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The Official Publication of LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, Inc.  
LTWC'S Web Site: [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)

## 26th Annual Training Seminar Sat & Sun May 21 & 22, 2005!

### MIRACLE BEAVERS

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC's Exec Dir

Three baby beavers were born by Cesarean section on the side of the road near Modesto, California on April 4 and taken to Stanislaus Wildlife Center (SWC) on the 5. I received a call at about 10a.m. (on the 4) from SWC saying they were getting in the 3 beavers and asked me what to feed them when they arrived.

I told them what I would do and then asked if they were going to raise them, or would they prefer to transport the kids to Tahoe. They said it would be best to get the kids up to Tahoe as soon as possible. I never heard from them again that day, so I figured they never arrived OR they had died.

Then, I got a call on Wednesday (the 6<sup>th</sup>) from SWC asking if we could arrange a transportation run to Sacramento, that they would transport that far.

Well, after MANY phone calls, mostly dead ends, Tom remembered a long time dear friend of ours, Dana Stabenow, who went to South Tahoe High School, married a local boy and was now living just over the hill from Tahoe in Kyburz!

(Continued on Page 13)



Baby's first swim. This is one of the three baby beaver we received on April 6. The most 'natural' way beaver 'go to the bathroom' (defecate and urinate) is while in water. They can go at other times, but are more comfortable this way. The kids were one week old when they experienced water for the first time. Wouldn't you know it, they took to it just like real beavers. Oh, yeah! They ARE beavers!!

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by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

## NEW LOCATION

This is a subject that our Board has been dealing with for 10 years and we will continue to deal with it until we find a new location and have a new home for LTWC.

In 1995, we realized that our neighborhood was growing, far beyond where we thought it would go when we moved here in 1983.

We have been trying to identify a site (or sites) where LTWC would be able to further carry out its plan to rehab orphaned and injured wildlife AND have an operational Educational Center which would include a place for permanent care of High Sierra wildlife.

The city of South Lake Tahoe, along with El Dorado County, TRPA, California Tahoe Conservancy and the SLT Chamber of Commerce have been working together to find a location ever since the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors requested that make this a priority.

The immediate past mayor of SLT, Tom Davis and the current mayor, Kathay Lovell, have both been extremely supportive of this effort; in fact, it was then Mayor Pro-Tem, Tom Davis, who went before the Board of

Supervisors - at the hearing to approve our Amended Special Use Permit application – and offered the full support of the city of SLT, including a possible parcel for our new site.

It has been people like Tom, Kathay and our local County Supervisor, Dave Solaro, who have been helpful to us in this effort and have opened many doors that otherwise would have remained closed in our search.

At this time, we have identified four very possible sites which we feel would adequately support the size and surroundings we have been looking for. IDEALLY, we would like something about 25 acres to construct all of the needed facilities for this new ‘Wildlife Park & Rehab Center’. However, until we find the ideal location and get the required funding, we will continue to look at all possibilities.

We are also looking at funding opportunities. We have had questions such as, “Can you accept land and improved or un-improved property?” The answer is, “Yes!” We can accept almost any sort of donations to help us realize our new facility. If you are interested in contributing to the new park, please feel free to contact one of our board members.

We are all very excited about the prospect of having a new, improved, state of the art facility which will serve as an educational facility for locals and visitors alike. If you have any ideas on how you can help, or suggestions for the new ‘park’, please send us a letter, call us by phone, or send a message via e-mail to [info@ltwc.org](mailto:info@ltwc.org).

We would love to hear from you.



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### THE QUILL

Published Quarterly  
Tom Millham, Editor

### LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC.

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South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921  
(530) 577-CARE  
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Two of our best supporters are the ‘current’ mayor of the City of South Lake Tahoe, Kathay Lovell (left) and the person she followed as mayor, Tom Davis (right). Tom recently retired from city government after serving on the city council for 12 years, 4 of which he was the mayor. He now serves on LTWC’s Board of Directors.

## ROSS' GOOSE

by Cheryl Millham, Exec. Dir, LTWC

On March 28<sup>th</sup> I received a call from an employee at Sierra at Tahoe ski resort who told me that when they opened up the “Pub” on Sunday morning, someone had put in a goose!

They asked if I would take it and I said, “Of course!” I told them to have someone drop it off at the center as they were coming off the mountain.

Later that afternoon, the doorbell rang and Pub Manager Aaron Barnes was standing in the doorway holding a huge box. As he filled out the paperwork and I looked in the box, expecting to see a CANADA goose. To my surprise, it was a SMALL white goose with a very delicate head and bill.

I finally heard “The REST of the Story”! As employees were getting ready to close the Pub, they discovered the goose sitting in the snow. Tahoe was having about 4 days of near blizzard conditions at that time. The employees didn’t want it to die, so they TRIED to ‘capture’ it. The goose, unable to fly, kept fluttering away from them. After several minutes of chasing the goose, it flew into the side of a building and they were finally able to pick up the bird and get it inside where it was warm.

When Tom came home, about an hour later, I told him to “Go look in the big box in the office!” Whenever I tell him that, he usually has a good idea it is a new species, or something very special. He was as surprised as I was with this small goose. So, OUT came our bird identification book, “The Birds of North America – Field Identification Book”.

It tells us, “The Ross Goose is described as the smallest and ‘rarest’ of the North American geese. It breeds in the Arctic and winters almost exclusively in California’s Central Valley. It is similar to the Snow Goose, but smaller”

The goose was very easy to handle. As I put it into the bathtub for a drink and a swim, it was acting like it had a mild concussion. The next day, I set it up in a dry bathtub with a pan of water and some grain.

All of the geese at Lake Tahoe eat grain. Well, later that day, I observed it was not eating. BACK to the books. I also called Sheryl Ferguson, who is a volunteer with LTWC and a wildlife biologist. She had found out that it ate aquatic animals and ‘greens’!

Where was I going to find aquatic greens in March??? Well, ANOTHER good friend and volunteer of ours, Glenna Nauer, said she had a friend on one of



The Ross’ Goose is the rarest goose in the North American Continent and was the first time LTWC handled this species. This goose was released on the Sacramento River to ‘continue’ its journey back to the Arctic for the summer breeding season.

the lagoons in the Tahoe Keys where the ice had melted on the channel. She asked Bob Foreman if he would be able to get the goose some greens from the channel. Bob was so helpful and said he would be glad to help out.

When Glenna and I went over to pick up a bag of greens, Bob showed us how he had to climb over the snow to even get to the water! The next problem was trying to figure out aquatic insects for the goose to eat. The goose refused mealworms, even in the pan of water with the greens. THEN, I tried some of my ‘garbage’ worms (don’t ask) I raise for the baby robins and they wiggled really great in the water. THAT DID IT! The goose started eating.

When it began flying around the bathroom, I felt it was about time to put it in one of our outside cages. I decided on the Raccoon cage. After I had prepared the cage, I went back into the bathroom to catch the goose. HE BIT ME!! He actually bit me, soundly on the arm and starting ‘honking’ loudly.

What an attitude change. No more docile goose!

Sheryl Ferguson said the goose should go down to Sacramento to be released and she would be happy to return it to the Central Valley, so it could start over on its trip back to the Arctic!

We did get another call on Tuesday from a lady in Placerville. She said her brother works for Cal Trans as a snowplow driver on the graveyard shift. He also picked up a goose and brought it down to her. SO, on Sheryl’s trip down the hill, she was able to pick up the ‘other’ goose, which was also a Ross’ Goose and release the two together.

Sheryl told me she released our goose first and it took off flying, then she released the other goose which also flew well. It joined up with our goose, circled around and headed together UP the Sacramento River.

This is what we call, “A Successful Release”!

## OPEN HOUSE

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

Last year, we had the most successful Open House we have EVER held.

It was successful because of the number of people who saw what Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care does. It was successful because of the amount of contributions we received. And, it was successful because more people saw a record number of species at LTWC at one time.

Well. Guess what! We are going to do it again this year. You know, when you do something and it is a hit, you keep doing it AND try to do something better the next time. We heard your comments and we will try to make this year's Open House just a little better.

For the record and your information, here are the stats on last year's event. Over 1200 people visited LTWC in 6 hours!! LTWC was represented by more than 40 volunteers who did everything from help with refreshments, assist with clean up, greet people at the street and inside the compound, sell T-shirts, and, oh yes, by the way, we also had volunteers to give the tours to our visitors.

We would like to thank ALL of our volunteers for helping out and doing such a wonderful job AND ask you all to come back again this year.

Oh, one more thing. This year's Open House??? Sunday, July 31, 2005 from 10:00a.m. until 4:00p.m. We hope you can make it this year. See what LTWC is all about.

Sunday, July 31 10a.m. to 4p.m.!

## LTWC Wish List

People are always asking us what we can use to help us care for our wildlife.

The list is long and can be detailed, BUT, for the purposes of this newsletter, we have condensed it to things that most people might have as excess in their homes. Obviously, some of the food we need is specialized and must be purchased, but we hope, if you are interested in helping us with things we need, that this list will help YOU, help US.

**Sunflower seeds (non-salted)**

**Pine Nuts – in and out of shells for baby squirrels**

**Shelled Walnuts**

**Shelled Pecans**

**Gerber Mixed Cereal for baby bird diets**

**DelMonte – #2 Beef and Beef Gravy for baby bird food diets**

**Gerber #3 Peaches for baby bear formula**

**Financial Contributions (cash/checks/credit cards) to buy:**

**KMR & Esbilac milk formulas for baby raccoons and squirrels**

**Kaytee Wild Bird Seed**

**Pigeon Seed**

**LCD Projector**

**Dell/Compaq/Gateway Personal Computer. The new computer would be for the office volunteers to 'enter' the new arrivals on a daily basis to help us meet Fish and Game reporting standards.**

**27th Annual  
LTWC Training Seminar  
Saturday and Sunday  
May 21st and 22nd  
\$60 per person**

# Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.

## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual 2-Day Training Seminar

### **2005 CLASS REGISTRATION FORM**

LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC., is an independent, non-profit, volunteer organization whose function is to 'RAISE, REHABILITATE and RELEASE' wildlife. All orphaned and injured animals are given foster home care by trained volunteers of

#### **LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC!**

**Class Fee is \$60 Per Person! For Families, \$60 for the FIRST Family Member and \$40 for each additional member. ONE training manual included. Minimum age - 8 years.** Children under 16 years of age **MUST** be accompanied by an adult. No wildlife is given to a child for care unless an adult family member has also taken the class. We believe this to be a reasonable safeguard.

Learn to be a trained wildlife care volunteer by taking this two-day seminar. The lecture will cover diets, feeding techniques, housing and first-aid, capture and transportation, anatomy and examination and will be taught by **Cheryl Millham**, Founder and Executive Director of **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care**.

The seminar will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, May 21st & May 22nd, 2005**. The **Saturday** session is from **9am to 4pm**. The **Sunday** session is from **10am to 5pm** at **LTWC's** Center with lunch provided (Sunday).



#### **CLASS FEE**

**\$60.00 Per Person! OR, For Families, \$60 for the FIRST Family Member and \$40.00 for each ADDITIONAL Family Member**

The class fee **must** be paid in advance **AND** accompany the registration form.

The fee includes a one year membership with **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care**.

Deadline for registration fee is **Sunday, May 15, 2005!**

For further information, call

**Cheryl Millham at 530-577-2273!**

*(tear off and return)*

*(tear off and return)*

### **Registration Form**

I desire to register for the **BIRDS and MAMMALS Class** on Sat. May 21st & Sunday, May 22nd, 2005.  
**\$60 Per Person! OR \$60 FIRST Family Member and \$40 for each ADDITIONAL Family Member!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Box \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this registration form and mail immediately with your class fee to:

#### **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.**

1485 Cherry Hills Circle  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921

# BEAR CUBS BACK IN THE WILD

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC's Exec Dir

Last year, ALL of our volunteers had the opportunity to clean the bear cage and to observe the cubs on our closed circuit TV system.

All human contact was avoided after they went into the 'Bear Cage'. After this, we were able to see some 'Amazing' behavior.

Starting in December, when **MOST** of the 'wild' and free bears started 'denning' up for hibernation, I started feeding less and less each day, until, in about 3 weeks, no more food was given to the cubs.

As we know, one of the reasons bears hibernate is when all of the food is gone, whether it is covered up or snow, or just not there anymore. Water was put in for them once a week, until they were taken to their release point by Calif. Fish and Game representatives.

I received a call from our F & G wildlife biologist, Jason Holley around the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, stating that they have a spot picked out and they wanted to come on the 18<sup>th</sup> and get the cubs to release them. I asked Jason if I would be able to go and he said, "No", because they didn't have enough snowmobiles for everyone.

That night, when Tom got home from work, I told him about my conversation with F & G and once again, I was not allowed to go on the release. Tom called Jim Mueller, an LTWC Board Member AND (along with his wife Linda, who is also a Board Member) owner of Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Tours. Jim told Tom that he would supply 4 snowmobiles so some of our volunteers and I would be able to attend the release.

Tom then called Jason and he said we could go since we had arranged our own transportation.

In addition to me, the Mayor of South Lake Tahoe, Kathay Lovell had asked to go, as well as her husband, El Dorado County Sheriff's Lt., Les Lovell. Sheryl Ferguson, our volunteer and a former wildlife biologist with the U. S. Forest Service was also able to go, along with Jim Mueller, our transportation supplier, all representing Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

About 4 days before the day of release, Tom and I would go out to the cage, while the cubs were in the den and begin talking softly to them, poke a stick at their rump, then leave. It did not hurt them and then we were



This young, 'orphaned' black bear cub came to LTWC in June 2004 when he was seen for three consecutive days - BY HIMSELF - obviously starving. He was brought into the center, taken down to the Fish and Game Regional Office in Rancho Cordova, given a clean bill of health then returned to LTWC to raise, rehabilitate and release. We had two cubs and both were released back to the wild on Feb. 18, 2005. Another 'successful' release.

gone. For a few days, we wanted them to accept this behavior so when F & G went in to tranquilize them for their release, they wouldn't panic, try to get out of the small den area and rush past the wardens.

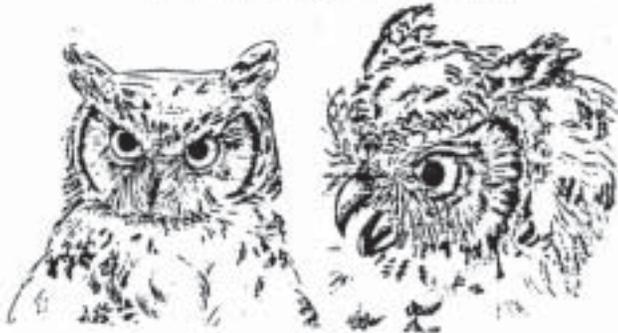
It took a long time for them to go to sleep after the anesthesia was applied, but soon, we were on our way to the release point.

Jim was already there with the 4 snowmobiles. 3 television station and 2 newspapers were there on invitations from F & G. It turned out Jim's snowmobiles were put to good use transporting all of the news media, Jason, his wife AND LTWC volunteers.

The 2 cubs were put into a dog igloo 'den', donated by PetSupermart. At first, Jason had said they (F & G) were going to put each cub into their own den, but I told him that when they woke up from the anesthesia, they would never stay separated because they were NEVER separated and always slept right next to and on top of each other. Fortunately, Jason changed his tactics and put them together in ONE den. Some of the pine needles that they had been sleeping on in the bear

(continued on next page)

# WANTED ALIVE BIRDS OF PREY



**IT'S A CRIME TO SHOOT  
ANY BIRD OF PREY!**

**If you find an injured hawk or owl, or  
want more information about raptors,  
contact:**

**LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC  
1485 CHERRY HILLS CIRCLE  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150  
530-577-CARE**

## Bear Cubs (continued from page 6)

den were brought along and placed into their new den so their own smell would be around them when they woke up.

After they were both placed into their den, which had been dug into the snow on the side of the mountain, I asked if I could see them and was told I could. I ducked down and looked in. They were touching each other and still have lots of room. I reached in and patted one of their bottoms and wished them luck on their new lives!

That was the first and ONLY time I ever touched either one of them.

I think F & G picked a great spot for them to live the rest of their life as a normal, wild bear.

## 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TRAINING SEMINAR

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

Each year, Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care holds a training seminar for those people who wish to volunteer and help care for the hundreds of wild birds and animals we care for annually.

At LTWC, we have our three R's. They stand for Raise, Rehabilitate and Release. We do whatever we can to see that every bird and animal which comes through this facility gets the best chance of returning back to the wild. **RELEASE!!!** That is the final frontier and the final goal!

When the wildlife are in the wild, we ALL can appreciate them in THEIR natural habitat.

On page 8 & 9 you will see our Annual Report for last year (2004). This is the official report we must submit to the State of California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to show them the various species we cared for and what was the disposition of each. These are the various types of birds and animals YOU will be caring for when you volunteer for LTWC. At the center now, we have a Golden Eagle, 2 Great-Horned Owls, a baby pigeon and 3 baby beaver (story on front page). Mammals take longer to rehab than birds. The average stay for a bird is 3 – 4 weeks. Mammals can stay with us up to 8 months, such as the two bear cubs we released last February.

Volunteering as a wildlife rehabber means you do EVERYTHING. You will learn how to feed, clean, exercise, caging, transportation, rules and regulations and initial examination.

The two day training seminar will teach you the basics of rehabbing. You will learn more specifics while on the job. It is a fascinating field which is rapidly growing and changing. We challenge you to learn what you can and work with Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care and help to give Mother Nature a Helping Hand!

Saturday and Sunday, May 21-22. The registration form is on Page 5. We look forward to seeing you and working with you.

The benefits (releasing wildlife back to the wild) is more rewarding than anything you have done in your life.

# LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC., 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

TOTAL WILDLIFE CARED FOR: 657  
 EXPIRED, EUTHANIZED, EOA AND DOA: 277  
 RELEASED, TRANSFERRED AND PERM. CARE: 380

DIFFERENT SPECIES  
 BIRDS: 57  
 MAMMALS: 18  
 AMPHIBIANS: 3  
**RELEASE RATE 58%**

## BIRDS

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
<b><u>ANSERIFORMES (Water Fowl)</u></b>										
Canada Goose			9	2	2		4	1	9	
Common Merganser	6	1	1	6	1		1		8	
Common Goldeneye	1			1					1	
Mallard	1	3	4	4			4		8	26
<b><u>FALCONIFORMES (Vultures, Hawks &amp; Falcons)</u></b>										
Bald Eagle			1					1	1	
Golden Eagle			2		1		1		2	
Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk)			2	1	1				2	
Red-Tailed Hawk		2	5	5			2		7	12
<b><u>CHARADRIIFORMES (Avocets, Sandpipers, Plovers, Gulls &amp; Terns)</u></b>										
California Gull			5	3			2		5	
Herring Gull			1				1		1	
Killdeer	2	1		3					3	9
<b><u>COLUMBIFORMES (Pigeons &amp; Doves)</u></b>										
Band-Tailed Pigeon		6	4	7	1		2		10	
Mourning Dove		4	18	13	2		5	2	22	
Rock Dove		3	12	6	3		5	1	15	47
<b><u>APODIFORMES (Hummingbirds &amp; Swifts)</u></b>										
Anna's Hummingbird			2	1	1				2	
Rufous Hummingbird			1		1				1	3
<b><u>PODICIPEDIFORMES (Grebes)</u></b>										
Western Grebe			3	2			1		3	3
<b><u>CAPRIMULGIFORMES (Goatsuckers)</u></b>										
Poor-Will		1			1				1	1
<b><u>GALLINACEOUS (Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys and Quail)</u></b>										
California Quail	11	2		7	6				13	13
<b><u>GRUIFORMES (Cranes, Rails, Coots &amp; Limpkins)</u></b>										
American Coot			3	3					3	3
<b><u>PICIFORMES (Woodpeckers, Flickers &amp; Sapsuckers)</u></b>										
Downy Woodpecker			2	2					2	
Hairy Woodpecker		1	1	2					2	
Northern Flicker			10	6			3	1	10	
White-Headed Woodpecker			2	1				1	2	
Williamson's Sapsucker			1		1				1	
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker			3	2				1	3	20
<b><u>STRINGIFORMES (Owls)</u></b>										
Barn Owl		1	2	2			1		3	
Great-Horned Owl		3	1	3			1		4	
Burrowing Owl			1				1		1	
Saw-Whet Owl		1			1				1	9

NESTLING   FLEDGLING   ADULT   RELEASED   EXPIRED   EUTHANIZED   EOA   DOA   TOTAL

**PASSERIFORMES (Perching Birds)**

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
American Robin	8	24	11	30	4		6	3	43	
Audubons Warbler			3	1	1		1		3	
Barn Swallow	3	3		6					6	
Brewer's Blackbird	12	12	6	23	5		2		30	
Cassin's Finch		2	3	4			1		5	
Clark's Nutcracker			1				1		1	
Cliff Swallow	4	15	4	14	8		1		23	
Common Crow			1				1		1	
Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco		2	7	6	1		2		9	
Evening Grosbeak		1	5	4	1			1	6	
Fox Sparrow	9	6	2	13	4				17	
House Finch			2	2					2	
House Sparrow	6	2		5	3				8	
Mountain Chickadee	13	18	8	22	7		3	7	39	
Pine Siskin			7	3			1	3	7	
Purple Finch			2	1	1				2	
Pygmy Nuthatch	6		2	2	2		1	3	8	
Raven			3	2			1		3	
Red-Breasted Nuthatch		2	2	3	1				4	
Rufous-Sided Towhee			2	2					2	
Scrub Jay			1	1					1	
Stellers Jay	29	48	34	52	33		22	4	111	
Townsend's Solitaire			1	1					1	
Western Kingbird			1	1					1	
Western Tanager			1	1					1	
Wilson's Warbler	2		1	3					3	
Yellow-Rumped Warbler			3	2	1				3	340
<b>TOTAL BIRDS</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>486</b>

## MAMMALS

	INFANT	JUVENILE	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
Beaver			1	1					1	
Black Bear			2	2					2	
Bobcat			2	1				1	2	
Brown Bat			6	3	1			2	6	
California Ground Squirrel	2	3	6	6			3	2	11	
California Myotis Bat			3	1	1		1		3	
Chickaree Squirrel	5	9	4	11	3		2	2	18	
Golden Mantel Squirrel	7	1		7				1	8	
Least Chipmunk	9	9	6	10	4		6	4	24	
Lodge Pole Chipmunk	10	5	7	6	8		3	5	22	
Long-Eared Chipmunk	3	9		4	3		3	2	12	
Mountain Cotton Tail*		2	2	2	2				4	
Mule Deer	3			3					3	
Porcupine			1		1				1	
Raccoon		13	3	13	1		1	1	16	
River Otter	1			1					1	
Snowshoe Rabbit			1				1		1	
Western Gray Squirrel	8	18	7	20	3		6	4	33	168
<b>TOTAL MAMMALS</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>168</b>

## AMPHIBIANS

	INFANT	JUVENILE	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
Bull Snake			1	1					1	
Desert Tortoise			1	1					1	
Rubber Boa		1		1					1	
	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>										
<b>MAMMALS &amp; BIRDS</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>657</b>

## SNOWSPORTS WEEK

The 2005 SnowSports Week was the most successful in its history.

What is SnowSports Week you ask??? That's a fair question.

Very simply put, Sierra at Tahoe has selected five non-profit organizations in South Lake Tahoe to 'benefit' from Sierra's generosity, with very little effort on the part of the non-profits. They merely SELL ski lift tickets – at a considerably reduced rate – provided by Sierra. Then, Sierra, in turn, disperses a check to each group.

This year, EACH organization will receive more than \$6,600 each for their part in SnowSports Week. There were 1400 tickets to sell. Not one more. Many South Shore residents, plus many visitors took advantage of the more than 50% reduction in price from the daily lift tickets for the 2004-05 ski season at Sierra.

Each organization was asked what they would do with their share of the proceeds. Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care has stated that we would replace the netting on the flight area, which has not been done in 5 years. NORMALLY, the netting for the entire flight area is replaced every 3 years, with 1/3 replaced each year.

Due to financial problems the past couple of years, LTWC was not able to do the usual upkeep and is definitely looking forward to the new netting in 2005. The flight area houses the larger 'raptors' (eagles, owls, hawks, vultures and osprey) in an area large enough to allow them to 'stretch' their wings and exercise enough (for many) to be released without further flight training.

This is the first year LTWC has been a participant of SnowSports Week, joining Barton Hospital Foundation, Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation, Lake Tahoe Community College Foundation and Tahoe Youth and Family Services.

As a partner of this event, LTWC was able to secure the services of 7-11 on Kingsbury Grade, ColdStone Creamery, New York Pizza (SLT) and Alpine Animal Hospital to assist in selling the tickets on the South Shore. We would like to thank the owners of these businesses, as well as General Manager of Sierra at Tahoe, John Rice, for selecting us to be a participant in SnowSports Week – 2005.

We look forward to working with all these wonderful businesses and organizations again in the future.

## NO FAWNS IN 2004

by Cheryl Millham, Exec Dir LTWC

Some of the volunteers were sad because we had no fawns to care for at the center last year. But, when they found out it was because we were able to keep all of them with their moms, so that none of them were kidnapped this past year, their attitude changed and they were then happy.

No dead moms. All of the babies that were picked up went back to their moms, OR, if the people called before they were picked up, after a few questions, it was clear to us their moms were still alive and the babies should be left alone. We were able to instruct the people to take them back where moms were probably waiting for their kids.

We did have one fawn brought in. It was picked up sitting on the new asphalt road going into Blue Lakes, right at the switchbacks.

I could tell by the way it acted that its mom was still alive. So, we decided that when we closed down the office for the night we would take it back home to mom. It just so happened that one of our new volunteers who took our Annual Training Seminar just a few weeks before, Monica Sciuto, was working that afternoon. She also enjoys bike riding and she knew exactly where that part of the Blue Lake Road was in Alpine County.

After work, her husband, Paul, dropped by to see what his wife was doing at the wildlife center. They said they would both go. So, after some instructions, off they went.

After they got to the switchbacks on Blue Lakes Road, they took the fawn out of the vehicle and set it down. They turned around and started to walk away. The little fawn started to follow them, so they took her back and made a fast track back to their car. As they were wondering what they should do next, because it was getting dark, they saw a deer coming down the hill, going over to the area where they had left the fawn. It was then too dark to see, so after a little while, they got out of their car and went back to the spot where they had left the fawn.

**NO MORE FAWN.**

They looked around and they were satisfied that the mom they had seen had taken the fawn off with her.

That was a great feeling AND another Successful Release!

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

The field of wildlife rehabilitation is comparatively new. Most organizations involved with wildlife rehab are less than 30 years old.

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care was established in 1978, making this our 28<sup>th</sup> year in this field. Yes, there were other groups which were already doing this when we started, BUT, compared to how many organizations are now doing wildlife rehab; it was like a needle in a haystack.

When wildlife rehab was new, it was essential that the groups talk with each other and share ideas with things which DID work and those which DID NOT! Then, it was mostly trial and error. Oh yes, there still is trial and error today, BUT, in today's world, with computers and newsletters, the word gets out to many, rather than just a few.

This is where the NWRA and the IWRC come in. These are two organizations whose sole purpose is to bridge this gap of rehab organizations so that EVERYONE can be knowledgeable, instead of just one or two.

The National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association and the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council work with wildlife groups and individuals to help produce 'papers' on a myriad of subject matters within the wildlife rehab field. A 'paper' is information produced by a person or an organization on (usually) one subject matter. It could be something VERY specific such as Lyme Disease, which is **mostly** specific to ticks on fawns (baby deer). Or, it could be something general such as raising raccoons or Steller's Jays.

The bottom line is that we 'share' our information with others, so we ALL can become more knowledgeable and do what we are here to do – SAVE THE LIVES OF WILDLIFE! Our NUMBER ONE GOAL is to release – back to the wild – the wildlife which has been entrusted to us by the public which we serve. THIS is where the NWRA and the IWRC come into existence.

These two organizations each hold an annual symposium every year – in different parts of the country. This is done for a reason. For some people, it is easier to make the NWRA Conference, usually held in early March. This year, that conference was in Minnetonka, Minnesota. And, YES, it was cold!! The IWRC will

hold their conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, November 10 - 12.

Toronto, for those who don't know, is just about an hour and a half drive from Niagara Falls. So, if you are interested in going to Toronto, you might plan to stay an extra day or two and take in the sights of one of the 7 wonders of the world! Cheryl and I flew into Toronto about 9 years ago when IWRC held their conference in Niagara and then drove to the conference. It was a very special experience for both the conference AND the beauty of Niagara Falls.

Next year, the NWRA will hold its conference in Costa Mesa, in Orange County. It will be held March 7 - 11 at the Costa Mesa Hilton. In addition to the warmth of Southern California (as compared to the frigid temperatures of Minnesota), Costa Mesa offers the Happiest Place on Earth – Disneyland, beaches, just an hours drive from San Diego and about an hours drive from snow skiing (if you are into that). We would highly recommend that you plan to attend both of these conferences to expand your knowledge on the science of wildlife rehabilitation.

You can visit their web sites by going to OUR home page: [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org) OR

**NWRA**

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



**IWRC**

[www.iwrc-online.org](http://www.iwrc-online.org)



**27th Annual  
LTWC Training Seminar  
Saturday and Sunday  
May 21st and 22nd  
\$60 per person**

## WEB SITE

Did you know that Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care has a web site???

It is: [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org).

We hope you would take a few moments to take a look at our new, updated web site. If you know of anyone who is interested in what we do, please direct them to this location. We are in the process of getting more and more information for you to see with the birds and animals we are caring for. Also, this will be a way for newcomers to see what LTWC is all about.

We would like to thank Karen Johnson with First Tracks Productions for volunteering her time to overhaul and implement current information on the site. We are in the process of putting ALL of the past Quill Newsletters on line. At the current time, the past two are there, and shortly after this issue is out, it will also be on the site.

We hope you like what you see. Karen has done a wonderful job and she has new ideas which we will work on implementing, so you MUST stay tuned. As you will see, we have many pictures of the birds and animals we have cared for.

Also, we are anxious to hear what you have to say about the new web site. Please, send us your ideas on how we can make it better. Karen is very open to suggestions and usually has an excellent idea on how to accomplish the tasks before her.

For suggestions, please send them to [info@ltwc.org](mailto:info@ltwc.org)

### WANTED: NEW VOLUNTEERS

If you have a desire to work with wild birds and animals in a rehabilitation capacity, then you are strongly requested to take the 27th Annual Training Seminar offered by Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care on Saturday and Sunday, May 21st and 22nd, 2005.

Cost of the seminar is \$60 per person.

If additional family members are interested in the class, their cost is just \$40 each.

Minimum age requirement is 8 years old.

Individuals must be a minimum of 16.

Once you have taken the seminar, you are then qualified to work with Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care and care for the hundreds of wild birds and animals entrusted to them annually.

For more information, call

**530-577-2273!**



Beaver have to eat too. The three beaver kids came to LTWC when they were less than 48 hours old. Cheryl started them on an every 4-hour schedule, but that was enough for them, so she increased the 'number' of feedings a day by feeding them every 2-hours. That pleased them to no end and they lived happily ever after.

**Did you remember to renew your membership? If not, you can use the form inside the back page and the envelope accompanying this newsletter. We rely on your membership to help us keep caring for and releasing the wildlife in the Tahoe Basin.**

**27th Annual  
LTWC Training Seminar  
Saturday and Sunday  
May 21st and 22nd  
\$60 per person**

After communicating with Dana via Internet, then a phone call, Dana said she would be happy to drive to Sacramento for us, meet the volunteers from SWC then I would meet her in Strawberry. Everything 'seemed' to be going like clockwork. Seemed to be!

I met Dana at the Strawberry Post Office. When she pulled up, I got out of my car to greet her. Guess what!! I accidentally pushed the wrong button on my car and LOCKED ALL THE DOORS, and then promptly closed the door, with the keys IN THE CAR, on the driver's seat and my purse in the back seat!!! WRONG!!!

So, as usual, when I panic, I called Tom! I asked him to call On-Star and have them open the car. He told me that we only had On-Star on HIS car, not mine! I was devastated. Tom then got hold of one of our friends and volunteers, Sheryl Ferguson and she agreed to meet him at his post office, get his spare keys for my car and drive them up to me. Thank goodness for volunteers and friends.

So, while we were waiting for Sheryl, Dana said she wished her daughter, Evann, who was in school, could see the beavers. I asked her about Evann's school and was told they have a 2-room schoolhouse at Silver Fork with about 18 students of different ages. I figured we had a good 45 minutes before Sheryl arrived, so I said, "Let's go!"

The postmaster at Strawberry has a son at the school, so she called and said we were on our way.

I believe everything happens for a reason. Because of locking my keys in the car, we were able to give this 2-room school a 1/2 hour program on wildlife rehabilitation and care.

Well, back to the beavers. People either love them or hate them. I have heard for years

that the beavers don't belong in Tahoe and that they were introduced by Fish and Game and that they stop the trout from Lake Tahoe from spawning (which was a new bit of info for me).

I have been caring for and studying wild-life for 27 years and beaver are one of the species I have studied the most.

There was a Washoe Indian woman who was close to 100 years old and I have her testimony before she passed away a few years ago that beavers were here at Tahoe. She "personally" can remember them when she was a little girl. Her father and grandfather hunted them for fur when the Washoe lived at Tahoe in the summers. The Washoe have a name for beaver and they only have names for animals they know! For example, they have no word for elephants, lions, etc.

The beaver were hunted out of the Tahoe Basin when the timber was logged, then were brought back into the area they had once occupied.

I spoke with a game warden who also knows fish habitat.

I asked him if the beaver dams were/are the reason there are so few fish in Lake Tahoe and if the trout go all the way upstream from Lake Tahoe to Christmas Valley (via the Truckee River) to lay their eggs.

He responded, "Yes, the trout could go that far, but, if there is a beaver dam in their way, they would just lay their eggs in the gravel in front of the dam.

I hope this clears up some of the questions on beavers.

Now - here is what I feel about this!

Tom and I moved here from Temple City, California (Los Angeles area) in 1976, so, I guess you can say we are an 'introduced' species. We also live in a wood house and burn about 4-5 cords of wood each winter to heat our home. The beavers also need wood to eat and build their homes. There is enough wood for all of us to live together.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

In March, we sent out our Annual Membership Renewals for Active and Honorary Members. As we have told you before, the membership renewals account for more than 30% of our annual budget.

The funding we receive goes toward all of the services we provide to the wildlife we care for, which includes, but is not limited to: Specialty foods for proper baby diets, veterinary supplies, medicine, veterinary services and administrative costs.

We are able to save a considerable amount of money on veterinarian costs due to the donated time of Dr. Kevin Willitts of Alpine Animal Hospital in South Lake Tahoe. We want you to know how much we appreciate him and his service to our organization. In addition to serving as our vet, Dr. Willitts also serves on our Board of Directors as Vice-President. His valuable time is recognized and appreciated by our board members.

Because of your membership donations, we have been able to help over 17,000 wild birds and animals in the 27 years since we began this organization. We have an overall release rate of 67%, which means that 2 out of every 3 wild birds and animals which come into LTWC for help, are released back into the wild, where they belong and where we ALL can appreciate them.

So far, in 2005, and we are only 3 ½ months into the year, we have released the two bear cubs which spent most of the winter with us after being orphaned last summer. One came from the Fallen Leaf area and the other just north of D. L. Bliss State Park. In February, they were released back to the wild (see story on page XXX).

In February, we took in a marsh hawk which just needed some time to recover (probably a slight concussion). He was with us for just one month, but after some tender loving care, was released back into the wild. Once airborne, he never looked back. He just flew and flew like Marsh Hawks do. It was (and always is) an incredible sight to see them take to the air with the agility they possess.

## Lifetime Bald Eagle Members

*As we mentioned in previous issues, we have new membership 'clubs'. However, those supporters who were members of the Bald Eagle (Life Member) club, will remain Life Members and we appreciate their support. Listed below are those people who contributed \$1,000 or more in a 12-month period of time. Thank You. You will always be in our Bald Eagle Club!*

Jim and Ethelmae Haldan	Michelle and Perry O'Dell
Willette Strong	Suzanne McDowell
Don Henley	Robert I. Wishnick Foundation
Jane Kenyon	Sierra Pacific Power Co.
Josette Denton	Tahoe Mountain Milers
Bob and Sue Rutherford	Robert M. Lee Foundation
Mickey Dugdale	Rob and Chris St. James
Calif. Sierra State Parks Assn.	Tony and Beth Sears
City of South Lake Tahoe	Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane
Caesars Tahoe Dealers	Larry and Julie Moore
Jack and Mary Lou Cassingham	Pete and Diana Mountanos
Lake Tahoe Kiwanis Sunrisers	Gloria Bourke
Mandy Davis and Rodney Volkmar	Doni and Jim Glassmaker
Jarrold and Brennan Davis	Harrah's Tahoe
BankAmerica Foundation	Estate of Alice Valla
Tilton Family Foundation	Randy's Locksmith - Greg Cattoni
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspay	

In March, we took in a golden eagle. The eagle was very weak and couldn't fly. After an examination, it was discovered he was very thin AND was very low on blood volume. This eagle will probably be with us for at least 30 – 60 days to (1) fatten up enough to get strong and (2) get the blood count up. With these two positive features, the eagle will be able to be released back into the wild and survive for – we hope – a very long time.

Then, in April, we took in 3 baby beavers which were taken by C-Section from their dying mother in Stanislaus County (near Modesto). They are on a very special dietary milk supplement and at the time of this newsletter, are all doing very well. Their projected release date will be in the fall.

**THIS** is what we do with your donation money. We use it to help the wildlife brought in to us because they need our help. **WE** need **YOUR** help. Let's work together.

If you didn't get a membership renewal form in the mail, **OR**, if you would like to become an honorary member, please fill out the form on the inside back cover of this newsletter (next page).

# LTWC's 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

May	17th	Board of Directors Meeting - 7pm @ LTWC center.
May	21st & 22nd	27th Annual Training Seminar
July	12th	Board of Directors Meeting - 7pm @ LTWC center.
August	1st	LTWC Open House
August	13th & 14th	20th Annual Great Gatsby Festival @ Tallac Historic Site - Fund Raiser
September	13th	Board of Directors Meeting - 7pm @ LTWC center.
October	1st & 2nd	16th Annual Kokanee Festival @ Lake Tahoe Visitor's Center
October	9th	Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon @ LTWC - 12 noon

Do you have a car, boat or other vehicle, in good working condition, you are considering trading in on a new one? Instead of trading in your old(er) vehicle, why don't you donate it to **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care** and receive a tax deduction.

If this is something you are considering, then just call **LTWC** at **530-577-2273** and ask for help in your contribution.

In the past three years, **LTWC** has received nearly \$20,000 for vehicles which have been received by contributors.

Other ways you can help **LTWC** in the future is to consider leaving a bequest. We were recently received a donation because we were named in a will and several others have told us we are mentioned in their wills as well. This is one way to assure our long range financial success.

We have been working with the orphaned and injured wild birds and animals in and around the Lake Tahoe Basin for 24 years. Our success is due to support from our volunteers in the form of financial support, hours served and spreading the word.

For those of you who have been working 'with' us in the past, we thank you. For those of you who have thought of working with us, why not make 2002 the year to make a commitment.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!

**Active** (ONLY those who have taken the training class.)      **Honorary** (Those who wish to help out financially)

### Our "Club" Program.

Select your choice of either your favorite wild bird or animal, or the amount of your contribution.

<b>Black Bear</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Bobcat</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Great-Horned Owl</b>	<b>\$500</b>

<b>Beaver</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Merganser</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Red-Tailed Hawk</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Raccoon</b>	<b>\$65</b>
<b>Fawn</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Steller's Jay</b>	<b>\$20</b>

Your selection is:

Club Name

\$

Amount of Contribution

Are you an Active or Honorary member?      Active      Honorary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your Tax-Deductible donation to:

**Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.**  
 1485 Cherry Hills Circle  
 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921  
 530-577-CARE

# LTWC 'Club Members'

Listed below are those supporters of LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE who have contributed (during a 12 month period of time) in an Extra Special Way. You will notice, in the 'Membership Information Form' (page 11), the various 'Clubs' which individuals or families can contribute. Would you like to see your name added to these lists? We sure would! Please help us to

***"Give Mother Nature a Helping Hand!"***

## Black Bear

(\$10,000 Donation)

**Pete and Diana Mountanos  
Anonymous**

## Bobcat

(\$5,000 Donation)

**Estate of Alice Valla**

## Bald Eagle

(\$2,500 Donation)

**Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane  
Harveys/Harrahs Lake Tahoe  
Drew and Carol Rutter**

## Golden Eagle

(\$1,000 Donation)

**Robert M. Lee Foundation  
Rob and Chris St. James  
Larry and Julie Moore  
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspey  
Greg Cattoni - Randy's Locksmith  
Jennifer Randall - Youth Develop. Fdn.  
Betsy Cohen  
Willette Strong  
Caesars Tahoe Dealer's  
Tahoe League for Charity**

## Great-Horned Owl

(\$500 Donation)

<p><b>Kevin &amp; Kathryn Schaller Mike, Lesley &amp; Staci Furtado George and Jan Smith Pat Banner Mike and Charmaine Pape Richard and Dana Smith-Miller McLane and Adelle Tilton Dr. Randy Watson Bill and Jonna Hutt Jim and Linda Mueller Carla Yant</b></p>	<p><b>Ron and Jan Cook Rick Ahlswede Barbara Kucala Dr. Mireya Ortega Ron Cline Evie Viera Dave Isenberg Christensen Automotive Don and Kay Edwards Cliff Hansen Howard and Linda Lewis-Perry</b></p>
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**Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.**  
(530) 577-CARE  
1485 Cherry Hills Circle  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921

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