

## **Sierra Wildlife Rescue Talk**

At the DGC 9/3

They rescue everything except bears, Mtn. Llons, eagles, adult deers and adult skunks.

You can become a member and a volunteer. The baby bird nursery in Diamond Springs always needs summer help. They need people to feed the birds every half hour. They have 800 song birds there. All other birds get taken care of by trained volunteers in their homes. The cages also need to be cleaned and they ask for one four hour shift a week.

The babies leave the nursery as they grow and then go to fledgling cages prior to their release.

They offer rehab training classes and classes on how to build a wildlife habitat.

Today a Red Shoulder Hawk by the name of Miss Aurie was brought. She was not returned to the wild as she is missing one eye which would make hunting too difficult for her. She is 4 years old. She came in as well as 40 other baby hawks due to the extreme heat where they were pushing each other out of the nests too soon.

The large birds of prey eat 3-4 mice a day.

They are given mice that labs were done with that were not medicated.

For the babies they have to debone the mice.

Their program is to rescue, rehab, and return.

The owls are fed at night and the raptors in the morning.

Screech owls do not screech, barn owls do. Barn owls are very hostile and will try to bite and claw.

The owl that they brought with them had been found by children in Georgetown Elementary school. It was being attacked by crows. He had a blood infection and internal parasites. They determine the age by how messed up their feet are from landing and grasping. He eats 4 small mice a night. The owl can go 3 years without breeding and then when they do they only have one egg and most infant owls don't make it. They do not migrate.



## **Hummingbirds**

Their feathers are not colored. It is the structure of the spike upon spike on the feathers that capture air bubbles which reflect colors as the light hits them.

The patterns on their wings determine the sounds they make when in flight.

Glands produce oils which make their feathers water proof.

Baby hummingbirds are a grey color with no colors.

It is the only bird that can fly straight up, backwards and hover. They can break the sound barrier as they can drop from the sky at 60-70 mph and suddenly stop which makes the 'pop' sound when they suddenly stop abruptly. At normal flight they fly 35 mph.

When sleeping they go into a "torp"

Their heart is 2% of body weight and their brain is 4%.

Their temperature drops to 2 degrees above freezing when sleeping. It takes 5-10 minutes to get out of torp and increase their heart rate and body temperature.

Males never nest.

Their tongues are long like a woodpeckers and are shaped like a W.

They can take 14 licks of nectar per second.

Mold in a feeder can cause a bird to not be able to close their beak and then they cannot feed or breathe. Be extremely careful when cleaning a feeder. Usually don't use any cleaners unless there is mold and then rinse, rinse, rinse.

Hummingbirds have a new nest each summer but will use it twice. They have two babies at a time and then as soon as they leave the nest they lay two more eggs. Their nest is no bigger than a walnut. Eggs are no bigger than a jelly-belly. They nest in the area where they hatched. They have incredible memory. Breeding season is March -June. 2 weeks for the eggs to hatch. 3 weeks for the birds to start to fly. Hummingbirds do not mate for life and the male has no part of the nest or hatching or raising the birds. They build their nests 10-100' in the air at the end of a branch so no predator can get to them. Usually the nest is under a clump of leaves so it cannot be viewed from above or below.



Anna's Hummingbirds sing. Not all hummingbirds do. It is metallic sounding.

Hummingbirds love:

Salvia

Trumpet vine

Any flower tubular.

They don't like flowers such as roses, cone flowers or daisies or iris.

Hummingbirds cannot walk. They do not land on the ground.

They love getting drunk and sometimes the sugar in your feeder can ferment. This makes them fall to the ground for several minutes.

Praying mantis kills hummingbirds.

Some hummingbirds migrate but one species stays here year round.

The Rufous Hummingbird eats mosquitos and gnats.

Food Recipe- 1 part granulated sugar and 4 parts water. Cool to room temperature.

















