

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

# SKY HUNTERS Raptor Education and Rehabilitation

## NOTES FROM THE NEST

### HELLO FELLOW BIRD FRIENDS!

Summer 2020

Well, who would have thought the world would come to a stop! We hope you and your families are staying healthy and safe at this uncertain time!

But the world has not stopped for the birds! They are still flying, having families and sometimes ending up in strange places.

We took in a couple of young Great Horned Owls and then some adult Red Tail Hawks, a Northern Harrier (formerly Marsh Hawk) and a few Peregrine Falcons.

Two of the Peregrine Falcons came in from a local detention center. The inmates noticed a fledgling Peregrine Falcon on the ground and got it contained. Animal Control transferred it to a North County rescue facility. The next day, as the same detainees were back in the yard, and an adult Peregrine was down on the ground. Again, Animal Control to rescue. Both were transferred to Sky Hunters, got in a couple of weeks flying time in the flight cage, and then they were back to the wild. Great work by everyone involved to aid these fabulous flyers!

Our thanks to Project Wildlife and the Fund for Animals for doing most of the rehabilitation intake and lightening our load as we shift our main focus at Sky Hunters to educating the public about raptors.

Blessings and good health to you, Nancy and John Conney

### **Education and Outreach**

We still have our educational presentations booked at local camp grounds and nature centers. But as we all know, gatherings are on hold for now.

Our educational birds don't know that their work is on hold... and of course we still need to feed and care for them and the rescued birds.

Meet little American Crow Reggie! He says "WOW" and is very very loved and a joy for the volunteers!





#### Get to Know Local Raptors American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius* )

North America's smallest falcon, the American Kestrel packs a predator's fierce intensity into its small body. One of the most colorful of all raptors, the male's slate-blue head and wings contrast elegantly with his rusty-red back and tail. The female has the same warm reddish on her wings, back, and tail.

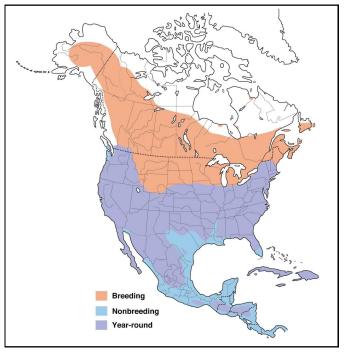
Hunting for insects and other small prey in open areas, kestrels perch on wires or poles, or hover facing into the wind, flapping and adjusting their long tails to stay in place.

Male American Kestrel

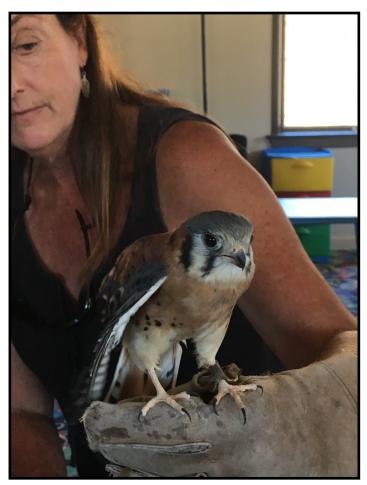
American Kestrels occupy habitats ranging from deserts and grasslands to alpine meadows. You're most likely to see them perching on telephone wires along roadsides, in open country with short vegetation and few trees.

The species eats mostly insects , and small rodents and birds. Common foods include grasshoppers, cicadas, beetles, and dragonflies; scorpions and spiders; butterflies and moths; voles, mice, shrews, bats, and small songbirds. American Kestrels also sometimes eat small snakes, lizards, and frogs.

Kestrels are declining in parts of their range; you can help them by putting up nest boxes. For information on helping them with nest boxes, go to <u>https://</u> <u>kestrel.peregrinefund.org/nest-monitoring</u>



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American Kestrel/id



Volunteer Sharyl Massey with American kestrel



Our volunteers have been so gracious to keep coming to Sky Hunters to clean up and help with repairs. I don't think it has been very fun, since only one can come at a time right now. Our deepest thank you to these and other Sky Hunters Volunteers!



Jordyn Dewar volunteers to ???? Transport, clean cages,



Volunteer Lauren Sopata with screech owl

#### **Sky Hunters**

RAPTOR EDUCATION & REHABILITATION c/o Nancy Conney PO Box 1275 Lakeside, CA 92040

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