

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



# Sky Hunters

## Raptor Education and Rehabilitation

NOTES FROM THE NEST

Spring 2013

### ***GREETINGS AND HAPPY SPRING!***

The birds are flying and carrying sticks for nest building. SPRING has SPRUNG! We are a little behind this spring, since we usually have at least great horned owl babies by now. But only two have come in so far. Baby barns are late, too. Typically at this time of year we are loaded with the little darlings. We think it's the weather. We have had a really cold winter and that seems to have thrown their timing off.

We have heard from people that have cameras in their barn owl boxes that they

have eggs and the owl moms are incubating. It only takes about a month for the eggs to hatch. Hope they all have the W-D 40 on the inside ceiling so we don't have any bee-stung owlets.

Our Educational Programs have been plentiful the beginning of the year. We have been up at the Daley Ranch in Escondido twice a week. Middle school kids are bused in to learn about Native American history, reptiles in the area, and take a hike to learn about the native plants and raptors. We speak to about 200 kids

each day and hope to teach about respect, how to coexist with our wildlife and what to do—and not do—if they find a sick, injured, or baby wild animal.

On a lighter note I have retired from the California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators as vice president. I think fifteen years of service is enough and it will be nice to focus on having a home life. We keep busy enough with the rescue and education with Sky Hunters, it's 24/7. Especially in Spring!

Blessings, Nancy and John Conney

**COME SEE SKY  
HUNTERS IN ALPINE  
At the Sage and  
Songbirds Garden Tour  
and Festival!**

May 3-5, 2013  
Alpine, CA



16<sup>th</sup> Annual

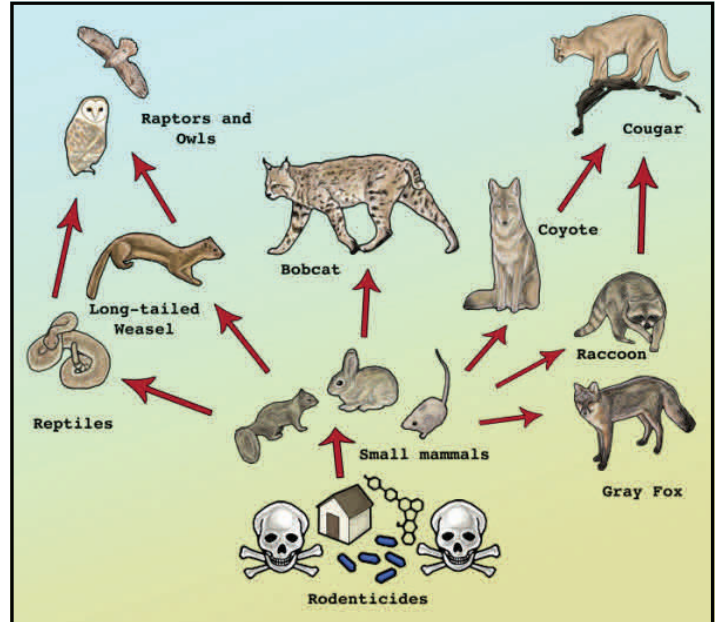
**Sage & Songbirds  
Garden Tour and Festival**

We will again be a part of the annual Sage and Songbirds Garden Tour and Festival on May 3rd-5th at the Viejas Outlet. We are a garden tour "bonus site" for ticket holders and will have several raptors at our table at the Viejas Festival location on Saturday and Sunday. Also, we will be making a presentation at 2:30pm at Viejas both those days. Tickets are \$20.00 and you get to visit up to 7 wildlife-friendly gardens—including Sky Hunters! Learn about drought resistant plants, and flowering plants that will attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. For tickets and more information, visit the festival's website at <http://chirp.org>.

### Poisons in our ecosystem

I went to a California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife meeting last month and heard a discussion on poisons. There has been some testing from carcasses turned in by rehabilitation groups. The County gives out poison to golf courses, parks, and the community for rodent control. They claim it's not a secondary poison, that the second animal that ingests the poisoned animal won't be affected. However, data shows this not to be true and that the second animal can die. CDFW is going to recommend changes to the type of poison being used to help prevent the demise of our wildlife and domestic animals.

The graphic is from UrbanCarnivores.com/poisons. Check out that site for more information on the impacts of poisons and alternatives for rodent control.



## 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!



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



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

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

Cathy Harrell

Lara and Robin Webster

Travis Gray

## Get to Know Sky Hunters Education Raptors GREAT HORNED OWL

Great horned owls are sometimes called “The Tiger of the Night”. The great horned owl is our largest owl in southern California, standing about two feet tall, with a four-foot wingspan, and weighing in around three pounds for a female and about two pounds for a male.

Their diet consists of just about any animal that might be out at night—rats, opossums, skunks, rabbits—and last but not least, kittens or puppies left unattended. While they can’t pick up anything heavier than themselves, great horned owls will give it a try and leave large puncture wounds on small cats and dogs they have tried to steal. Great horned owls are also a predator of barn owls! Anything moving is a meal for a wild owl like the great horned.

The great horned owl has a life expectancy of over 20 years in the wild, unlike our other raptors who only survive around 3 or 4 years. Great horned owls have no other predator but man. Poisons, BB and pellet guns, electrocution, and loss of habitat shortens their life in our communities.

Great horned owls are the only owl in southern California that has a “hooting” vocalization—a much more dignified call than our common barn owl that screeches like a lady who has just seen a rat!



Great horned owl  
(*Bubo virginianus*)

### SKY HUNTERS EVENTS CALENDAR — WE HOPE TO SEE YOU!

**DATE and TIME**

**LOCATION**

May 3, 4, 5	Sage and Songbirds Festival (Garden Tours @ Sky Hunters)
May 4, 5 @ 2:30 pm	Sage and Songbirds Festival (Special Presentation @ Viejas Outlet)
May 18 @ 12:30-2:30 pm	Mission Trails Regional Park
May 26 @ 2:00 to 4:00 pm	Mission Trails Regional Park (Photo Contest)
June 15 @ 6:00 pm	William Heise Park
July 6 @ 6:00 pm	William Heise Park
July 13 @ 3:00 pm	Green Valley Falls
July 27 @ 3:00 pm	Green Valley Falls
August 10 @ 9:00 am	St. Peter’s Church
August 17 @ 6:00 pm	William Heise Park
September 14 @ 6:00 pm	William Heise Park



**Event Addresses**

- Viejas Outlet – 5000 Willow Road, Alpine, CA 91901
- Mission Trails Regional Park – One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119
- William Heise Park – 4945 Heise Park Drive, Julian, CA 92036
- Green Valley Falls – Cuyamaca St. Park, 13652 Highway 79, Julian, CA 92036
- St. Peter’s Church – 334 14<sup>th</sup> St, Del Mar, CA 92014

# Sky Hunters

RAPTOR EDUCATION & REHABILITATION

## Member and Sponsor Application

RETURN TO SKY HUNTERS

c/o Nancy Conney

PO Box 1275

Lakeside, CA 92040

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Enclosed is my tax deductible gift

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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

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c/o Nancy Conney

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Lakeside, CA 92040