



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

## SKY HUNTERS

### Raptor Education and Rehabilitation

## NOTES FROM THE NEST

SPRING 2017

### ***Greetings To All Bird Lovers!***

Spring has sprung and in come the birds, starting out with owls as they nest before the hawks. We currently have 6 baby Great Horned Owls, 8 baby Barn Owls and 2 little Screech Owls. It's end of April—by now we usually have double that number of birds.

We are hoping that with all the winter rain we have had, lots of new grasses brings a nice supply of rodents to accommodate the feeding of this years' hawks and owls!

We have a Bald Eagle in from the Julian area that got in trouble with its wing. Our veterinarian diagnosed a dislocated elbow. The eagle has gone in for surgery and we have hope for full healing. If the injury does not heal, the bird will have to be transferred to an education facility.

We provided lots of programs this year, and many teachers trying to get their

program booked before the school year ends. We are also booking summer programs at local camp grounds.

In another outreach activity, we've brought our Golden Eagle to ceremonies honoring a young man making Eagle Scout—reaching that level of scouting is a great achievement!

Wishing you all a wonderful Spring!

Blessings, Nancy and John



## ***Thank You to our Volunteers!***

We have completed the last of three enclosures needing new netting and want to give a special thanks to all the many hands that pitched in! Our birds now have safe and secure homes.

Thank you to Travis & Whitney Gray for their continued weekend volunteering, cleaning and repairing, always done with smiles!

**Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!  
Do you want to volunteer? Call 619-445-6565 to discuss opportunities!**

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

#### **DATE and TIME**

May 13 @ 3 pm

June 3 @ Noon to 2 pm

June 24 @ Noon

July 1 @ 5 pm

September 2 @ 5 pm

September 9 @ 1 pm

September 30 @ 5pm

November 11 @ 3 pm

#### **LOCATION**

Agua Caliente County Park

Alpine Historical Society

Pio Pico Thousand Trails

William Heize County Park

William Heize County Park

San Dieguito Lagoon Birdwing Open Air Class

William Heize County Park

William Heize County Park



#### **EVENT ADDRESSES**

Agua Caliente Campground—39555 Great Southern Overland Stage Route, Julian, CA 92036

Alpine Historical Society—2116 Tavern Rd, Alpine CA 91901

Pio Pico Thousand Trails—14615 Otay Lakes Rd, Jamul, CA 91935

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

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

## Get to Know Skyhunters' Birds

### American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

When out doing raptor education programs, I get the question “Why so many crows this time of year?” Well, it's spring for one, crows call louder than smaller birds, and the young from the previous year help to raise the young of this year. Many people don't know the difference between an American Crow and a Common Raven. The crow is smaller, about 16-20 inches long and the Common Raven is about 22-27 inches long. Many in our human community don't like them, but crows are part of the system as they help keep our planet clean.

Commonly seen in treetops, fields, and roadsides, and in habitats ranging from open woods and empty beaches to town centers, crows usually feed on the ground and eat almost anything—typically earthworms, insects and other small animals, seeds, and fruit but also



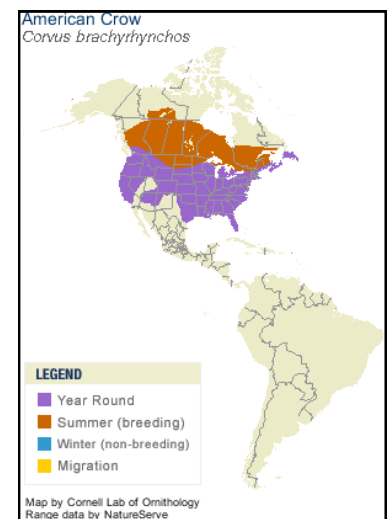
garbage and carrion. Despite its tendency to eat roadkill, the crow is not specialized to be a scavenger, and carrion is a small part of its diet. They must wait for something else to open a carcass or for the carcass to decompose and become tender enough to eat.

Crows are very social, sometimes forming flocks in the thousands. Inquisitive and sometimes mischievous, crows are good learners and problem-solvers. They're aggressive and often chase away larger birds including hawks, owls and herons.

Crows are crafty foragers that sometimes follow other bird species to find where their nests are hidden.

Crows sometimes make and use tools. Examples include a captive crow shaping a piece of wood and then sticking it into a hole in a fence post in search of food or breaking off pieces of pine cone to drop on tree climbers near a nest.

The oldest recorded wild American Crow was at least 16 years old when it was recaptured and rereleased during a banding operation in New York. A captive crow in New York lived to be 59 years old.



**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!  
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\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual

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**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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