



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

SKY HUNTERS

Raptor Education

NOTES FROM THE NEST

SUMMER 2019

— Greetings Fellow Bird Lovers —

For over 30 years, Sky Hunters has served our wildlife and our community!

We've cared for and released hundreds of ill, injured and orphaned raptors, giving each a second chance at life in the wild. We are very proud of that work, but even more proud of and grateful to each of you who have supported Sky Hunters all through the years of medical care, feeding and releases back to the wild.

It's not been an easy decision, but after these 30 years, our giddy-up just isn't what it used to be. Scrambling down canyons and pulling over on the freeway shoulder is a thing of the past. And now, there's more help and facilities in the rescue and rehabilitation community. The San Diego Humane Society has taken over Project Wildlife and they are doing a good job. Their new facility at 5433 Gaines St., San Diego, CA 92110 is great! Our partnership with Fund for Animals in Ramona remains strong.

With this rehabilitation help in the community, Sky Hunters will now focus on education.

By reducing our rehab and rescue workload and costs, we will be better able to provide programs to schools. Many schools don't have PTA or Friends groups that support the type of educational programs we provide.

With fewer funds going to veterinarian expenses and raptor food for rehab birds, your Sky Hunters membership will support travel expenses to schools that can't afford our donation request. Even more students will learn about the amazing lives of our feathered friends, and how they and their families can do their part to help nature every day.

Education is important work since coming generations will be caring for the wild places that our beloved raptors need!

We will continue our education programs for campgrounds, nature centers, and scout events. With devoted volunteers Shawnie Williams and Sharyl Massey, each program puts smiles on faces when the hawks and owls are displayed and the learning begins.

Would like to thank you, our dedicated members and supporters, who have continually supported us through the years, and our team members Shawnie Williams, Sharyl Massey, Loren Sopata, Travis & Whitney Gray and Kelsey Evans Layng. We couldn't do what we do with out you! A huge and heartfelt 30-year thank you to all!

Please call if you have any questions about this revised focus for Sky Hunters!

Blessings to all, Nancy and John Conney



Nancy with beloved Kachina the Red-tailed Hawk.

For over 30 years, Nancy and husband John have cared for hurt or orphaned raptors in addition to delivering environmental education about birds of prey and other wildlife to hundreds of children and adults.

Sky Hunters now looks forward to focusing on education, bringing raptor knowledge to even more people.

SKY HUNTERS EDUCATION CALENDAR HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

DATE and TIME

August 3 @ 5 pm

August 24 @ 5 pm

September 7 @ 5 pm

September 21 @ 5 pm

October 19 @ 5 pm

November 19 @ 3 pm

LOCATION

William Heise County Park

William Heise County Park

William Heise County Park

William Heise County Park

William Heise County Park

William Heise County Park

EVENT ADDRESS

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

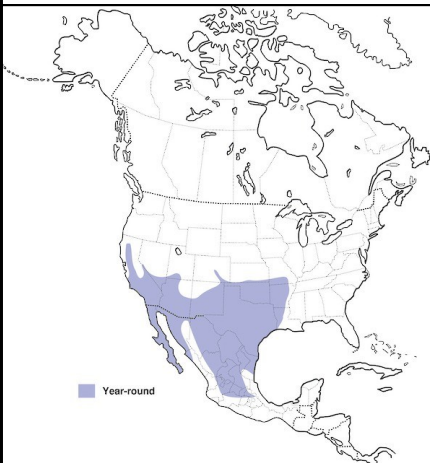
Get to Know the Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*)



Greater Roadrunner—note blue and a hint of orange skin behind the eye. Photo by E. S. Cryer

Owls, hawks and eagles are predators of course but other birds are efficient hunters, too. Greater Roadrunners eat mostly animals including small mammals, reptiles, frogs, toads, insects, centipedes, scorpions, and birds. Roadrunners also eat carrion and prey on bird eggs and chicks. They kill rattlesnakes by pecking them repeatedly in the head. They slam large prey, such as rodents and lizards, against a rock or the ground multiple times to break down the bones and elongate the victim, making it easier to swallow. In winter, fruit, seeds, and other plant material make up 10 percent of their diet.

Just as its name implies, the Greater Roadrunner races along roads, streambeds, and well-worn paths, defending a large territory and chasing lizards, rodents, and insects. While on the move they startle and flush a meal by flashing the white spots on their open wings. Roadrunners can also jump straight up to snag insects, bats, and even hummingbirds in flight. Although agile while on the ground, roadrunners don't fly well. A threat may trigger a short, low glide to safety.



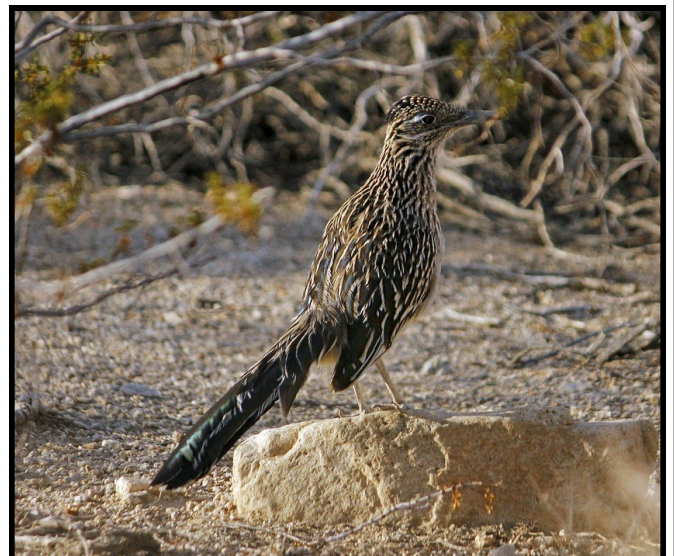
Roadrunner distribution

Roadrunners are members of the cuckoo family. Their zygodactyl feet leave an X-shaped track in soft substrates. Adults have prominent blue-black crest, and blue skin near the eye; further back from the eye you may see orange skin. Their feathers are heavily streaked olive to dark grayish brown and the long dark olive tail has white tips that often are badly tattered. Females are slightly smaller than males. In the morning, roadrunners often "sunbathe" to warm up after a cold night in the desert: with its back to the sun, the bird raises the feathers across its back and wings to expose heat-absorbent black skin. Male roadrunners perch atop fence posts and rocks, calling out with a mournful *coo-cooo-coooo* to advertise a territory. When threatened or displaying, they erect their crest and reveal a bright orange patch of skin behind the eye. The pair patrol their large territory (half mile diameter) and drive off intruders. They form lifelong pair bonds that are renewed each spring.

Greater Roadrunner breeding populations are stable; estimates of the global breeding population is 1.1 million, with 62% occurring in the U.S. and the other 38% in Mexico. The species is not on the not any watchlist. Habitat loss threatens roadrunners as they need space and are susceptible to development that fragments their territories and eliminates prey and nest sites. Household pets, feral animals, pedestrians and traffic can also displace or kill roadrunners; illegal shooting also affects the species. Southern California has seen a significant drop in numbers over the past several decades.

In case you're wondering, there is a Lesser Roadrunner whose distribution is along the west coast of Central America from northern Mexico south to Nicaragua, with a disjunct population on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Information courtesy https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater_Roadrunner



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 _____

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

Donate at our website
www.skyhunters.org
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!!



SKY HUNTERS

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Lakeside, CA 92040