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The Official Publication of LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, Inc.
LTWC'S Web Site: www.ltwc.org

LTWC - Serving the wildlife community for 31 years!

Li'l Smokey Update

It has been six months since our last newsletter. Many of you have been following the plight of Li'l Smokey on our web site, watching him in his rehab cage, as well as the 'SixPak', hearing the reports of Smokey's release and even the latest updates of where he is now.

Well, for those of you who don't do computers, or don't have the time to sit in front of your computer, anxiously waiting for the next report, this is what happened since December.

But first, a short recap. July 17th, California Fire Fighter, Adam Deem, found a little bear cub walking – very gingerly – on some ashes in the Redding, CA region. Adam picked up the cub and nicknamed him, Li'l Smokey. July 18th, Li'l Smokey was transported to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care with the charge to care for the 2nd and 3rd degree burns on all four feet AND to prepare him for eventual release back to the wild. After four months of treatment and LOT's of food, Dr Kevin Willitts proclaimed Li'l Smokey ready to be released back to the wild.

December 5th, Li'l Smokey began the hibernation process. His food was slowly withdrawn until (Dec. 12th) he received no food at all.

That brings us to the first of the year. For approximately 2 months, Li'l Smokey spent the overwhelming majority of the time in his 'Dogloo', an 'Igloo' look-a-like, made for dogs, or, in this case, bear cubs!

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Secretary's Write-Up

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

I just 'have' to relate to you a story which just happened in late May this year to me. I sure this has happened to Cheryl many times, because she is the one who 'normally' sees the birds and animals as they come in.

We got a call, early one morning, from a lady who witnessed some baby Steller's Jays on the ground, under a nest on their house. She saw mom and/or dad flying around, but not coming 'to' the nest. Our instructions to her was to put the babies back in the nest, mom and/or dad (probably mom) 'will' come back and take care of the kids! We told her to call us around 10am if mom didn't come back.

She put them back and then called us again around 8am, stating that no parent had returned. We reassured her that one of them would and give them some more time. About 9:15am, she called back and said she was really getting worried, that none of the adult birds had returned. The low temperature of the morning was a chilly 42 degrees. I told her to go ahead and bring the babies in and we will see what we can do.

When she arrived, about 15 minutes later, the babies (all three of them) were VERY cold to the touch. They 'appeared' to be dead and she made sure I knew this. I immediately put them into the incubator, informing her that even though they 'appear' to be dead and not breathing, often times they will come back.

Well, sure enough, within the time she began filling out our short acquisition form (which everyone who brings something in to us does) and the time she finished it, she looked over and one of the babies had opened its mouth and another one was breathing. Now

THE QUILL

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mind you, these babies had NO feathers and, basically, they were what we refer to as "Blind Naked Babies"!

The thousand dollars we spent on the incubator saved these babies lives. This is where your donations are directed. Could we have saved these babies with lesser equipment? Possibly! But, with the updated incubator we purchased last year, we have already saved the lives of many of the birds and animals which have arrived this year, which very possibly may not have survived.

Bottom line??? Thank you!! Thank you for your continued support over the past 31 years since we started Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care out on the pier when we managed Bender's Camp Richardson Marina. Because of you, we are able to have MANY success stories such as these three baby Steller's Jays.



A face that only a mother can love. Actually, Barn Owls are also known as 'Monkey Owls', obviously for their similar appearance. If you have mice in your area, you would 'love' to have one of these nearby. They are 'excellent' mousers!

Fish for Eagles

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

What a start to the 2009 year!!! First, we get in squirrels in late April, when they normally don't start coming in until – at least – early to late May. Then we got in some various owls (Barn and Great-Horned).

And, finally, we got in a Bald Eagle – the first one since 2006. Then we got in a second one. Then, we got in a third one - - all in about one week. One of the three is a baby, at about 13 weeks when it arrived at LTWC. One had a broken left wing, less than an inch from the joint. Since then, Dr Willitts pinned and wired – what he could – of the damaged wing bone.

The third eagle came to us with a swollen joint in the right wing which was very warm to the touch, indicating some infection. So, all three will be with us for at least 2 – 3 months.

Guess what???? What is the preferred diet of a Bald Eagle??? You guessed it - - fish!! Well, EACH of these eagles will need an 'average' of three to four fish per week. They 'prefer' trout (Rainbow, Mackinaw, German Browns, etc.) but, will eat Salmon and catfish as well.

The baby is starting to get a very good appetite and, for the time being, we have him/her in with the adult with the broken wing, which needs to be in a smaller, confined area until we are ready to take the body stocking off, which should be about 4 weeks following the surgery (May 27th).

We are guesstimating that we will have all three for a bare minimum of 2 months, with the maximum being anyone's guess. As for the broken wing, Dr Willitts said, "Can't we ever get an eagle with a 'mid-shaft' fracture, instead of right at the joint?" You see, it is 'much' more difficult for a complete recovery when the fracture is near the joint, mainly due to the fact that you have to restrict motion and atrophy with the muscle occurs. With atrophy, you lose muscle mass and, very possibly lose the ability to utilize those muscles when attempting to fly great distances, such as eagles often do.

Bottom line?? WE NEED FISH!!! If you fish, or if you know someone who fishes AND you are within reasonable driving distance of our facility, we would sure appreciate it if you could arrange to bring by some trout (or other acceptable food) for the eagles. One main

KEVIN'S KORNER

by Dr. Kevin Willitts, President, LTWC

Spring is here. How do we know? It's not the warming temps and it's not the afternoon thunderstorms.

We know because the wildlife center is filling up. We have 3 bald eagles. We have owls, Great-Horned and Barn. We have squirrels and chipmunks. We have lots of baby birds. We have a river otter. And yes we have 2 new bear cubs.

Some of these animals have been injured but most - like the bear cubs - have been orphaned. It seems no-one has informed the wildlife that we're in a recession and donations to care for them may be down this year as a result.

Check out the website (www.ltwc.org) for current news and pics and LTWC gear. Check out the blog. It's still going strong. Check out the webcam. It is up and running. And - make a donation. Even if it is fish. Enjoy the Quill.



*One of the three **Bald Eagles** which came in to us this spring. Why no white or 'bald' head??? They only get the white head upon maturity, which is between 3 and 5 years old. This one is 'starting' to turn now.*

criteria. DO NOT CLEAN the fish!! It must be kept whole! The eagles will not eat 'cleaned' fish.

On a similar note. We also have a baby river otter that will be wanting and needing some fish around the middle part of June. For the otter, we 'can' accept 'cleaned' fish. His normal diet will be catfish nuggets, IF we need to purchase his dinners. As always, we are very appreciative of our supporters and what you can do to help us feed our wildlife.

The 'Newest' Cubs

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

In case you haven't heard, yet, we received our first cubs of this year on Friday, May 29th. The cubs came from Southern California. This time, the cubs came from the Los Angeles County town of Duarte, not far from Temple City, where Cheryl and I grew up.

In this instance, their mom was taking a casual walk through a yard. The owner of the yard got scared, because a bear was in his yard, and came back out with a gun, shot and killed the mom. Fish and Game set up traps for the two cubs which were with mom and finally succeeded. The two female cubs weighed in at 10 and 12 pounds respectively.



Familiar scene. Dr Willitts giving an initial exam to the incoming bear cubs. He pronounced them both in fairly good shape, with the exception of some 'foxtails' in their ears.

As with all cubs, upon arrival, they received an examination from Dr Willitts. During his exam, I pointed to one of the paws. He was curious as to what I was pointing at and I said, "Look!! A 'normal' paw!" referring to the burned paws on Li'l Smokey last July. After monitoring them the first couple of days, the cubs are very playful, curious and very, very hungry. You can view these cubs from the web cam on our web site (<http://ltwc.typepad.com/>), and then click on 'webcam'!

You will have HOURS of enjoyment (when they are in the picture and NOT up in the loft) and, at the same time, have the ability to communicate with other 'bloggers' who have been watching the webcam since last October, when we first got it up and running with Li'l Smokey.

Annual Report

2008 was a fairly 'normal' year, when you look at the numbers from the previous 5 – 10 years at LTWC. We took in 631 wild birds and animals with a release rate of 60%, which means we were able to set free – 'back' to the wild – 3 out of every 5 wildlife we received.

Good?? Yes. Good. But, not good enough. Our overall release rate, up until just a few years ago, was almost 2 out of three, or 67%. Of course, our ultimate goal is 100%, but we have to be realistic and know that will never happen.

Last year, 113 birds and animals were either DOA (Dead On Arrival) or EOA (Euthanized on Arrival). There will always be some which we just don't have an opportunity to help them get a second chance on life. It is not up to us or our abilities.

However, taking away those 113 from the equation, with the remaining 518 birds and animals, we released 381. That means, with the ones which we had a 'chance' to save, we were able to release 73.5%. THAT is much closer to the goal that we try to achieve. Here are some other numbers from last year.

Most everyone has heard about Li'l Smokey and the Six-Pak. For the first time in our history, we cared for 7 bear cubs with all being released this past January/February. Other mammals we cared for include; 27
(Continued on Page 13)

The future for these two cubs is this. They will stay with Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care until probably January or February next year. At that point, Fish and Game will determine a release point, back in the same 'general' vicinity as where they came from (within a 50 mile radius). They will be released in the middle of winter when all the bears are in hibernation. They will be placed into hibernation while here at LTWC, meaning that their food will slowly be cut off beginning in early December. Once they have no food, they spend 'most' of the time sleeping, unless we have another cub – like the one last year from Yosemite – who loved to play "Slap the Bear"!

In the meantime, watch the webcam and enjoy the natural behavior of our first two bear cubs of the season.

2009 Open House

We have been fortunate to be able to share our work with the community. We do an annual event and we call it our 'Open House'.

This is the 'one' time of the year that the public is invited and allowed to enter the area where we keep the wildlife we are rehabilitating for eventual release back to the wild.

The 'Open House' is one of our most successful 'days' of the year. It gives us the opportunity to share with our supporters just exactly where their donations are directed and see the good that comes from the process of Raising and Rehabilitating these orphaned and injured wild birds and animals.



Open House - 2008! Last year, over 900 people attend the annual Open House, in just 6 hours. This year looks like we should have a wide variety of birds and animals.

From year to year, we have absolutely no idea on which species of birds and animals will be here when we have the Open House. Each of our cages have a name and that name will indicate the species it was designed for. For example we have a bear cage for bears, a bobcat cage for bobcats, a raccoon cage for raccoons, etc. HOWEVER - - - our cages are also very versatile so that we can adapt them for 'other' species to be rehabbed in those cages.

Believe it or not, about 5 years ago, every cage actually housed the actual species in for which it was built!! Go figure! We had fawns in the fawn pen, a



Li'l Smokey was the hit of last year's Open House. EVERYONE wanted to see this little bear cub on the closed circuit television provided to LTWC. Just two weeks prior to the Open House, Smokey was severely burned in a forest fire.



The 20th Annual Kokanee Festival

will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 3rd and 4th at the Lake Tahoe Visitor's Center, just past Camp Richardson on Highway 89 (north of South Lake Tahoe). More information will be available on our website as we get closer to the event. LTWC offers an 8 oz. Bar-B-Q Salmon fillet lunch with ALL the fixins for \$12! If you never tried it, you are missing the meal of a lifetime.

bobcat in the bobcat cage, river otters in the river otter pen, eagles in the mew and bears in the bear cage. NEVER has that happened before - - or since!

Only time will tell what will happen this year. We have been fortunate to have Harrah's Tahoe as a partner for our Open Houses and they donate a sheet cake for all of the visitors to partake. There will also be LTWC official t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and hats, along with Li'l Smokey lapel pins and t-shirts. In case you don't know about Li'l Smokey, you can read other articles in this issue of the Quill, or our last issue (Christmas 2008) in which there were about 5 articles.

This is 'our' chance to show 'you' what we do. Please plan to stop by on Sunday, August 2nd between 10am and 4pm and let us give you a tour of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care so you can see how your donations are being put to good use.

That's Sunday, August 2nd from 10am to 4pm at 1485 Cherry Hills Circle, just off of Elks Club Drive in Meyers. For a map, you can go to our web site at www.ltwc.org.



URGENT!!

**Calling ALL Fishermen!
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care**

has THREE (3) Bald Eagles.
We are in DIRE need of fish!
WHOLE fish (UN-Cleaned)!
If you can help feed these eagles
(one of them is just 3 months old),
it would be VERY much appreciated.

Just drop off the fish at
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care
(1485 CHERRY HILLS CIRCLE)
between 8am and 8pm, 7 days a week!
Thank you for your support!



Cheryl Millham, Executive Director
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care



Did You Know . . . ???

by Bob Dietz, LTWC Board Member Emeritus

Just so 'you' will know. In the last issue of the Quill (December 2008), there was an 'error' in my column (NOT my error)! I listed several other names whereby a Mountain Lion is known. 'One' was printed as 'Panther'! I had submitted the name 'Painter', which is the correct name. Panther was a misprint. There is, however, one panther native to the United States. That species inhabits the Everglades in Florida. ALL other panthers are 'non' native. NOW - - - you know. So - - - to continue - - - Did you know . . . ?

- that raccoons can have one to seven babies in early summer? The babies (called 'kits') spend their first two months in a den before moving to outdoor ground where they begin to explore on their own. Raccoons are opportunistic when choosing a den. They may inhabit a hole in a tree, fallen log or a house's attic. Tahoe raccoons 'love' the underside of decks.

- that Mallard Duck mothers lays an egg or two every day until she has a full nest? She can lay between 8 and 15 eggs, at which point she will sit on the eggs. It then takes 28 days for the eggs to hatch. Once hatched, the mother leads her ducklings to the nearest source of water.

- that Bald Eagles mate for life? They build 'huge' nests in treetops near rivers, lakes, marshes or other wetlands. They lay 2 to 3 eggs once a year. The eggs hatch after about 35 days. The young eaglets are flying in about 3 months and are on their own a month later.

- that Dall Sheep live in separate bands except during mating season in November and December? Afterward, the females return to their own band. The lambs are born in May and are cared for by their mothers and almost totally ignored by the fathers.

- that Sea Otters are threatened?? Sea Otters generally have one pup during each breeding cycle. The pups weigh 3 to 5 pounds at birth and are totally dependent on their mother who carries the pup constantly on her 'up' turned belly. The pup stays with its mother for 3 to 6 months. During that time, she teaches him to hunt, dive and groom.

And 'NOW YOU KNOW'!



LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC., 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

TOTAL WILDLIFE CARED FOR: **631**
 EXPIRED, EUTHANIZED, EOA AND DOA: **250**
 RELEASED, TRANSFERRED AND PERM. CARE: **381**

DIFFERENT SPECIES
 BIRDS: **54**
 MAMMALS: **20**
 REPTILES **0**
RELEASE RATE 60%

BIRDS

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
<u>ANSERIFORMES (Water Fowl)</u>										
Canada Goose	1		6	1	1		5		7	
Common Merganser	4			3	1				4	
Mallard	21	2	13	17	8	2	9		36	47
<u>PODICIPEDIFORMES (Grebes)</u>										
Western Grebe			2	2					2	2
<u>FALCONIFORMES (Vultures, Hawks & Falcons)</u>										
Cooper's Hawk			1	1					1	
Golden Eagle			4	1			3		4	
Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk)			2	2					2	
Osprey		2	1	3					3	
Red-Tailed Hawk		1	4	3	1		1		5	15
<u>CHARADRIFORMES (Avocets, Sandpipers, Plovers, Gulls & Terns)</u>										
California Gull			3				3		3	
Herring Gull			1				1		1	
Killdeer	3			3					3	7
<u>COLUMBIFORMES (Pigeons & Doves)</u>										
Band-Tailed Pigeon		4	7	5	2		4		11	
Mourning Dove	3	6	10	11	3		4	1	19	
Rock Dove	5	4	17	16	3		7		26	56
<u>APODIFORMES (Hummingbirds & Swifts)</u>										
Anna's Hummingbird			1	1					1	
Rufous Hummingbird			4	1	3				4	5
<u>GALLINACEOUS (Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys and Quail)</u>										
Blue Grouse			1		1				1	
California Quail	3		1	3				1	4	5
<u>GRUIFORMES (Cranes, Rails, Coots & Limpkins)</u>										
American Coot			3	3					3	3
<u>PELECANIFORMES (Pelicans and Cormorants)</u>										
White Pelican									0	0
<u>PICIFORMES (Woodpeckers, Flickers & Sapsuckers)</u>										
Downey Woodpecker			2	1	1				2	
Northern Flicker	7	3	7	8	4		3	2	17	
White-Headed Woodpecker			2	1			1		2	
Williamson's Sapsucker			3	2	1				3	
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker		1	3	2	2				4	28
<u>STRINGIFORMES (Owls)</u>										
Great-Horned Owl	2		1	2	1				3	3

NESTLING FLEDGLING ADULT RELEASED EXPIRED EUTHANIZED EOA DOA TOTAL

PASSERIFORMES (Perching Birds)

American Robin	8	12	9	20	2	3	2	2	29	
Audubons Warbler			4	2	2				4	
Barn Swallow	4	5		7				2	9	
Black-Headed Grosbeak			3	2	1				3	
Brewer's Blackbird	5	12	4	14	3		4		21	
Cassin's Finch		2	5	3	2		1	1	7	
Cliff Swallow	8	15	5	19	6		3		28	
Common Crow		1		1					1	
Common Raven		1	2	1	1		1		3	
Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco	2		3	4	1				5	
European Starling	5	2	4	6	2		3		11	
Evening Grosbeak			18	10	3		3	2	18	
Fox Sparrow	3	5	2	5	5				10	
Gold Finch			2	1	1				2	
House Finch	4			4					4	
House Sparrow	2	3		4			1		5	
Mountain Chickadee		4	6	6	1		1	2	10	
Pine Siskin		1	4	2	3				5	
Purple Finch	5	2	5	9	3				12	
Pygmy Nuthatch	5	1	2	5	3				8	
Red-Breasted Nuthatch		3		3					3	
Rufous-Crowned Sparrow		1		1					1	
Rufous-Sided Towhee		1			1				1	
Stellers Jay	27	35	17	49	13		14	3	79	
Townsend's Solitaire			3	2	1				3	
Western Tanager	1			1					1	
White-Crowned Sparrow			1	1					1	
Wilson's Warbler		2					2		2	
TOTAL BIRDS	128	131	198	274	86	5	76	16	457	457

MAMMALS

	INFANT	JUVENILE	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
Belding Ground Squirrel			1	1					1	
Big Brown Bai			3	2	1				3	
Brown Bear	7			7					7	
California Ground Squirrel	11	5	3	13	4		2		19	
Chickaree Squirrel	8	12	2	11	8		3		22	
Coyote		2	2	2	1		1		4	
Golden Mantel Squirrel		2		2					2	
Least Chipmunk	3	5	3	6	3			2	11	
Lodge Pole Chipmunk	3		3	4	1		1		6	
Long-Eared Chipmunk		1	3	2	2				4	
Mountain Cotton Tai	10	7	6	12	8		3		23	
Mule Deer	3				2		1		3	
Muskrat	1				1				1	
Myotis Bai			6	3	2			1	6	
Porcupine			2	1		1			2	
Raccoon	14	8	5	22	5				27	
River Otter		3		2	1				3	
Snowshoe Rabbi		3		2	1				3	
Western Gray Squirrel	8	8	9	13	5		7		25	
Wood Rat	2			2					2	
TOTAL MAMMALS	70	56	48	107	45	1	18	3	174	174

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTHANIZED	EOA	DOA	TOTAL	
GRAND TOTAL:										
MAMMALS & BIRDS	198	187	246	381	131	6	94	19	631	631

Help! Help!! Help!!!

Calling all Volunteers!! The baby season has hit with a vengeance and your help is desperately needed.

A few wild babies started arriving in April, about 4 weeks ahead of schedule. But in May, they started arriving in groups; 4 Barn Owls, 5 Great-Horned Owls and a 12 week old Bald Eagle. Then, we got in two adult Bald Eagles, one with a broken wing and one with a joint infection. Dr Willitts performed surgery on the one with the broken wing, pinning and wiring it. IF the surgery is successful, the eagle will be ready to start exercising in 10 – 12 weeks.

As of June 1st, we had baby birds in the office, 4 baby barn owls up in the hot room, with baby squirrels and chipmunks. In addition, out in the compound, there are two female bear cubs (10 & 12 pounds each), which arrived Friday, May 29th from Duarte (Southern California), a small town at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. The mom was killed and kids walked across a man's year and scared his wife, so he got out his shot gun and blew her away!

The calendar in our (LTWC) office has a LOT of openings. It is now time for all of our 'Active' members (those who have taken the training seminar) to step forward and volunteer for helping to care for all of these birds and animals we care for. PLEASE - - - come in and sign up. We need your help! Thanks.

Want the Quill and other mailing by e-mail??? Send us an e-mail (either 'tom@ltwc.org' or 'karen@ltwc.org') and let us know. We will no longer be sending you anything through the mail. It is 'our' part to 'Go Green'!



Included with this issue of the Quill - and ALL issues - is a self-addressed envelope. This is provided for YOU, should you wish to make a donation to LTWC! Thanks.



Baby Great-Horned Owls arrive at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care almost every year. THIS year, we have FIVE (5) of them to rehabilitate. They are all doing very well and we expect to release them by mid to late July.

Membership Renewals

Springtime is when we send out our notices to inform you it is time to renew your membership with Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

The membership renewal program is the single largest source of income we count on to help us meet our financial obligations during the course of the year, which includes, but is not limited to, food for the wild birds and animals, veterinary supplies, medicine, transportation, equipment, insurance, utilities, etc.

So far, this year, we are 'down' about 50% from where we normally at this time of the year. We certainly understand about the economic trouble in this country and, indeed, around the world. Unfortunately, the wildlife is still coming in through our doors and they still need the help. In fact, we are busier this year – early in the season – than we have been in several previous years.

On the inside back cover (page 15) of this newsletter, there is a form, if you would like to send in your renewal now. Or, to make it even easier for you, you can visit our web site (www.ltwc.org) and just click on "Make a Donation"! There is a box which will ask you what the donation is for. Just state it is for your annual membership renewal. If you 'know' you are an Active or Honorary Member, then you can also add that. It doesn't matter. If you have not taken our annual training seminar, you automatically become an Honorary Member.

Thank you so much for those of you who have contributed already this spring. And, for those of you who are considering, we thank you in advance.

Li'l Smokey



Rescued - July 17, 2008
Released - February 5, 2009

LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE
www.ltwc.org

LTWC's NEW Logo

We now have these in a lapel pin. This design is also available in our new T-shirts and Sweatshirts.

Order from our Web site. Go to:
www.ltwc.org/store



The New Li'l Smokey T-Shirt

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care has the 'new' Li'l Smokey T-Shirt (see left). We have only a few left 'in stock'. Once the 'stock' items are sold, the only way to purchase them is to order them one at a time. The cost will be the same - \$23 for sizes small thru X-Large; add \$5 for sizes XXL and up. If we need to ship it to you, add \$5 extra for shipping and handling. They are all



Li'l Smokey
July 17, 2008

short-sleeve and come in white and tan. We also have the new Li'l Smokey lapel pins (\$5 each). They are round (1 1/4") with a light yellow background and simply adorable. Give this as a gift, or get one for yourself.

Remembering Li'l Smokey!

Quill and Other Mailings - via e-mail

This is our attempt to 'Go Green'! We are doing our part to send you any and all correspondence via e-mail rather than by hard copies.

As some of you may have already seen, we now have the Quill on our web site (<http://ltwc.org/Quill.html>). From this site, you can go to past Quills, beginning with Spring 2004.

With our 2009-10 Membership Renewals, we enclosed a form, asking our Honorary and Active Members if they would be willing to have us 'e-mail' them their next and future renewal forms, rather than mailing them. We did get a number of responses, however, if you are one of those who failed to return your form AND would like to begin receiving any and all correspondence from us via e-mail, you can send an e-mail to: tom@ltwc.org, or karen@ltwc.org and let me know that you would like to join this group.

This would obviously save LTWC thousands of dollars each year with reduced printing and reduced postage. As an example, in 2007, LTWC spent more than \$10,000 in postage and printing. We feel that we could easily save 20 - 50% by getting our supporters to allow us to send information out via e-mail.

(Li'l Smokey Update - Continued from page 1)

Smokey took a lot of the straw, which was placed in his cage, into his 'Dogloo', to act as bedding and insulation. Once he was 'bedded' down, he seldom came out of his 'home'. You see, once we 'place' the cubs into hibernation, they have no more solid food to eat until they emerge 'from' hibernation in the spring. They will come out to have an occasional drink of water, but not enough to cause them to have to urinate while in the hibernation state.

On February 4th, Fish and Game arrived at LTWC to get Smokey and put him into a 'travel' cage. Things went about as well as we could have expected. We were successful in getting him into the travel cage with OUT having to anesthetize him. Nicole Carion, our F & G wildlife rehab coordinator lead the transport team, who took Smokey back to the Redding area.

After Smokey was taken out of the cage, a little bear statue was placed on one of the wood stumps in his cage with a sign placed below it, simply stating that Smokey has "GONE HOME"! (See picture on front page.) Later that afternoon, I drove up to the same area to spend the night, along with Dan Thrift, who volunteered to come along as our 'official' photographer.

The next morning, we met with F & G and proceeded to the release point, about 2 + hours from our meeting location. The release went 'almost' without a hitch. In trying to anesthetize Smokey, the biologists were attempting to 'lure' him to one end of the cage, while the person with the knock-out drug attempted to give him the 'shot' from the other end. It took a while. But, after the first attempt, when Smokey was able to turn around in time to knock the syringe from the 'jab stick'. My comment to this was, "Smokey - 1, Fish and Game - Zero!"

The second round was more successful for F & G and they were successful in injecting the drug. Within minutes, we heard something very strange in this very quiet setting of the forest. We finally determined what this sound was. It was Smokey ----- snoring!!! Yep. The anesthetic worked!

They opened up the door to the cage and sure enough, there was Smokey, lying on the bottom of the cage, snoring away. They took him out, covered his eyes (to prevent them from drying out) and affixed the ear tag and transmitter. Smokey was then placed into his final release point, covered up with some bark and off we went.

New Board Members

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

Every year, a number of our boards of director's terms expire and we need to either renew their term, or elect new members.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, I am pleased to inform you that we will be starting off our new administrative year (June 1, 2009) with three 'new' members.

I would like to introduce John Cefalu, Ruby Turner and Melodie Ulman who will be serving three year terms on the LTWC board starting this year (2009).

John Cefalu has been a longtime supporter of LTWC and has also served our community as a city councilman, mayor and supervisor. He was the former owner of Tahoe Linen Supply and, along with his sons, owns the Fox Gas Station on Takela and Highway 50 next to Safeway in South Lake Tahoe.

Ruby Turner also has been a longtime supporter of LTWC and has been very instrumental in allowing our organization to hold functions at the Horizon Hotel/Casino and the Director of Sales. She recently was transferred to the Hotel Director at MontBleu Hotel/Casino and Spa.

Melodie Ulman is fairly new to LTWC, taking our training seminar for the first time in May 2005. Melodie, along with her husband Erik, own Freshie's Restaurant (next to Bank of America) in SLT and has helped us out tremendously with the purchase of produce for our bear cubs and raccoons.

We look forward to working with all three of these new board members in the future.

In other board news, the board voted longtime board members, Bob and Sue Rutherford, to the position of Board Member Emeritus. Bob was on the first board of directors in 1979 and served as President from 1996 until 2008. Sue joined the board just a few years later and has served on the board for 27 years. Bob and Sue have both served this organization well, going way back to our first fund raisers, the old 'Tent' Sales at the Outdoorsmen (where Grocery Outlet is now located). My how time flies when you are having fun! Thanks, Bob and Sue.

One television station and one newspaper were allowed to accompany the release team and then share their photos and videos with the rest of the --- world!!

Since the release on February 5th, F & G has been able to do a 'fly-over' to determine where Smokey is (was) on that particular date. In both instances, Smokey was within a 5 mile radius from the release location. This tells us that he likes the area where he was released and plans to stay there, for a little while, anyway.

Keep an eye on our web site (http://ltwc.typepad.com/lake_tahoe_wildlife_care/) for any additional updates.

Raccoons (22 released), 25 Western Gray Squirrels (13 released), 23 Mountain Cotton Tail Rabbits (12 released) and 22 Chickaree Squirrels (11 released). Of the mammals – we released 107 out of 174, which is a 61.5% rate, still a little lower than we like.

With the birds, we had an even 60% release rate. The most we cared for, as usual, were the Steller's Jays, with 79 (49 released). Surprisingly enough, #2 on the entire list were Mallards. We ended up with 36 last year. Unfortunately, we were only able to release 17 of them. Robins, Cliff Swallows and Rock Doves were next 'on the hit parade' with 29, 28 and 27 respectively. Last year, we only had three Great-Horned Owls. We have already doubled that number this year with 7, five of which are babies.

What were the 'least' numbers of species we took in last year. Well, we had a number of which they were the only one for the year. The ones which we were able to release were: Cooper's Hawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Common Crow, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Western Tanager, White-Crowned Sparrow and a Belding Ground Squirrel.

Those which were not released include: Herring Gull, Blue Grouse, Rufous-Sided Towhee and a Muskrat.

We did take care of three Osprey last year, of which all were released, two Kestrel's (both were released) and four Golden Eagles, of which only one survived, but was unable to be released, so 'she' was transferred to the Folsom zoo to be paired up with a male in their exhibit. So - - if you happen to be visiting the Folsom zoo in the near future, you might want to stop by the eagle exhibit and see the eagle they received from LTWC.

Overall, we had 54 different species of birds and 20 mammals. We actually had no reptiles in 2008, which doesn't happen very often. We will see you next spring with a report on THIS year.



**LTWC's Annual
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday
August 2, 2009
10am - 4pm**



This was the last image of Li'l Smokey, taken on Friday, February 5th at about 12:15pm. Smokey had been knocked out so an ear transmitter/tag could be affixed. The transmitter will allow F & G to locate him within a 25 mile radius from an airplane. They have already spotted him twice in the past two months, and both times, he was within 5 miles from this den site. When Smokey came into LTWC last July, he weighed in at 8 1/2 pounds. After LOTS of good food and much TLC, he was released weighing approximately 90 pounds. In November, Dr Willitts pronounced him 'Ready to be Released' back into the wild. This was the ultimate goal for all volunteers at LTWC.

LTWC's WISH LIST

We often get calls asking if we have a 'Wish List'. We do our best to have something ready to tell people, but, other than money, which is needed for 'special' diets, equipment and medicine, we gave it some thought over the winter and actually came up with a list. Ready or not - - here it is!

**CARNIVORE CARE BY OXBOW.
LAUNDRY SOAP.
HEATING PADS – 3-SETTINGS
(With-OUT Automatic Turn-Off).
PAPER TOWELS.
GREEN 45 GALLON TRASH CAN
LINERS (Rolls of 80 from
Smart n Final).
GIFT CERTIFICATES – Feed Stores,
Grocery Stores, etc.**

Hawks, Eagles and Owls

Raptor. Wikipedia defines a 'raptor': An informal name for a [bird of prey](#). Take it one step further. Wikipedia defines 'Bird of Prey' as: [birds](#) that hunt for food primarily on the wing, using their keen senses, especially vision. Their [talons](#) and [beaks](#) tend to be relatively large, powerful and adapted for tearing and/or piercing flesh. In most cases, the females are considerably larger than the males. The term "[raptor](#)" is derived from the Latin word "[rapere](#)" (meaning to seize or take by force) and may refer informally to all birds of prey.

Now that you understand what a 'Raptor' is, it gives us an awe to be in their presence. We see a lot of 'raptors' flying about just about everywhere we travel, including in our hometowns. One of the most common 'birds of prey' that we see, just about everywhere, is the Turkey Vulture. Here is an interesting fact. The Turkey Vulture is one of the only 'raptors' which has the ability to smell! They have a very large wingspan and their 'fingers' are very pronounced as they soar, with the utmost ease.

So, which species are 'raptors'? Well, as this headline states, they include hawks, eagles and owls. There is also one other group which is included in this category and they are falcons. One of the most famous is the Peregrine Falcon. Known to fly at speeds up to 100 miles an hour to dive at their prey (pigeons) and kill them with the sheer impact. Most 'raptors' will eat small mammals. However, there are some which prefer birds, such as the Peregrine. Still, others, such as the Osprey and the Bald Eagle, prefer fish as their main diet.

There is one VERY important thing to remember with ALL raptors. They 'eat with their beaks. BUT - - they 'kill' with their feet (talons). So, IF the situation ever arises that you must handle a raptor, ALWAYS control the feet (talons) first, THEN worry about the wings and beak. They will not do 'nearly' the damage with their beak as they can with their talons.

Lifetime Bald Eagle Members

As we mentioned in previous issues, beginning in 2000, we initiated 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



LTWC Volunteer, Pete Van Arnum, who also, just happens to be, a sergeant with El Dorado County Sheriff's Department. Pete is on our 'Eagle Team'. Notice the protective equipment he is wearing. These 'Eagle Gloves' are designed specifically to protect a handler from getting injured by the eagles talons.

LTWC's 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

- July 21st LTWC Bi-Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm. (Odd numbered months)
ALL Board Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month @ LTWC.
- August 2nd Annual Open House at LTWC
- September 13th Tour de Tahoe - Lunch Stop @ Kings Beach
- September 15th LTWC Bi-Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm
- September 25th Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra Septoberfest - MontBleu
- October 3rd & 4th 20th Annual Kokanee Festival

Check out our web site for ALL upcoming event. www.ltwc.org, then click on 'Events'!

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, **LTWC** has received over \$40,000 for vehicles and boats which have been received by contributors.

Other ways you can help **LTWC** in the future is to consider leaving a bequest. We 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 since 1978. Our success is due to assistance from our volunteers in the form of financial support, hours served and just 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 2009 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.

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

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

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 15), 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
Wells Fargo Foundation
Hallador Legacy Fund
Anonymous
Judy Grutter
Big George Ventures

Bobcat

(\$5,000 Donation)

Estate of Alice Valla
John and Cari Simonsen
Sierra at Tahoe
Sharlee L Cotter
Carol Auslen
IFAW
Parasol Comm. Foundation

Bald Eagle

(\$2,500 Donation)

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane
Harveys/Harrahs Lake Tahoe
Drew and Carol Rutter
McLane and Adelle Tilton
Edward Scripps

Golden Eagle

(\$1,000 Donation)

Robert M. Lee Foundation	Marcia Hopkins
Rob and Chris St. James	Larry and Julie Moore
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspey	Barbara Harootunian
Greg Cattoni - Randy's Locksmith	Betsy Cohen
Jennifer Randall - Youth Develop. Fdn.	Bob Dietz
China & Don Niemann	Caesars Tahoe Dealer's
Tahoe League for Charity	Suey Smallwood
Bill and Jonna Hutt	Tammy and Harley Hoy
James Leva	B T Rocca Jr Foundation
Curtis Fong - TGFT - Bike the West	Willette Strong
Yosemite Foundation	Christina Robinson
Brenda Knox	Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra
BEAR League	Mike Tolbertson
James Thulin	Kiwanis Club of Lake Tahoe
Cliff and Holly Hansen	

Great-Horned Owl

(\$500 Donation)

Kevin & Kathryn Schaller	Christensen Automotive
Mike, Lesley & Staci Furtado	Don and Kay Edwards
George and Jan Smith	Cliff Hansen
Mike and Charmaine Pape	Pat Fagen
Carla Yant	Howard and Linda Lewis-Perry
Richard and Dana Smith-Miller	Howell Johnson
Pat Banner	Bill and Carol Frye
Jim and Linda Mueller	Lake Valley Firefighters
Ron and Jan Cook	Alpine Co. Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Kucala	Dawn Holley
Dr. Mireya Ortega & Ron Cline	Rick Ahlswede
Evie Viera & Dave Isenberg	Cliff and Holly Hansen
Bob Eldon	Mark Ockerman - WINESOX
Soroptimist Int'l of SLT	Christina Robinson
Bob Zmuda - Comic Relief	Peter Gauthier

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

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96150
Permit No. 96

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

22.2
Spring 2009

"Giving Mother Nature a Helping Hand!"