



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

SKY HUNTERS

Raptor Education and Rehabilitation

NOTES FROM THE NEST

FALL 2017

Greetings Fellow Bird Lovers!

We can see Fall on the horizon—that nice, cool season means that it's the end of our baby bird time! We had a pretty mellow season thanks to all the rain we had. Parent raptors were able to feed their young and then the fledglings can successfully take to the sky!

Our rehabilitation network is functioning well. Fund for Animals in Ramona takes care of all the hawks, and Skyhunters takes care of all the owls. It's not a good idea to mix the hawks and the owls in captivity. We each have large flight cages for the birds to beef up their flight muscles prior to release back to the wild.

Our current total of birds taken into care is 125 and the season isn't quite over yet. We've had great horned, barn, and screech owls, and even one long-eared owl! It's very unusual to get a long-eared owl into rehabilitation care.

The rest of the year after fledgling season, we get in young birds that are trying to take care of themselves but aren't always successful. They come in a little thin, hungry and just need a little TLC and then back out for a second chance.

Then there are always the adults who have bumped a car or a window, or eaten something



A nestful of American Kestrels, our smallest falcon, brought in for rearing this season.

that has poison in it. If we get them in time, poisoning can be medically treated. Poison is wildlife's worst enemy, and also a danger for our domestic pets. Secondary poisoning remains a problem; the CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife proved it three years ago from bodies turned into to them from rehab groups in California. Please, don't use poisons in your yard!

THANK YOU to our volunteers, especially Travis & Whitney Gray and Shawnie Williams, and **TO YOU** for your support of raptor education and rehabilitation. **WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

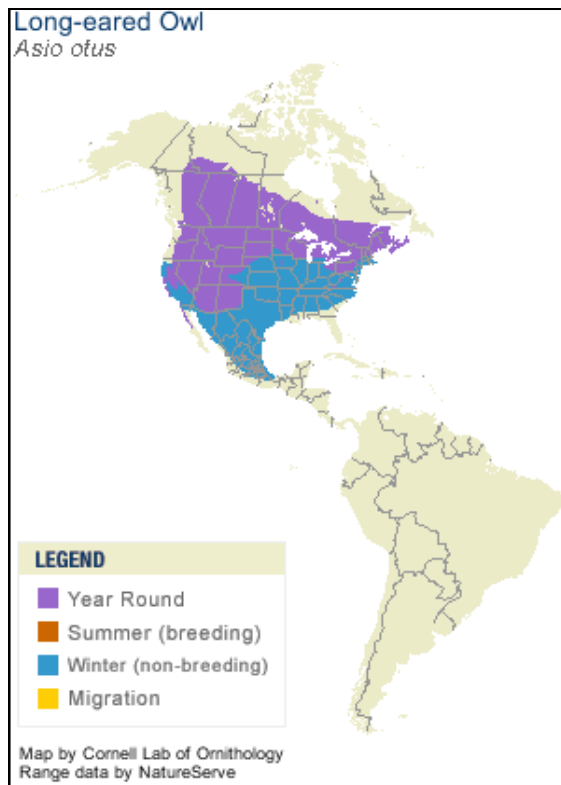
Come see us at upcoming events - Our Fall Events Calendar is inside!

BLESSINGS, NANCY AND JOHN CONNEY

GET TO KNOW SKY HUNTERS EDUCATION RAPTORS

Long-eared owls are lanky owls that often seem to wear a surprised expression due to long ear tufts that typically point straight up like exclamation marks. These nocturnal hunters roost in dense foliage, where their camouflage makes them hard to find, and forage over grasslands for small mammals.

These owls are nimble flyers, with hearing so acute they can snatch prey in complete darkness. In spring and summer, listen for their low, breathy hoots and strange barking calls in the night.



While silent most of the year, during breeding season they draw on a complex repertoire, analogous to a songbird's song.

Males give a series of 10 to more than 200 “who” notes evenly spaced about 2–4 seconds apart. This deep and forceful sound, akin to the sound made by blowing across the lip of a large bottle, can be heard more than half a mile away.

They hunt by making low passes over open ground, but they rarely hunt before true dark. In winter, the species often roosts communally. These

owls require a grassland or other open country for foraging, and dense tall shrubs or trees for nesting and roosting. Long-eared owls are found across most of North America, as shown above, and across Europe and Asia.



Long-eared owl (*Asio otus*)



Long-eared owllets

Photos courtesy Stan Keiser, Natureandlens.com.

Information courtesy https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Long-eared_Owl/id

SKY HUNTERS EVENTS CALENDAR – HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

DATE and TIME

Sept. 9 @ 1:00 pm

Bird Wing is an RSVP required event: sign up at <https://form.jotform.us/70925780084158>

Sept. 30 @ 5:00 pm

Oct. 14 @ 1 to 3 pm

Oct. 21 @ 11:00 am

Nov. 4 @ 11 am to 3 pm

Nov. 11 @ 3:00 pm

LOCATION

San Dieguito Lagoon at the Bird Wing

William Heize County Park

Tecolote Canyon Nature Center

Wilderness Gardens Preserve

Creation & Earth History Museum

William Heize County Park

EVENT ADDRESSES

San Dieguito Lagoon—San Andres Drive south of Via de la Valle, Del Mar

William Heize County Park-4945 Heize Park Drive, Julian, CA 92036

Tecolote Canyon-5180 Tecolote Rd. San Diego, CA 92110

Wilderness Gardens-14209 Hwy 76 Pala, CA 92059

Creation & Earth History Museum-10946 Woodside Ave. Santee, CA 91907

SPECIAL DONATION REQUEST
Sky Hunters Needs Your Help!



Baby Barn Owl

Sky Hunters is seeking additional monetary donations due to our baby season. With over 100 birds, caring for ill and injured owls, and ensuring a proper diet for our education birds, our food budget is in need!

Your donations allow us to purchase the required meals of mice and rats—that’s what raptors eat!

Your support now will help us continue the work to help orphaned, ill and injured raptors and give them a second chance to live as they should—out in nature.

Visit our website @ skyhunters.org and give your support by clicking on the DONATE button or fill out the application on the back page and become a Member or Sponsor!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Sky Hunters

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 _____

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 _____ \$ _____ HERE'S MY ADDITIONAL DONATION!

Sky Hunters Depends on You!
Be a SUPPORTER!
Send a tax deductible gift!

Or join us at our website!
skyhunters.org



SKY HUNTERS
c/o Nancy Conney
PO Box 1275
Lakeside, CA 92040