

Ventana Wildlife Society 2013 ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 1, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2013



A Message from our Board Chair and Executive Director



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

Dear Friends,

This 2013 Annual Report describes the work of Ventana Wildlife Society over the last year and reflects on some of our accomplishments, which were made possible through your support. We thank you for your generosity.

We celebrate many recent accomplishments, including the successful hatching of several condor chicks in the wild, new publications in peer-reviewed journals, implementation of a five-year strategic plan, enrollment of several hundred youth in outdoor education programs, and the increasing availability of our outdoor education programs to students from underserved communities who might otherwise have limited opportunities to spend meaningful time in nature.

We continue to work for a self-sustaining condor population - and the condors themselves have the will to survive on their own - but lead poisoning still greatly threatens their survival. All too often, condors ingest fragments from spent lead ammunition. A series of recent condor deaths has provided clearer evidence of the magnitude of this problem.

Through the use of state-of-the-art GPS technology, we have been better able to track the birds, determine locations where condors are at greatest risk, and collaborate with agencies, organizations, and local hunters and ranchers to reduce the risk of lead exposure. In 2012, we provided more than 1,200 boxes of free non-lead ammunition to hunters and ranchers in Monterey and San Benito counties where it was needed most. The combination of high-tech tracking and sincere good will goes a long way, but more is needed.

Governor Brown recently signed into California law a requirement to use non-lead ammunition for all hunting in the state. This new policy will eventually have a big impact on condor recovery. But, until the law is implemented and the market has a chance to catch up to the new demand, lead will continue to be a problem for condors.

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,

William Kampe, Board of Directors Chair

William Kampe

Kelly Sorenson, Executive Director

Contents

A Message from our Board Chair and Executive Director 1
Ventana Wildlife Society
Educating Future Stewards 4
Restoring California Condors to Central California 8
Restoring Bald Eagles to Central California
Publications
Annual Event - Feathers in Flight
Annual Event - Donor Appreciation Reception
Conserving with Partners
Thank You for Supporting Ventana Wildlife Society
Strategic Plan 2013-2018
Financials - Fiscal Year 2013



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(Remembering Wendy Buck, JD)

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Amy Wells, DVM

Ventana Wildlife Society

OUR MISSION: Conserving native wildlife and their habitats through science, education and collaboration.

OUR VISION: California Condors will be self-sustaining in Central California, no longer needing the day-to-day assistance from people to survive. This success will serve as a model and catalyst for new wildlife recovery projects developing worldwide. We will also see the positive role of the marketplace on wildlife conservation through financial incentives, rather than penalties, for landowners to maintain habitat for species. Access to meaningful outdoor education opportunities for youth will remain critically important to our conservation approach, and we will expand our education programs through collaboration. Ventana Wildlife Society will be helping to drive a better community as a whole where wildlife coexists with people and both thrive.

OUR STORY: Founded in 1977, Ventana Wildlife Society led the way to successful reintroduction of the Bald Eagle and the California Condor, two of the most iconic birds in the world, to native habitats in central California. Through the course of our work, we developed an organizational culture that strongly values science, education and collaboration, and finding ways for both wildlife and people to benefit from one another. This "Ventana Way" is evident throughout our conservation projects, including the work we do to provide meaningful outdoor education for youth that couldn't otherwise afford to attend extra-curricular opportunities. The Ventana Way is about sticking to the facts and finding solutions for society as a whole. Our approach positions us well to address tomorrow's ecosystem management challenges and inspire the next generation of wildlife stewards.



Educating Future Stewards

Ventana Wildlife Society offers six types of education programs for students of all ages, so there is surely something for everyone. Students of our education programs will long remember watching sea lions from a kayak, exploring a tide pool, or watching a condor take flight. Favorite moments for some included simple pleasures of childhood and friendship,

like rolling down a sand dune or riding in a van with other kids. Their parents recognize the education they are receiving through our activities. "No matter how much awareness you give a child at home," affirms one parent, "seeing that awareness socially supported by a larger group is essential and deepens the understanding for the child."





We have enjoyed watching our former students continue their studies for a career in wildlife or become leaders in their communities. Heather Gaya, of Palo Alto, California is a perfect example. She joined our Natural Science Discovery Camp for many years as a child, then attended the Condor Wilderness Camp when she became old enough. She developed a fascination for birds and enrolled in Environmental Studies at Whitman College in Washington. She recently returned to Ventana Wildlife Society to gain more field experience through the Eco-Week Internship. After completing college, she hopes to pursue an advanced degree and an environmental career - preferably as an ornithologist, she says.

Another former alumnus, Juan Pozos, provided Spanish-language instruction for our Single-Day Adventures at Pinnacles National Park in 2012. The availability of a bilingual leader, like Juan, allowed us to include a greater number of students from underserved communities.







Natural Science Awareness Program, 6-17 years old Enrollment: 202 students Underserved Youth: 72%

This program provided outdoor curriculum during the school year, encouraging observation, awareness, and journaling. Thanks to our collaborators, particularly Salinas Community School and Rancho Cielo, we were able to serve more than 200 students in 2012, the majority of which were from underserved communities.

Wee Ones in the Woods, 4-7 years old

Enrollment: 15 students

Students enjoyed storytelling, creating projects, and exploring tide pools and other habitats. Themes for Wee Ones in the Woods included a Creepy Crawly Hunt, a Tide Pool Traipse, a Sun-Sational Time, and Amazing Animals.



WWW.VENTANAWS.ORG

Natural Science Discovery Camp, 8-12 years old

Enrollment: 145 students Underserved Youth: 65%

Themes for these weeklong day camps, with one overnight campout in Big Sur, included Mountains Rock, Hooray For Habitats, and Outrageous Oceans Odyssey. Students enjoyed swimming, hiking, kayaking, whale watching, tide pooling, and more. We collaborated with Boys & Girls Club of Monterey County, Community Partnership for Youth, Salinas Police Activities League, and Alisal Family Resource Center to run these camps at full capacity in 2012.



Enrollment: 120 students Underserved Youth: 90%

Destinations for Single-Day Adventures included the Big Sur coast, Santa Cruz Mountains, and Pinnacles National Park. We provided bilingual instruction for some programs in order to include more students from underserved communities.













Condor Wilderness Camp, 13-17 years old *Enrollment: 10 students*

These camps provided an opportunity for teens to track condors with radio telemetry, assist with food placement at a condor feeding site, and discuss conservation careers with wildlife biologists. The small enrollment allowed more personal interaction between students and instructors.

Eco-Week Internship Program, over 17 years old Enrollment: 18 students

Thanks to continued funding support from Marisla Foundation, we hosted our second annual free Eco-Week Internships. These four weeklong sessions for 4-5 students each were designed to provide prospective biologists with a glimpse of a wildlife career. They worked side by side with our staff, tracking condors, monitoring nests, and managing the flock.

"I really feel like
I owe VWS some
money," quipped one
Eco-Week Intern. He
described the week
as "getting a chance
to look through a
window at what my
career may someday

look like.'



As another local college student described, "Eco-Week threw me off a cliff and taught me how to fly. Each day brought a new experience that was challenging and rewarding."



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Restoring California Condors to Central California VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

On Thanksgiving Day, our interns dutifully settled into the blind and noticed an unusual surprise: an untagged condor sporting fresh new feathers and the deferential bearing of an inexperienced juvenile. In the summer of 2012, we had been pleased to monitor the hatching and growth of two young condors in nests along the Big Sur coast. This growth was aided by an unlucky gray whale, which washed ashore and fed most of the flock for several months. But this third youngster was a bonus, because we had been unsure of his existence. We were unable to monitor his remote nest in the rugged interior of the Santa Lucia range. Several months after being discovered, the young condor submitted to the attachment of his first wing tags and became condor 663. His appearance highlighted Thanksgiving and punctuated a productive breeding year for condors on the Big Sur coast.



...this youngster was a bonus, because we had been unsure of his existence...



Condor 318 protecting his 3-day old chick in the nest. Photo by Gavin Emmons



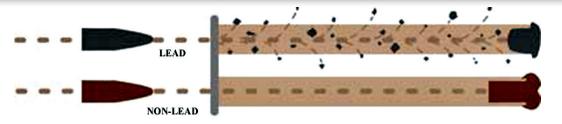
An x-ray shows the ingested lead bullet that took condor 318's life.

VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Ventana Wildlife Society gave away 1,246 boxes of free ammunition to hunters and ranchers in 2012.



Upon impact, lead bullets fragment, multiplying the risks of poisoning for scavengers feeding on the carcass. The use of non-lead ammunition eliminates the risk of lead poisoning.



Through these misfortunes, we are learning more about lead exposure and identifying new approaches to managing this threat. The death of condor 318 convinced us that we needed to expand our free non-lead ammunition program to provide for our ranching neighbors who use small calibers to control "varmints" on their property. We gave away 1.246 boxes of free non-lead ammunition in 2012, encouraging many to make the switch and demonstrating our support of local ranching and hunting communities. Tracking condors with state of the art GSM satellite tags, we were better able to study condor movement patterns and identify potential feeding sites associated with lead exposure events. With National Park Service, we have taken the next steps toward working with individual land owners to protect condors. As part of that process in 2013, we sought expert advice to identify and improve strategies for partnering with ranchers, hunters, and other stakeholders to find solutions to the lead threat. Through continued management of condor threats, applications of technology, and collaborations, we can one day reach our goal of a self-sustaining condor population. Along the way, our hope is confirmed by the condors themselves. like 663, reminding us of how far they have come in their journey toward recovery.



recovery of Bald Eagles. (see page 15)

Restoring breeding Bald Eagles to the central California coast was Ventana Wildlife Society's first success story, setting the foundation for our current conservation efforts with condors and other wildlife. The story began with the vision of co-founder Sal Lucido and a piece of property in the Santa Lucia range that would serve as a release site for Bald Eagles, and later California Condors. Between 1986 and 2000, Ventana Wildlife Society released 70 Bald Eagles in hopes of establishing a breeding population.

We welcomed a major milestone in 1993 when a Bald Eagle pair in San Luis Obispo County became the first to have a successful nest in central California since 1936. In 2012, Lucido and his team of volunteer landowners, birders, and other eagle enthusiasts, monitored 26 Bald Eagle breeding territories and 33 eaglets along the central California coast. The breeding population has grown steadily and is expanding into new locations, such as San Mateo County, where reproductive success was confirmed in 2013 for the first time in 98 years. This population growth is impressive, considering that the original recovery goal was a modest 4 breeding pairs!

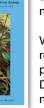
The Bald Eagle was removed from the federal endangered species list in 2007, but our commitment to protecting eagles has not wavered. In 2012, we partnered with the California Army National Guard and Albion Environmental, Inc., to prepare an Eagle Conservation Plan for Camp Roberts. This plan will help advance the conservation of Bald and Golden eagle populations at Camp Roberts while allowing the military to maintain their mission in full compliance with federal and state environmental regulations. In 2012, we completed an Avian Protection Plan for Camp Roberts, which will help the California Army National Guard prevent electrocutions of eagles and other raptors at power lines on the base.



event by this scavenging species had never been recorded in the literature. However his notes narrating the event did not betray his emotion; they were composed in his

typical matter-of-fact, unpretentious style. The following year, we

would lose Mike, but his landmark observation lives on, just like the memories he left. In 2012, his notes were framed into a peer-reviewed manuscript, and the manuscript was accepted for publication in the journal Western Birds in March 2013. Congratulations Mike!



BURNETT, ET AL. 2013 CONDOR 115:477-491

THE CONDOR

We place a high priority on sharing the results of our research and monitoring projects through scientific publications. In 2012, we prepared final revisions for a manuscript documenting thin eggshells among the condor breeding population in central California. This paper, appropriately published in the journal Condor in 2013, explores an association between eggshell thinning and DDE, the breakdown product of the pesticide DDT. The banning of DDT facilitated the recovery of Bald Eagles and other birds, but DDE appears to be a problem for condors foraging on marine mammal carcasses. Fortunately, DDT is declining naturally in the environment with no new inputs; therefore, we expect condor exposure to DDE to be reduced over time.

109:11449-11454

Annual Event Feathers in Flight









Photos by Katsuaki Terasawa

We held our first annual Feathers in Flight fundraising event at Holman Ranch in Carmel Valley on June 10, 2012. Feathers in Flight was conceived as a fresh take on our previous annual event, Wings Over the World.

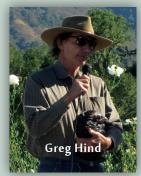
One of the main attractions of Feathers in Flight was a falconry demonstration, featuring more than 20 live raptors. Our 85 guests enjoyed a breathtaking stoop flight display by a Peregrine Falcon, while celebrating the conservation role of falconry, where many of our standard condor release techniques are rooted. A live auction, emceed by local broadcaster Hunter Finnell (Monterey Bay and Beyond), consisted of nine showcase packages, including a private condor release, a Hawaiian getaway, condor art, and a party bus! A buffet dinner, an executive director reception, live music, and prize drawings rounded out this first-class event in style.

We Remember A Friend...

Special bronze awards were given to The Hind Foundation and Sal and Ada Lucido for their generous assistance in our permanent acquisition of a portion of the Big Sur Condor Sanctuary.

Sadly, Greg Hind died on October 31, 2012 after a short illness. He was 66. Greg Hind was a prominent San Luis Obispo businessman, philanthropist, environmentalist, and innovator. He and his wife Jane started The Hind Foundation in 2006,

providing grants to promote the arts, and conserve wildlife, land, historical landmarks, and ecosystems. In addition to helping us protect the condor sanctuary in perpetuity, The Hind Foundation was instrumental in the development of our Discovery Center in Big Sur. While we lament the passing of our friend and conservation partner, we honor his legacy of wildlife and land preservation, which will continue to be felt throughout central California.



013 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Event Donor Appreciation Reception

We really can't thank our donors enough! But as we do every year, we set aside an evening in 2013 for a Donor Appreciation Reception. On February 23rd, we recognized several of our special donors with the Outstanding Philanthropist, Environmental Excellence, Frank J. Lichtanski Collaborator and Volunteer of the Year awards. We remember this event through the photographic lens of Carl Young, son of co-founder Sal and Ada Lucido.



Barnet J Segal Charitable Trust in recognition of their outstanding support of our education programs



Tim and Jean Weiss in recognition of their longstanding personal support



The Oakland Zoo in recognition of their support of the California Condor Recovery Program



Sal and Ada Lucido in recognition of their volunteer services supporting Bald Eagles

Sandy Decker received a special "thank you" for his 6 years of board support. Through Decker Studios, Sandy has generously donated gorgeous bronze condor art that we use in our education and condor programs and as membership gifts.



With A Heavy Heart...

Shortly after the reception, on May 31, 2013, Carl Young was killed in Oaklahoma while conducting research on the largest tornado in history. He was 45. As a meteorologist and storm researcher for more than 11 years, his work appeared on National Geographic and the Discovery Channel. He also taught meteorology and geology, conducted research on weather forecasting, and generously supported Ventana Wildlife Society. We have

become all too familiar with the loss of a Ventana family member to weather events in recent years. But, we celebrate Carl's life and fine achievements, while embracing his love of nature and spirit of adventure.



Conserving with Partners





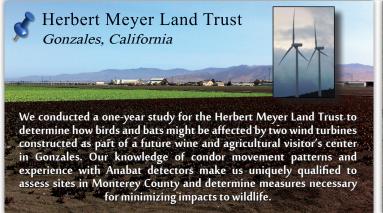


In spring of 2013, we prepared an Avian Protection Plan for Camp Roberts to help the California Army National Guard prevent avian electrocutions and collisions with power lines on the installation. We will continue working with the guard in 2013 by implementing annual raptor monitoring and preparing an Eagle Conservation Plan.

ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Boys & Girls Club of Monterey County
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- City of Seaside Parks and Recreation
- Community Partnership for Youth
- Los Angeles Zoo
- National Park Service
- Oakland Zoo
- Pacific Gas & Electric Co
- Peregrine Fund
- Rancho Cielo Youth Campus
- Salinas Community School
- Salinas Police Activities League
- Santa Barbara Zoo
- Santa Lucia Conservancy
- University of California Davis
- University of California Santa Cruz
- USDA Forest Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey
- Zoological Society of San Diego

Partnerships are essential for conserving native wildlife and their habitats. Here, we describe how we used our avian monitoring or conservation planning skills in four partnerships during the last year.







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 grateful! Every gift, at every level, is so important...please support our work in any way you can. If your name is misspelled, does not appear on this donor list, is in an inappropriate location, or if you prefer to be listed anonymously, please accept our apologies and let us know.

Over \$50,000

Anonymous Margaret C and William R Hearst, III

\$25,000-\$49.999

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The Applewood Fund at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz Harden Foundation Kinnoull Foundation John R Marron Fund of the Community Fountation for Monterey County Oakland Zoo Barnet J Segal Charitable Trust

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Kathleen Brannan

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Big Sur International Marathon

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Many companies have matching gift programs through which they will "match" the charitable contributions made by their employees/retirees. Check with your company's HR office to see if they offer gift matching. Many VWS members take advantage of this opportunity through their employers:

Bank of America The Boeing Company Chevron Corporation Google Hewlett-Packard **IBM** Corporation Johnson and Johnson JP Morgan Chase and Company Lexis Nexis Microsoft Pacific Gas and Electric Company Palm Foundation Piper Jaffray Charitable Giving Campaign Power Integrations, Inc. REI Wells Fargo

In-Kind Allegro's Pizzeria Annieglass Anonymous (3) Lisa and Jim Anway Artemis Artistic Hang-ups Balestreri's at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch Bayonet/Blackhorse Golf Club Big Sur Food and Wine Festival Bia Sur Liahthouse Boulder Creek Golf and Country Club The Bountiful Basket Build-A-Bear Workshop California International Airshow California Pizza Kitchen Carmel Bay Company Children's Creativity Museum Children's Discovery Museum Christopher's

Cypress Inn

DeBartolo Law

Eagle Optics

Deetjen's Big Sur Inn

Integrity Printing Katy's Place Kavak Connection Mike Keeran Golf Instruction Laguna Seca Golf Ranch Sal and Ada Lucido Lula's Chocolates Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca Members of the California Hawking Club Monterey Bay Bird Festival Monterey Bay Whale Watch Monterev Signs Morgan Winery, Inc Newman's Own Organics The Second Generation Oakland Zoo Old Fisherman's Grotto Parker-Lusseau Pastries Passionfish Patagonia Patisserie Boissiere Pebble Beach Co Foundation Pepes Little Napoli Pier 39 Portola Hotel and Spa at Monterey Bay Post Ranch Inn Princess Monterey Whale Watching Quail Lodge Resort and Golf Club Raw Material Suppliers Rio Grill Ripley's Believe It or Not! Sandy Decker and Decker Studios Ristorante Avanti Rosini's Diageo Chateau and Estate Wines Safeway San Francisco Zoo

Earthbound Farm

English Ales

Esalen Institute

Fashion Streaks

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Happy Hollow Park and Zoo

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In Honor Of

Acacia Elementary Classroom 2012 All animals of the world Don Allemann Arizona Ali Barratt Virdette Brumm Steve Hoagland Ian and Avery Jenest Katie Lannon Collin and Susan Loewen Karen Lohman Wilma Ostem Alena Porte Tyler Russell Kelly Sorenson Theodore Stanis Carole Stepp Derek Williams

LEGACY SOCIETY

We appreciate those who have remembered Ventana Wildlife Society through beguests or by naming VWS as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy or IRA:

Barbara Baldock and Phillip N Butler Virdette L Brumm. PhD and Robertson Parkman. PhD Sandy Decker and Karen Mortillaro Howard Elliott Carla and David Gamham Jeanne Holmquist Sheri Howe Sal and Ada Lucido Mark Rush Janet Shina Jerry and Cheryl Stidham Frank and 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 www. ventanaws.org, email kellysorenson@ ventanaws.org, or call 831-455-9514.



2013-2018

In June 2013, the Board of Directors approved the Ventana Wildlife Society Strategic Plan for 2013-2018. The foundation for this plan was established over the last 5-10 years with a stepwise approach, including a Strategy For Building Reserves and a Board Development Program. The Strategic Plan was funded through a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation's Organizational Effectiveness Program and prepared through a yearlong planning process involving the Board of Directors, staff, and strategic planning consultants, Steve Dennis and Nancy Loshkajian.

Expected outcomes over the next five years:

- Expansion of the condor population in coastal areas
- Enrollment of 75% more youth (800) per year in education programs
- Enhance services provided for research and consultation
- Deepen collaborations throughout all our work
- Improve organization capacity and fiscal strength

These goals are supported by strategies and time-phased, measurable objectives.

"It is an exciting time because the organization is well prepared to take on tomorrow's ecosystem challenges and finish the job with condors in the wild."

- Kelly Sorenson, Executive Director

Adopted 6/07/13 by the Board of Directors



Go online to www.ventanaws.org/about to view the entire Strategic Plan

Ventana Wildlife Society Financials - Fiscal Year 2013

April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

ASSETS	2013
Cash and Equivalents	\$18,764
Board Designated Cash Reserves	90,144
Grants Receivable	43,593
Deposits & Prepaid Expenses	12,079
Property and Equipment (net)	1,529,836
TOTAL ASSETS 1,	,694,416

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

T :-1-:1:	
Liabilit	168

Accounts Payable	17,213
Accrued Liabilities	19,475
Deposits	4,750
Total Liabilities	41,438

Net Assets

Unrestricted	53,314
Board Designated Cash Reserve	
Board Designated Land Purchase	527,500
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	670,958

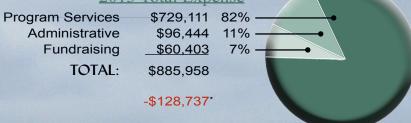
Temporarily Restricted	
Permanently Restricted	910,000
Total Net Assets	652,978

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 1,694,416

2013 Total Income

20	13 Total life	onic	
Grants	\$330,125	44% —	—
Service Fees	\$220,641	29%	—
Contributions	\$166,513	22% —	
In-Kind Contributions	\$27,265	4%	
Special Events (net)	\$12,627	1% —	
Other	\$50	0% —	
TOTAL:	\$757,221		

2013 Total Expense



*Income does not include a \$160,000 two-year grant, half of which was earmarked for fiscal year 2013.

Ventana Wildlife Society is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization - tax ID 94-2795935 Complete financials are available online at www.ventanaws.org/about

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Live Streaming Condor Cam

ventanaws.org mycondor.org condorspotter.com

All photographs in this report were taken by Tim Huntington or VWS staff unless otherwise noted

Photo of male Condor 194 1998 - 2013 (missing)

