Home sweet home

by Cindy Kamler

The word “home” evokes survival, safety, comfort and family. Most wild birds lay their eggs in nests built in trees, structures or, on occasion, in the ground. Wild mammals create dens or burrows or use hollows, attics or spaces under buildings to house their young.

In wildlife rehabilitation, this time of year is known as “baby season.” Birds, mammals and reptiles lay eggs in the spring, and their young may require assistance in order to survive.

A parent may be injured, trapped or killed leaving them alone and uninjured. We receive a call from a concerned person who has found or is watching nestling birds or mammals. The nestlings may be cut or blown down. Dens or burrows may be disturbed by natural events such as flooding or by human interference. Sometimes the animal’s parents or parents of the nestlings are inexperienced and a nest or burrow falls apart or are put in inappropriate places. All of these processes can result in eggs, nestlings or young mammals being left in an area to a water source where they can drink, swim and eat. They then need to safely tucked into Mom’s feathers (or, “mobile nest”) for their young.

Wildcare staffers Kelly and Katie rushed to the scene. Sadly, after a prolonged search of the thick brush, only one duckling was found and saved. It is being raised with our wild ducklings.

The people of the Eastern Sierra live in harmony with our wild neighbors. For further information, contact Executive Director Cindy Kamler at 760-872-4437.

Wildcare Eastern Sierra

Wildlife rehabber

Recently, a woman called from Big Pine, telling us she had a bushy and tall lilac shrub and trees near the fallen nest tree, but a very large black bird babies were racing the people of the Eastern Sierra live in harmony with our wild neighbors. For further information, contact Executive Director Cindy Kamler at 760-872-4437.

Orphaned baby duckling with friend. The feather duster is near by.

A different home for this story is yet to be learned.

Living with Wildlife is a program of Wildcare Eastern Sierra and Care dedicated to helping the people of the Eastern Sierra live in harmony with our wild neighbors. For further information, contact Executive Director Cindy Kamler at 760-872-4437.