

*Wildlife Investigations Laboratory*



Wildlife Rehabilitation  
2011 Annual Report  
California Department of Fish and Game

**Submitted by:**  
*Nicole Carion*  
*Associate Wildlife Biologist*  
*Wildlife Investigations Lab*  
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As a condition of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Wildlife Rehabilitation permittees are required to provide an “End of the Year Annual Report” to notify the Department regarding the species, number and final disposition of wildlife received.

The End of the Year Annual Report includes reporting the disposition of animals handled in the following categories: Total number of species received, total number transferred, total number pending (still being evaluated), total number released, total number expired, and total number euthanized. The reports are sent to and kept by the state wildlife rehabilitation coordinator. This report summarizes the results of 2011 wildlife rehabilitation activities (numbers are approximate).

In the year 2011, one-hundred permitted California wildlife rehabilitation facilities received 66,642, injured or orphaned wild animals from the general public. As in previous years, the majority of wildlife species brought to facilities were birds. In 2011, birds represented 72 percent of the animals received, mammals represented 27 percent and reptiles represent 1 percent of the animals received.

The most common mammal brought into rehabilitation facilities in 2011 was the non-native Virginia Opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*. The opossum has held this status since 2004. The majority of the opossums turned in from the public were from urban areas around the San Francisco Bay Area and the Los Angeles/ San Diego area. The most common bird turned into rehabilitation facilities was the Mallard Duck *Anas platyhnchos*, also commonly from urban areas. Over 250 different species of birds, over 40 different species of mammals and approximately 20 different species of reptiles were turned into rehabilitation facilities.

The Department of Fish and Game is divided into six regions. Region 1 consists of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Modoc, Mendocino, Siskiyou, Trinity, Shasta and Tehama Counties. Region 2 consists of Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Yuba, Lake, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, part of Sacramento, Sutter, Eldorado, Placer, part of Yolo, Calaveras Alpine, and Amador Counties. Region 3 consists of Sonoma, Solano, Marin, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and part of Sacramento and Yolo counties. Region 4 consists of Monterey, San Benito, Madera, Tulare, Tuolumne, Kings, Merced, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Kern and Fresno counties. Region 5 consists of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange and Ventura counties. Region 6 consists of Inyo, Imperial, San Bernardino, Riverside and Mono Counties.

The data collected from “2011 End of the Year Reports” was totaled by each Department Region and reports are available for each Region. This will enable any person interested in wildlife rehabilitation data to see how the different Regions of California compare to with respect to species and numbers.

In Region 1, 2, 3 and 5, the most common bird turned in by the public was mallards *Anas platyhnhos*; the most common mammal, the opossum *Didelphis virginiana*, and the most common reptile was the gopher snake *Pituophis melanoleucus*. In Region 4, the opossum *Didelphis virginiana* and the western pond turtle *Clemmys marmorata* were the most commonly turned in mammal and reptile, but the barn owl *Tyto alba* was the most frequently turned in bird. In Region 6, the opossum *Didelphis virginiana* and mallard *Anas platyhnhos* were the most commonly received mammal and bird. The most commonly turned in reptile in Region 6 was gopher snakes *Pituophis melanoleucus*.

Ninety –one animals classified as State and/or Federally Threatened or Endangered Species were turned into rehabilitation centers in 2011. These species included 2 Bald Eagles *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, 44 Swainson’s Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*, 5 Spotted Owls *Strix occidentalis*, 11 Snowy Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus*, 1 Marbled Murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus*, 3 Least Turns *Sterna antillarum*, 20 Bank Swallows *Riparia riparia*, 1 Bell’s Vireo *Vireo bellii*, 4 Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis*, and 1 Xanthus’s Murrelet *Synthliboramphus*.

The table below shows the total number of wildlife species received by rehabilitation facilities since the Department started compiling the data in 2004.

Year	Total Number Animals Received
2004	83,000
2005	75,696
2006	69,153
2007	68,437
2008	70,233
2009	79,007
2010	71,458
2011	66,642

Table 1. Previous Year End totals compared to 2010 Totals

Six Black Bear *Ursus americanus* cubs were deemed rehabilitation candidates in 2011.

All cubs were outfitted with VHF ear tag transmitters. All VHF ear tag transmitters are mostly monitored by a specially equipped department airplane. The transmission can be picked up by the plane via telemetry equipment from approximately a 1-5 mile radius if there are no obstructions. Transmitter verification comes from monitoring a signal emitted frequency from the VHF ear tag and most of the time is not visually confirmed. Note: the battery life is approximately 12 months.

The first cub was received on or around May 25, 2011. The cub was found in the Carnelian Bay area of Lake Tahoe. This cub was released in Sierraville on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The transmitter was detected (not on mortality) on August 13, 2012. No other information is known. On or around June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the second cub received was observed without a sow (adult female bear) near Sierra House School in South Lake Tahoe ( this was near where a female sow had been observed breaking in cabins and was taken on depredation). The second was released in Alpine County January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The second cub was taken on depredation in June of 2012 near the Sorensens Resort in Alpine County. On or around June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, a third cub was determined orphaned near Camp Richardson in South Lake Tahoe. This cub was also released on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Alpine County with the second cub. The third cub was also taken on depredation in June of 2012, near the Sorenson's resort. On or around August 22, 2011 the fourth and fifth cubs were received. Their mother was illegally killed by poachers with an arrow in Fresno County. These cubs were released back into Fresno County on January, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. One of these cubs, identified by ear tag # 8628, was legally harvested in October of 2013. When released the cub weighed 93 lbs. and when harvested it weighed 210 lbs. The sixth cub was an orphaned cub from Paso Robles. This cub was released in San Luis Obispo County on March 29, 2012. This was a female who weighed 45 lbs. Her ear tag fell off and was collected on May 26, 2012. No other information is known regarding the status of this cub.