Yes! It’s a golden eagle (an immature with some white in wings and tail) and its being hassled and dived upon by a prairie falcon (this park has attracted prairies in the past). A turkey vulture drifts slowly by, offering size comparison. As we travel up the coast many hawks are still in migration.

**11-2-06** – A pileated woodpecker calls from the woods behind the house. He’s an occasional visitor that’s always welcome.

**11-3-06** – I’m passing Crane Park at 10 p.m. and find a barn owl in his regular haunt; he flies up from the fence as I pass.

**11-8-06** – A high call note as many birds alight in the top of the big Doug fir. It’s a flock of cedar waxwings—a first sighting in our yard. Might they be coming in for the

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### **The Bird Rescue Center has two primary missions:**

***First: To rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned, injured or ill native wild birds, and,...***

***Second: To educate the public regarding the ecological importance and natural history of these birds.***

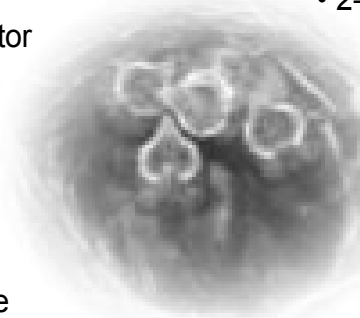
### **Bird Rescue Wish List**

#### **Large Items**

- 19” Dell compatible flat screen monitor
- Anatomically correct, plastic bird skeleton

#### **Everyday Items**

- Ziplock freezer bags, gallon size
- Vet wrap (1” to 2” wide)
- Astroturf (Daisy doormat brand)
- Dust-free pine shavings, by the bale
- Rolls of 1” x1/2” welded wire, 18” and 24” widths



- 2-ply toilet paper Kleenex (w/o lotion)
- Scissors (bandage, surgical and office)
- Manila folders w/attached fasteners
- Dust-free pine shavings, by the bale
- Viva brand paper towels
- Sunflower chips
- Dawn dish soap
- Suet cake (insect and/or nut varieties)
- Bleach (no Clorox Ultra, it contains lye)
- Telfa pads & gauze pads 4”x4” and 2” by 2”

# Our Residents...

*This is one article in a series of articles that feature one of our many resident birds.*

## **Pisces**

Pisces greets visitors stopping at his sunnyside aviary with a distinctive chirp. His is the most spacious aviary, just right for spreading out wings that measure about 5-1/2 feet from tip to tip. Not that he can fly, but he enjoys basking in the sun and getting an occasional shower by hose. Like all osprey, Pisces is a fish eater and trout are, by far, his favorite food.

Pisces came to the Center in August 2005 as Osprey #44, a passage bird, brought in by field rescuers Janeann and Laura Erickson, who found him standing in the street of a neighborhood a few miles north of Bodega Bay.

The bird had suffered a dislocated shoulder. Unfortunately, the injury was severe enough that the bird was determined to be non-releasable. He had a good attitude in captivity and was eating well so, at this point, it was decided to add him to the resident program. He has adapted well to being handled on the



fist and being around people. He has been a valuable addition to the program and affords the public an unusual opportunity to see an osprey up close.

Pisces has molted into his adult plumage and can be seen by the public on Visitors' Days at the Center.

– Gloria Heinzl



## **The Fair Is Coming, The Fair Is Coming!**

Time to start thinking about the Fair. The 2007 Sonoma County Fair date is set for July 17 - July 30.

It's starting a little earlier this year so time to start making plans and arrainging schedules to sign-up to volunteer.

For those of you who are going to sign up to help work the booth this year, the sign up board will be at the Center by early June.

We will also have a schedule for Fair Orientations, you will need to attend one of them to get information regarding the inner working of the boothe and to learn any changes or additons since last year.

For more informaiton call Barb at 433-4833



## **The Human Race**

Come and run for the birds! The Human Race is the largest collaborative fund-raising event in Sonoma County and the largest Human Race in the nation! The first Human Race raised \$1,800. In 2006 over 10,000 walkers and runners joined forces to raise 1.1 million dollars for 400+ non profits. The 50,000 people who contribute \$5, \$10, or \$100 to their favorite non profit are the secret to Sonoma County's Human Race success story. The Bird Rescue Center plans ot have a large contingent of walkers and runners in this year's event. Walkers and runners can choose to do either a 3K or 10K walk/run. If your not up to walking or running then all you have to do is sponsor one of BRC's participants. Pledge sheets will be available at BRC in the near future. Call Janeann Erickson at 795-2498 for more info. The race date for 2007 is May 12th.



## ***The Assistant Supervisor Program***

In the spring of 2005, a new position, the Assistant Supervisor, was created in the rehabilitation hospital of BRC. An opportunity was created for volunteers who demonstrated a high level of contribution and interest in avian husbandry to participate in a year-round commitment involving seminars with Dr. Dave Rupiper, our avian veterinarian, and bi-monthly meetings in addition to their regular shifts in rehab.

The initial thrust of the training was to provide greater supervision of the volunteers during baby bird season. What evolved was a group of Assistant Supervisors who supported the supervisors in complex procedures and in handling more efficiently the busy days of baby bird season.

At the start of this second season, the program again expanded. The Assistant Supervisors provided multiple small group trainings for the returning and new volunteers to provide depth and

continuity of care to the many birds which arrive at The Center.

As this program continues to grow, what was at one time one Supervisor to cover a shift in rehab, has morphed into a coordinated cadre of volunteers who have taken on specialized areas of focus as well. Mela Brasset's area of interest is raptor husbandry, Janet Olsen's is the baby bird room, Tosca Schauer's is protocols and procedures with emphasis on the requirements of the physical plant, Norma Halbersma is on the care requirements of the adult birds and Tom Whiteman not only is the rehabilitation coordinator but he also coordinates the soft-release program for the songbirds.

There are currently two new additions, Alison Willets and Zooly Zermeno. They are both valuable additions to the Assistant Supervisor corps. Tom Whiteman is the coordinator for the rehabilitation program and oversees all of these activities.



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## ***Great Spots For Birding In The North Bay***

### ***Shiloh Regional Park***

*by Bertha Rains*

Shiloh Regional Park was acquired by Sonoma County in 1989. It is a natural area with over five miles of trails. There is a parking fee (or an annual pass is available for \$40).

A list of over 90 bird species has been compiled for the park by Jon Winter, Bob and Bertha Rains. It has varied habitats: chaparral, conifers, oaks, open fields and a pond. The pond has had geese but we have not seen any there for several years.

A walk on the short loop up the Ridge Trail (return via the Big Leaf Trail) will take you two and a half miles. Including the creek trail will add another half mile. The exercise required for climbing the hill is rewarded with a view of Mt. St. Helena and the Santa Rosa Plain. At the top we have often seen an Anna's Hummingbird perched on the same bare tree.

Trails may be muddy in spots after rain, otherwise they are in good condition.

Specialties to be seen there are Pileated Woodpecker, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Wild Turkeys - the turkeys are more often heard than seen - and hawks. Several years ago we saw a Golden Eagle. Jon Winter reported a Rock Wren.

People riding horseback frequent the park, especially on weekends. For a quiet walk choose a week day when you may meet only one or two other hikers.

On the trail along the creek wildflowers are abundant in Spring. The hillside opposite the parking lot is covered with Mariposa Lilies each year in April or May. If botanizing is slow; check out the butterflies.

To get there take the Shiloh exit from Highway 101 (about six miles north of Santa Rosa) and drive east to the end. Turn right for a short bit and the entrance is to the left.

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## **Special Benefactors**

Bird Rescue gratefully acknowledges the following generous contributions which enable us to carry on our work:

### ***Donations of \$50 or more***

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### ***Sponsor-A-Bird***

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## **Memberships**

### ***Sustaining***

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Gregory Korelich

Ellen & Wayne Krebs  
Patricia Pedersen  
Carrie Reed  
Gretchen Whisenand

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madrone berries that heavily laden the tree right now? Another flock, this time of bushtits, moves through the live oak. A few golden-crowned kinglets pass and a bunch of ruby-crowneds. Two Anna's hummingbirds argue in the bright red flowers of a salvia. A big buck inspects the bird feeder.

**11-9-06** – Two spotted towhees zip out the backside of the brush pile. Ruby-crowneds are not just giving their "ji-dit" calls but also a whinny. Just then a sharp-shinned hawk zips by, maneuvering effortlessly between the trees—and gone. All the feeding birds are gone too—into hiding. Deer munch on my pruning pile of rose and buddleia stems.

**11-16-06** – Crane Park is often interesting, for walking or just rolling past in the car. Today a kite hovers, a harrier passes beneath him and a second kite hovers near the sharp bend. Bluebirds scatter from the roadside fence posts. At Copeland Creek a red-shouldered hawk has claimed perching space, on the wire and on a snag beside the creek. Today he's on top of the telephone pole, a more typical perch for a red-tail.

**11-18-06** – The madrone leaves bounce as several hidden birds work on the berries. Are these the waxwings? This night a barn owl screeches, crossing the back yard.

**11-19-06** – The bats are still here, bunched tightly together in the crevices as chillier weather arrives. The SSU physics students, here for a potluck, are eager to see the bats. The pallid bat is still out and about and hangs on the door inside the garage; a few potato bugs are still active to feed him.

**11-27-06** – A northern flicker sticks his head out of a nesting box; he's using it for winter roosting. The great horned

owls begin calling at 11 p.m. and continue til near dawn; they're duetting at 6 a.m. A welcome serenade.

**11-29-06** – The deer are active, passing through the yard morning and evening to eat fresh green grass. They've also eaten all leaves off the newly planted red-twig dogwood; the book says they don't eat that but these deer don't read! The oxalis has been nibbled too. Two deer lay in the sun across from the driveway. The regular pair of deer includes a buck with small antlers; today a big 6-point buck visits.

**11-30-06** – It's been very cold overnight, leaving frost all over the field. An early drive to Rohnert Park and back displays the variety of raptors here: first a hovering kite, then red-tailed hawk in a tree, red-shouldered on the wire, American kestrel on top of a pole, and a northern harrier harrying low over the ground. At home I see the bright yellow flash of a Townsend's warbler, then a flock of gray-brown bushtits and just a few feet away a tiny golden-crowned kinglet displays head striping and color. I hear a distressed call and approach carefully. Beneath the buddleia a sharp-shinned hawk is on the ground; she's pinned a varied thrush, which is a sizeable take. My first reaction is "too bad it's a less common bird that's caught"; I won't interfere. On such cold mornings every bird out there needs fuel to stay warm. Plucked feathers are flying. She flies a few feet, dragging the thrush and staying low to the ground. Finally they disappear into the woods. I explore to find two piles of feathers. Six more varied thrush actively drop through the madrone that's laden with berries. They'll be fattened up if the accipiter is still out and about. The day ends with the familiar and comforting clucking of quail from the trees on both sides of the driveway.

– Diane Hichwa