



## Uncertainty of Our Times

Critter Creek Wildlife Station is doing the best it can during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of the rehabilitation facilities throughout the state closed in March. We continued the entire time to provide rehabilitation services. With people sheltering in place, they have become acquainted with the wildlife living in their backyards. Little baby song birds that have fallen out of their nests would have died or been eaten by the time everyone got home from school or work. Now they are finding them and want help saving them. We have been so overwhelmed, we have had to coach the families on raising the baby birds themselves. This new awareness of neighborhood wildlife has resulted in, on average, 60-70 phone calls per day.

The pandemic has also affected our volunteers. We use to be able to have a volunteer work day once a week with as many as 8-10 volunteers in attendance. For three weeks in March we closed the facility to all volunteers. Then we reopened it to one or two volunteers on separate days throughout the week. Those volunteers work hard, but it allows us to keep everyone separated and on task.

Financially, we have been hit hard. Our Winter Open House got rained out and our Spring Open House had to be cancelled. This summer looks to be no different with plenty of 100 degree days. For this reason we have never had a summer open house. Despite businesses like the zoo opening up, we continue to watch the Covid-19 numbers in both Fresno and Tulare counties. Those numbers have never shown a sustained decline at all. In fact, Fresno and Tulare counties are among the worst in the state for not getting some kind of control over the virus. Until those numbers start to significantly decline, we cannot have a Fall Open House. Many of our staff, volunteers, and supporters are over 60 years old. It would be irresponsible for us to put them at risk. Perhaps by December, a Winter Open House might be possible.

Thanks to a few generous donors and Stephanie Doria-Kelly's Facebook drive, we have been able to recoup December and April Open House losses. However, with the increase in animal intakes, we can use additional financial assistance. Now is the time to renew your membership or donate an additional amount to help us through these difficult times. To try to end on an upbeat note, I take solace in the fact that nature moves on regardless: ducks are having ducklings, baby birds are everywhere, hawks and owls are teaching their youngsters how to hunt, young fox are venturing out, roughhousing with each other. Spring occurred despite Covid-19. Please take care and be safe. I'm afraid this will be the new normal for awhile.

6/20/20 Louise Culver---Director of Critter Creek Wildlife Station.

CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
Animals for Education

Mail to:  
Critter Creek Wildlife Station  
36710 Sand Creek Road  
Squaw Valley, CA 93675

Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Student .....	\$ 15
Senior .....	\$ 15
Individual.....	\$ 25
Family .....	\$ 50
Sponsor .....	\$ 100
Patron .....	\$ 250
Corporate or Life .....	\$ 1000

Members receive our quarterly newsletter  
Visit [CritterCreek.org](http://CritterCreek.org) to see back issues of the Chronicle



# Busy Spring

Spring began in March and has been going strong through June. Here are some of our amazing babies of 2020:



Can you match the name to the picture?

Mallard duck

Canada Geese

Northern Mockingbird

Great Horned Owl

Opossum

Coyote

Barn owl

Raccoon

Red-tailed Hawk



## Wish this Western Pond Turtle Good Luck

It is starting its fourth month of recovery from an encounter with a car. San Joaquin Vet Hospital with the help of dental plaster and wire were able to piece it back together.

