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Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Student	\$ 15
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Sponsor	\$ 100
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Corporate or Life	\$ 1000

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Animals for Education

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

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



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**BABIES BABIES BABIES  
OR WHY THERE IS NO OPEN HOUSE**

Baby season is in full swing. We are unable to have Open Houses during these months because of the numbers of orphaned wildlife we have to accommodate. Minimum human contact is critical in avoiding imprinting or habituation (generally being too friendly with people). For most wildlife, fear of humans is vital to survival. We do an incredible disservice by making them too comfortable or familiar with people. However, we thought everyone would like to see a sampling of what we deal with on a daily basis. While moving or feeding some of our "clients," we took pictures to show the wide variety of wildlife we serve.



Top: Baby Barn Owl and Baby Rabbit Right: Baby Red-Tailed Hawk  
Bottom: Mallard Ducklings and Baby Raccoon



**Critter Creek Chronicle**  
Animals for Education

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Clockwise from Top Left: Canada Gosling, Baby Red-Shouldered Hawk, Baby Bobcat, Baby Raccoon, Baby Barn Owl Trio, Baby Starling, and Baby Opossum



Some of the baby animals we receive are injured. Dr. Stocks and his staff, at San Joaquin Vet Hospital in Fresno, are generous in treating these injuries.



Clockwise from Left: Baby Barn Owl with Wing Wrap, Scrub Jay with Leg Cast, and Red-Shouldered Hawk with Leg Cast

Once our mammals are weaned and our birds are self-feeding, we move them to outdoor enclosures often near or in the same enclosure as a permanent resident of the same species. Being in proximity allows the youngster to learn the proper vocalizations, flight skills, body language, etc.



Can you tell which Great-Horned Owls are babies and which are adults?

For coyotes, bobcat, fox, and raccoon these enclosures are covered so that the animals seldom see people. Talking in the area is kept to a minimum. Over the ensuing months, all wildlife hunt—learning to catch their own food. In a few more weeks the animals are a challenge to capture for release—what we see as a truly successful rehabilitation job.



Save the Date: Next Open House will be on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, from 11am – 2pm  
See Details in our Fall Newsletter

We moved the Reptile House to its new location at Critter Creek and are still awaiting any and all donations to assist with its conversion/renovation. Please put "Reptile House" on your check's donation line.

