

CACHUMA FLYER

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COVEYS OF QUAIL!

By Evelyn Putnam

Don and Betty Wimpress have some delightful visitors in their backyard in Los Olivos---Bobwhites! Their daughter, Carol, took the following picture of the two males and two females.



Don thinks these birds may be part of an exotic bird collection of a neighbor who has now moved away. He is keeping them around the backyard with birdseed and corn and hoping for grandchildren. Since there are two females, they may have as many as 18 eggs.

Bobwhites are native from Texas north and to the east coast. There are usually 25-30 in a covey, and they roost under a bush in a circle with their feet in the center.



The California Quail is, of course, a native here, and is distributed from British Columbia to southern Baja. According to the distribution maps the

densest distribution is between Cachuma and San Luis Obispo. They congregate in coveys of up to 200 birds!. At least 40 in a covey have been sighted at the Nature Center. Chicks are ready to go as soon as hatched and can fly in two weeks. Chicks have been seen running away from a predator with the eggshell still sticking to the bird.

They emit a soft Chi-ca-go call, which is nearly like a similar quail - the Gambel's Quail, whose call is Chi-ca-go-go. The principle difference in appearance is a large black patch on the yellow belly of the Gambel's Quail. The populations overlap in eastern California, and the Gambel's Quail resides east to Arizona and into Mexico.

Another nearby neighbor is the Mountain Quail, which can frequently be seen on Figueroa Mountain. Its call is a soft Wook-Wook, and its range is from the west coast of Canada to southern California.



This bird walks slowly and deliberately 10 to 20 miles a year, up the mountain in the spring and summer and down the same mountain in late summer and fall. Their two tall plumes are often seen as a single plume.

The Montezuma and Scaled Quail round out the commonly accepted quail species, both of whom reside east of California, and into Mexico.

TROUT DERBY 2002 A ROARING SUCCESS!!

A total of 1138 entrants (of which 512 were new this year), great weather and the hard work of over 40 volunteer workers including docents, board members, ARES Ham Radio Operators and others helped to make this the greatest trout derby yet. The Nature Center cleared \$27,000, which is to be the mainstay of the operating budget for the coming year.

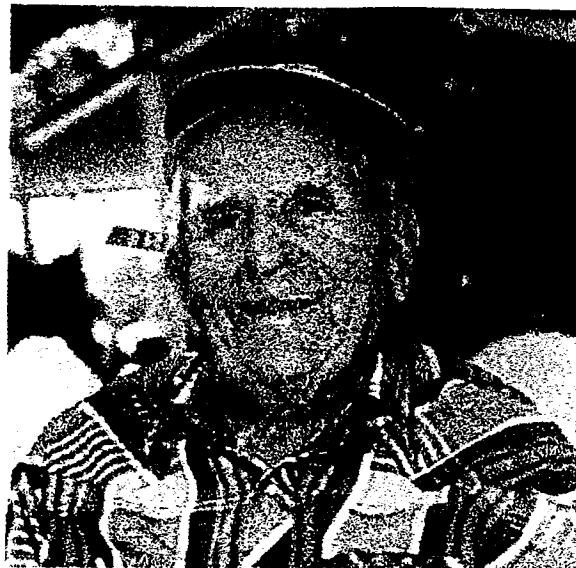
The possibility of winning a boat, trailer and motor certainly added to the excitement of the weekend. Below on the left is Brian Sata of Arleta, California, winner of the boat, and on the right Don Aldrich of Far West Marine, Thousand Oaks, donor of the boat.



Other prize winners were José Perez, Santa Barbara, \$3,000. for catching the trout with the highest tag number and Corey Moore below, of Capo Beach, with Cachuma Nature Center Board Member Lynda Williams-Terres, \$2,000. for catching the longest trout.



Michael McClellan, Santa Ynez won \$25 for the shortest trout. Ruben Valdes, Lompoc, won \$100. for the first male to catch a tagged trout and Danielle Lynch, Somis, won \$100. for the first female to catch a tagged trout. Dutch Wilson, shown below, 92 years old, Santa Ynez, won \$25. for the oldest fisherman to catch a trout.



Shown below are nine children 12 years of age and younger who caught the longest trout. Hunter Williams, 5 years, Santa Ynez, 19 3/4 inches (also won \$100. for the second longest trout caught in the derby); Brandon Liu, 7 years, Yucaipa; Joshua Garza, 10 years, Santa Ynez; Jackie Reyes, 7 1/2 years, Burbank; Bryce Hutchison, 4 years, Los Olivos; Giana Prandini, 4 years, Clovis; Zachary Trombly, 11 years, Goleta; Max Heitmann, 7 years, Santa Barbara; Kayla Toneman, 9 years, Santa Clarita.





Assume there are babies present in the spring and summer. Be careful you do not accidentally separate parents from their young. To do so could result in unnecessary property damage as they frantically try to reunite with their young. In cases where a **raccoon** mother is unsuccessful, the babies will die a slow death from starvation and you will be stuck with a noxious odor in or under the house.

Though not rare or endangered, the **raccoon** is classified by California State Fish & Game as a furbearer and is, under certain circumstances, protected by law.

Easily distinguishable by their black face masks and ringed tails, **Raccoons** have a husky build and usually weigh between 15 and 40 pounds. It's coat is full and shaggy and it's coloring is brownish gray with a shading of tan on it's flanks. The heavily furred tail is also usually tan and gray with black rings. Their long slender toes on the front feet give **raccoons** great dexterity in grasping food. The larger surfaces on the back feet give it superb agility in climbing.

For more information or assistance, contact:

W.I.L.D.E. Service
(805) 687-9980 (messages)
(805) 887-3574 (pager)

County Animal Services
(805) 681-5285 (SB)
(805) 737-7755 (Lom)
(805) 934-6119 (SM)

Santa Barbara City Animal Control
(805) 963-1513

Agricultural Commissioner's
Office

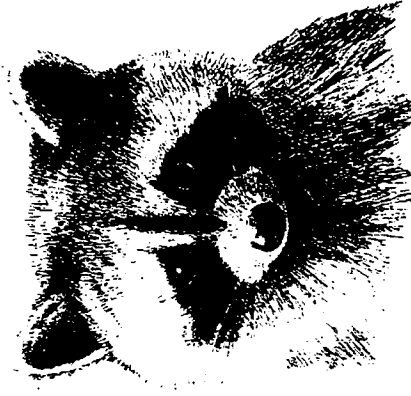
(805) 681-5600

<http://www.co.santa-barbara.ca.us/agcomm/index.htm>

► NOTE:

Live trapping is not a recommended solution to ridding your property and yard of **raccoons**. Because they are around in such numbers, trapping is only a temporary solution and not necessarily humane. It won't be long before another one **or more** is attracted to your home especially if you haven't dealt with those issues that attracted them in the first place! For valid reasons, governmental animal related agencies do not recommend relocation as a solution and will euthanize all trapped animals if called for problem management

Living Peacefully With Raccoons



Compliments of:

**Wildlife
Information
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Sharing the neighborhood with wildlife is one of the privileges we enjoy. Catching sight of a family of **raccoons** at night enriches our lives.

Raccoons are found in all types of environments. With advancing human urbanization and development we have taken the nocturnal romping grounds away from the **raccoon**. Rather than diminish, however, these hardy critters have adapted and flourished. Since Santa Barbara County **raccoons** have become quite comfortable living in or near human communities, we encounter problems with them as they try to claim back "our" space for their own. It is incumbent upon us to do all that we can to protect them as each of these animals plays a vital part in the delicate system of nature's checks and balances.

Because of their adaptability, **raccoons** have easily blended in with the urban environment, unfortunately, not without creating problems for their human neighbors. They do not fear people like most wildlife. In fact, they can become pretty bold.

Thanks to popular cartoon characters and movies that have made these animals irresistible, it has often led people to entice the animal with food in order to observe them as you would zoo animals. Consequently, and much to the general neighborhood's irritation, **raccoons** become pests by toppling garbage cans, nesting in attics, rolling back lawns for food, preying upon pond life, and even becoming intrepid enough to come into our homes. Like most wild animals, **raccoons** are opportunistic, looking for convenient food and water sources. Nocturnal animals by nature,

raccoons in their normal rural setting scavenge at night looking for insects, fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, fish, small mammals and birds. However, in an urban setting, those items are not readily available. To compensate, they have been able to find a steady supply of garbage in open containers, food and water left out for domestic pets, fallen or overripe fruit, and many other tempting enticements. With the passing of each generation, the young are taught these unsavory skills that escalate the conflict between themselves and their human neighbors.



The most important rule to remember when trying to discourage unwanted wildlife visitors is:

If there is no food and shelter to support them, most wild animals will go away!

Some time tested methods you can try for protecting yourselves and your property that promote harmony with our fellow creatures are:

- ▶ Fasten garbage can lids tightly. A **raccoon's** nimble front feet can make this a difficult task, but in extreme cases, some rope, chain or a bungee cord should do the trick.
- ▶ Keep sheds and garage doors closed when not in use.
- ▶ Cut back tree limbs approximately 3' from roof lines.

- ▶ Harvest all ripe fruit from trees, shrubs and off the ground.
- ▶ Remove brush piles and trash accumulation.
- ▶ Pick up family pet food and water dishes by dusk. Secure pet doors at night to keep **raccoons** out of the house.
- ▶ Sprinkle your lawn or planters with liberal amounts of cayenne pepper to discourage **raccoons** from grub hunting. (Grubs are tiny worm-like bugs that live in your lawn).
- ▶ Install metal guards 18" or wider, wrapped around trees five or six feet above ground to deprive **raccoons** access to roof tops and other buildings.
- ▶ For pond protection, horizontally submerge wire mesh around the circumference. Stretch the mesh leaving the inside free. Fish have the center of the pool open and the **raccoons** can't reach over the wire because it is unstable and they prefer to stand on solid surfaces.
- ▶ Place ammonia soaked rags around the yard, and under the house. **Raccoons** are repelled by the harsh odor.
- ▶ Use motion sensor devices for lights or sprinkler systems.
- ▶ Play a radio near the entrance to a suspected den site.

Secure your house by:

- ▶ Close off openings where roof lines overlap.
- ▶ Replace and reinforce damaged screen vents.
- ▶ Keep crawl spaces tightly covered.
- ▶ Keep a spark arrester on the chimney.



NATURE CENTER EXPANSION

The Nature Center is the proud owner of a new modular workshop building, purchased with grants from the Santa Barbara Foundation and Wood-Claeysens Foundation from G.E. Modular Space of Bakersfield. The 24 X 40 foot building is located adjacent to the permanent Nature Center building and will house tools, materials and equipment for building exhibits and maintaining the premises.

The Towbes Foundation provided funding for materials for steps, a ramp, landing, and storage shelving, which were built by docents.

The building is one large, open room with two standard doors and a garage-type roll up door for moving in and out large pieces of wood and construction projects. With several windows and a finished interior, the building offers a much lighter and dryer work environment than the old garage.

A white exterior and sixteen-light windows help to blend the style of the building with that of the Nature Center.

Don Wimpress, Daryl Rutherford, Bill Hodges, and Dick Cofiell are enthusiastically building storage inside the building and moving power tools from the garage and hand tools and supplies from the workroom inside the Nature Center to their new "digs."

The late Helen Logan, former member of the Board of Directors, was a driving force behind the acquisition of this building.

CHILDREN'S HANDOUT

Many thanks to the Sponsors for the printing of the special children's handout for the Nature Center: Evelyn Putnam and Janet and Ken Sandwall.

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER Executive Director: Linda Taylor

Board Officers

Marion Schlinger, President
Kirby Duncan, Vice-President
Lynda Williams-Terres, Treasurer
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Docent Officers

Barbara Gutmann, President
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Don Wimpress, Treasurer
Patricia Martin, Secretary

The Nature Center can be reached at 805-693-0691, or clnatctr@sbceo.org

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____ BOX NO. _____
CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Enclosed is my check for a donation of \$20 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other ☐

A donation of \$20 entitles you to all of the Nature Center mailings. A \$100 donation entitles you to all of the mailings, as well as a year-round pass to Cachuma Lake and Jalama Recreational Areas.

Whether or not you decide to make a donation, if you would like to become a Docent or Volunteer, check here ☐.

Mail to: Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc., Cachuma Lake, HC 58, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Plant of the Month

Monkey Flower



As you drive over the pass, or through the road cuts near Cachuma lake, you can't help but notice the orange-to-yellowish flowers (not bright yellow) on the bushes along the roadsides at this time of the year. These are the Bush Monkey Flower, or sometimes called "Sticky Monkey Flower," because the glandular-hairy leaves sometimes feel sticky to the touch. There are many variations to this plant as there are several similar species, and it is prone to hybridization. In San Diego County, the bush monkey flowers are a reddish color and in other locales it may be almost yellow.

Monkey flowers are very common – there are some two dozen species in Santa Barbara County alone. We have at least two species within the park: the Bush Monkey Flower, which grows on dry exposed slopes, and the Scarlet Monkey Flower, which grows in the shady, damper areas along the streambeds. The Bush Monkey Flower is the most common in our area. Locally, in wet places, you are apt to find a bright yellow monkey flower. In the desert, there is a small monkey flower that comes in two colors (on different plants) - purple or yellow.

Monkey Flowers are so named because the five petals that form the corolla are not all the same, but seem to form what some people think looks like the face of a monkey.

Don Wiimpress



**CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER
CACHUMA HC-58
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105**