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

Members receive our quarterly newsletter
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Critter Creek Chronicle

Newsletter of Critter Creek Wildlife Station Fall 2009 Volume 14, No. 3

Fall Open House Saturday, October 3, 2009

11:00 am until 2:00 pm

Gate will close at 1:30 pm
to allow you enough time to tour

Come See Shasta In His New Cage

Come see Shasta roam his natural setting—sitting in his cave, climbing over tree trunks, and drinking from his pond. Or he may try hiding behind a boulder to hunt you.



At play with a pumpkin
Yawning after a long nap

Resting on his rock platform
Spotting visitors approaching



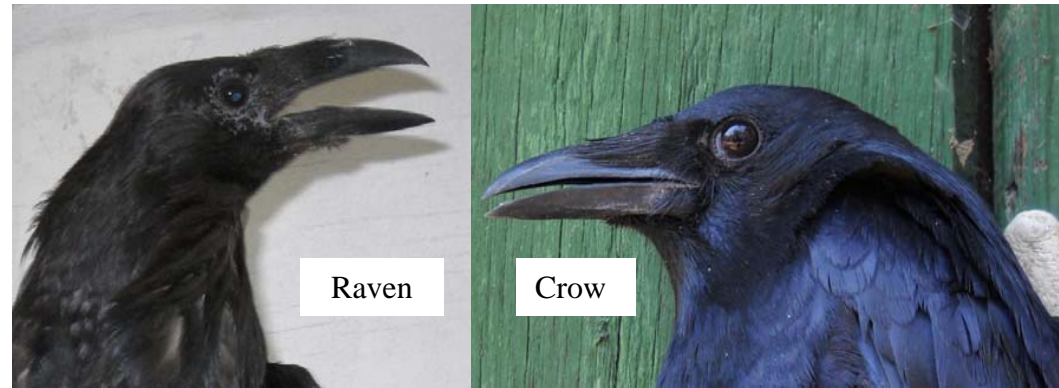
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What's The Difference? Raven or Crow

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

Ravens are fairly large birds with long, heavy bills that are bulkier looking compared to the American crow. Ravens can have shaggy, fluffy feathers near the beak and throat adding to their bulkier look. They have a wedge-shaped tail in flight rather than a fan-shaped tail like crows. Ravens produce a low, drawn-out guttural croak. They live in a variety of habitats—foothills, deserts, and other rugged areas.



American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

Crows are medium to large-sized birds with bills not as long or heavy as those of ravens. Crows have a fan-shaped tail in flight which is different from the wedge-shaped tail of the raven. Crows make a characteristic “caw” call that is not as “throaty” or guttural as that of the raven. Crows live in a variety of habitats and are quite widespread.



WILDFIRES!

Due to the wildfires in San Diego County last year and the wildfires across California this fire season, the Department of Fish and Game has required all rehabilitation facilities to develop an evacuation plan. Evacuating all the animals at Critter Creek is a daunting prospect. After meeting with the California Department of Forestry—the fire fighters just up the road from us—we have developed a plan that allows us to relocate to a staging area at Critter Creek where we can safely fight a fire. At this staging area, we are moving in a 10,000 gallon water tank. This project involves pumps, plumbing, and a lot of ditch digging. Critter Creek truly is one big endless project! By next fire season, we should have the capability to protect all the animals from a wildfire. We continue our first and most important line of defense—prevention. The job of keeping grass and shrubbery cleared from the cages and structures is ongoing. We can always use volunteers who love to weed eat, chainsaw, and drag brush. With the approach of fall, we still have pruning and clearing chores to do.

NEW EXHIBIT

for some of the stars of our educational programs

Jasper, a barn owl; Friendly and Kelly, the two American kestrels; and Sierra, a new Golden Eagle will be taking up residence in our new set of mews. These are birds we use in our educational programs. This will be the first Open House opportunity for the public to view them.



Jasper, Barn Owl

Friendly and Kelly, American Kestrels

Sierra, Golden Eagle



The new enclosure for the educational birds is almost finished. The left picture is of the outside view and on the right is the inside of one of three sectioned off rooms. There are still perches to add, as well as, floor covering and rocks.



ASTRO AND STAR

Sanger Police Department and Animal Control asked if we would be willing to give a pair of coyotes that had been raised together in a city backyard a good home. They enjoy being together so we took them in. They are still somewhat shy with us but they enjoy the larger yard they have to play in. They swap out days in the exercise enclosure with YoYo and Wiley.

