
SECOND CHANCES



FALL 2023

Serving Amador, Calaveras, and San Joaquin Counties



**UNANSWERED
OSPREY CALL, P. 2**

**VOLUNTEER
SPOTLIGHT, P. 4**

**GIVING
TUESDAY, P. 5**

**SUPPORTER
INFORMATION, P. 6**

**PAWS & CLAWS
2023, P. 7**

SHE'S FREE!

This pretty fawn had head trauma and was found just standing in the parking lot at the CVS drug store with people and cars whizzing by. With just a few days in care, she was WILD and released back to FREEDOM!!!





Unanswered Osprey Call



I must admit that when a call comes in for Tri County Wildlife Care to take in an Osprey that my heart sinks. These are large and magnificent birds, but they do not eat well in captivity. This poor baby was no exception, and he was incredibly thin and dying. His unanswered calls to his parents were heartbreaking. He had almost given up.

We provided food and this was rejected. We force fed fish, and it came back up. This bird weighed 1/2 lb less than an average Osprey and when the average weight is only 3lbs, this is really significant emaciation.

We sent this beauty to Dr. Alison Pillsbury at Acorn Hills Animal Center to run tests to see if we could determine what was wrong. We also provided an elemental diet to be tube fed because starving animals are teetering on the edge of survival and death and do not digest a more complex diet.

For several days, this bird struggled and Dr. Alison persisted and worked with colleagues to determine how to best help him. A more permanent feeding tube was placed to facilitate regular feedings until force-feeding could be resumed. Dr. Alison Pillsbury force-fed this Osprey twice a day and the crop, which is a sack for beginning digestion on the right side of many types of birds, could be seen to be quite full. Tests all showed nothing that was helpful, so we had to assume that this baby got too far away from his parents, or something happened to them. He was simply starving when Mark Sweeney found him and brought him to us.

We were hopeful when Dr. Alison said that the Osprey was getting feisty, flapping, hopping up on perches and acting like the magnificent bird of prey he was supposed to be. We also knew that it was time for him to go outside and start learning to feed himself. Denise Montano, a Tri County Wildlife Care volunteer and Raptor Team Leader, met with Dr. Alison to plan for the Osprey to be transferred out of vet care.

Continued on p.3

Unanswered Osprey Call continued from p.2



Denise set up an enclosure for this Osprey, which contained water sources, stumps and branches appropriate to his size and condition. He was awkward at first, but slowly acclimated and began navigating his new surroundings. Our friends and fisherman and fisherwoman, Amy Kinsch and Wally Gallagher, went to work trying to get live fish for this bird. Wildlife survival instincts kicked in, and we felt very fortunate when the movement of the bass placed into a shallow pan of water by Denise attracted the attention of this raptor and he killed and ate it.

The diet of these birds is 99% fish, so in captivity, they are stinky. Birds of prey also have projectile poop which we think is pretty gross, but it does get people who are thinking of keeping them as pets to change their minds. Denise wants her enclosures clean and her patients engaged with enrichment provided such as trees, plants and objects to get them to engage in natural behaviors. This poor starving baby was still crying for mom a week after going outside, but he was eating and desperately clinging to his fish meal all day long until it was finished. We could only guess at what had happened to him. Did he stray too far and get lost from his parents? Or did something happen to the parents of this bird? We will never know because there was no nest nearby. We are just thrilled to now believe this bird will survive to thrive again in the wild.

Osprey are unique in that they are zygodactyl which means that they have two toes pointing forward and two toes pointing backwards. But if needed, one back toe may move forward to help hold onto slippery fish. Owls also have these special toes, but the Osprey is the only daytime bird of prey with this ability. Osprey also have special projections on their toes called spicules. These spiny adaptations also help them grab slippery fish.

Continued on p. 4



Unanswered Osprey Call continued from p.3

Osprey will fight with eagles over fish and sometimes they will win. The eagle is larger and stronger, but the Osprey is faster and more agile. The Osprey stands about 24 inches tall with a wingspan of nearly 6 feet. In just two weeks in Denise's care, this bird has gained a pound and is weighing in at 3 1/2 lbs. The next step will be to get this bird into a larger flight cage so it can grow back the feathers broken off from being grounded for an extended period of time. Our wildlife rehabilitators never take for granted the privilege of working with these magnificent creatures and learning more about them.

Volunteer Spotlight - Gary Hinrich



Gary Hinrich walked into our Paws Partners Center which houses A-PAL Humane Society and Tri County Wildlife Care and immediately got to work. Most of our work is not glamorous and is hard work focused on animal care. He pressure washed, cleaned, and did maintenance work. Next, he installed roof panels over outdoor enclosures and storage for better weather proofing.

His current project is assuring our largest flight cage is entirely predator proof. The cage has chain link underneath, but leveling separated the chain link. Gary had to dig out around the perimeter to connect the wire with the cage to assure there was no space to allow anything to dig their way in between the chain link, dirt and cage.

Gary has been retired for 6 years and loved this area because he visited his grandparents who lived in Lone. He had been a world traveler working for Applied Materials for 18 years as Materials Manager visiting 12 different countries. He next worked for Harker School as a computer tech, but fixing just about anything.

Gary is a woodworker artist and you may see his work at Garyswood.com. Gary married Siobhan, pronounced Chavonne, 2 years ago. They had been friends for 40 years and moved up to Jackson from the Bay Area. We are so grateful to have Gary's help as we develop and build on our Paws Partners Center.





Thanks to you and our volunteers, 75% of our wildlife patients survived and were released back to the wild in 2022.

To help us continue this success, please donate to Tri County Wildlife Care on Giving Tuesday, 11/28/2023. Amador Community Foundation will generously match a portion of your gift.

HOW TO DONATE NOW:

Mail a check, made payable to "Amador Community Foundation", with TCWC in the notes & **DATED 11/28/2023**, to reach us before November 28th.

HOW TO DONATE ON NOVEMBER 28TH:

Donate online at giveamador.org

Drop off your donation for TCWC between 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM at St. Katharine of Drexel Church at 11361 Prospect Drive, Jackson, CA 95642

Text 44321 with TCWILD and follow the link.

Thank you for helping us give wildlife a second chance to be wild and free!

SUPPORTER INFORMATION

One of the most rewarding ways to help TCWC is to become a supporter. We are so grateful for our generous supporters who share our passion for helping local wildlife.

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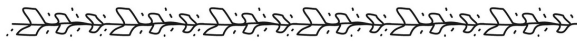
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#NLfall2023

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Paws & Claws '23



Our Veterinarians

Dr. Alison Pillsbury, D.V.M.
Acorn Hills Animal Hospital
Sutter Creek, CA

Dr. Jeanne Smith, D.V.M.
Avian Health Services
Diamond Springs, CA

Dr. Ray Sunseri, D.V.M.
Angels Camp Veterinary Hospital
Angels Camp, CA

Dr. Richard Turner, D.V.M. Ciji Brown, Vet Tech
Arbor Pet Clinic,
Lodi, CA

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Donate directly from our official TCWC website:

<https://www.pawspartners.org/donate-to-tcwc.html>

DONATION DROP OFF TCWC PAWS FACILITY INFO:

(209) 283-3245 - TCWC

12360 Trade Center Drive, Jackson Ca, 94642

•Across from Jackson Creek Vet•

TCWC Paws Partners Facility Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM and weekends by appointment

By mail:

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