



The Bird Rescue Center
of Sonoma County

Restoring wings to the wild

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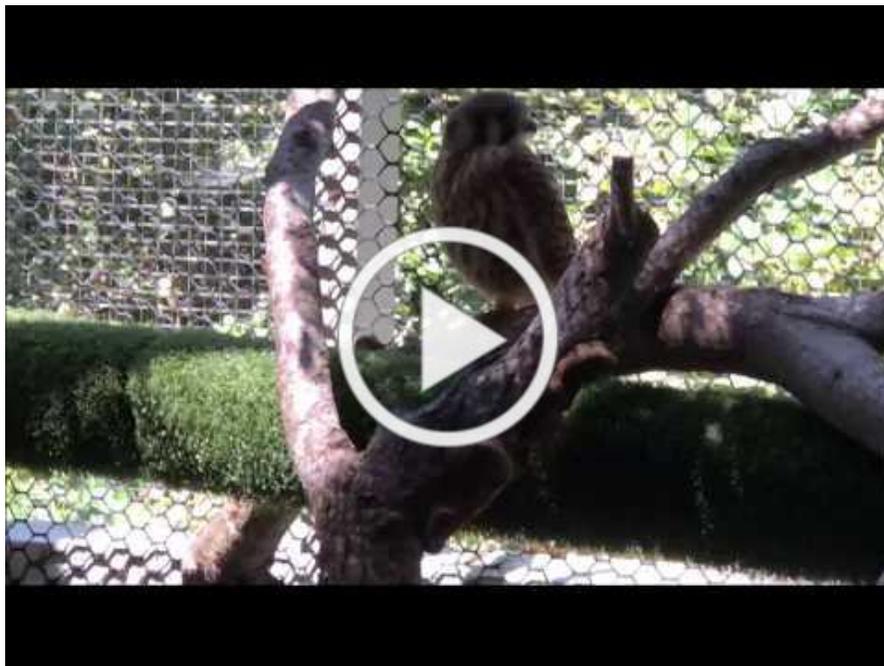


An Unexpected Lunch Date

When baby birds come into our care, the immediate concern is survival. This usually means hand feeding them...a lot...usually every 30 minutes or so. We always try to get them back to their nest and their parents as soon as possible. But that isn't always an option. So, then what?



We recently had 3 baby American Kestrels arrive at our doorstep. They had been displaced from their nest during post-fire and wind repairs at a winery in St. Helena. While fire recovery efforts are important, it's close to being a death sentence for baby birds when their nest is destroyed and there's no hope of reuniting them with their parents. Who is going to teach these adorable youngsters how to hunt now?



Our early attempts at live prey training, while definitely humorous, did not yield the desired results. It seems Kestrels – at least our little Kestrels – don't hunt unless they are really, really hungry. All our efforts to keep them well fed were actually inhibiting the hunting instincts they would need in order to be successfully released back into the wild.

Plan B – It was hard to hear their hunger calls and not respond – especially for a group dedicated to raising nice, plump, fit babies. Nevertheless, we knew we had to, and so we had another go at live prey training. As they got hungrier, first one, then another and eventually the last all made clumsy attempts at hunting. After several days, they really started getting the hang of it. GREAT NEWS!!!

We are happy to report all three have been released to a new habitat where there is a healthy colony of American Kestrels. We wish them a long and healthy life!



Buy A Raptor Lunch?



Feeding not only the patients in our care, but also our 18 Resident Raptors can get pretty expensive. We have to supply seeds, berries, other fruit, meal worms, mice, rats, quail, salmon – the list goes on. You can help. Your [donations](#) help us keep our patients – and our Residents – well fed!

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Prime Day is July 17. Shop deals at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates.

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OPEN HOUSE



July 7th, 2018
from 10am - 1pm

3430 Chanate Road,
Santa Rosa, Ca, 95404

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