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LTWC'S Web Site: [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)

## 26th Annual Training Seminar Sat & Sun. May 22 & 23, 2004!

### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Seminar

Every year, LTWC offers a Training Seminar to educate new volunteers to assist with our efforts to care for orphaned and injured wild birds and animals.

Annually we will train between 50 and 100 new 'rehabbers' to help in the feeding, cleaning, rehabbing and releasing of the 800 – 1,000 wildlife which comes into our facility.

The two-day training class fee is \$60 per person and will take place on Saturday AND Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. For families, the first member is \$60, each additional family member is \$40 (training manual NOT included).

The first day is mostly lecture type, with the second day more of a hands-on training. All volunteers who wish to work with LTWC, **MUST** take the entire two day course.

The trainees will learn the basic diets, feeding techniques, housing, first-aid, capture, transportation, anatomy and physical examination. Cheryl Millham, Executive Director of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc. is the primary instructor on Saturday, while LTWC Board Members and experienced volunteers assist in the training on Sunday.

An age limit of 16 is required; otherwise a parent must attend the training with the student. Deadline for the registration fee is Sunday, May 16, 2004 and that includes a training manual, one-year membership with LTWC and lunch (on Sunday).

We hope you will consider joining in with exceptionally interesting study. Be a wildlife rehabber. (See Registration Form on page 13).

See you Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>!



At last years Training Seminar (the Sunday version), Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer, displays to the class members the proper way to hold a 'raptor' (a meat eating bird). In this case, the 'raptor' is a Golden Eagle who is also in need of a heavy dose of vitamins and proteins, so the bird was 'tubed'. This is a process to get food directly into the crop and allow the bird to digest it with a minimal amount of energy expended. When holding and working with a raptor, ALWAYS protect yourself from its 'talons' (feet)!

### **IN THIS ISSUE!**

<b>26th Annual Training Seminar</b>	<b>Front Page</b>
<b>Secretary's White-Out</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Bob's Barometer</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Tribune Editorial</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>2003 LTWC Raffle Winners</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>LTWC Annual Report</b>	<b>Pages 8 &amp; 9</b>
<b>Class Registration Form</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Membership Info</b>	<b>Page 15</b>



by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

Welcome to 2004. Last year was a 'little' under-achieving for Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. EVERYTHING was down, including our finances and the birds and animals we cared for (see Annual Report on pages 8 & 9). But, we have heard from many other wildlife groups saying that they were also down, both in the number of birds and animals they cared for, AND in the amount of donations and membership renewals received. So, we were not the only one in that boat.

On another matter, some of you have heard that we had a very serious period of time in March, as our Board President, Bob Rutherford, was diagnosed with some blocked arterial arteries and was sent to Washoe Medical Hospital in Reno for a triple heart by-pass. When they actually got in to do the operation, it turned into a four-way by-pass. He was in the hospital for two and a half weeks and then came home to 'rehab'. Many people have sent him e-mails and get well cards and he told me that he appreciated all the well wishers.

In mid April, we sent out the membership renewal forms for 2004-05. We would be most grateful for your early and large donation. If you did not get your renewal in the mail, you can use the form on page 15 of this issue of the Quill.

*Pine Tree Printing*

**THE QUILL**

Published Quarterly  
Tom Millham, Editor

**LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC.**

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# West Nile Virus

We have heard about it. We have seen what it can do. And, now, we must be ready, because - - - HERE IT COMES!

WEST NILE VIRUS is a 'mosquito-borne virus and is transmitted to people, animals and birds by infected mosquitoes.

The mosquito is the top rated disease carrying insect in the world. Here at Tahoe, we have two (2) of the most wonderful mosquito eating critters. One – a mammal. The other – a bird.

To feed their babies, Swallows will eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes a day - - - EACH!! Have you ever seen how many swallow nests are in just one area under a building's eaves? Very seldom will you see just one or two, right? It is usually 20 or 30.

Well, those 'nests' are called "mud nests" and those particular swallows are known as 'Cliff Swallows'! They build nests where there is food. Mom AND dad both help in feeding the nestlings. What is their number one food source? Mosquitoes! You can do the math. Two birds, feeding themselves, plus the nestlings PER NEST! That is as many as 2,000 per day – PER NEST! On this ONE building where there are 20 or 30 nests, that is up to 60,000 mosquitoes per day. . Now. Who doesn't like Cliff Swallows?

Bats – on the other hand – put swallows to shame. Where one swallow will eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes a day, a bat (which is a mammal), can eat up to 800 to 1,000 per HOUR in a feeding frenzy!!! PER HOUR! We have several species of bats in the High Sierra's, but they all think mosquitoes are simply delish!

So, this summer, please welcome both of these mosquito eating (and that's just about all they eat) friends.

**26th Annual  
LTWC Training Seminar  
Saturday and Sunday  
May 22nd and 23rd  
\$60 Per Person**

## The Little Squirrel That Came Back

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec. Dir.

LTWC had a bumper crop of Western Gray Squirrel babies in 2003. There were two very special squirrels that came in late August. Their eyes were already open but the folks who found them didn't realize how young they were. They kept them for several days, not understanding – that at 4 weeks – the babies still needed to be nursed every three hours and were too young to eat on their own.

When the people finally realized the squirrels were getting weaker and weaker, they finally called LTWC to get directions to the wildlife center and brought the kids in.

I must admit it was touch and go for a few days, but the kids finally started coming along and gaining weight. One of the squirrels had a small 'tweak' (curve) at the end of its tail.

They seemed to understand that their milk was coming every few hours and ceased the 'in between feeding' panic! The rest of their rehabilitation went along normally. They learned to eat and then weaned from their milk. When they were 10 weeks old, they went outside into the first 'Fawn Isolation Cubicle'. This had been fixed up just for them with tree limbs, some stationary and some moveable, so when they climbed on it or jumped, there was movement like a 'normal' tree branch.

About 2 ½ weeks were spent in this enclosure and then the outside door was opened and they were free to go as they desired until they felt comfortable with their new freedom. Then they were on their own to 'meld' into their new environment and I thought this was another great release.

It was now mid-October and Jim and Linda Mueller and their two sons, Max and Luke, were out in the compound by the back deck. We were all talking and a small Western Gray Squirrel with a tweak in the end of its tail was coming across the yard from the direction of the river otter cage. I told everyone not to worry. I recognized it as one of the Western Grays I had released about 3 weeks ago. However, this was the first time I had seen it since then. I asked Tom to go and give it some peanuts. The young squirrel fol-

(Continued on Page 12)

# Bob's Barometer

by Bob Rutherford, LTWC President

This was a particularly nerve racking and hectic year for LTWC because of the legal matters with the El Dorado County Planning Commission and the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors concerning renewing our amended Special Use Permit.

We couldn't have accomplished our successful ending in this matter without all the support of our members, the City of South Lake Tahoe residents, Councilman Tom Davis, Steve McHugh and Catherine Abel of the Tahoe Mountain News.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of them. It was a long, tough fight and we won round one.

Another kudo I'd like to extend is to all the businesses that donated to our annual Fund Raising Raffle. It was another success this year and it is because of the donations we received from the businesses with the prizes and from YOU for contributing to LTWC with this event.



Four Year Old **Heather Turcios** shares her story about her broken arm with this young **Western Gray Squirrel**. Both 'patients' broke their left arm/leg at about the same time, **HOWEVER**, the squirrels recovery time was much quicker.

# LTWC must keep doing its job

Tahoe Daily Tribune Staff Reports

*Editor's Note: LTWC received permission from the Tahoe Daily Tribune to reprint this editorial printed in the November 3, 2003 issue!*

Life without Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. It is a scary scenario. This nonprofit organization has been a fixture on the South Shore for a quarter of a century. It has outgrown its facility near Tahoe Paradise. Even so, it is in the process of coming into compliance with all of the governing agencies as well as finding someplace to relocate to.

It is hard to know what would have happened to the countless number of animals that have been rehabilitated had the group not been there to help. Raise, rehabilitate, release - those are the words LTWC workers live by.

This is the slow season for Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. Only five birds are being treated. One is a golden eagle. The goal is to have it fly every day in an attempt to get its strength up so it can be free to survive on its own. Soon it could be released on Carson Pass. From there it has endless options.

Who knows, maybe it will wing its way toward its brethren near Mount Diablo in the Bay Area. This 820-square-kilometer region in the East Bay is known for being the highest-density, golden eagle nesting territory in the world.

It was Sierra-at-Tahoe General Manager John Rice who helped release the first golden eagle in 1999. This was one of four goldens that year to be rehabilitated by LTWC and returned to its natural environment.

Of the 50 or so golden eagles which have passed through the doors of LTWC, about two-thirds have been rehabilitated. An unfortunate reality is that not all animals can be saved - and not all that are saved can return to the wild. The Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek has been the recipient of some of LTWC's brood which cannot survive on their own.

Tom and Cheryl Millham run the animal center. They have been jumping through hoops for months to get their permits in order. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency has requested \$890 from them in order for the regulatory agency to review the plan area statement.

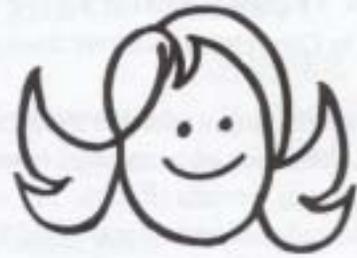


This baby **Great-Horned Owl** is sitting on one of the perches in the Mew, rehabilitating and getting ready for its eventual release back into the wild.

The Millham's want to care for animals up to age 1 or 100 pounds. This is what the county will allow them to do. Staff at TRPA could recommend not allowing this. If this happens, Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care volunteers would not have much to do. It would potentially mean animals being left to die.

When one remembers that eagles are often hurt because of power lines or automobiles - human beings and their things - it would seem only reasonable that humans ought to be there to help fix the problem they caused. LTWC is there. Everything should be done to ensure it can operate where it is. Ideally a larger site on the South Shore will be found so it can relocate and provide even more services. But in the meantime, everything should be done to ensure it continues to operate where it is without threat of being shut down.

# Kid's Korner



## Word Search

Can you find these words in the chart below??? They will be horizontal, vertical and/or diagonal. ALL of the words are either a bird or animal which live in the Tahoe Basin. Good luck! Have Fun.

Find these Birds and Animals in the chart below. Circle the name when you find it, then cross the name off the list.

**BALD EAGLE, BEAR, BEAVER, BOBCAT, DIPPER, FAWN,  
HAWK, OWL, RACCOON, ROBIN, STELLERS JAY, SWALLOW**

P	B	A	L	D	E	A	G	L	E	S	M
F	E	E	H	A	W	K	B	U	I	Y	N
W	A	O	A	C	A	L	L	P	A	O	W
D	R	W	E	V	H	G	K	J	M	R	T
V	S	S	N	X	E	M	S	L	N	C	Z
C	O	W	L	W	E	R	D	J	R	Y	A
B	S	T	A	C	E	I	M	T	A	L	N
H	C	R	J	L	P	F	W	K	C	E	D
O	N	U	L	P	L	B	O	B	C	A	T
B	D	E	E	T	S	O	M	V	O	N	F
B	T	R	M	A	C	S	W	P	O	I	D
S	A	D	R	O	B	I	N	B	N	T	C

## A Wish Come True

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec. Dir.

Marianne Huizing, a rehabber from Canada, was working at Lake Tahoe on a mammal research study from University of Nevada (Reno). She stopped by one day and introduced herself and asked if she could come and volunteer on her days off.

Since she was already 'trained' at a wildlife rehab center in Canada, I said, "Yes! Just sign up on the volunteer calendar in the office".

It was interesting to learn new ways and how the Canadians did things.

LTWC Board Member, Pam Guzzi seen in the picture at right, came to help at the center everyday, so she was also able to meet Marianne.

One day, Marianne noticed on our records that we have rehabbed Mergansers. She told Pam and I that their rehab group always lost all the babies they cared for. They were not able to save, let alone release any of their baby Mergansers. She asked us why we were so successful and what we did different from them.

Both Pam and Marianne wished we would get some Merganser babies so Marianne could learn – First Hand – how we keep them alive, and then rehab them to their eventual release.

When the Mergansers are little, we obtain Comets (smallest goldfish) from a pet store supplier. But, as the Mergansers get larger, we start setting our minnow traps and catch our own 'food'. I reminded Pam of all the hard it was for her because she has taken on the responsibility for getting the minnows to feed the Mergansers.

Pam takes the minnow traps up to Echo Lake (on top of Echo Summit) and sets them. Then, we all pray the traps don't get stolen or a fisherman won't see a way to get 'free' minnows. If our traps get 'hit', the baby Mergansers go without food for that day. One of the hardest parts of this process is to transport the minnows from Echo Lake to the center without them dying. Once they get here, we have an adequate 'holding' tank which will keep them alive for quite some time.

But it was two against one. Two people 'wishing' to get Mergansers (Pam and Marianne) and one against (me).

Well, the TWO won out and we got in eight just hatched, healthy baby Mergansers.

I hope Marianne will get a chance to teach her rehab group in Canada just how easy and simple – even



though it is hard work – it is to Raise, Rehabilitate and Release Mergansers. Pam did get some help this year by another LTWC rehabber, Carol Rutter. She took on some of the responsibility of getting minnows up at Echo Lake. Without Pam and Carol, LTWC would not have been able to properly raise and release this group of kids.

## “Stumped” at Taylor Creek!

by Lori Ross, LTWC Board Member

This is a true story that took place in the fall, at the U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center area, off Highway 89.

While walking along the “Rainbow Trail”, we observed some Aspen trees that had been chopped down, about twenty feet from Taylor Creek. The tops of the large trunks looked like hatchets had chopped them, leaving pointed tops on three to four foot high stumps.

Upon closer examination, we realized that the hatchet marks were actually gnawing grooves left by long, narrow teeth.

What kind of animal could chop these stumps off so tall?

What could drag these huge trees away?

Did we have gigantic beavers here?

No... Actually, in the spring, normal beavers had felled these trees while standing on top of several feet of snow. Then the logs had floated into Taylor Creek, when the water level was much higher.

SO, if you ever hear tales of these gigantic beavers, you know the true story!

## 2003 LTWC Annual Fund Raising Raffle Winners

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Accurate Audio/Video	Dr. Linda Wolf	Horizon's Hotel/Casino	Dr. Wendy Schopf
Action Watersports	Carol Daum	Hutt Aviation	John Brissenden
Action Watersports	Mike Warren	Ken's Tires	Tony Sanders
Alpine Meadows Ski Resort	Al Robeson	Kirkwood Mountain Resort	Karen Martin
Alpine Meadows Ski Resort	Carla Hamill	Lake Tahoe Coin, Jewelry & Loan	Carol Ottomeier
Al's Chevron Way	Elfie Klementi	Lake Tahoe Cruises	Debi Bird
Al's Chevron Way	Ed Rogers	Lake Tahoe Cruises	Dr. Pat Ferraro
Al's Chevron Way	Gail Wedgwood	Lake Tahoe Cruises	Angelo Catelani
Al's Chevron Way	Marilyn Pawling	Lake Tahoe Cruises	Libbie Garrett
Aspen Hollow	Deb Griest	Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Tours	Anne Olson
Aspen Hollow	Dave Solaro	Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care	Richard Olmstead
Aspen Hollow	Sheryl Lanier	Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care	Mastanah Brett
Beacon Bar & Grill	Esther Simpson	Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care	Helmut Krieger
Bob Dietz	Steve Stoll	Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care	Melanie Tackett
Burger King	Jim Matthews	Lilly's Firestone	Hughie March
Burger King	Bill Frye	LJ's Jewelry	Bob Rutherfordale
Burger King	Kathy Evans	LJ's Jewelry	Bobbi Rutherfordale
Burger King	Jeanne Beemer	Marie Callender's	Deb Treiber
Burger King	Mike Pape	Molly's Bed and Breakfast	Willette Strong
Burger King	Colleen McCreagh	New York Pizza	Walter Sandford
Burger King	Elaine Morris	New York Pizza	Chris Lindner
Burger King	Richard Thomson	Passaretti's	Karen Zicko
Burger King	Greg Trischler	Performance Sleds	David Kubik
Burger King	Sheryl Ferguson	Rainbow Mt.	Chris Cefalu
Carina's Café	Carol Rutter	Sierra Athletic Club	Fred Wise
Colonial Bank	Arlene Thomas	Sierra-at-Tahoe	Susie Toreno
Curves for Women - SLT	Terry Ressler	Sierra-at-Tahoe	Levon Touryan
Curves for Women - SLT	Gwen Rohrer	Simpson's - The Diamond House	Julia Moore
Curves for Women - SLT	Katheen Valdez	Squaw Valley Ski Corp.	Gary Johnson
Curves for Women - SLT	Alpine Animal Hospital	Steamer's Bar & Grill	Charlie Poe
Dart Discount Liquors	Daunelle Wulstein	Steamer's Bar & Grill	Steve Searles
Embassy Suites	Ron and Ginger Mitchell	Tahoe Arts Project	Hersehel Davis
Embassy Vacation Resorts	Jonna Morales-Hutt	Tep's Villa Roma	Linda Denton
Ernie's Coffee Shop	Marianne Bennett	Time Out Health Spa and Fitness	Ila Barry
Five Star Automotive	Peggy Thompson	Tudor Pub/Dory's Oar Restaurant	Debbie Benson
Fresh Ketch	Holly Allen	U S Bank	Salena Davis
Harrahs Las Vegas	Pat and Dave Colon	Womack's Texas Style Bar-B-Q	Nolie Pierini
Harrah's Tahoe	Ben and Sandy Scott	Zephyr Cove Snowmobile Center	Jancie Stillions
Harveys Resort Hotel/Casino	Peggy Cooley		

# LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC., 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

## DIFFERENT SPECIES

TOTAL WILDLIFE CARED FOR: 746  
 EXPIRED, EUTHANIZED, EOA AND DOA: 281  
 RELEASED, TRANSFERRED AND PERM. CARE: 465

BIRDS: 81  
 MAMMALS: 17

RELEASE RATE 62%

## BIRDS

	INFANT	JUVENILE	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
<b>ANSERIFORMES (Water Fowl)</b>										
Canada Goose	23	1	9	16	10		5	2	33	
Common Merganser	8	1	1	10					10	
Common Goldeneye			1	1					1	
Mallard	10	8	18	15	8		10	3	36	80
<b>FALCONIFORMES (Vultures, Hawks &amp; Falcons)</b>										
Bald Eagle			2	1		1			2	
Golden Eagle			4	3	1				4	
Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk)		1	2	2	1				3	
Osprey			2	2					2	
Red-Tailed Hawk	1	3		4					4	
Sharp-Shinned Hawk			1				1		1	
Turkey Vulture			1					1	1	17
<b>CHARADRIIFORMES (Avocets, Sandpipers, Plovers, Gulls &amp; Terns)</b>										
Killdeer	2			2					2	
Least Tern		1		1					1	
California Gull			11	1	1		8	1	11	14
<b>COLUMBIFORMES (Pigeons &amp; Doves)</b>										
Band-Tailed Pigeon		3	6	5	1		3		9	
Mourning Dove		4	14	14	1		1	2	18	
Rock Dove	1	2	12	8	1		5	1	15	42
<b>APODIFORMES (Hummingbirds &amp; Swifts)</b>										
Anna's Hummingbird			3	2	1				3	
Rufous Hummingbird		1					1		1	4
<b>PODICIPEDIFORMES (Grebes)</b>										
Western Grebe			2	2					2	2
<b>GALLINACEOUS (Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys and Quail)</b>										
Blue Grouse			2	1				1	2	
California Quail			4	4					4	6
<b>GRUIFORMES (Cranes, Rails, Coots &amp; Limpkins)</b>										
American Coot			3	3					3	3
<b>PICIFORMES (Woodpeckers, Flickers &amp; Sapsuckers)</b>										
Downy Woodpecker			1	1					1	
Hairy Woodpecker			2	1	1				2	
Northern Flicker		2	10	5	4		1	2	12	
White-Headed Woodpecker		2	4	3	2		1		6	
Williamson's Sapsucker			3	2	1				3	
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker			4	3	1				4	28
<b>STRINGIFORMES (Owls)</b>										
Barn Owl			1				1		1	
Great-Horned Owl	2	4		5			1		6	
Pygmy Owl			2	1	1				2	
Saw-Whet Owl			1	1					1	
Short-Eared Owl			1				1		1	11

INFANT JUVENILE ADULT RELEASED EXPIRED EUTHANIZED EOA DOA TOTAL

**PASSERIFORMES (Perching Birds)**

	INFANT	JUVENILE	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
American Robin	6	24	18	36	3		8	1	48	
Audubons Warbler		2		2					2	
Barn Swallow	3		1	4					4	
Black-Headed Grosbeak	1						1		1	
Brewer's Blackbird	4	12	13	17	5		6	1	29	
Cassin's Finch		3	6	4	3			2	9	
Cliff Swallow	11	29	6	36	5		2	3	46	
Common Crow		2					1	1	2	
Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco	4	1	6	7	4				11	
Eastern Starling		6	6	5	4		3		12	
Evening Grosbeak	1	4	17	11	6		4	1	22	
Fox Sparrow		1	1		2				2	
House Finch		4		4					4	
House Sparrow		3	5	5	3				8	
Mountain Chickadee	5	4	8	10	4		3		17	
Pine Siskin		4	4	3	1		3	1	8	
Purple Finch		6		4	2				6	
Pygmy Nuthatch	1	2		1	2				3	
Raven	1						1		1	
Red-Breasted Nuthatch			1	1					1	
Rufous-Sided Towhee			2	1			1		2	
Scrub Jay		2		2					2	
Stellers Jay	23	72	30	83	16		21	5	125	
Townsend's Solitaire			3	2	1				3	
Western Tanager		1		1					1	
Wilson's Warbler			2	1	1				2	
Yellow-Rumped Warbler			1		1				1	372
<b>TOTAL BIRDS</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>579</b>

**MAMMALS**

	INFANT	JUVENILE	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
Black Bear	0				0				0	
Bobcat	1	2		1	1	1			3	
Brown Bat			2	1	1				2	
California Ground Squirrel	5	9	6	12	7		1		20	
California Myotis Bat			3	1	1			1	3	
Chickaree Squirrel	7	17	11	19	8		5	3	35	
Cotton Tail Rabbit		1	1	2					2	
Golden Mantel Squirrel		4	2	5				1	6	
Jack Rabbit			1	1					1	
Least Chipmunk	3	5	10	15	3				18	
Lodge Pole Chipmunk	5	1	4	5	3		2		10	
Long-Eared Chipmunk	3	1	2	3	3				6	
Mountain Cotton Tail*			1	1					1	
Mule Deer	5			1	4				5	
Raccoon	6	2	2	9			1		10	
River Otter	1				1				1	
Snowshoe Rabbit		1	1	1	1				2	
Western Gray Squirrel	14	19	9	29	6	2	4	1	42	167
<b>TOTAL MAMMALS</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>167</b>

NESTLING FLEDGLING ADULT RELEASED EXPIRED EUTHANIZED EOA DOA TOTAL

<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>										
<b>MAMMALS &amp; BIRDS</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>746</b>

## New Species

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec. Dir.

Every year we get a bird of animal that we have never had in the rehab center before. 2003 was no different.

A young fledgling (bird) was brought in and I was unable to identify it right away, BUT it did seem a little familiar.

The reason it has to be identified is so it will be fed the right food. IF it was fed the *wrong* food, it 'could' kill the bird, or it just would not eat, get weak and then die.

SO. The **FIRST** thing I looked at is the feet. They were webbed and were a light, yellowish-green color. The legs were short, NOT like the long legs of a Killdeer (a shorebird).

The body was heavier and longer than the shorebirds and, at this age, it was all white. Next were the wings. It had long, narrow wings and it looked like gray feathers were starting at the end of each wing.

It had a short neck and a white head and, at this age, a black bill (beak). The wings, short legs and body shape all started looking familiar.

Do you have any ideas yet???

The wings, short legs and body shape all started looking more familiar. Then – I had it! It was a tern!!!

When we lived at Bender's Marina at Camp Richardson, we used to watch them fly over the marshy area behind our house doing their incredible mating dance of swooping and diving, making LARGE circles in the sky. Our daughter, Connie, and I used to set for an hour watching them.

Our little fledgling had the same body shape and long slender pointed wings symbolic of terns. The BEST food for terns is fish. In this case, comets, which are small goldfish. Soon, a shallow dish with water and 5 very small comets were added. Sure enough – the little tern ran over and started gobbling up its dinner!

Now – for the record – we had to figure out the species if this particular tern. There are 19 species in North America, but only two (2) have been seen at Lake Tahoe - the Arctic Tern and the Least Tern. The ONLY way to determine which species we had was to keep it until it grew up and started getting its markings.

Well, actually, we had to keep it anyway until it was old enough to fly and catch its own fish. That's



LTWC Volunteer, **Pete Van Arnum**, holds a Bald Eagle which came in last year from Lake Almanor. A mama cow had dropped her calf. The eagle was eating the afterbirth and was kicked by a mama cow. Minor bruising was the diagnosis and after a few flights, the eagle was returned for release. By the way - - both mama cow and baby calf are doing fine.

**26th Annual  
LTWC Training Seminar  
Saturday and Sunday  
May 22nd and 23rd  
\$60 per person**

how we know we had raised, rehabilitated and released a Least Tern!

What was the most exciting thing about this (as far as we knew) was that the Least Tern has never been recorded to breed here at Lake Tahoe.

Sheryl Ferguson, a former wildlife biologist for the U. S. Forest Service worked hard to find the 'perfect' release site for our 1<sup>st</sup> ever 'tern'. Due to Sheryl's hard work, she was the logical one to release the tern.

So, on the pre-determined day, Sheryl, her two children, Kyle and Clarise and another LTWC volunteer, John "Zack" Zachary came to pick up the little tern. After the release, Sheryl called and told everything went great and it was ANOTHER successful release.

## Baby Squirrels CAN Make an Impact

by Lori Ross, LTWC Board Member

Last fall, a mama gray squirrel was hit on the highway and killed. Two days later, I got an urgent call to help a baby squirrel which had fallen from a tree nearby. I rushed right over to find it lying cold on the hard ground, about eighty feet below the notch in the large pine, where it had fallen from. It expired shortly after.

Nearby lay another gray squirrel, slightly larger that had also fallen between that call and my arrival. She was seemingly hurt worse, nearly lifeless, eyes barely open, bleeding from the nose and a very swollen face.

HOWEVER, she had hit several branches and boughs (a very leafy smaller tree) and a lady's leather purse, cushioning her way down.

She was immediately put on heat and given rehydrating fluids and within the hour, the bleeding nose had stopped. In the next few hours, she was breathing a little easier and started showing eagerness in holding and sipping the feeding tube. Soon, she was basking on her back above the layers of warm cloths, resting comfortably.

I was hopeful that there was no broken jaw or other bones, no brain or nerve damage nor internal injuries or dehydration problems. She was transported to LTWC that evening where she was put on a regular infant formula and a frequent feeding schedule due to the fact she had a hard time breathing through her nose while nursing.

Wonder of wonders - - - she made it through the first night and seemed to be improving. Cheryl confirmed there were no broken bones or apparent internal injuries. We realized that she was just at the age where the eyes were beginning to open and had apparently left the nest when the hunger pains became too much, not realizing that she didn't know how to climb a tree yet.

Within a few days, her nasal passages had cleared, so she could breathe while nursing and she was wolfing down her formula. The swelling and bruising also were disappearing.

One week after the fall, she was looking and acting 'normal', protecting her new 'nest box' and doing baby squirrel antics.

## Nature Craft – “Animal Tracks”

by Lori Ross, LTWC Board Member

How many animal or bird tracks can you find in the winter? The best places to look are in fresh snow, mud, or sand. Hint: Look around tree trunks for raccoon, squirrel, and porcupine tracks. Look in clear or sandy areas for bird and waterfowl tracks. Keep a journal or scrapbook for the winter. Keep “track” of where and when you find footprints. How many different kinds of animals can you log? Measure or photograph or plaster cast the largest, the rarest, or the best tracks you find.

### Attention Kids!

LTWC would like to see more input from all of you kids out there! Please send or E-mail items related to wildlife or LTWC We would like your comments or ideas, your pictures or photos, or your true short stories. Please include your Name, Age, and Telephone Number. We will consider all of these for publication on the “Kids Korner” (back by popular demand), in “The Quill”. Thank you all!

You would never hurt a **black bear** cub, but the mother doesn't know that.

Give them space, and **NEVER** feed them!

What colors can **black bears** be?  
-----

Black Bear Answer: Black, Brown, Cinnamon, Honey, Blonde or White.

If you see a baby deer (fawn) lying down in the tall grass, don't bother it. It's there because its' mother told it to stay there. The mother is close by, and she will return to her baby soon.

### Baby Squirrels (Con't.)

She followed with a full recovery and release back to the wild. **AMAZING!**

- **MORAL: SLOW DOWN – BRAKE FOR SQUIRRELS.**

P.S. KUDOS to the gals at Aspen Hollow Nursery for making that quick and urgent phone call to save the life of this wild life!



This **BLACK Bear cub** came from **Northstar Ski Resort** where he was starving. We received the cub after **Calif. Fish and Game** had determined that he was a "Candidate for Release"! We rehabbed him from late July until his release in February. During the 'Halloween' season, guess what was plentiful in the stores??? **PUMPKINS!** Wildlife have a 7th sense to know what is 'in season'. He was a **VERY** happy cub when he got his daily ration of pumpkin, **PLUS**, he was even happier when he was released back to the wild.

## **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 26th Annual Training Seminar offered by Lake Tahoe Wildlife**

**Care on Saturday and Sunday,  
May 22nd and 23rd, 2004.**

**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!**

### **The Little Squirrel (Continued from page 3)**

lowed him up the stairs, then turned at the top step and then I saw it!!! His left front leg was hanging limp and I realized it was broken.

Since I hadn't seen him for three weeks, I felt if I tried to pick him up, he would probably run away. But, since he followed Tom up the stairs, he might follow me. I went up the stairs slowly past him, turned and opened the door into the hall, stepped in and started up the stairs toward the clinic. Sure enough, the young squirrel was following me.

I went into the hot room, grabbed a baby cage, opened it and set it on the floor. As he came up to the door or the cage, I pushed him in and shut the door, so sad he had been hurt, but so relieved he came back home for help and he had let me cage him.

I got him some food and water and went to call Kevin (veterinarian, Dr. Kevin Willitts, also our Board Vice-President). I told him about the little squirrel who came home and asked when he had time if he could come and check him out.

When Kevin got here, he confirmed the broken leg. **BUT**, to set it, the squirrel would have to be anesthetized so he could get it set and cast it right. The next day, the squirrel had an appointment at Alpine Animal Hospital. Everything went along great and soon the squirrel was recovering with a big, **PINK** cast on his left leg.

Since the squirrel couldn't hold his food, I held it for him. Tom and I had to go to LA for a Kiwanis Conference and since I was the only one who had handled the squirrel, there was only one thing to do and that was to take him along.

I was telling our daughter, Debi about the squirrel that came home and about his broken front leg. Debi told me about our little niece, Heather, four years of age. She had broken her left arm and got the cast off. **THEN**, a few weeks later, fell and broke it again (same arm). So she was feeling very sad.

Arrangements were made so Heather, with her broken arm, got to meet a young Western Gray Squirrel, with his broken leg/arm.

After a few minor set backs, the young squirrel **TOTALLY** recovered and is now still healthy, and best of all, **FREE**, back in the wild, where he belongs!

**26th Annual  
LTWC Training Seminar  
Saturday and Sunday  
May 22nd and 23rd  
\$60 per person**

# Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.

## 26th Annual 2-Day Training Seminar

### 2004 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 22nd & May 23rd, 2004. 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 16, 2004!

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 22nd & Sunday, May 23rd, 2004.  
**\$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

## 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	



The RELEASE Team. This was the group of volunteers who took their time to release this year's crop of raccoons. Relaxing after a VERY exhausting release experience are (back row) Tracie Cummings and Helen Tanner; (middle row) Sheryl Ferguson, Jake Cummings and Pierce Tanner and (bottom row) Clarise Ferguson, Kyle Ferguson and Quinn Cummings.

## “Viewing Spot” - Wintering Bald Eagles

by Lori Ross, LTWC Board Member

Head out to the U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center, off Highway 89, about three miles North of the “Y” of South Lake Tahoe. It's just North of Camp Richardson, where facilities and snowshoes are available. Dress for the weather, take drinks and/or lunch, and don't forget the binoculars and camera. (No Winter facilities are available here). Best days for viewing are sunny, as eagles aren't very active on really snowy days.

Head down the “Rainbow Trail” to the first viewing platform on the right of the trail, to check across the meadow and stream areas. Or, usually best, go back to the Visitor Center. Then head out the trail going past the Amphitheatre, going along the edge of the forest, keeping the split rail fence to your left, and heading toward Lake Tahoe. About half way, on your left, is another viewing platform.

Check out the naked or dead trees and platform on a tall pole, across Taylor Creek, for perching bald eagles. Check the meadow and creek areas and out toward the lake for flying or fishing bald eagles.

Some bald eagles have come south for the Winter, from areas such as Canada, to fish here for Kokanee salmon, or brown or rainbow trout. The mostly solid, dark eagles are usually juvenile or young adult bald eagles. They grow their white head and tail feathers at four to six years of age.

Also look for waterfowl, great blue herons, and other wildlife in this area.  
Remember: Take only photos and memories, and leave only footprints! Have fun!

# LTWC's 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

May	22nd & 23rd	26th Annual Training Seminar
July	11th	Quarterly LTWC Board of Director's Meeting @ LTWC Center - 7:00pm
August	1st	LTWC Open House
August	14th & 15th	Great Gatsby Festival @ Tallac Historic Site - Fund Raiser
October	2nd & 3rd	13th Annual Kokanee Festival @ Lake Tahoe Visitor's Center
October	10th	Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon @ LTWC - 12 noon
October	10th	Quarterly LTWC Board of Director's Meeting @ LTWC Center - 3:00pm

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** (For 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.

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

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

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)

**Tahoe Mountain Milers**  
**Tony and Beth Sears**  
**Gloria Bourke**  
**Doni and Jim Glassmaker**  
**Harveys/Harrahs Lake Tahoe**

## **Golden Eagle**

(\$1,000 Donation)

**Robert M. Lee Foundation**  
**Rob and Chris St. James**  
**Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane**  
**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**

## **Great-Horned Owl**

(\$500 Donation)

<b>Kevin &amp; Kathryn Schaller</b>	<b>Dr. Staci Baker</b>
<b>Bob and Grace Rowland</b>	<b>Rick Ahlswede</b>
<b>Mike, Lesley &amp; Staci Furtado</b>	<b>Barbara Kucala</b>
<b>Yosemite Association</b>	<b>Dr. Mireya Ortega</b>
<b>Pat Banner</b>	<b>Ron Cline</b>
<b>Richard and Dana Smith-Miller</b>	<b>Evie Viera</b>
<b>McLane and Adelle Tilton</b>	<b>Dave Isenberg</b>
<b>Dr. Randy Watson</b>	<b>Tahoe League f/Charity</b>
<b>Bill and Jonna Hutt</b>	<b>Drew and Carol Rutter</b>
<b>Ron and Jan Cook</b>	

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

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