

Sky Hunters

Raptor Education and Rehabilitation

NOTES FROM THE NEST

Winter 2012

GREETINGS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We took in over 285 birds in 2012 and the year isn't over yet!

We were blessed to have our local Fish and Wildlife Service build us a couple of new enclosures to house raptors that have been trapped. The least terns and snowy plovers are endangered/threatened species that nest on local beaches. If a local raptor has their eyes on those birds' young and goes after them, the raptor has to be trapped and held until the young terns and plovers fledge — and then the local raptor can be returned to the wild. It sounds like a catch twenty-two, doesn't it?

We are just following the rules of the Endangered Species Act and hope we can keep the terns and plovers alive and help recover their population numbers. There are three categories that define a bird's status. Species of special concern means that the population counts show that numbers are down. Then we move on to threatened where numbers are really down, and then on to endangered meaning that the species is at risk of extinction.

There are two raptor species here in San Diego county that are species of special concern: the golden eagle (my favorite!) and the burrowing owl. When I was growing up here in San Diego, as kids we were always outdoors, unlike many kids today. You could see burrowing owls in our open space areas all over the county. Now, we have built many apartments, homes, and shopping centers that have taken over our wildlife's habitat, leaving them no choice but to move on. Burrowing owls still have a nice population at the Salton Sea but both these species have really declined in San Diego due to development.

Education programs have kept us busy this year. We let people know what to do and not do if they find a sick, injured, or baby wild animal. The kids are our future and it's a must for us to teach them respect for the animals we share the planet with.

Blessings for the New Year to you and yours, Nancy and John Conney

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We want to take this time to thank all of our many dedicated members, those that yearly sponsor our education birds, and our faithful volunteers.

Lara and Robin Webster, Cathy Harrell, Eve Babcock, and Travis Gray. We couldn't keep up without you.

Dawn Wilson, Shawnie Williams, and Terry Lockwood. As Rescue Team, you have helped to save many lives, dealt with our sometimes wacky public, and put many miles on your cars. The birds and we are very grateful.

SkyHunters.Org



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SKY HUNTERS

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(619) 445-6565
www.skyhunters.org

Your membership and donations are vital to Sky Hunters' work to rehabilitate and release ill, injured, and orphaned raptors, and to educate the public about these amazing birds. We are grateful for your support! Please complete the application and send along with your donation to: Sky Hunters at PO Box 1275, Lakeside, CA 92040. Or join/donate online at www.skyhunters.org!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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_____ \$250 _____ Bald Eagle _____ Golden Eagle