



**WHO?** — These three owlets were found by a park ranger at the base of a eucalyptus tree in a San Mateo County park on Saturday. Yesterday, an arborist put them in a new nest. Photo from the Peninsula Humane Society.

# Displaced owlets get new nest

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Three baby owlets found in a San Mateo County park after their nest fell apart were released back into the wild yesterday in the hope they will reunite with their parents.

The three owlets were found by a park ranger at the base of a eucalyptus tree on Saturday. Their nest had fallen apart but the three were not harmed, said Peninsula Humane Society spokesman Scott Delucchi.

They were under the care of the humane society, but yesterday were offered their final “home-cooked

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meal” before being returned to the park, Delucchi said.

Young owlets require feeding up to six times a day and eat primarily rodents.

After their feeding, they were brought back to the tree where they were found with the help of an arborist Juan Alvarez, who climbed 20 to 30 feet up the tree to a new nest.

Specialists will monitor the tree to see if the par-

ents come back to take care of them. Evidence of owl fecal matter indicates that the parents are still living in the tree, Delucchi said.

Delucchi said it is a myth that wildlife will reject their young if they sense a human has handled them. Re-nesting them allows the owlets to hunt and avoid predators, recognize noises and recognize natural food items.

If the parents don't reunite with the owlets within 24 hours, the baby birds will be taken back by the humane society and a human-led development process will begin.