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Members receive our quarterly newsletter
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Mail to:
Critter Creek Wildlife Station
36710 Sand Creek Road
Squaw Valley, CA 93675

Critter Creek Chronicle
Animals for Education

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**CRITTER CREEK WILDLIFE STATION
SPRING OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017
11:00 AM until 2:00 PM**

Enjoy the wildflower display on your way to Critter Creek. The Open House will be unguided, so the pace is leisurely offering more opportunities to take pictures. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. Visit our gift shop. A picnic area is available so bring a lunch. Tonka, our young mountain lion, can now be viewed romping around in his outdoor enclosure. Call (559) 338-2415 for information or look online at www.crittercreek.org

- Gate will close at 1:30 pm to allow you enough time to tour.
- Entrance is by donation and tour takes 1 1/2 hours.
- Our field parking is free.
- Country Store has refreshments for sale next door.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR

We have been getting lots of rain. It looks like nature has heard our pleas. We have been getting calls from supporters worried about the level of Sand Creek and whether it is flooding Critter Creek Wildlife Station. The creek is running fast and high, but we have made efforts even during the past drought years to keep our stream bed relatively debris-free. After the rains, we will have our hands full cleaning out the junk that has washed down from upstream, but for now no damage to report. Since the ground is so saturated we do have standing water on certain places on the property. We like to think of them as our own wetlands area complete with frogs. They are located away from the caging and buildings. All in all, we have been very lucky; the above average rainfall has (so far) done no harm.



High level of Sand Creek

Our own vernal pool

PREVENT BIRDS FROM FLYING INTO WINDOWS

Over 100 million birds are killed each year by flying into windows. Here are some suggestions that may help solve the problem:

1. Move bird feeders to new locations away from windows
2. Or place feeders even closer to windows so birds will not have the momentum to injure themselves. This suggestion works on the theory that birds break their speed to land on a feeder
3. If there is a plant inside the window that may be luring the birds to fly into the window, move it.
4. Is there an opposite window to the one the birds fly into often giving the illusion that there is fly space through the area?
5. Change the lighting in the room where the offending window is. Pull down a shade or place tape on the window criss-cross fashion
6. Tape paper or even cardboard inside the window.

7. Any decorative object that breaks up the window space will deter the birds. If you use a hawk silhouette, use several. WindowAlert.com is one company that sells decals.
8. Change the window's appearance to keep it from reflecting the outside world.
9. Place window screen or netting over the window. If you have a dazed bird, do not leave it on the ground. A cat may wander by and have a snack. Use a container about the size of a shoe box, and keep the bird in the dark until it revives. If it does not revive within 30 minutes from the time you found it, call Critter Creek (559-338-2415) or your local rehabilitator. Some birds strike windows at full speed resulting in injuries such as concussions and broken bones. Let the professionals handle these cases.

SPRING IS HERE

- ❖ Reminder please put off trimming trees.
- ❖ Remember that with the exception of the turkey vulture most birds have little sense of smell, so if you find a baby bird that has fallen from its nest, you can place it back into its nest without causing problems.
- ❖ Never relocate an animal during the spring, because you will doom its young to starvation.
- ❖ If you own a swimming pool, frequently check your yard for wild, nesting ducks. Baby ducks just don't appear in your pool.
- ❖ If you find a fawn hiding in the grass, please leave it alone. For the first week or so, it cannot keep up with the mother and her herd, so she hides it at a location she will come back to in 8-10 hours to feed it. If you move it she cannot find it.



We received three of these baby Great Horned Owls around the first of February. The parents weren't having any trouble raising their youngsters, but the tree they were nesting in was cut down. Fortunately the babies were not injured in the fall. It was not possible to try to set up an artificial nest in the area so the birds were brought to us. For the next few months, please think twice about how your actions might impact the environment around you.