



*Of all the birds, our Creator chose the Eagle to be the leader*

## Sky Hunters

# Raptor Education and Rehabilitation

NOTES FROM THE NEST

Fall 2013

## *Hello Fellow Bird Lovers*

### *Welcome to Fall!*

Well, the birds finally decided to arrive and they did so a little late this year. We didn't get in any birds until May, and we usually are loaded by February! We ended up with 20 baby great horned owls, 15 little kestrel falcons, and around 40 baby barn owls.

We also took in 4 baby western screech owls, many Cooper's hawks, red-shouldered hawks, and over 50 red-tailed hawks!

We have had a lot of fun this year doing educational programs for our San Diego Garden Clubs. Gardeners with their hands in the dirt like to learn about the birds they may encounter, what the birds might be dining on, nest behaviors, and the perils of poison to all of our wildlife as well as domestic animals.

Our thanks to Ms. Jane McKee for donating a lightly-used bird enclosure of the smaller raptors.

Our volunteers helped take down the twelve feet long, six feet wide and six feet high structure. Falconer Randy West loaded it up and delivered it, and our dedicated volunteers set it up. We are very grateful to all who helped—and so are the birds!

Our summer programs are winding down. If you haven't had a chance to see us at public events, then check out the upcoming events calendar inside this issue, make a note of the dates, and stop by to say hello!

Blessings, Nancy and John Conney

## IN MEMORIUM

### Ralph "Jack" Shoultz

In Jack we lost a kind, gentle, and loving soul but he is home now. I will always be thankful for his dedication to helping others. What an example he was to many and will always be remembered in our hearts, and the flora and fauna he so cared for. I have fond memories of his way with words, editing the Sky Hunters newsletter he so willingly helped with. I will always keep his title "Of all the birds, our Creator chose the Eagle to be the leader." Jack is flying free now. Our condolences to Jack's lovely wife Bonnie and the Shoultz family.



**SKY HUNTERS EVENTS CALENDAR — SEE YOU THERE!**

**DATE and TIME**

**LOCATION**

|                        |                                                               |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 14, 6:00 pm  | William Heise Park, Julian                                    |
| September 15, Noon-3pm | Monarch Mania at Alpine Creek Center, Alpine                  |
| September 28, 4pm      | 25th Celebration at Buena Vista Audubon Society, Oceanside    |
| October 12, 1-3pm      | Baskets and Botany at Tecolote Canyon Natural Park, San Diego |
| November 9, 4:30-6pm   | Wildlife Art Show at Porter Hall, La Mesa                     |

**EVENT ADDRESSES**

- Alpine Creek Center—1347 Tavern Road, Alpine, CA 91901
- Buena Vista Audubon— 2202 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA 92054
- Porter Hall—2910 Memorial Drive at University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 92041
- Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center — 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego, CA 92110
- William Heise Park – 4945 Heise Park Drive, Julian, CA 92036



**You Can Help Us Rehabilitate Raptors!**

*Your donations keep Sky Hunters going in our mission to rescue and educate about raptors. Here's how you can help:*

**Purchase:** We have barn owl boxes, tee shirts, and greeting cards with our birds' pictures for sale. They make great gifts! Give us a call at 619-445-6565

**Donate:** Use Pay Pal by going to our website at: <http://skyhunters.org/funding.html>  
Click on the funding link and scroll down to the **Make a Donation** button.

**Sponsor:** Fill out an application to join or sponsor at the support level that's right for you!

**Thank you so very much to our dedicated volunteers —**

**We couldn't do without you!**

Cathy Harrell

Lara and Robin Webster

Travis and Whitney Gray

Shawnee Williams

Terry Lockwood

# Get to Know Sky Hunters Education Raptors HARRIS'S HAWK

Harris's hawks are a medium to large-sized hawk, with a beautiful overall dark color, rust-red shoulders and leggings, a white rump and tail tip, and yellow bare skin on the face and legs. This raptor species is found in variety of habitats, from dry shrublands in lowlands and mountains, tropical deciduous forests, and wet grasslands. With city sprawl into native habitats, Harris's hawks can be seen in the suburbs of desert cities!



Harris's Hawk  
(*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

These hawks have special cooperative behaviors that are unusual in the raptor world. The Harris's hawks will live and hunt in groups, with as many as seven birds including an adult pair and offspring as well as other individuals. By hunting in a group, Harris's hawks increase the prey capture success rate. The hawks surround their prey, flush it for another to catch, or take turns chasing it. Studies have found that a group of five birds working together have the most success! They eat a variety of mammals.

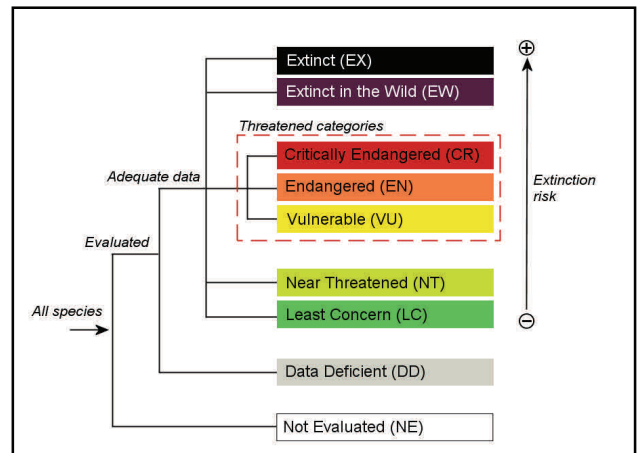
Birds in North America breed from March through June, but some will breed two or three times in if an earlier try fails. The nests are placed in trees or large cactus like saguaros and cardons.



The International Union for Conservation of Nature puts Harris's hawks in the "Least Concern" category.

Thanks to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for species information—[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Harriss\\_Hawk/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Harriss_Hawk/id).

Thanks to the IUCN for status information— <http://cms.iucn.org/>



## Happy Trails to Volunteer Ms. Lara Webster!



Lara started volunteering with us when she was only 12 years old! She learned everything that has to be done at Sky Hunters to care for the education and rehabilitation birds. She also learned everything about the life history of Sky Hunters' raptors... and all the rest of the species on the planet! She became accomplished at giving tours and providing education programs at local events.

Lara is off to college at University of Puget Sound. We will miss her more than we can say and look forward to seeing her during school breaks!

Thank you and Best Wishes to Lara!

# Sky Hunters

RAPTOR EDUCATION & REHABILITATION

## Member and Sponsor Application

RETURN TO SKY HUNTERS

c/o Nancy Conney

PO Box 1275

Lakeside, CA 92040

Visit our website @ [www.skyhunters.org](http://www.skyhunters.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Enclosed is my tax deductible gift**

### Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Student/Senior  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Family

### Sponsor

#### CHECK ONE RAPTOR OF YOUR CHOICE IN THE CATEGORY

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75 \_\_\_\_\_ Kite \_\_\_\_\_ American Kestrel \_\_\_\_\_ Burrowing Owl \_\_\_\_\_ Screech Owl \_\_\_\_\_ Pygmy Owl  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Red Tailed Hawk \_\_\_\_\_ Harris' Hawk \_\_\_\_\_ Peregrine Falcon  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Great Horned Owl \_\_\_\_\_ Barn Owl  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ Bald Eagle \_\_\_\_\_ Golden Eagle

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



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