



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

## SKY HUNTERS

### Raptor Education and Rehabilitation

#### NOTES FROM THE NEST

WINTER 2015

### ***Happy Holidays to All Raptor Lovers!***

2015 is coming to an end and a very busy year it has been. We have taken in 180 birds so far this year, and there's still the rest of December to go! We released most of the birds we took in—about 80 percent got a second chance to live their lives in nature. With all the different crazy weather—heat, heavy winds, and now going into our winter season with its predicted large rainfall—we expect to take in even more birds in 2016!

Right now, the barn owls and great horned owls are starting to court—it's their time of year as the owls are the first raptors to start raising their families. We expect to start getting owlets in January. During the drought, the owls didn't seem to have had as hard a time finding food for their young as the diurnal raptors. Perhaps this wetter winter will have all the raptors thrive.

We still have three birds in rehabilitation. One is a red-tailed hawk from the Alpine area that was shot. A wing bone was broken but our veterinarian determined that it was better to leave the pellet in place as the bone is healing together nicely. This beautiful bird is getting better and showing stronger flight skills every day. Another bird is a peregrine falcon that ended up in a back yard with a wing fracture. The person who found it got it to our vet and now that slight fracture is healing nicely. And last but not least, we have a roadrunner—technically not a raptor but just as much of a hunter as any raptor can be! Unfortunately, this bird has an injured eye that is not repairable, so we are seeking a permanent education facility to place this non-releasable bird.

With the holidays at hand, it's a reminder to be thankful for the many helpful volunteers we have all year long. Huge thanks to Whitney and Travis Gray, Deb Carson, Kelsey Evans-Layng and our longest serving volunteer, Lara Webster (she only has one year of college left to complete!). And big thanks also to neighbor Nannette Doolittle, who keeps our membership list up to date, prints mailing labels for the newsletter, and helps when it's time for releasing birds from rehab. The owls are her favorites!

If you'd like to volunteer, we have a special project that we could use some help on. We have two enclosures that need new netting installed. If you have a spare Saturday and want to help, it's a 4-hour job, so give us a call!

Finally, we are very grateful for the support we receive from our members and others in our San Diego community. You can support us with a donation, or a purchase of tee shirts or greeting cards that feature our education birds. These items make great gifts, and it's a easy way to support our ambassador raptors. We also have sponsorships at many levels for our education birds—your sponsorship supports their ongoing care and our mission to care for and educate about these powerful and fascinating birds of prey.

***Blessings, Nancy and John***

**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)  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT!!**

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**Sky Hunters Depends on You!**  
**Be a SUPPORTER!**  
*Enclose a 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



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