

# The Bird Rescue Flyer

Volume XXII, No. 2

Spring 2005



## Upcoming Events for April thru July 2005:

*Unless otherwise noted events  
are to be held at the Center.*

### **Human Race**

at Slater Middle School, SR  
May 7th

### **Life of Birds Series, Videos and**

**Accompanying Talks**  
Please call for updates.

### **Community**

#### **Education Basics**

May 17th at 7:00pm

#### **Field Rescue**

May 13th at 7:00pm

### **Volunteer Orientations**

April 3rd at 2:00pm

April 5th at 6:30pm

April 9th at noon

April 13th at 6:30pm

May 7th at Noon

May 18th at 6:30pm

June 4th at Noon

June 15th at 6:30pm

July 9th at Noon

### **Volunteer Refresher Course**

Call for dates and times.

### **Baby Bird Shower and Pot Luck Luncheon**

For volunteers and staff.

Sat., April 23rd at 2:00 pm

*Hospital hours for injured or  
orphaned wild native birds is  
available 365 days a year.*

*Visiting Days for families and  
friends are 1:00pm to 4:00pm  
on the first Saturday and the  
third Sunday of each month.*

## **What's New For 2005**

In December, all area Coordinators were asked to review their expenses and prepare a budget for 2005. In January, a 2005 budget was presented to the Board and Area Coordinators. This is a completely new concept for us and we will be working to improve the system and our fiscal solvency.

Our new fund-raising Coordinator, Janeann Erickson, is working away to establish contacts and support for the Human Race. Please see her article below and mark your calendar for May 7th and come out to support us.

New for this year, we have added a new Board member, Leonard Diggs. Leonard is in charge of the SRJC's Shone Farm and brings new insights, experiences, background and enthusiasm to our organization. Welcome Mr. Diggs!

We will be working to identify a local accountant who works with non-profits to help us and a local lawyer who will be willing to help us establish endowments for a more secure future. If you have any suggestions, please contact me!

We are also on the look out for an Executive Director to be in overall charge of our operations. As many of you know, I am currently wearing two hats, that of Executive Director as well as Board President. It is critical to secure funds to pay an Executive Director who will coordinate all areas of activity of the Center. This person would answer to the Board. This will help us to move closer to our goal of establishing a truly professional Board focused primarily on fund-raising and community relations.

*– Your Board President, Alida Morzenti*

## **BRC Needs Runners and Walkers**

Those of you who are fleet of foot or even not so fleet of foot need to mark your calendars for the annual Sonoma County Human Race on Saturday, May 7. The Bird Rescue Center plans to have a large contingent of walkers and runners in this year's event, and yes, participants in bird costumes will be encouraged. Walkers and runners can choose to do either a 3K or 10K walk/run.

Don't feel up to either walking or running? Then all you have to do is sponsor one of BRC's participants. Pledge sheets are available at BRC or by calling Janeann Erickson at 795-2498.

## ***Our Gratitude...***

We gratefully acknowledge the many years of service by our retiring newsletter team of Ruth Stanton and Helen Hall. □ Though your efforts The Bird Rescue Flyer has become an informative, engaging, timely and professional publication. □ We appreciate the time invested quarterly, over many many years, in creating and furthering the quality of our newsletter. □ The volunteers, staff and Board of Directors extend sincere and heartfelt thanks to you both.

## ***Toucan Tango***

“Toucan-Tango” is the name of the Sonoma County Fair this year. Although it may seem a little early to be reminding every one about fair time, it has a way of sneaking up on us. The theme of the fair this year is South America. Don't be too surprised to see exotic pictures of birds and the like in the booth this year. But also remember that our own Bird Rescue Raptor Ambassadors will be there in all their beautiful colors. For those of you who are going to sign up to help work the booth this year, the sign up board will be at the Center by the first of June. We will also have a couple of fair orientations, you will need to attend one of them to get pertinent information regarding the inner working of the booth and changes or additions. The fair will start on July 26th and run through Aug. 9th. For more information call Barb at 433-4833.



## ***A Baby Shower.....At Bird Rescue?????***

Yes, we are going to have a Baby Shower, that is Baby Bird Shower, and Pot Luck Luncheon for volunteers and staff. On Saturday, April 23rd at 2:00 at the Center. Bring a boy gift (wrapped in blue) or a girl gift (wrapped in pink) for a new baby bird that will be arriving very shortly at the Center. Stumped at what to buy? Check out our Wish List located in our news letter or call the Center for more ideas. Don't forget about those important people who take care of all those babies and bring a favorite dish to share with them. Don't know what to bring to eat? We'll have a sign-up list at the Center at the beginning of the month or call Barb 433-4833 or Kathy 527-0678.

## ***Be “CommunitySmart”***

The Bird Rescue Center is a participant in the CommunitySmart card program, which is a very painless way for BRC volunteers and members to help in our fund-raising efforts.

All it requires is for you to get a free CommunitySmart card and then to use it in your everyday shopping. Use your card when you normally shop for groceries, gas, pizza, etc. The Bird Rescue Center then gets a donation from that merchant. The program is free to both you and The Bird Rescue Center because the merchants in our area pay its costs. Currently 150 local merchants are program participants and more are added as time goes on. There are applications at BRC or you can sign up online at [www.communitysmart.com](http://www.communitysmart.com). If you have any questions, call Janeann Erickson at 795-2498.

## ***Come On Out Seniors***

Want to help BRC but can't take standing on concrete floors in the Nursery? Like talking to people? NEEDED: Older men & women to staff our admissions desk & telephones. We may have up to 50 baby birds arrive in a single day, and we receive over 10,000 phone calls per year! So admissions is ever-changing. Three hour shifts and you get to sit down most of the time. Come on out “Seniors” – WE NEED YOU!

### **Board of Directors**

<b><i>President</i></b>	<b><i>Vice-President</i></b>
Alida Morzenti	Mark Riffle
<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>
Diane Hichwa	Barbara Clough
Martha Bentley	Ron Hunt
Leonard Diggs	Mary Visco

### **Newsletter**

#### ***Production Manager***

Pamela Kennemore

#### ***Circulation Managers***

Barbara Clough, Carol Ulrich

Articles, pictures and information for The Bird Rescue Flyer are to be e-mailed or mailed to Pamela Kennemore at:

[kcorners1@comcast.net](mailto:kcorners1@comcast.net)  
or 960 Ginkgo Place, Windsor, CA 95492

### Special thanks from BRC to...

***Drs. David Rupiper, Ray Visco,  
Rob Jereb and Lee Thorne***

for their donations of supplies, as well as their time and their continuing veterinary care of our resident and rehab birds.

***Windsor Raley's Market***

Thomas Kitchen, produce manager and John Moore, store director for their continuing supply of fruits and vegetables each week.

***Mela Brasset, our Gardening Coordinator***

for replacement trees in the front and side yards.

***Alisandra Brewer***

for hosting our website on her server.

***The Teddy Foundation***

for continuing significant donor support of the BRC's programs.

***Tim Stewart of Wild Bird Unlimited***

donated a case of "Naturally Nuts Suet Cakes".

***Swede's Feeds in Kenwood***

for donation of bags of birdseed.

***Scout Den 5 Pack 127***

under Tom Eakin for donation of screech owl nestboxes.

### Sincere thanks to

***Art's 2001 Photo Processing***

on Cleveland Avenue for their continuing support of Bird Rescue and the Sponsor-a-Bird program.

### And Very Special Thanks to...

The Bird Rescue Center gratefully acknowledges Ruth Stanton and Helen Hall who teamed up to edit and layout our newsletter "The Bird Rescue Flyer" for more than ten years. Thankyou again Ladies!

### A BIG thank You to...

***Dan Aguilar of Mission Valley Properties***

of Pleasanton for their generous donation towards new linoleum at the BRC. The existing flooring is almost impossible to keep clean because of the holes, most of them covered with duct tape. Although their donation is extremely generous, it does not cover the

estimate we got from the flooring contractor,

therefore, any additional donations for the floor would allow us to replace more or to cover the floor in the baby bird room that currently is only concrete.

***A particular Thank You to Betsi Lewit for her efforts to make this happen.***

## ***Baby Bird Season Is Just Around The Corner!!!***

As you all know, we made many operational changes at Bird Rescue last year. We were lucky to have many dedicated and eager volunteers. Because of the changes and experience gathered by the staff we are better prepared to plan for and organize the 2005 Baby Bird Season. Speaking of which, it will be here before you know it. The season will begin on April 15th. We have a team of Volunteer Coordinators this year consisting of Bonnie McCollum, Patti Adams and Teresa Conroy. If they have not contacted you yet, you will be hearing from them soon. Remember, we need YOU, each and every one of you, to sign up to volunteer during this critical time of the year. If you are available to work during the day, great! If you work full time and are only available in the evenings, we will again be offering the evening shift. And remember, there are always weekends. Unable to spend a lot of time on your feet? No problem! Teresa will be happy to sign you up for phone duty at the Admission desk. No matter what your schedule, abilities or limitations, the Volunteer Coordinators will be happy to find a slot for you. Please remember, our ability to care for these birds depends on YOU. Contact friends, relatives, acquaintances and co-workers and encourage them to attend one of the Orientations. For you returning volunteers, please check the dates for your refresher course.

### ***From The Mouths of Children...***

Education of the community, adults and children, is an important part of the Bird Rescue Center's program and mission. ☐ Here is a collage of children's letters after a school visit:

Thank you for coming to our classroom. ☐ Your presentation was very exciting. ☐ My favorite photo was the one that showed when a person was letting an owl go. ☐ My favorite part of the presentation was when you took out the two birds. ☐ I learned why birds go to Bird Rescue. I also learned what to do when I find a baby bird on the ground....Your presentation was great, Colossal, not bad at all....I learned so much about birds! ☐ I didn't know that the birds could be so interesting....I liked it when we saw the three little baby woodpeckers in that slide show....I also

...continued on page 7

## ***Sonoma Mountain Journal***

**12-9-04** There's a break in the rains and little birds are EVERYWHERE! A single high note is heard and two brown creepers are an arm's length away. There are busy chickadees, noisy titmice, fluttering ruby-crowned kinglets and the buzzy golden-crowned kinglet.

At midnight a distant great horned owl moves nearer. Then coyotes yip; no howl but a high, waivery eerie call.

**12-10-04** The scream of a red-tailed hawk is followed by a visual look, times three! The three circle, then a tuck-and-dive. *A ménage a trois?*

**12-11-04** A 3-point buck is with a doe and a yearling—all near the pond. They are lying down. The doe and yearling do mutual neck grooming. A varied thrush calls overhead.

**12-13-04** At 9 p.m. A screech owl calls from near the hammock. Bryant and I go to pinpoint where we heard the calling from but point in different directions. Uh-oh! With its next call both of our "points" move towards the middle. A bat is swooping out and about; not many around at this time of cold and rain.

**1-10-05** We are in Santa Rosa for a few days. A bat has taken up residence above the garage cabinet (which is why the garage door can never be closed). One great horned owl sits under the bay umbrella to stay dry.

**1-11-05** Tonight at dusk one owl begins calling from the bay umbrella. He moves further west in the woods and calls again. Now BOTH sit in the big Douglas fir and duel—he bows forward and hoots, she bows forward and uses all her "body English" to tootle at a higher pitch. They are 6 feet apart on adjacent branches. She hops her way around the perch options. He still calls to keep up the bonding. Bryant and I try to get the best viewing vantage point as the female hops into and onto some branch bases with a mass of twigs caught there. Could she be considering this as a nest? She wiggles and inspects. Maybe! He just keeps hooting in encouragement.

**1-12-05** This morning is an early drive into Rohnert

Park and a leisurely return up the mountain, checking out every bird along the way. Two crows caw as red-winged blackbirds line up on the wire above the manure piles. They probably get lots of seeds to eat here! The bright yellow of meadowlarks fly up to the fence wires. Better bird yet, one single Say's phoebe sits on the fence; it's different from the more common black phoebe since Say's has browner back and soft apricot wash over its breast and belly. Both would sit and tail-flick, however. The first raptor, a kestrel, perches on the high wire. A flock of white-crowned sparrows with stripes of white and black on the head fly up from the grass to low fenceline perches. Next raptor, a northern harrier, breaks the skyline then goes back to low coursing over the fields. Heard before being seen are four Canada geese! The field with miniature horses has one killdeer running across it, then a "discussion" from a second before they head in opposite directions. Another kestrel as I climb the hill - good territory for bugs and mice. A rabbit limp on the road awaits the turkey vultures. The four geese head back, still honking. A small eucalyptus has flowers and a hummingbird - the worry is the stickiness of the sap! Two mourning doves sit pointedly on the phone wires, then a flock of rock pigeons fly over a barnyard - typical locale. Several western bluebirds sport their dazzling plumage from the wire in the sun. I descend into a darker frostier portion of the mountain. A Nuttall's woodpecker "trills/rattles", then the sharp call of a northern flicker. We're in woodpecker territory. Familiar calls from robins, then in the brush a spotted towhee calls to "drink your tea" and the dark-eyed juncos chip. A fluffed up scrub jay perches high and hopes for warming sun to come over the hilltop soon. A whole covey of California quail call before scurrying across the street.

**1-26-05** I'm home at 2 p.m. on a rainy day. One owl sits under the umbrella of bay, facing east. He preens. We have out-of-town visitors who admire the owl. At 4 p.m. as they're leaving the owl is on the same branch but now facing west. For sun? At 4:50 the deep hoots are his.

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### ***The Bird Rescue Center has two primary missions:***

#### ***First***

To rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned, injured or ill native wild birds, and,...

#### ***Second:***

To educate the public regarding the ecological importance and natural history of these birds.

### ***Bird Rescue Wish List***

**Astroturf** (Daisy doormat) door mats  
**Frozen berries** (blue, black, rasp, straw)  
**Bleach** (no Clorox Ultra, it contains lye)  
**Clamp lights**  
**Dawn dish soap**  
**Dry erase markers**  
**Elastic** 3/8" and 1/2" in width  
**Kleenex** (plain, no lotion)  
**Viva paper towels**  
**Peanut butter** (natural, no salt)

**Vet wrap** 2" to 3" wide  
**Suet cake**  
**Sunflower chips**  
**Telfa pads**  
**Dixie cups** small  
**Pine shavings bale**, dust free  
**Scissors**  
**Ziploc freezer bags** gallon size  
**Folders** with fasteners attached  
**Rolls of 1" welded wire** 18" and 24" widths

## Our Residents...

*This is the first in a series of articles that feature one of our many resident birds.*

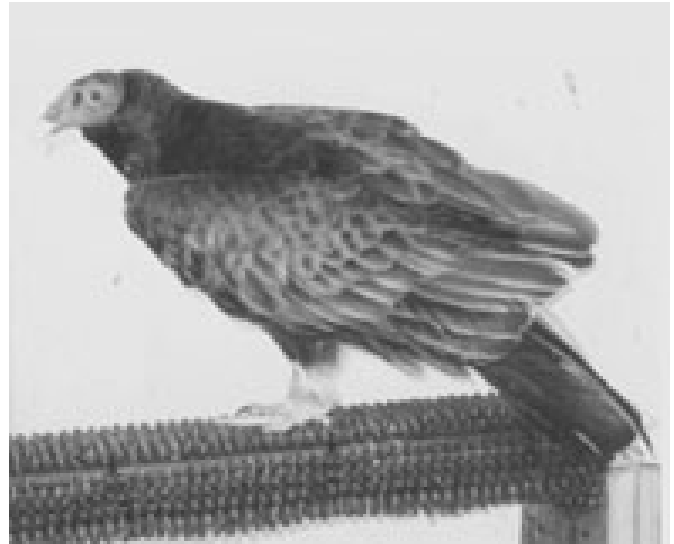
Barfolomew, known as “Barf”, is a turkey vulture that came to BRC as a young bird in 1988 after he was hit by a car and sustained permanent wing damage. He is good-natured and accustomed to people. He is also one of the largest resident birds at BRC with a nearly 5 foot wingspan.

Turkey vultures (sometimes mistakenly called buzzards) have many fascinating characteristics. Their long wings are designed to allow them to soar on warm air currents, called thermals, for hours without flapping. Vultures are invaluable in nature because they eat dead animals (carrion) that they can locate up to a mile away with their phenomenal sense of smell. They have nearly bald heads to prevent them from getting bacteria and food caught in their feathers while dining. Their feet are designed for standing rather than grabbing. When threatened or in danger or to “lighten their load” for sudden take off, vultures will vomit up the foul smelling contents of their last meal, attesting to how “Barf” earned his name. It’s an excellent deterrent to predators!

A common and wonderful sight in Sonoma County is a group of vultures soaring and circling high above in a formation called a “kettle”. They are sociable birds, and a favorite early morning sight around BRC is a group of 10 or more wild vultures perched and congregating near the resident mews, sometimes sunning themselves with wings spread wide.

Turkey vultures are fascinating and important birds. Please help them continue to grace our skies and roadways by driving carefully when you spot them on or near the road having their meal as well as “cleaning up” for us.

– Jeannie Terry



*...continued from page 4*

Through the round living room window I see him on a branch of the Doug fir. She responds from under the umbrella! She flies, golden in the late afternoon light. Her big golden feet grab the branch. But she’s off again to the far trees. I see where she lands as the branch bounces. He sits still near the “loose nest”. She flies over to join him in the big tree. If they think that nest will hold *anything* they need to go to an engineering refresher course! My thoughts are that I might need to assist and shore it up if it’s chosen. She’s come to a big diagonal branch. He lands there too, but on her back. The mating contact is barely 3 seconds. He goes off but she leaves her tail up for more than a minute—receptive—then walks down the branch to this “nest” (I call it that loosely). She spends 5 minutes inspecting, standing in it, walking on it and—I hope—rejecting it. It needs a lot of branches interwoven into it; you can see right through it in spots! She hops to the right of the loose nest, now above, now back to the solid branch.

1-27-05 At 6 a.m. the owls are in the fir, calling. Now it’s dawning and hairy woodpeckers “pik”, a Nuttall’s rattles

and a flicker calls sharply. Our trees are old and closely packed—good for woodpeckers to feed in and build nest cavities. At 5 p.m. no owls are in sight but by 5:15 activity picks up: a call from behind the house, a flight across the open hill to a far tree, then flight to a bouncy branch tip. She answers from the far side of the house, past the pond. He pursues her there. She now calls from in front of the house, then all goes quiet. Millie walks with me under the arching butterfly bush. We disturb the entire bunch of quail, noisy calls and flight. The female great horned is visible in our front trees by looking over the roof of the house. He calls once from near the loose nest, then escapes out the “back door” and is off hunting.

2-05 February brings a rainy pattern. The owls are very quiet and I cannot see ear tufts sticking up from the loose nest nor from the red-tail nest. Are they across the street? Are they up in the woods? Are they not nesting this year? My journal notes from previous years record nest-sitting as early as late January and as late as late February. No sign of a nest except the owls have gone quiet. Are they “up to something”?

– Diane Hichwa

## Honored Volunteers:

Through the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County the Bird Rescue Center will be recognizing some of our Honored Volunteers at a luncheon on April 20th. Here is a spotlight on two of the many volunteers at BRC.

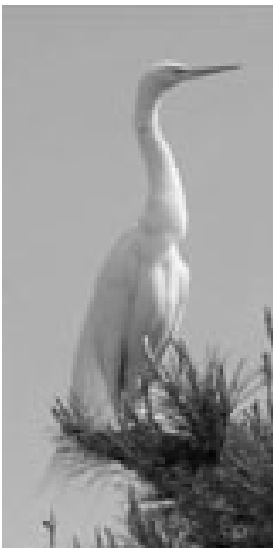


**Roberta Chan** has offered an extraordinary investment of person and time to our organization. □ As Bird Rescue took an introspective look at programs and services in order to be more successful in meeting the public's needs, Roberta stepped forward to fill very important and very specific niches in the program. □ She worked on revitalizing the orientation and initial training for volunteers, expanding staffing of our admissions desk that meets and greets the public as well as developing a reference manual to support those volunteers who answer phones and greet the public, and she has become very active in organizing a team of volunteers to assist with field rescues. □ She has offered a fresh look at how to accomplish things and generated ideas for many improvements.

**Kate Wilmore** is one of those Junior Volunteers. □ She is a no-nonsense young woman who jumps in wholeheartedly to the task at hand---with a smile! □ She has followed up on each interest as she branched out from bird care into feeding, rescue and assisting with the resident birds. □ She looks forward to volunteering one full day each weekend, knowing she'll be learning something new each time she comes. □ Many weeks her volunteer time averages 13 hours!



These volunteers have offered their enthusiasm, support and dedication to making a difference for wildlife and the local community of people who care about the birds and habitats around us. □ We salute them as Honored Volunteers.



## Go Birding!

The place to go birding right now is in Santa Rosa to see a large colony of several kinds of herons and egrets. The West 9th Street rookery is in full swing. □ They are displaying to partners and bringing in twigs for nesting. You may see: black-crowned night herons, great egrets, cattle egrets and snowy egrets. They travel their "highway" of Santa Rosa Creek to the Laguna. Your directions: from Highway 101 go west on College Avenue to Dutton. Turn south to West Ninth Street and then west towards Stony Point Road. When the street widens with a median strip, pull to the side and park. The nesting colony will be all around and above you. (The City of Santa Rosa helps with some protection by posting to slow down and placing some construction fencing immediately under the trees.) It is a beautiful, noisy and amazing example of the wealth of nature all around us.

— Diane Hichwa

## Special Benefactors

*Bird Rescue gratefully acknowledges the following generous contributions which enable us to carry on our work:*

### **Donations of \$50 or more**

Richard & Shirley Barr  
Hope Becklund, M.D.  
Raymond & Patricia Branstetter  
Henry & Sheila Chazankin  
Russell & Shrilee Cunningham  
Andrea Davis  
Gregory & Deborah DeVore  
Mark & Terri Edington  
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Redwood Life Members Club of  
the Telephone Pioneers – Golden  
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Simoneau Vineyards

### **Donations of \$100 or more**

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Dr. & Mrs. Richard W. Harrigan, M.D.  
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John & Barbara MacKenzie  
Willa P. Mundell  
Tim Pile, M.D.  
Mrs. Lee J. Van der Ploeg  
Irene Quirolo  
Jasey & Matthew Richter  
Bruce & Janine Rodda  
Robert Russell

Ruth Stanton

John Weinstein & Heidi Stewart  
Diane & Don Trowbridge  
Jamice Vannatta  
Wild Oak Saddle Club  
Paula Zerzan

### **Donations of \$500 or more**

Medtronic employees  
Kate Bennett and Larry  
Broderick. Their donation  
of volunteer hours were  
matched in dollars by their  
employer through the  
Medtronic Foundation's  
Time-N-Talent Program.

### ***In Honor of...***

The Cochrane Family  
*from Elinor Taylor*

### ***In Memory of...***

Ellen Thorne  
*given by*  
William & Patricia Pederson  
Bonnie Vegod  
*given by Jill Alger*  
Bonnie Vegod  
*given by Patricia Stratton*  
Bonnie Vegod  
*given by Karen Cappa*  
Bonnie Vegod  
*given by "The Dog Park Ladies"*

*...continued from page 3*

liked the vulture because it was a cool bird. □ He had a cool curved beak....The slides, once again, were pretty and they gave me a little touch of rough nature. □ Thanks....I didn't know that owls can turn their heads almost the whole way around....Do you think you'll find out how old those birds are?....You're lucky that you have that job. □ Have you made any friends there?....The turkey vulture was awesome. □ I like the way he stretched his wings. □ I wish I could help birds. □ What if a person is trying to ~~thow~~ a bird nest on the ground? Because a person in my apartment is trying it....I learned about all kinds of

birds. □ Many kinds come into our backyard but I don't know what they are called. □ I am very curious....I didn't get to learn how they make a circle shaped nest....I want to work there so much that I can't stop talking about it....I hope you visit again!....From now on I'll try to keep birds safe.

### **Just to let you know...**

The Wild Birds Unlimited store will offer a discount of 10% to our volunteers, which they can take on their purchase or can offer to BRC.

The *Bird Rescue Flyer*

Volume XXII, No. 1 • Winter 2005

**BIRD RESCUE CENTER**  
P.O. Box 475 • Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
(707) 523-BIRD • [www.birdrescuecenter.org](http://www.birdrescuecenter.org)

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Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
(707) 523-BIRD • [www.birdrescuecenter.org](http://www.birdrescuecenter.org)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to:**  Become a member  Renew my membership  Be a volunteer  
 Receive information on your Sponsor-A-Bird Program  
 Make an additional contribution (Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_)

**Membership Rates – Please Check One**

- |  |         |   |            |
|--|---------|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual.....                 | \$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing ..... | \$75.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family .....                    | \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining.....    | \$100.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Students & Senior Citizens .... | \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor .....      | \$500.00   |
|  |         | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor .....   | \$1,000.00 |

**Does your employer participate in a matching gifts program?**  Yes  No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_

*Bird Rescue Center is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization.  
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law (Tax I.D. #94-2378213).*