



Spring Beginnings

**BABY SEASON AND
HOSPITAL GROUNDBREAKING**



2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER

WILDLIFE IN 2021



591

Animals cared for in 2021

17%

Percent increase in patients cared for

81

Animals currently in care

103

Different species cared for in 2021

Baby Season is Here!

Spring baby season is by far the busiest time of year for Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network, bringing an influx of patients by the thousands – often up to 40-50 new intakes per day. Caring for orphaned and injured babies is a constant job. From sunrise to sunset, the staff and volunteers rise to the challenge of feeding, cleaning, and nurturing hundreds of patients at a time.

Thanks to the generous support of the community and the leadership of Dr. Avery Berkowitz, SBWCN will provide even better care to spring babies this season through enhanced diets, new incubators, and aviary improvements.

SBWCN's first spring babies this year were hummingbirds! These Allen's hummingbirds (pictured right) were orphaned and will be cared for at the Center until they're ready to be on their own. Like many songbirds that come into care, hummingbirds are often victims of tree trimming or being caught by cats. Many of these birds, however, are brought in by well-meaning citizens that find them alone and assume that they're orphaned. **WILDLIFE TIP: fledglings will often leave the nest as they develop, and their parents can typically be located in the surrounding area.**

No matter how great of care SBWCN can provide, an animal's mother always does the job best! If you ever see a baby bird on its own, please call the SBWCN Helpline for advice: 805-681-1080.



Kimberly Stephens



Liana Bregman

DID YOU KNOW?

Baby hummingbirds need to be fed every 15 minutes from dawn to dusk. This species alone keeps staff and volunteers incredibly busy!



Top: construction in March 2021 (Lauren Gonzales); bottom: pre-construction in December 2020 (Lisa Kenyon)



Building a Future for Wildlife

GOAL: \$6 million

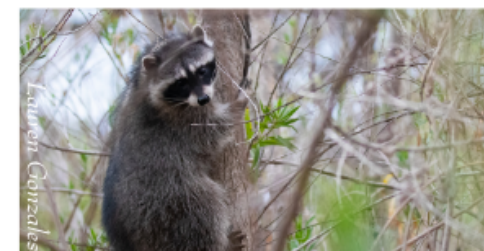


Construction of SBWCN's new Wildlife Hospital is underway! With a projected completion by 2022, this state-of-the-art, 5,400 square-foot facility will have a huge impact on rehabilitating wildlife:

- **More space means less stress** on staff and volunteers. Current facilities consist of cramped sheds and trailers.
- Enhanced facilities means less stress on the animals too, **improving patient health outcomes and survival rates.**
- **Increased oil spill response capabilities** will better serve oiled wildlife both on a daily basis and in an emergency.
- **Larger aviaries** will give the means to care for more raptors from treatment to release. **Upgrades to pools** will do the same for pelagic bird species.
- And more improvements like a baby bird nursery, intensive care unit, surgery rooms, temperature-controlled facilities, and so much more!

With your support, SBWCN can raise the final \$1.5 million needed to finish the campaign. **All donations to the Wildlife Hospital will be doubled through a generous matching gift commitment.** Contribute to this important project by visiting www.sbwc.org/wildlifehospital.

March Releases



Lauren Gonzales

Sensational Six

After more than five months of care, SBWCN's final group of raccoons were released! Nicknamed the "Sensational Six," all were rescued as individual orphans and released together in the Santa Ynez Valley.



Avery Berkowitz

Farewell, Fulmar

Northern fulmars are a species that can live up to 60 years, are monogamous for life, and only produce one chick at a time. This makes every individual especially important to the population! Patient #94 was successfully treated for a suspected viral infection and was able to be released back into the Santa Barbara Channel.

Join the Virtual Open House to see their full release story!

SAVE THE DATE

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE & GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION

Friday, April 30 • 12 PM

Go behind the scenes at the Center to get an inside scoop on the animals, staff, and the Wildlife Hospital!

www.sbwc.org/openhouse

Baby Shower Wishlist

Scan the QR code to view items needed for baby season!



Lauren Gonzales



The Miracle Nipple (Original)



Portable Folding Dog Crate



Oxbow Critical Care Feed



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WWW.SBWCN.ORG



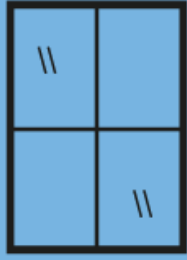
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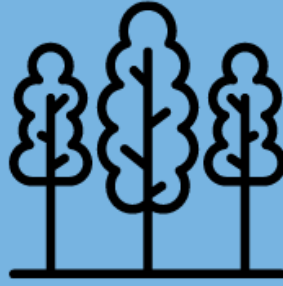
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5 EASY WAYS TO HELP WILDLIFE

Put up window decals to save birds from window strikes.



Stop trimming your trees from February 1–September 1. There could be nests in there!



Avoid using rodenticide. The poison can make its way up the food chain.



Keep your cats indoors. In 2020, SBWCN cared for nearly 700 animals caught by cats.



Donate or volunteer your time to SBWCN. Your support helps save wild lives!



IF YOU FIND AN ANIMAL IN DISTRESS, CALL THE HELPLINE: (805) 681-1080

SBWCN Online Donor Gift Center



www.sbwcngifts.com

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SBWCN



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Lauren Gonzales



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Front cover: Allen's Hummingbird
(*Rebecca Gaal*)