



Why are Aviaries So Important to Wild Bird Rehab?



Let's start at the beginning... All our patients come through outdoors because they're injured, ill, or orphaned. Sometimes we do have well-meaning humans that have accidentally 'bird-napped' a baby and we do our best to return them to their rightful families. For adult birds, we want them to recover and be able to maneuver and find food as they had been doing before they came to our hospital. Being human caretakers for baby birds of all types, we need to be sure they can fly, recognize and find food and shelter, recognize predators and, basically, how to be a bird.

The most important aspect of wild bird rehabilitation is the provision of a natural diet, environment, and associations that closely resemble what these birds would be exposed to in the wild. Providing such a natural habitat can be achieved by building aviaries and flight hallways with this goal in mind. Every bird must be assessed as physically and mentally fit before release back into the wild if it is to survive and potentially reproduce. Having an aviary and flight hallway is especially critical to releasing strong, robust, well-adjusted wild birds and raptors that will go on to not only survive, but thrive in the wild.

[Read more here](#)

Woodpecker are always busy....Making holes!

Woodpeckers are one species that require a lot of enrichment mainly because of their affinity for... pecking wood! Here at BRC we commonly get in Downy, Nuttall's, and Acorn Woodpeckers as well as their relatives sapsuckers and flickers!

At first they start in one of our boxes while nestlings, and unable to climb. Once

climbing around, they move to a 'woodpecker box' where they can cling and move around while starting to learn their character trait of creating holes in things.

Once we're sure they can glean worms out of any crevice, they get moved to an aviary to really learn their craft. We stockpile dead wood throughout the aviary and hide their worms to make sure they're fully adept at wreaking havoc on anything BUT our aviary walls, though sometimes that still happens. For them it is especially important to have this time to develop, chatter, and figure out life before release!

Fun Facts!

In Sonoma county, you can find Northern Flickers, Acorn Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Pileated woodpeckers, Red-breasted sapsuckers, and Lewis's woodpeckers.

Acorn Woodpeckers live in oak and mixed oak-conifer forests on slopes and mountains in the Southwest and West Coast.

Nuttall's Woodpeckers do not eat acorns, They eat insects

The Pileated Woodpecker is nearly the size of a crow.



Woodpeckers have been busy out in the wild!

