



It's Baby Bird Season!

Every spring, our clinics begin buzzing with the sounds of hundreds of baby birds in need of care. These young patients come in sick, injured, orphaned, and in need of our expertise to grow up healthy and return to the wild. Let's learn a few fun facts about some of the more common (and certainly cuter) chicks you'll see this time of year, and about how Bird Rescue cares for them should they cross our doorstep.

SNOWY PLOVER CHICKS

Where'd You Go?

Snowy Plover chicks have remarkable camouflage abilities. Their sandy-colored downy feathers help them blend seamlessly with their beach habitats, offering protection from predators like birds of prey.

Fore!

Snowy Plover chicks are very small, and their tracks resemble those of a golf ball rolling on the sand. Their tiny footprints add charm to the sandy shorelines they inhabit.

What Was That?!

Observing Snowy Plover chicks running along the shore is a delightful sight. Their speedy and erratic movements help them evade predators and make them even more endearing to onlookers.

I Can Do It!

Snowy Plover chicks are precocial, meaning they are born with their eyes open and are ready to explore their surroundings shortly after hatching. They start foraging for tiny invertebrates on their own, but parental guidance is still crucial for their survival.



Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Wait Wait... Don't Kidnap Me!

Learning to recognize when ducklings need help and when they don't is important. Whenever possible, we want to keep bird families together in their natural environment and only intervene when necessary. Scan this QR to view our graphic that helps determine when to take action and when to leave raising ducklings to mama duck:



Photo by Loana Seritan

MALLARD DUCKLINGS

Here Goes Nothing!

Mallard ducklings are known for their fearless leaps from their nest to the ground shortly after hatching. Their lightweight bodies and fluffy down provide cushioning, making these leaps an adventurous start to their lives.

Mama Loves You.

Mallard ducklings stay close to their mother for protection and guidance. The mother duck is highly attentive, leading her brood to food sources and keeping a watchful eye for potential threats.

What's For Dinner?

While they primarily feed on aquatic invertebrates, Mallard ducklings also consume seeds, small plants, and even small fish, showcasing their adaptability to various food sources.

They Grow Up So Fast.

Mallard ducklings grow rapidly, and their features change quickly. Their early yellow fluff transforms into a mix of brown and mottled feathers as they mature, reflecting the juvenile stages of these charming waterfowl.



Photo by Scott Jack

Learn More About How We Prevent Habituation in Patients

Baby bird season is one of the busiest times of year at our clinics. These young patients require specialized care provided by experienced rehabilitators and volunteers. Many chicks require regular hand feedings, some as often as every thirty minutes! As they grow, our team provides each patient with checkups to ensure that they are progressing and growing up healthy and strong. All along the way, our team takes special care to prevent any of the young birds from imprinting or becoming habituated to humans - which is no easy task! Learn more about how we prevent habituation in patients in our video:



WESTERN GREBE “GREBELINGS”

Life on the Water.

Grebes are known for their unique nesting habits. They build floating nests anchored to vegetation in shallow water. This ingenious strategy keeps their chicks safe from land-based predators.

Marco...

Grebe chicks communicate with their parents through soft calls and chirps. This vocalization helps them stay in contact and coordinate movements while exploring their watery habitat.

Let's Be Friends!

Grebe chicks engage in social interactions with their siblings and other young grebes in the vicinity. These interactions help them develop social skills and learn from each other's behaviors.

Bon Voyage!

When grebe chicks are ready to fledge, they leave the safety of the nest and venture into the water. This exciting milestone marks the beginning of their independent journey as skilled divers and swimmers in their aquatic habitat.

SNOWY EGRET CHICKS

She Started It!

Baby Snowy Egrets often engage in playful sibling rivalry. They may compete for attention from their parents or playfully chase each other around the nesting area, honing their agility and coordination skills.

Check Me Out!

Despite their white plumage, baby Snowy Egrets have strikingly vibrant feet. Their legs and feet are a vivid shade of yellow, which becomes more noticeable as they grow older.

Who's Hungry?

Even as young chicks, Snowy Egrets display impressive fishing skills. They use their long bills to snatch small fish, crustaceans, and insects from the water, showcasing their natural hunting abilities from an early age.

Keep it Down!

Snowy Egret chicks are not shy about expressing themselves. They can be quite vocal, emitting high-pitched calls to communicate with their parents and siblings in the crowded nest environment.



Photo by Cheryl Reynolds

Bird Boosters Make Impact for Birds Across the Country

by Angie Trumbo

It has been a year since we launched our Conservation Action Program - a volunteer program that Bird Rescue supporters can participate in, no matter where they are located. The goal of the program is to get people out in their communities taking action to care for and protect their local bird habitats.

Over this program's inaugural year, Conservation Action Volunteers, AKA Bird Boosters, have participated in projects in Alaska, Arizona, Utah, and Florida, working to clean up trash, remove hazardous barbed wire, and plant native trees in important bird habitats. Volunteers noted over 860 birds within the areas they were working, all of which benefit from the care and attention being spent on their homes.

Bird Boosters receive monthly emails with conservation projects going on in their areas that they can choose to join, or they can work on projects of their own. Joining restoration efforts



and nature cleanups in your community is a great way to network and make new friends while working together for a common goal. Our volunteers include members of the public, corporate groups, and even elementary school students - all making an effort to care for birds and the environment.

You can be a part of this effort and make an impact in your community too! Order your Conservation Action t-shirt today and join the ranks of our Bird Boosters around the world to be not just a voice, but working hands for birds too.

Visit www.birdrescue.org/CAP to get started.

Join us at the historic Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, where we'll step back in time to the roaring era of jazz and opulence. The evening promises to be an unforgettable fusion of elegance, entertainment, and philanthropy, all in support of our vital mission.

Attire: Dress to impress in formal attire, or let your imagination run wild by channeling your inner Gatsby or Daisy Buchanan with your finest 1920's-inspired garb.

Highlights of the evening include:

- **Keynote Speaker:** **Tammah Hall** - bird storyteller, therapist, and author of *Keep Looking Up: Your Guide to the Powerful Healing of Birdwatching*
- **Master of Ceremonies:** **Hailey Winslow** - actress, FOX Los Angeles reporter, adventure travel host, and Bird Rescue friend
- Live Swing Music by **The Gatsby Gang**
- **Cocktails and Buffet Dinner**
- **Silent Auction**

Purchase tickets TODAY at
www.birdrescue.org/twenties
OR USE THIS QR CODE:



Come to Our San Francisco Bay-Delta OPEN HOUSE!



Photo by Russ Curtis

**Saturday, May 11, 2024
10:30am-3:30pm**

Join us at this family-friendly event offering a rare, behind-the-scenes glimpse into the daily life of Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center in Fairfield.

You'll get a chance to see for yourself how we care for the birds you know and love, meet our dedicated rehabilitation staff and learn about our work as global leaders in emergency rescue and response.

We'll be offering tours throughout the day and a demonstration of how we actually clean oiled birds (yes, we really do use Dawn dish soap!). We'll also have education stations detailing different types of bird diets, teaching us about marine debris, and a bird-making craft table for the kids.

But wait! There's more! We'll also be proudly hosting our local community partners, to teach us about conservation, forestry, and of course, birds birds birds!

But wait there's still more! You'll also get the chance to head to our education site at nearby Cordelia Slough, where our staff await to take you on a journey through part of the largest brackish marsh on the entire west coast.

**Register TODAY
via this QR code:**



4369 Cordelia Road Fairfield, CA 94534

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Photo by Byron Chin



Photo by Irene Fujimoto