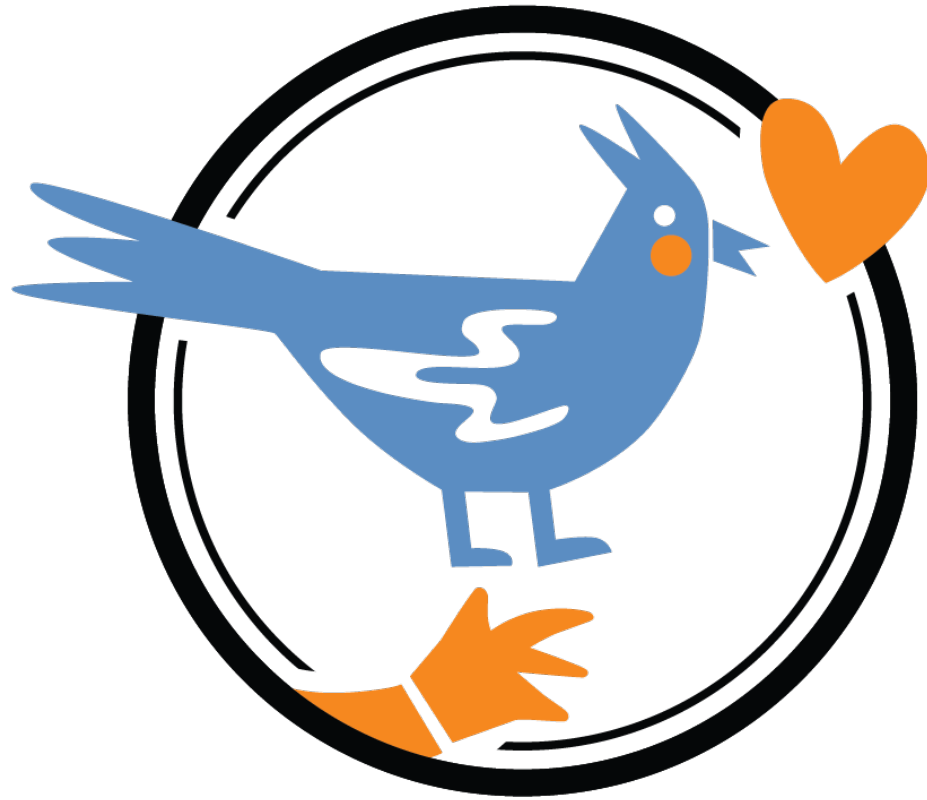




The Wild Parrots of San Francisco:
Rescue and Rehabilitation Efforts
Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue



MICKABOO
Companion Bird Rescue



- Founded in 1996
- All volunteer organization, 501(c)3
- No paid staff or HQ building
- 130-170 active foster homes
- 450+ foster birds in the Greater SF Bay Area
- We take in 150-350 birds a year





[Home](#) » [About Us](#)

About Us

ABOUT US

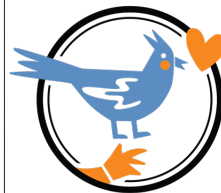
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Mickaboo's Leaders](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- ▶ [News and Humor](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [COVID-19 Statement](#)



Mickaboo is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 1996 in Northern California. Most of our volunteers and foster birds live in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento Valley. We are dedicated to rescuing companion birds (parrot-type and other commonly domesticated birds) who have been neglected, abused, injured or surrendered to us. Our goals are:

- To ensure that birds in our care will have a safe, loving environment for life.
- To educate bird owners on the most current standard of care, so that the medical, emotional, and dietary needs of their birds will be met.

At Mickaboo, our underlying principle is that Every Bird Gets An Equal Chance. Once a bird is in our care, we provide all the medical and supportive care that s/he requires. We do not "triage" birds or spend more money on large species than small. We only euthanize a bird when s/he is suffering without the possibility of recovery. We provide hospice care for terminally ill birds who are not suffering.



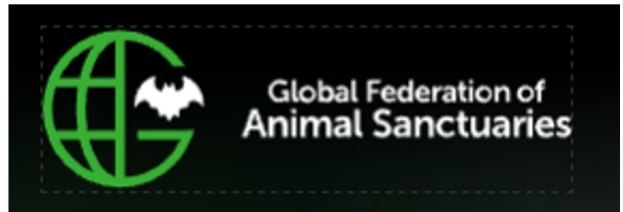






Parrot Conservation Alliance
Conference | October 14-16, 2023
Tempe, Arizona











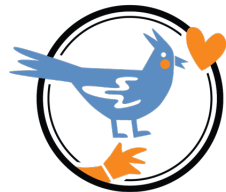
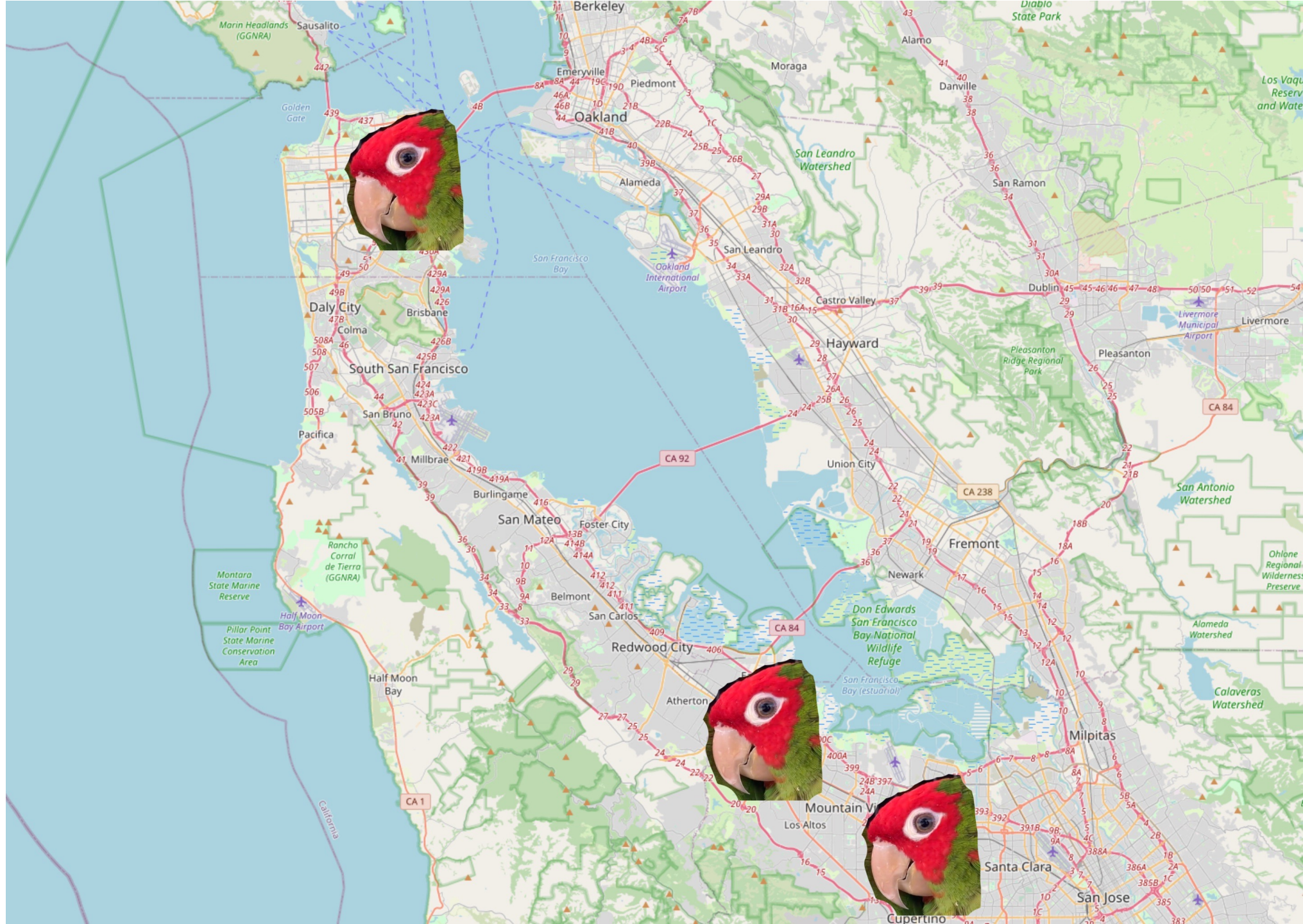






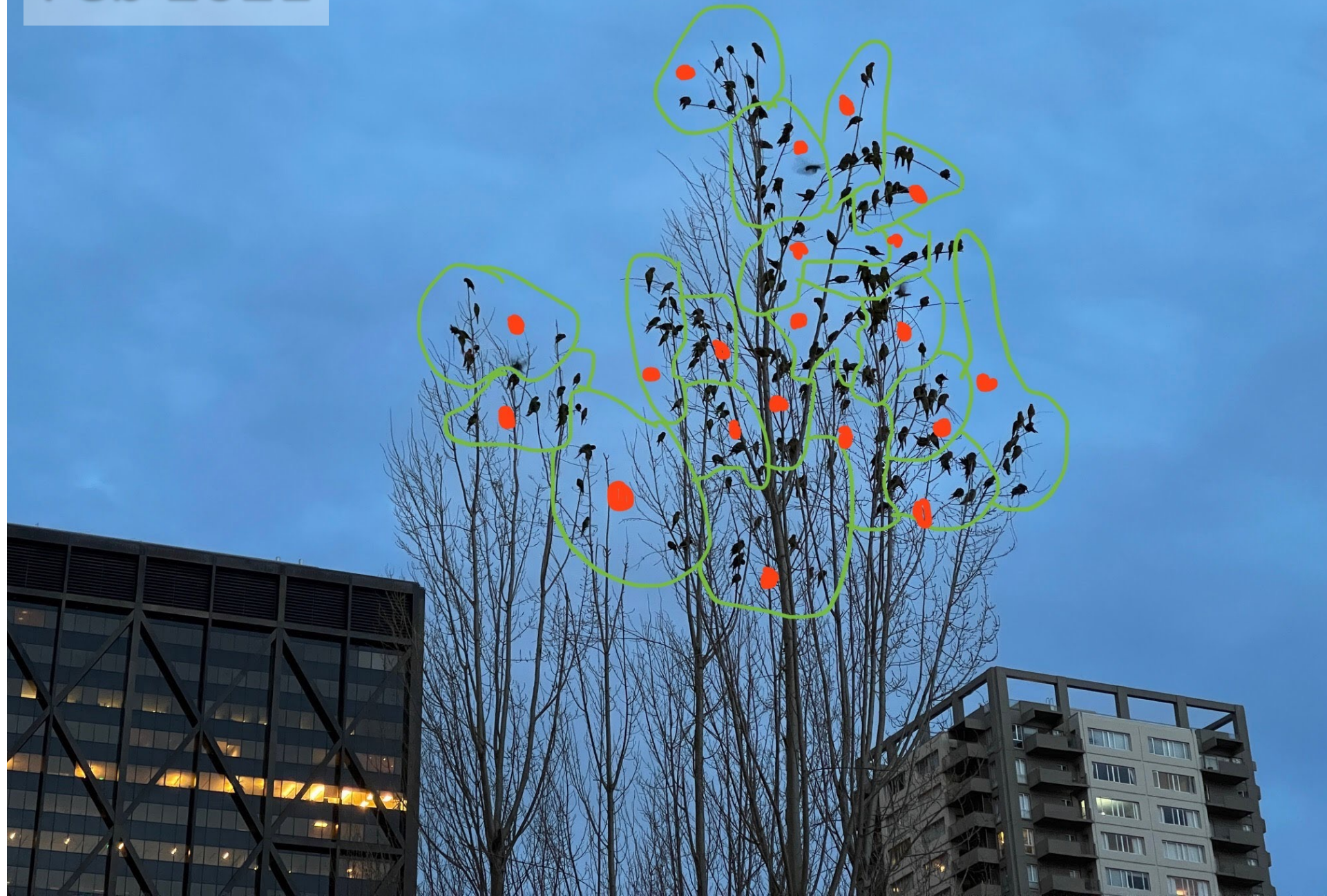








Feb 2021





Main Causes of Injury and Illness

1. Rat poison: Bromethalin
2. Physical trauma – broken wing, spine, leg or hip, tail, facial injuries
High speed impact with buildings/cars/the ground
3. Fledging accidents (September – approx. 1-4 a year)
4. Predator attack and survival
Puncture wounds, physical trauma

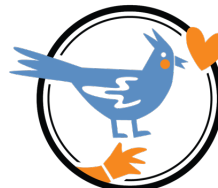
All intakes require immediate medical care.



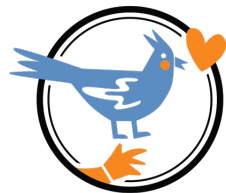
Julian



Zellie

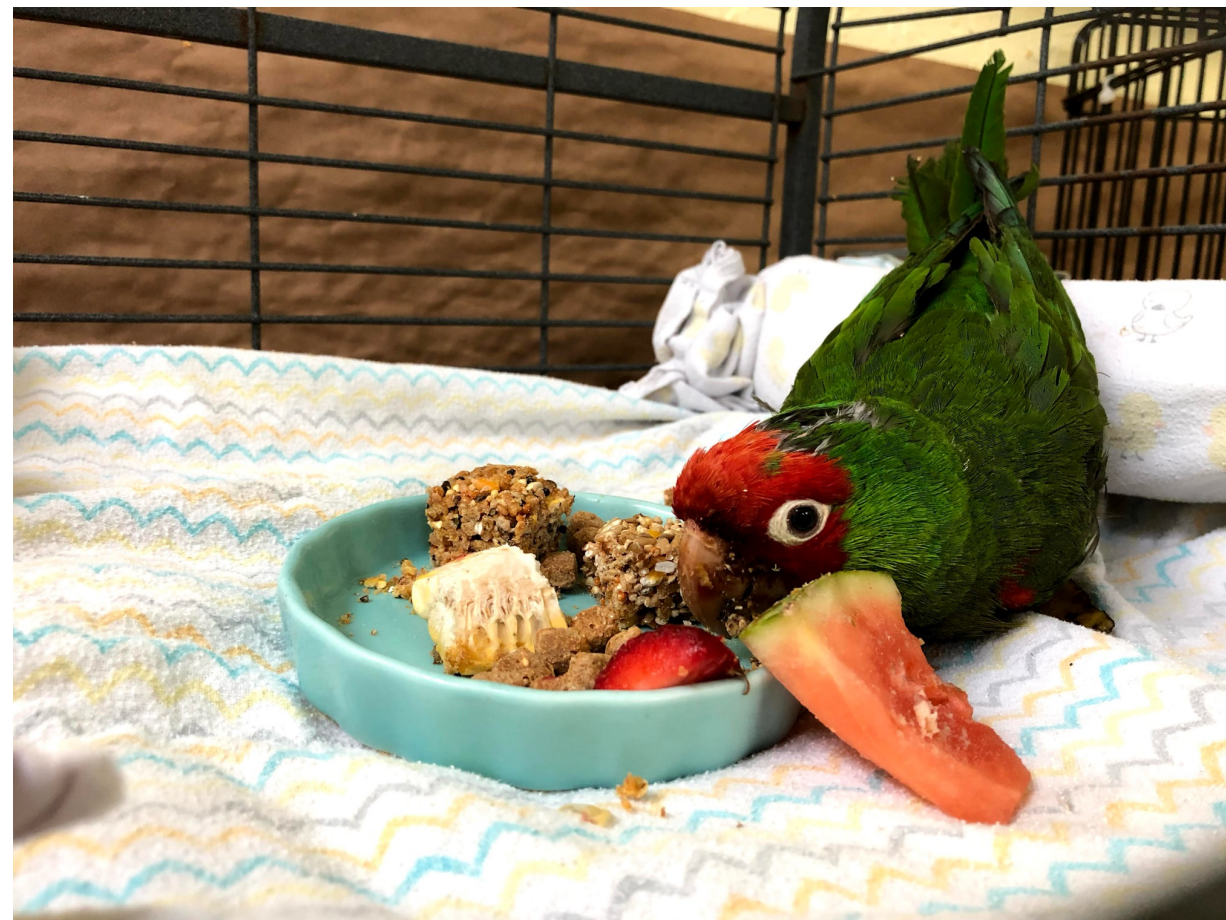


Mooshi



Hattie

Bowley



Tingley



Tingley



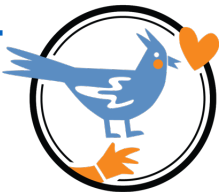


2023 Babies Spike



Bromethalin: The High Price of Poison

- Well over half of our intakes show symptoms of bromethalin
- The survival rate is approximately 50% (TBC)
- The approximate “survival window” is ~3 months
- Hospitalisation costs are \$1148.40 pcm + medications, treatments per bird
- On average: the \$3.5k investment determines if they survive
- Over 4 years, we funded a study to confirm that bromethalin was the cause of these symptoms
 - <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0213248>





OPEN ACCESS PEER-REVIEWED

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Evidence of bromethalin toxicosis in feral San Francisco “Telegraph Hill” conures

Fern Van Sant, Sayed M. Hassan, Drury Reavill, Rita McManamon, Elizabeth W. Howerth, Mauricio Seguel, Richard Bauer, Kathy M. Loftis, Christopher R. Gregory, Paula G. Ciembor, Branson W. Ritchie

Published: March 18, 2019 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0213248>

15 Save	8 Citation
2,709 View	3 Share

Article	Authors	Metrics	Comments	Media Coverage
---------	---------	---------	----------	----------------

Download PDF

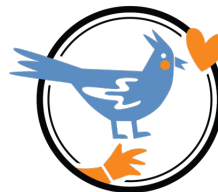
Print Share

Check for updates

ADVERTISEMENT

The PLOS Writing Center

How to write an abstract



Abstract

- Introduction
- Materials and methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Supporting information
- Acknowledgments
- References

Abstract

During 2018, four free-ranging conures, from a naturalized flock in San Francisco, presented with a characteristic set of neurologic signs that had been reported in other individuals from this flock. The cause of morbidity or mortality in historic cases has not been identified. From these four subjects, fresh feces were collected during their initial days of hospitalization and submitted to the University of Georgia Infectious Diseases Laboratory and Center for Applied Isotope Studies for bromethalin and desmethyl-bromethalin quantitation. Using High Performance Liquid Chromatography, the laboratory detected bromethalin, a non-anticoagulant, single-dose rodenticide, in fecal samples from three subjects; half of these samples were also positive for desmethyl-bromethalin, bromethalin’s active metabolite. In three subjects that died, the UGA laboratory screened brain and liver samples and found bromethalin in all samples; desmethyl-bromethalin was detected in all but one brain sample, which was below the detection limit. Our findings suggest the conures are more resistant to bromethalin than are other species in which bromethalin has been studied, and/or that the conures may be ingesting the toxin at a sublethal dose. More data is needed to better assess the long-term effects of bromethalin on animals exposed at the subacute/chronic levels, and also to better understand the compartmentalization of bromethalin and desmethyl-bromethalin in a wider variety of species.

- Reader Comments
- Figures

Use of Bromethalin in San Francisco

- Dr Chris Geiger – 2019 phone conference
- The city only use bromethalin in the sewers
- Theory: Main risk is private use on top of buildings
 - Unsafe pellet scattering without proper use of bait stations
- Information campaign would be so valuable
 - Educate the public, wildlife
- The cost to other wildlife is going unseen
 - Pigeons, song birds, small mammals..?
- Raptors Are The Solution (RATS) do great work in education and studies, better alternatives







Beale and Clay

18 January · 🌐



"she'll never find us in here"





Sansome & Dewey

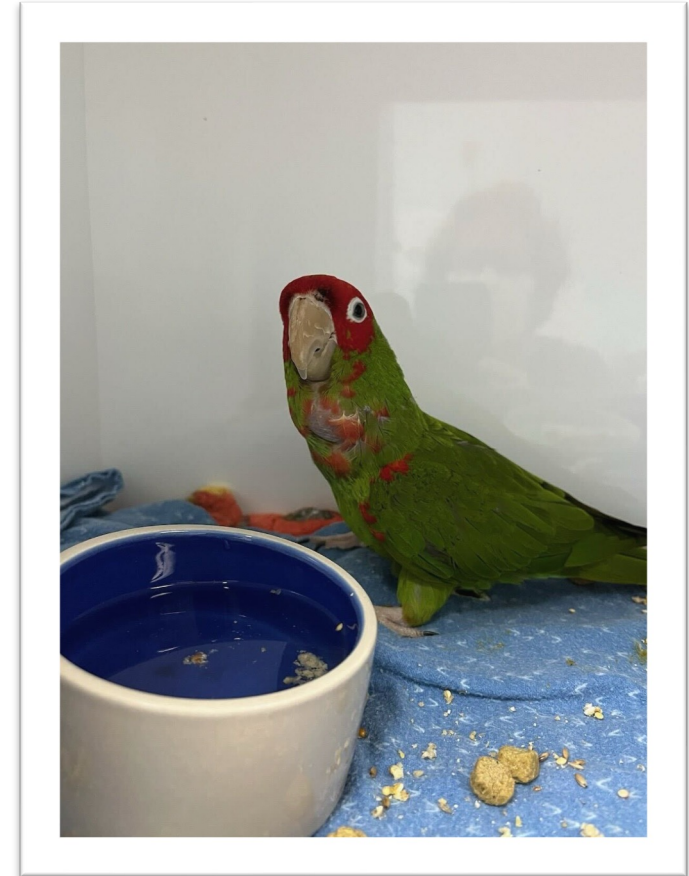






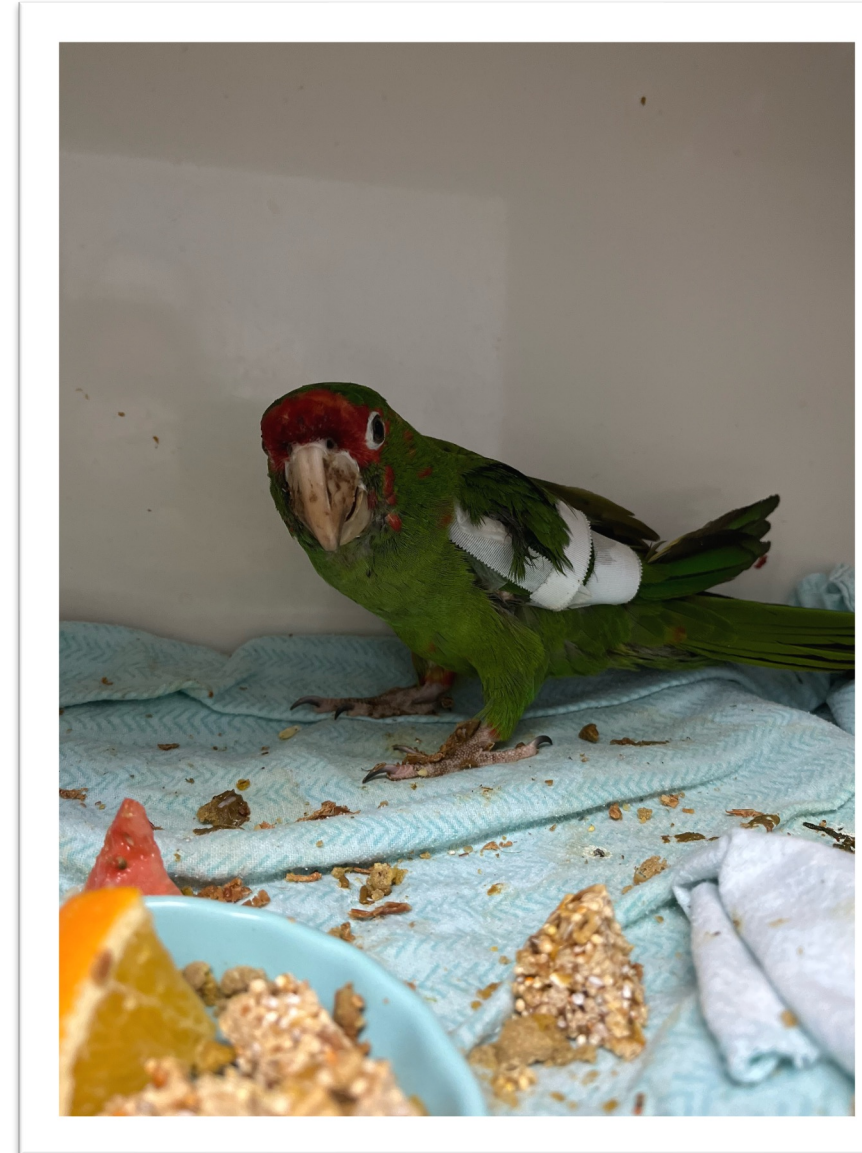
Some Numbers

Intakes	236
Deceased in care	82
Adoptions	64
Fostered	26
In hospital	21
Released	37



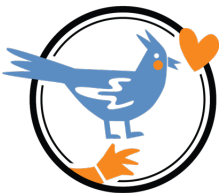
2023 was a (bad) record year

- 20 intakes!
- Higher intake during fledging season
- More physical trauma injuries than average
 - Impact of trees downed near the roost? TBD
 - Too early to say



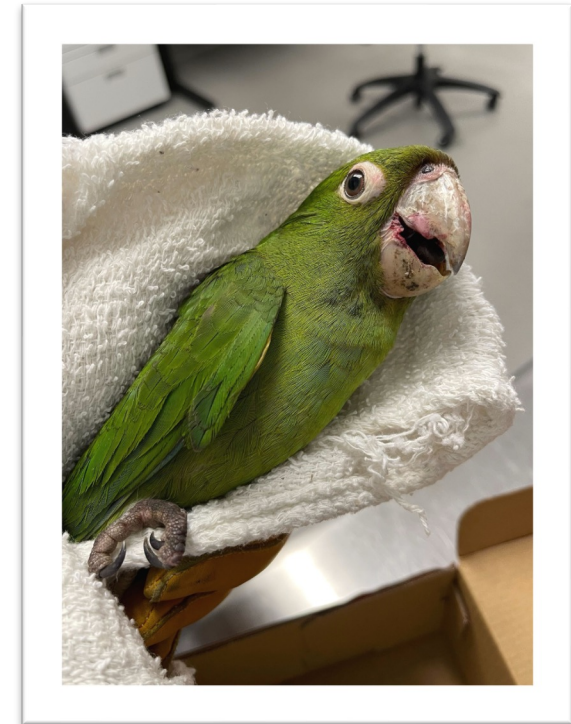
A growing problem

- At present, Mickaboo is shouldering the costs alone
- Not sustainable given current trends
- Future goals: Partner with other rescues that take in wildlife
 - Public education and outreach
 - Improve and extend rehabilitation capacity
 - Create wider network for training new foster homes



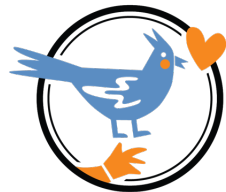
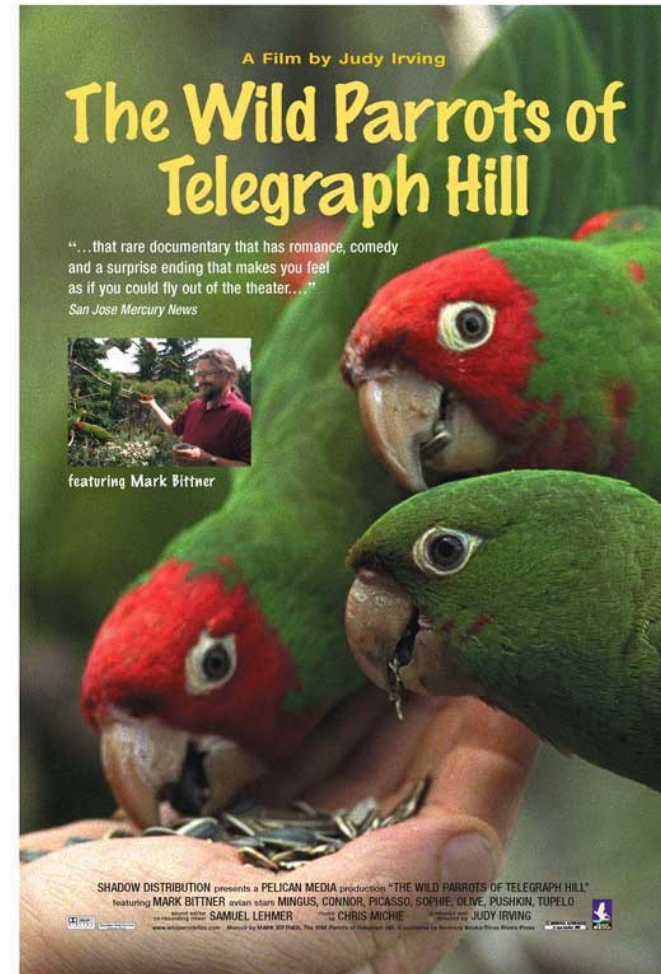
How can you help?

- **Let the wild parrots be wild!**
 - Avoid feeding or 'taming' them by hand
 - Do not encourage or lure them indoors via windows, etc
- Become a foster home for wobbly wild parrots
- Spread the word
- Take our [free bird care class](#)
- Don't use rat poison!
 - <https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/>
- Volunteer – volunteer@mickaboo.org
- Don't breed... don't buy... adopt!
- Support the end of 'pet bird' sales



Coming soon in 4K..bigger, brighter than ever

- (but thankfully not louder)
- At the Roxie, Jan 12-18
- Mickaboo 'trailer' before the movie!

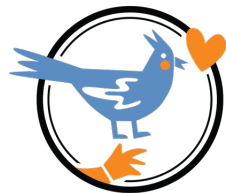


If you liked this...



If you liked this...

- SoCal Parrot: <https://www.socalparrot.org/>
 - Presentation by Brooke Durham:
 - <https://youtu.be/Bxb49m3p3YQ>
- Lafeber webinars on YouTube
 - Avian Health, Behavior, Research
- Palomacy – domestic pigeons and doves
 - www.pigeonrescue.org
- Mickaboo's free bird care class
 - <https://mickaboo.org/basic-bird-care-class>
- Hilary Hankey – professional trainer
 - <https://avian-behavior.org/>
 - And the podcast
- Watch all of our past online adoption fairs on our YouTube channel
 - youtube.com/mickaboorecue
- Yes, we're on TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@mickaboorecue>



Consider Fostering

- We have several special needs conures in need of homes
- THC foster homes are the best!





Special Thanks

- Photos and support:
 - Bobbi Gugger, Roberto Campos, Kathleen Dye
- Wild Flock Team:
 - Megan Cowdell, Julie Buckner, Patrick Owens, Chloe Redon, John Graziano, Dara Torgerson, Mike Reed



Q&A



