



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Spring brings thousands of babies to Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network**

Orphaned and injured baby animals in need of care arrive daily by the dozens

(Thursday, March 31, 2022) Santa Barbara, CA – Every year, the spring and summer months bring in a large influx of wildlife patients to Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network (SBWCN). “Baby season” (as SBWCN refers to it) is the busiest time of year. Thousands of baby animals are expected to arrive from now until the end of August.

More than half of SBWCN’s wildlife patients arrived during these months. A majority of these patients are babies, nestlings, infants, and juveniles. In the height of the baby season, the SBWCN team can have hundreds of patients in care at any given time and up to 50 new arrivals each day. The most common patients are baby opossums, mallard ducklings, and house finch chicks.

These fragile animals require fluids, food, a warm place to sleep, and expert care around the clock in order to survive. Baby birds in particular need to be fed every 30 minutes from dawn until dusk. With hundreds of birds in care at a time, this can add up to thousands of feedings every single day. Current patients in care include seven hummingbird chicks, six baby skunks, two baby raccoons, 27 baby opossums, and 34 baby squirrels.

These animals arrive for a variety of reasons, most commonly because they’re orphaned, their nests are destroyed by tree trimming, or they’re accidentally taken by a citizen who doesn’t realize the parents are nearby. In order to prevent these animals from needing care, the public is encouraged to take these precautions:

- Avoid trimming trees and clearing brush until the fall/winter months.
- Keep cats indoors when possible.
- Avoid using rat poison, glue traps, and snap traps.
- If you find a baby bird, use SBWCN’s [flowchart](#) (below) to determine the best next steps. It may just need to be put back in its nest.

- If you ever find an animal you believe needs help, call the SBWCN Helpline for advice: (805) 681-1080

The public can also support SBWCN in a number of ways. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, financial support is essential for medication, food, and critical treatment. Donations can be made online at [www.sbwcn.org/donate](http://www.sbwcn.org/donate), or supporters can shop the Amazon Wishlist for specific items needed:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/genericItemsPage/12BG4KR51HPEU?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/genericItemsPage/12BG4KR51HPEU?ref_=wl_share)

Citizens are also welcome to apply to volunteer with SBWCN. Volunteer duties include preparing animal diets, cleaning dishes and laundry, and answering the Helpline phone. Applications can be submitted online at <https://www.sbwcn.org/volunteer>.

### **About Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network**

Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network (SBWCN) is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1988. For over 30 years, SBWCN has served to rescue, rehabilitate, and return to the wild sick, injured, orphaned, and oil-impaired animals in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and to educate the public about living in harmony with wildlife. SBWCN takes care of more than 4,000 patients per year, including small mammals, seabirds, songbirds, raptors, and herptiles. The SBWCN Helpline is available everyday from 9 AM–5 PM for animal emergencies and wildlife advice: (805) 681-1080.

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# SO YOU FOUND A BABY SONGBIRD

