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Contact: Ashley Kinney
408.929.9453 ext. 304
408.355.8173
akinney@wcsv.org

California Gull making great strides in rehabilitation is found to be the oldest in North America

SAN JOSE, CA, August 21, 2013 – A federally banded California Gull was admitted to the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley (WCSV) on August 10, 2013. The Bird Banding Laboratory at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center confirmed that this gull was banded in Mountain View, CA by San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory in 1985, making him 28 years and 3 months old, breaking the longevity record for his species.

Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority rescued this bird after he was found lying on the ground immobile and unable to thrive in a wild environment. The native gull was suffering from leg injuries compromised mobility, emaciation, dehydration and anemia.

A metal band on his leg with a federal identification number on it helped WCSV recognize that this gull was significant. These bands help track migratory and nesting patterns, plumage development, fatality and sustainability in the wild. It is a vital tool used for conservation of many different migratory bird species.

WCSV treated the gull with oral hydrating fluids and anti-inflammatory medication. Basic blood work was done to determine the level of dehydration and anemia. After the initial exam was completed the bird was setup in a low-stimulus environment where he received multiple rounds of oral fluids and tube feedings of a well-developed species specific diet.

Over the next seven days, the gull started to show gradual improvement. By August 19 the gull was able to stand and forage for food on his own.

WCSV invites media outlets to come and witness this bird take the next step toward freedom as we transfer this gull to an outdoor flight enclosure **Friday, August 23** so he is able to build necessary strength for flight before he is released back to the wild.

Established in 1993, the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley is an independent nonprofit organization, now in its 20th year of service to the community and the approximately 4,000 sick, injured and orphaned local wildlife it receives each year. It is the largest wildlife rehabilitation center in Santa Clara County, licensed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and has provided high quality care for over 100,000 animals in 100 different species since its inception. In addition to providing community outreach and education programs and special events that foster coexistence, the organization encourages community members to lend their support by joining a team of roughly 150 volunteers who donate their time to the well-being of local wildlife.

Before and after photos available upon request. For more information contact Ashley Kinney at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, 3027 Penitencia Creek Road, San Jose. Telephone: 408.929.WILD. Website: www.wcsv.org

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