



The Bird Rescue Center  
of Sonoma County

## A BIG Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated on #givingtuesday. Our totals are still being calculated. We appreciate your kindness.

## Holiday Shopping on Amazon Smile

*Support us when you  
shop this holiday*

Amazon donates when you  
shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

**amazon**smile



Don't forget to use Amazon Smile for your holiday needs. You're donating without having to think about it. So far, for November, over \$800 has been donated just with regular shopping.

[amazon smile](https://smile.amazon.com)

## The Giving Tree



Come visit our holiday "Giving Tree" at the center. Each bird has an item on it that we need to continue our work with the wild native birds.

While you are here, check out our merchandise, which would great holiday gifts. We have fabulous shirts, caps, bags, finger puppets and even some volunteer crafted goodies. We are open 7 days a week, 9am to 5pm.

## Successful Release of a Turkey Vulture



This first year Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) was found by the side of Salmon Creek Road in Bodega by a Good Samaritan. Being just a little on the thin side, it was clear there was an old fracture of the two large parallel bones in the wing (radius and ulna) by the significant droop of the left wing at that spot. It was already completely healed so no need for us to wrap it, but we did need to assess its flight with the large callus and odd angle of the wing.

We do creance evaluations of Turkey Vultures in the field next to our facility because Vultures are not the most graceful fliers. The first flights were better than expected. He flew slow and low at the ground while our Resident Ambassador, Barfolomew, watched. In the aviary, though, he popped right up to top perches from the ground no matter the height.

It was time for our largest aviary with a swinging perch to work on those flight muscles. We needed to move an adult vulture recovering from lead poisoning out as well. Time to make friends! The youngster (with the black fuzzy head) followed the adult (with the red head and white-tipped beak) around pecking at its toes and chasing it back and forth from swinging perch to the stationary perch. After about 2 weeks of this and weekly field creance flights, this bird was launching itself in the air after landing at the end of the creance line!



After the rains petered out and we were able to coordinate release back to Bodega, our Raptor Release Coordinators traveled out to the coast and happened upon a passerby that invited them to release the bird on their property and it turned out to be the perfect place! Close enough to the found address, but with sweeping views of Bodega and just enough wind for this juvenile to pick up and go. Thanks to our gracious finder and release site owner for giving this young bird the opportunity to recover with us after healing and a place to go in the wild. We were able to give it the time (just over a month) and practice to regain the strength needed for flight and get back out there to be nature's clean up crew!

Did you know vultures can handle eating things like botulism and anthrax without getting sick? They do it so we don't have to! Check out the video of before and after release. Keep an eye out as it soars in the treeline.



## OPEN HOUSE

First open house for the year  
January 6th, 2018  
from 10am - 1pm

Donate



Thank you for your continued support!  
The Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County

[www.birdrescuecenter.org](http://www.birdrescuecenter.org)

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