



Ventana Wildlife Society

2012 Annual Report

APRIL 1, 2011 - MARCH 31, 2012



Board of Directors Chair, William Kampe (left) and Executive Director, Kelly Sorenson (right)

A Message from our Board Chair and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy the 2012 annual report as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you. This report highlights our numerous achievements in 2011, which you helped make happen through your generosity. We thank you for your support!

For the last 15 years, we've been working really hard to restore the California Condor to the wild. In the beginning, we were focused on the nuts and bolts of working out the proper techniques for releasing and manage condors. Over the last five years, our focus has shifted to determining the factors that are holding condors back. We've learned, without any remaining doubt, that lead from spent ammunition is our biggest hurdle to recovery. We've learned about the problems associated with micro-trash and marine contaminants affecting condor reproduction. We've also learned that the condor is resilient and can once again survive on its own as we use this new information wisely.

We recognize that hunting and ranching has a long tradition in supporting wildlife conservation, and that we must all work together in order to make a lasting switch from toxic, lead ammunition to non-lead ammunition. To this end, we began providing, free boxes of non-lead ammunition to participants in Monterey and San Benito counties where condors live in the wild year-round. We were astounded by the results and are planning to continue this work next year.

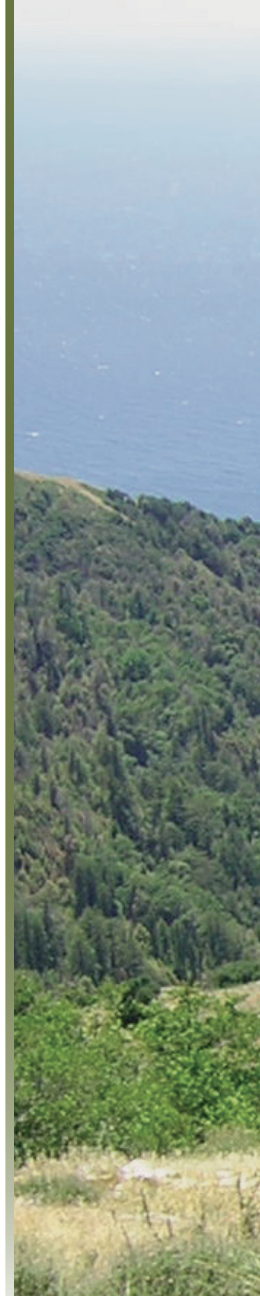
We sadly report the loss of Ventana Wildlife Society biologist, Mike Tyner, who died on November 30, 2011 during a dangerous wind storm in Big Sur, California. We thank you for your kind condolences and words of encouragement, which helped us get through this difficult time. Getting to know Mike's family, who are truly remarkable people, has been uplifting even through these terrible circumstances. Just two weeks prior to Mike's death, we purchased the "Condor Sanctuary" in Big Sur thereby securing, in perpetuity, a stronghold to protect and restore wildlife on the Central California Coast. Finally, we've been busy ramping up our Education and Outreach Program to create new opportunities for hundreds more youth and are making significant progress in this regard.

All of these stories and more are found inside, and we hope you enjoy reading about the work you've made possible toward conserving native wildlife and their habitats and inspiring people of all ages to steward the environment.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sorenson,
Executive Director

William Kampe,
Board of Directors Chair



Ventana Wildlife Society

80-acre Condor Sanctuary Protected in Perpetuity

On November 17, 2011 we purchased the “Condor Sanctuary”, an 80-acre parcel of land where we’ve been releasing condors to the wild in Big Sur, California. We want to give a great big THANK YOU to Sal and Ada Lucido for their generosity selling the property at a “bargain sale” far below the appraised value, as well as Greg and Jane Hind of the Hind Foundation and William R. Hearst, III for providing the majority of the funding needed to make the purchase. We also thank Linda Stevens, Paula Norwood, Robert Stephens, Joyce Harris, and Julian and Helga Sands for their generous contributions to the property purchase. Lastly, we also thank Wendy Buck, JD and Ventana Wildlife Society General Counsel for reviewing all the legal documents. As a result of this successful campaign, we have secured a cornerstone to the organization and a place for condors and other wildlife to live in perpetuity.

Ventana Wildlife Society is dedicated to conserving native wildlife and their habitats and inspiring people of all ages to steward the environment. Our focus is on direct services such as wildlife reintroduction and endangered species recovery, conservation science and education for youth and adults. Ventana Wildlife Society was formed in 1977 and incorporated in 1982.

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Ventana Wildlife Society

Mission:

TO CONSERVE NATIVE WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITATS

Ventana Wildlife Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the survival and health of California's native wildlife. We were successful with the reintroduction of the Bald Eagle to central California, and are now working to restore a wild population of California Condors.

Our long-term research and monitoring programs track key populations and habitats to support the continued health of a rich diversity of wildlife species.

Ventana Wildlife Society's extensive public education programs focus on serving youth. Through fun, hands-on experiences, we inspire a lifelong love of nature and build the capacity for informed environmental stewardship.

Facing page: Condor 351 soaring around the Julia Pfeiffer State Park waterfall in Big Sur
Cover photo: Condor 444 was the first wild-hatched chick in Big Sur back in 2007, photos by Tim Huntington

Board of Directors

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Mike Tyner - Wildlife Biologist
Jenn Updyke - Seasonal Instructor
Paul Young - Seasonal Wildlife Biologist

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William R Hearst III
Sal and Ada Lucido

General Counsel

Wendy Buck JD

Consulting Veterinarian

Amy Wells, DVM

19045 Portola Dr Ste F1, Salinas CA 93908 • P (831) 455-9514 • F (831) 455-2846 • www.ventanaws.org • www.mycondor.org

DISCOVERY CENTER located at Andrew Molera State Park • Big Sur CA 93920 • P (831) 624-1202

HOURS OF OPERATION: WEEKENDS 9AM-4PM FROM Memorial Day - Labor Day



Educating Future Stewards

Home school student, Paul Bikle, has fun rolling down sand dunes, photo by staff

Ventana Wildlife Society's education programs help bring local youth outdoors and foster a greater appreciation of our natural environment

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that a mind stretched by a new experience can never go back to its original dimension. Ventana Wildlife Society education programs are providing new experiences in nature for Monterey County youth. Our Natural Science Discovery Camps, Condor Wilderness Camps, Single Day Adventures, and Natural Science Awareness Programs had a total enrollment of 330 kids in 2011. Nearly two-thirds of that enrollment (64%) came from underserved communities, our highest percentage yet!

Ventana Wildlife Society reaches children in underserved communities through partnerships, such as the wonderful tri-partnership we have enjoyed for over 12 years with Alisal Family Resource Center and Salinas Police Activities League. We are particularly fortunate to work with bilingual Family Services Specialist, Elizabeth Serrano-Hill of Alisal Family Resource Center, who recruit kids for our programs from a low-income community in East Salinas. Many of these kids would not otherwise have the opportunity to explore the stunning natural landscapes along our central coast.

Our education programs are sure to provide a new experience, whether it is spotting a sea otter from a kayak, tracking wild onions, exploring caves, or chasing banana slugs. One 16 year old girl from Salinas found a new experience last year simply gazing into the sea. Despite living just minutes away from the ocean, she had never really seen it before. Sure, she explained, she had seen it from a distance, but never up close. This was clearly a powerful moment for her, stretching her mind to a new dimension. That new dimension will bring her, and others fresh from their personal experiences, back outdoors seeking greater involvement with their natural environment.

July 6, 2011

Dear Ventana Wildlife Society,

Thank you for taking us hiking. I really enjoyed it. My favorite part of the hike was when we went inside the cave. I had so much fun. Thank you Ms Elizabeth and Ms Farrah.

The reason why I come to CPY is to be with the kids. I come to help the kids on their letters. I enjoy coming to CPY to help the kids on their homework when they need it.

What I have learned in CPY is to be a good role model for the kids. I enjoy learning new things everyday. What I have learned from hiking is how to communicate in the dark.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Garcia
Age 11, Grade 6



► **VWS PARTNER: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH (CPY)**

They work to create “a community one child at a time.” CPY was created in 1991 after the tragic death of an outstanding high school athlete during an alleged drug deal.

Community Partnership for Youth provides safe, positive alternatives to gangs, drugs, and violence...is committed to the well-being of every child in the program...provides opportunities for youth to enhance their self esteem...supports families in their struggle to raise a child.

Elizabeth Garcia, age 11 was chosen to attend VWS youth programs through the CPY incentive program; she lives the CPY standards, has good attendance, is a great role model, and more!



Adult condor 298, photo by Tim Huntington

Restoring *California Condors* *to Central California*

In August 2011, our flight pen welcomed the arrival of four young condors. They were a gangly bunch, lacking in grace and experience. But they were precious cargo. They hatched in captive facilities during the spring, but were now part of the future of the wild central California Condor population. They were ready to spend several months here preparing for life in the wild. A condor mentor inside of the pen and regular condor visitors peering through the mesh from the outside provided instruction for these yearlings, or at least reinforced the inferior social status of the rookies. On November 30th, they were ready for the next step, and crew leader Mike Tyner released one of them into the wild for the first time. Mike spent the next few critical hours monitoring the safety of the young release as it explored its new surroundings. Mike watched the bird with a joy that was obvious to his crew. But he could not linger as he wished. The weather had shifted, and the winds were stirring; it was time for him to go.

All four young condors adjusted well to life in the wild in the next several months, and they provided promise for the future of the condor population after a rough reproductive year. None of the nests in 2011 managed to fledge chicks. This was a disappointing result after we had documented successful fledges in previous seasons. The condor population continues to increase, from zero condors before the first releases in 1997 to 66 by 2012. But the poor productivity at nests in 2011, followed by the release of four captive-reared birds, is a reminder that this growth has depended greatly on the management employed by Ventana Wildlife Society and our Pinnacles National Monument partner, the National Park Service.



Over the years our experience has prepared us for the ups and downs of managing the recovery of an endangered bird population. No one was prepared for the devastating loss of Mike Tyner, who did not make it back to safety during the storm on that final day of November. Our spirits were low as the year drew to a close. But, we summoned strength through our memories of Mike, some of which we share in pictures near the back of this report. He is with us as we continue forward

*In central California ...
from zero condors in 1997 to 66 by 2012!*

- 53 released to the wild
- 13 chicks from 11 wild breeding pairs (SINCE 2007)



with the tasks he performed with such care – tracking condors, providing health checks, monitoring nests, training future biologists, and sharing the condor story with others. We share Mike’s hope for the recovery of California Condors along the central coast and work hard for our goal of a future self-sustaining population.



Our goal is a self-sustaining population in which the rate of natural recruitment meets or exceeds the rate of mortality

Assisted by Mike Tyner, Joe Burnett takes a feather sample from a condor. This process helps us determine more precisely the frequency and source of lead exposure, photo by staff

MANAGING CONDOR THREATS

There are reasons for optimism regarding the long-term recovery of California Condors in central California. These birds are doing many of the right things. They are finding food on their own and some are breeding in the wild. However, the current growth of the population is largely due to releases of captive-reared birds and considerable management of the flock. Our goal is not necessarily a number. Our goal is a self-sustaining population in which the rate of natural recruitment meets or exceeds the rate of mortality.

To achieve the goal of a self-sustaining population, we must continue to manage threats. Over the years, Ventana Wildlife Society has been effective at protecting condors from

the threats in their environment. We

believe that we must also reduce or eliminate the threats themselves, not just mitigate the effects of the threat. Last year, we mounted an attack on some of these threats, taking a positive step toward reaching our goal of a self-sustaining population.

Condor 204, photo by Tim Huntington

POWER LINES

Condors are surprisingly agile for their incredible size, but even their grace on the wing is sometimes not enough to avoid collisions with power lines. A power line zigzagging up the rugged slope to Anderson Peak has claimed the lives of three California Condors since the first releases in 1997.

In the fall of 2011, PG&E stepped in and partnered with Ventana Wildlife Society to bury the more than 3 miles of power line in an effort to eliminate this threat. Much of the heavy lifting was accomplished by a pair of helicopters, and our team of biologists were in position looking out for condors, providing clearance for flights, and alerting the pilot when a condor was spotted.

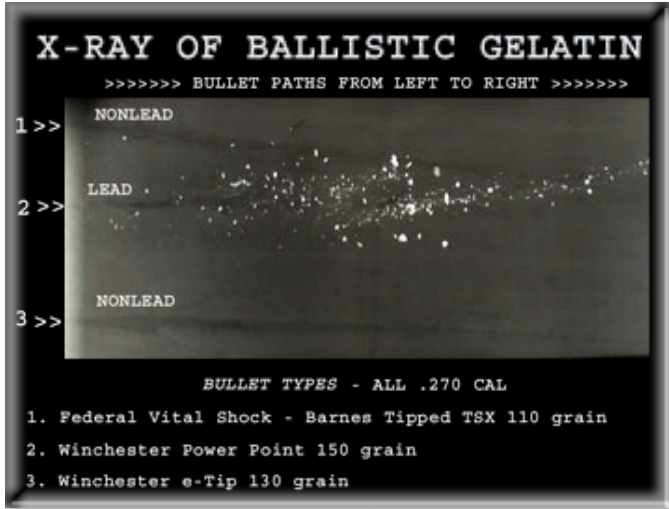
PG&E stepped up to reduce a condor threat in Big Sur

Just before Thanksgiving, and after 1,525 hours on the project, our team gave thanks for the successful completion of the work. Condors are now safe on that hillside from what was once a significant threat, and we can't help but also appreciate the enhanced natural beauty of the coastline.

PG&E begins the burial of 3 miles of power line in Big Sur, photo by staff



Below: Notice the extensive fragmentation from the lead bullet, which is the principal source of exposure in wild condors when feeding on carcasses or remains of animals shot with lead bullets.



LEAD POISONING

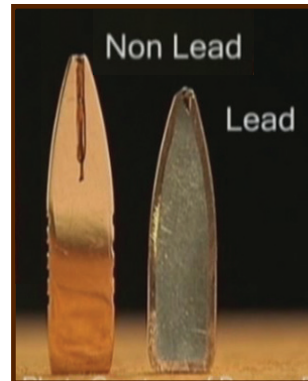
We consider lead poisoning to still be the major threat to condor survival and a self-sustaining population. We see it at least twice a year when we trap up condors and test them for lead. In 2011, nine unlucky condors were found to have elevated blood lead. Our hearts sank every time the field tester beeped and returned a high reading. These birds would have to be loaded up in a carrier, placed in the back of our Toyota Sequoia, and driven many miles to a facility for a grueling chelation treatment. This care might save their lives and return them to their freedom in the sky above the Big Sur coast. But, we long for the day when these treatments are no longer necessary.

This year, we began a program offering free non-lead ammunition to hunters and ranchers in Monterey and San Benito counties. We received funding to order more than 1,300 boxes of ammunition, enough for over 600 hunters or ranchers to use non-lead products. We believe that by providing free non-lead ammunition we can reduce the threat of lead poisoning, especially if directed in a targeted way. Through our ongoing research, radio and GPS tracking, we have a very good understanding where the greatest threat areas are located and moving forward our approach will be even more targeted than this year.



Condor 222
Photo by Tim Huntington

TWO FREE BOXES of non-lead bullets to over 600 local hunters!



Central California Hunter, Jeff Skinner

"I appreciate you guys putting your money where your mouth is and giving me the chance to switch over to a less toxic product. Thank you for the work your organization is doing for the condors and all of the wildlife in California."

Whether condors mistake pieces of trash for the calcium-rich bones they need, or are simply attracted to novel objects — trash ingestion is a threat to condors and particularly to condor chicks waiting at the nest.

MICRO-TRASH

On a cool summer morning, a Ventana Wildlife Society biologist is admiring the ocean view at a Highway 1 pullout. Not a bad office, he says to himself, not for the first time. But, although a condor sails past, the view is not perfect. So, he reaches for a garbage bag in the trunk and sets off picking up the scattered bottle caps, small wrappers, and cigarette butts. We call it micro-trash. A jogger appears and shouts a “thank you” in midstride.

We are not just keeping our community clean; we are trying to protect condors. Whether condors mistake pieces of trash for the calcium-rich bones they need, or are simply attracted to novel objects, trash ingestion is a threat to condors, and particularly to condor chicks waiting at the nest. In 2011, one of the chicks had to be evacuated because it was impacted with trash items that had been delivered to the nest.

Trash collection along Highway 1 pullouts is a daily part of our routine in the breeding season. We also have organized volunteer trash pick-up days. It is not the most glamorous work — but there is not much we wouldn't do to try and help these birds.





Biologists take a blubber sample from a beached whale carcass, photo by staff



Condor egg laid in wild nest in Big Sur, photo by staff

Our data indicate thinner eggshells and lower hatching success for condors in central California

MARINE CONTAMINANTS

The condor population along the central California coast is unique among recovering condor populations in exploiting marine carrion resources. Our observation of condors scavenging along the coast in recent years harkens back to Lewis and Clark and other early explorers observing condors feeding on the remains of whales washed ashore by the ocean waves. With this resource comes concern for marine contaminants, especially DDE (a metabolite of DDT), that have been found in high levels of contamination in sea lions and other marine fauna.

Ventana Wildlife Society is researching links between marine contaminants, such as DDE, with California Condor reproduction. Our data, pending publication in *The Condor*, indicate thinner eggshells and lower hatching success for condors in central California, relative to condors in southern California. We attributed the thinning to consumption of sea lion carcasses, a food source exploited here but not in southern California. Our research has helped identify a threat to reproduction, and has helped develop strategies for enhancing hatching success in the future.

Facing page: Condor 318 protects her new chick in her nest, photo by Gavin Emmons
Top left: Condors feeding on a sea lion carcass in Big Sur, photo by Tim Huntington



Conserving with Partners



California State Parks



Often when we talk about protecting endangered species, we talk about legislation or perhaps setting aside critical habitat. But it can be much more than that. The partnership of Ventana Wildlife Society with California Department of Parks and Recreation quite literally protects two listed species, California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover, from predators at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area in San Luis Obispo County, California. Fenced enclosures on the white sandy beaches already protect nesting plovers and terns from off-road vehicle use, but more was needed to protect them from avian predators, such as falcons, hawks, owls, or shrikes. In 2011, Ventana Wildlife Society predator specialist, Paul Young, identified predators that were selectively targeting plovers and terns and posing an immediate threat to their productivity. Seventeen avian predators were safely trapped and relocated to appropriate habitat outside of the recreation area where they would no longer pose a danger to the plover and tern colonies. Correcting an imbalanced predator-prey relationship, even in the short-term, can give these species a fighting chance for a long-term recovery on our coastline.



Santa Lucia Conservancy



Our partnership with Santa Lucia Conservancy through the years has been very satisfying because the avian monitoring data we have collected for them has directly influenced management policy at Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel Valley, California. Results of grassland surveys in past years have been used by their staff to develop management projects to maintain and restore this habitat type on the preserve. In 2011, we conducted avian surveys in riparian and oak savannah habitats, and monitored several species of conservation concern on the preserve. In the last few years, we provided evidence of a local decline for Tricolored Blackbird, a species of special concern with a breeding range mostly confined to the state of California. These results helped prompt habitat restoration at several ponds to help support the small breeding population. Ventana Wildlife Society and Santa Lucia Conservancy have shared monitoring data online with the California Avian Data Center, allowing others to benefit from the fruits of this great partnership.

Partnerships are a key component of all programs used by Ventana Wildlife Society to conserve native wildlife and their habitats. Our partners help us in innumerable ways, such as retrofitting a power line to protect condors, providing a research grant, hosting an education program, or recruiting youth for an outdoor learning experience. Through the pages of this annual report, you have read many examples of how important these partnerships are to us. Here, we highlight a few more that we enjoyed in 2011.



Department of Fish and Game



Through a Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grant, Ventana Wildlife Society partnered with California Department of Fish and Game to study patterns of condor foraging activity and lead exposure. We value this partnership because these tasks are essential to our condor recovery program and provide the necessary data for making sound management decisions in the future. From March 2011 through July 2012, we collected 82 condor blood samples for lead analysis, observed feeding on a variety of wild carcasses, and tracked condor movements with radio telemetry and GPS. Through these processes, we have learned more about the extent of the lead threat and which areas pose the greatest risk of lead exposure to the flock.

Salinas Police Activities League with Alisal Family Resource Center have helped us connect with nearly 600 local underserved youth

Salinas Community School



Since 2007, we have partnered with the Salinas Community School to bring meaningful outdoor experiences to at-risk teens. This Alternative Education Program of the Monterey County Office of Education provides a second chance for students who have been suspended from public school, or new hope for teens recently incarcerated. The Salinas Community School and Ventana Wildlife Society team up to give another chance to troubled teens who have seemingly run out of chances elsewhere. We accompany them to nature's classroom, where they might hear the wind whisk through the wing beats of a condor, discover wildflowers that color a dry talus slope, or watch a lizard warm in the rising sun. Lessons in nature demonstrate that although life can be complicated, they can find beauty, value, and potential everywhere they look, including within themselves.



Leary of this cold Pacific experience, Maria Fuentes with Salinas Police Activities League/ Alisal Family Resource Center, is supported by her friends, photo by staff

Alisal Family Resource Center
 Big Sur Land Trust
 Boys and Girls Club
 Community Partnership for Youth
 Salinas Community School
 Salinas Police Activities League
 Silver Star Youth Program

We'd like to thank the many partners of our Education and Outreach program, with a special mention of the Big Sur Land Trust who provides access to their Mark's Ranch property in Salinas. We have been able to show many underserved youth the beauty that's right in their backyard.



Research & Publications



Photo by Katie Lamson

Bald Eagle Production in Central California 275 TOTAL CHICKS FROM 1993-2012

OF BALD EAGLES FLEDGED BY YEAR:

1993	2	0	2	5	3	8	6	6	8	6	5	14	15	21	21	24	23	35	38	33	
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We always have an eye on research, because research goes hand in hand with conservation, the heart of Ventana Wildlife Society's mission. The reintroduction of nesting Bald Eagles to the Central California Coast region was the first big conservation project for Ventana Wildlife Society. This region comprises the area between Southern San Luis Obispo County, Northern San Mateo County and Interstate 5 to the east. From 1993 through 2012, we have

confirmation of 275 Bald Eagles fledging from nests within this region. Our annual studies of nesting Bald Eagles, led by co-founder Sal Lucido and his team of volunteers, have generated evidence of an increasing and expanding population, allowing Ventana Wildlife Society to focus greater attention on the challenges facing California Condors.

What we learn through our condor research will guide the important conservation decisions to come. For example, we research condor movement patterns with GPS dataloggers to be better prepared to protect condors when future wind energy development sites are evaluated. We also research the association between marine contaminants and condor reproduction to better understand how marine mammal food resources might affect the prospects of a self-sustaining population.



CONDOR GPS
DATALOGGERS

Last year, several Ventana Wildlife Society research manuscripts were published in peer-reviewed journals or accepted for future publication.



CO-AUTHOR-BURNETT, L. J. 2012
PATTERNS OF MORTALITY IN FREE RANGING CALIFORNIA CONDOR. JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES 48:95-112



BURNETT, L. J. 2012
EGGSHELL THINNING AND DEPRESSED HATCHING SUCCESS OF CALIFORNIA CONDORS REINTRODUCED TO CENTRAL CALIFORNIA. THE CONDOR PENDING



CO-AUTHOR-BURNETT, L. J. 2012
LEAD POISONING AND THE DECEPTIVE RECOVERY OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED CALIFORNIA CONDOR. PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



STAKE, M. M. 2012
TRENDS IN VAGRANT CAPTURE RATES AT A COASTAL CALIFORNIA BANDING STATION (1993-2010). BIRD POPULATIONS 11:14-21



STAKE, M. M. 2011
TRENDS IN CAPTURE RATES FOR SUMMER, WINTER, AND PERMANENT RESIDENT SONGBIRDS AT BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA. NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDER 36:149-155

NEW in 2011 *Big Sur Eco-Week Internships*

In 2011, Ventana Wildlife Society introduced a new eco-week internship program, designed to inspire the next generation of wildlife biologists. Funded by Marisla Foundation, our staff planned three separate weeks of work activities for up to four individuals interested in birds or pursuing a career in wildlife biology. Eco-week participants had the opportunity of interacting with every Ventana Wildlife Society staff member, whether it was tracking condors with radio telemetry gear, banding songbirds, providing education outreach, discussing how to design projects to accomplish different objectives, or discovering pathways to a career in wildlife biology. Part summer camp and part boot camp, eco-weeks had a little bit of everything: wading through the Big Sur River to open mist nets at sunrise, picking up micro-trash along a coastal bluff, hauling a carcass to a condor feeding site, and unwinding on the deck watching condors come in to roost against a fiery sunset.

This program really captured our interest because many of us remember that first big break in our career, that special person or organization that took a chance on us. We are doing our work because someone along the way shared their time, skills, and perhaps a little bit of inspiration with us. Ventana Wildlife Society has long maintained a six-month internship program, but we feel these shorter-term eco-week experiences also play an important role in inspiring the next generation of wildlife biologists. Therefore, we are pleased to continue both internship programs in future years.



Eco-week interns stay out of sight of the condor feeding slope, photo by Annette Herz

HERE'S WHAT A FEW OF OUR PARTICIPANTS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE ECO-WEEK:

"I feel absolutely fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with VWS staff, which consistently showed themselves to be professional, knowledgeable, inquisitive, congenial, and willing and ready to educate."

"The experience has opened my eyes to an incredible species I was not formerly familiar with. Thank You VWS!!"

"Breathtaking views! Feeding the condors, overall...Amazing!!!"



Remembering Mike Tyner

"I can say that it was an honor to work alongside Mike. He was truly an exceptional biologist, a great friend, and a staunch protector of all natural things! "

*- Joe Burnett, Senior Wildlife Biologist
and close friend*

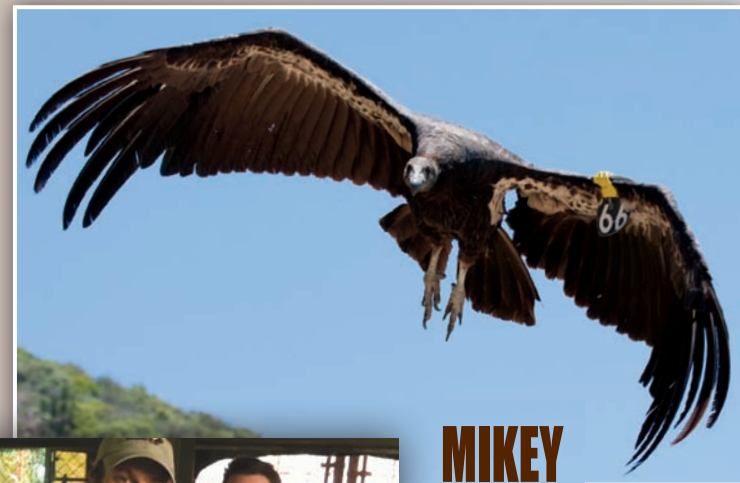




Field crew leader Mike Tyner was killed instantly when an oak limb fell onto the ATV he was driving to base camp during the frightful wind storm of November 30, 2011. He was 35...

Mike spent nine years with Ventana Wildlife Society, and we will always remember him as a special co-worker and friend. Mike was first and foremost a tireless advocate for condors, and birds in general. Typically, Mike might take a sunrise hike to the headlands at Andrew Molera State Park looking for rare birds, monitor condors in the field all afternoon, then tie up all the loose ends when the rest of the crew was tired and heading home. He would know just what was happening at that condor nest even before Joe could ask him to check it out. If one of the condors went missing, he would know when and where to start looking. He always made his work seem easy, whether it was ambling off to the mist nets in flip-flops (hardly able to contain his excitement over the mere thought of a vagrant warbler), gathering up a plucky condor from the flight pen for processing, or leading a field crew meeting with his gentle affirmatives of “right on”, or “that’ll work”. He never projected stress or negativity; those elements seemed foreign to him. His humor was engaging with a playful edge. Soft-spoken, his grace came not from behind a podium or a computer screen; his grace and comfort came from being outdoors, with a pair of binoculars slung over his shoulders, a fishing rod, or a campfire.

Few people seriously consider what they might do if they knew it would be their last day. Aside from stealing a few extra moments with loved ones, Mike probably would have been just where he was, doing the work he loved. We thank Mike for sharing his passion for conservation and advancing the Ventana Wildlife Society mission. Mike never assumed enough credit for his contribution to the condor recovery program and the variety of other conservation projects he helped manage. But his legacy will be condors soaring freely over the central coast, and the lives he touched while he was here.



MIKEY

Condor 566 was being closely monitored by Wildlife Biologist Mike Tyner as he spread his wings in the wild for the first time on November 30, 2011. As 566 (nicknamed “Mikey”) finds his place within the wild flock, there’s a large place in our hearts for this soaring spirit that will be eternally entwined with Mike’s.



Mike Tyner trained and supported numerous biologists over the years. Mike’s last crew was David Moen, Erin Brannon, and Zeka Kuspa.

Thank You for Supporting Ventana Wildlife Society...

Members and contributors are essential to our success. Together we support the survival of a rich diversity of wildlife species and habitats. We are pleased to recognize and thank the following supporters who contributed during the 2012 fiscal year (April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012).

Leadership Circle

OVER \$50,000

Margaret C & William R Hearst III
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous
Wendy McCaw Foundation
Monterey Peninsula Foundation, Host of
the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am

\$10,000-\$24,999

The Applewood Fund at Community
Foundation of Santa Cruz Co
The Fund for the Environment of the
Community Foundation for Monterey Co
Harden Foundation
Kinnoull Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Guy & Julia Hands
Jeanne Holmquist
Colleen May & Kerry Burrows
Hugh A McAllister, Jr MD
Oregon Zoo
Barnet J Segal Charitable Trust
The Shanbrom Family Foundation
Ruth Smart Foundation
Jean & Tim Weiss

Steward

\$1,000-\$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Jan Avent & David Rossetti
Ali Barratt
Max & Jean Bell
Sarah Berling
Big Sur International Marathon Inc
Blaze Engineering Inc
Michael Borck & Kathleen Brannan
Judy & Arnold Bramlett
Jason & Melissa Burnett
Betsy Collins & Mary Whitney

Mark & Erica Dedon
Peter Engberg & Mai Lindberg
Davis Factor, Jr Fund of the Community
Foundation for Monterey Co
Davis & Christine Factor
FL Concepts & Co
Fletcher Bay Foundation
Randolph Floyd
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Associate
 \$50-\$99
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 Mayumi Adams
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 Alexis Ashby & George Selland
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 Rosemary Baez

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 Eileen & Jeffrey Barnum
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 Diane Goldman
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 Jim & Susan Greene
 Ann Greiner
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 Shannon McMillan
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 Bruce Merchant
 James Metcalf
 Terri Middlemiss
 Kristin Minnich
 Marlene Mirassou & Steve Houlihan

Donor Appreciation Reception



The Outstanding Philanthropist Award
 Joyce Harris



The Environmental Excellence Award
 Blaze Engineering



The Volunteer of the Year Award
 Tim Huntington

(his condor photos grace many pages of this report)



The Frank J Lichtanski Award
 Salinas Police Activities League and
 Alisal Family Resource Center

TIM HUNTINGTON accepted The Volunteer of the Year Award, THE SALINAS POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE AND ALISAL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER received The Frank J Lichtanski Award for excellent collaboration - photo L to R: Kelly Sorenson, Elizabeth Serrano-Hill, Brandon Hill, Michele O'Brien, Mary Sanchez, and Alena Porte. The Outstanding Philanthropist Award was proudly given to JOYCE HARRIS, also in photo is Bill Kampe. BLAZE ENGINEERING in Big Sur was awarded with The Environmental Excellence Award - photo L to R: Mike Odello, Joe Burnett, Dave Martin, Marty Morganrath, Wendy Burnett, Tevye Morganrath, Kelly Sorenson.

Rahaf Misto
 Delight Nasatir
 James O'Donnell
 Paula O'Farrell
 Tom & Pam Packard
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 Dennis & Marty Renault
 Mariya Rychkov
 Tom Savage
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 Steve & Kit Schmeiser
 Janice M Schreckengost
 Gerald & Donna Secundy
 Patrick Lara, Julia Selby-Lara, Chris, & John Selecky
 Larisa Shiryayeva
 Bonnie Bufkin & Ron Sissem
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 James Young
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 Bradley Zeve

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 United Way California Capital Region
 Bob Vasconcellos
 Alan Walther



Photographers
 Gavin Emmons
 Barbara Johnson
 Katie Lannon
 VWS staff & interns
 TIM HUNTINGTON...
 A special thank you for
 your amazing photos!
 You capture such
 beauty and individuality
 in every shot!

Condor tour leader Mike Stake, photo by Tim Huntington

Gary & Shaina Wasserman
 Melissa Whitmire
 Linda Wilson
 David Lewis
 Suzanne Worcester

In-Kind

Anonymous (2)
 Asilomar Conference Grounds
 Blaze Engineering Inc
 Wendy Buck
 California International Airshow
 Cantinetta Luca
 Costco
 Deetjen's Big Sur Inn
 Diageo Chateau & Estate Wines
 Eagle Optics
 Tim Huntington
 Katy's Place
 KOWA Optimed, Inc.
 Sal & Ada Lucido
 Lula's Chocolates
 Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca
 Monterey Bay Bird Festival
 Monterey Bay Whale Watch
 Monterey Coast Brewing
 Monterey Signs
 Parker-Lusseau Pastries
 Patagonia - Palo Alto
 Passionfish
 Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay
 Quail Lodge Resort & Golf Club
 REI, Inc

Ristorante Avanti
 Safeway
 San Francisco Zen Center
 Sandbar & Grill
 Sardine Factory
 Target
 Whole Foods Market

In Memory Of

Harvey Amster
 Baby
 Loma Bastion
 Tom Cremeans
 Austin Ellison
 Ernst Ewoldsen
 Siras Greiner
 Wilma Jean Hamilton
 Frank Lichtanski
 John Francis Lino
 Barbara O'Donnell
 John & Phyllis Richer
 Richard Sherwood
 Loretta Sorenson
 Mike Tyner
 Marion & George Webster

In Honor Of

birdorable.com
 Richard Bishop
 Ronald & Dienne Bontrop
 Virdette Brumm
 Cari Church & Richard Woolcott

Condors
 Cristina, Marissa & Jessica
 Paul Edwards
 Geri Flesher & Corinn Hillstrom
 Steve Foster
 Tim Huntington
 Jacob Isaacs
 Allison Green Kidder
 Peter Krasnekewicz
 Nory LeBrun
 Luca Malone-Payne
 Rowan Melton
 David Moen
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 Jean Salvatore
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 Art Takaki
 Linden Tarr
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Seasonal Interns

Erin Brannon
 Zeka Kuspa
 Katie Lannon
 Alison Nevins

Eco-Week Interns

Crystal Chavanne
 Molly Crawford
 Mami Falk
 Adam Helm
 Troy Hodges
 Barbara Johnson
 Alex Rinkert
 Katie Stubbendick
 Ross Williams
 Matthew Willis

Volunteers

Brianna Church
 Richard Harkins
 Tim Huntington
 Richard Lewis
 Sal Lucido
 George Mori
 Rachel Perpignani
 Bob Riseborough
 Eric Ross
 Janet & Lance Rossi
 Charlotte Updyke-Brunet

Collaborators

Alisal Family Resource Center
Big Sur Land Trust
Boys & Girls Club of Monterey County
Bureau of Land Management
California State Parks
City of Seaside Parks & Recreation
Community Partnership for Youth
Department of Fish & Game
Los Angeles Zoo
National Park Service
Oakland Zoo
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Peregrine Fund
Salinas Community School
Salinas Police Activities League
Santa Barbara Zoo
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Silver Star Youth Program

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US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Geological Survey
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Company Match Programs

Many companies have matching gift programs through which they will "match" the charitable contributions made by their employees/retirees, making your gift go even further. Many VWS members take advantage of this opportunity through their employers; below is a list of these companies:

Bank of America
The Boeing Company
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Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Palm Foundation
Piper Jaffray Charitable Giving Campaign
Power Integrations, Inc
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Wells Fargo

Check with your company's Human Resources office to see if they offer gift matching.

Legacy Society

We wish to extend much appreciation to those who have remembered Ventana Wildlife Society through bequests or by naming VWS as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy or IRA:

Barbara Baldock & Phillip N Butler
Virdette L Brumm, PhD & Robertson Parkman, PhD
Sandy Decker & Karen Mortillaro
Howard Elliott
Carla & David Gamham
Jeanne Holmquist
Sheri Howe
Sal & Ada Lucido
Mark Rush
Janet Shing
Jerry & Cheryl Stidham
Frank & Barbara Strehlitz

If you would like to speak to someone about ways you can make a gift or to let us know that you have already designated VWS in your estate, use the enclosed envelope, go to our website www.ventanaws.org, or contact Kelly Sorenson at 831-455-9514.

Join Us!

The success of Ventana Wildlife Society depends on the strong support of our members & contributors. We invite you to join us today by visiting our secure website at www.ventanaws.org or call us at 831-455-9514. Members receive e-newsletters, recognition in our Annual Report, and the knowledge that together we can help ensure a healthy future for the California Condor and other wildlife species while inspiring youth.

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	MARCH 31, 2012	2011
Cash and Equivalents.....	\$ 101,427	\$76,383
Board Designated Cash Reserves.....	115,094	65,059
Pledge Receivable.....	0	125,000
Grants Receivable.....	28,249	16,398
Deposits & Prepaid Expenses.....	3,293	6,058
Property and Equipment (net).....	1,563,630	1,003,678
TOTAL ASSETS	1,811,693	1,292,576

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Accounts Payable.....	12,030	18,126
Accrued Liabilities.....	14,811	16,981
Deposits.....	3,137	5,725
Total Liabilities	29,978	40,832

Net Assets

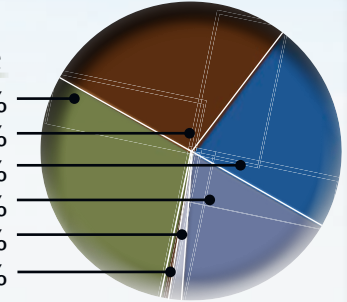
Unrestricted.....	623,410	506,744
Temporarily Restricted.....	112,305	39,000
Permanently Restricted.....	1,046,000	706,000
Total Net Assets	1,781,715	1,251,744

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS.....\$1,811,693 \$1,292,576

2012 Total Income

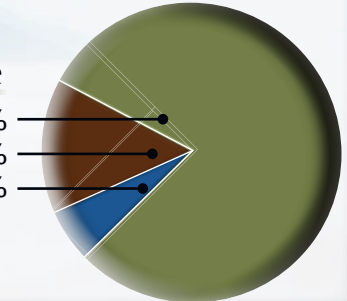
Grants	\$404,058	30%
In-Kind Contributions	\$362,240	27%
Service Fees	\$308,918	23%
Contributions	\$241,455	18%
Special Events (net)	\$13,047	1%
Other	\$37	0%

TOTAL: \$1,329,755



2012 Total Expense

Program Services	\$637,911	80%
Administrative	\$117,479	15%
Fundraising	\$44,394	5%
TOTAL:	\$799,784	



Ventana Wildlife Society is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization. Tax ID: 94-2795935. Complete financials may be requested



VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY - 19045 Portola Drive, Ste F1 - Salinas, CA 93908 (831) 455-9514 - fax (831) 455-2846 - www.ventanaws.org

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Ways You Can Help!

- Adopt-A-Condor
- Become a member
- Donate to Ventana Wildlife Society
- Fund a student to attend
Natural Science
Awareness Programs
- Planned gift or bequest
- Research your company's
Matched Giving Program
- Recurring gift
- Forward this report to a friend
- Sign up for a Condor Tour
- Subscribe to VWS e-newsletter
- Tell a family member
- Visit our Discovery Center
- Volunteer

Senior Wildlife Biologists Joe Burnett and Mike Stake, photo by staff