



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

## **SKY HUNTERS**

### **Raptor Education and Rehabilitation**

## **NOTES FROM THE NEST**

**WINTER 2019**

### ***HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO OUR FELLOW BIRD FRIENDS!***

It's been a pretty mellow season this year and it's coming to a close. We had our normal number of birds, including lots of Cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks, lots of kestrels, several peregrine falcons, a few great horned owls, a couple of barn owls, and one long-eared owl. Whew — guess we were a bit busy! Our favorite release was a peregrine falcon who came in very weak—but it only needed a special diet and a couple weeks of flight cage time then it was ready to go.

Sky Hunters continues its public outreach at scout groups, campgrounds, and nature centers. Education is the most important part of our mission, and we strongly believe that more education can reduce the need for rehabilitation. Our favorite places for programs are William Heise and Agua Caliente County Parks—places where parents are getting their kids out into nature. Away from computers and phones, families soak up learning about wildlife while building memories for a lifetime!

We are deeply thankful for our wonderful members, sponsors, and our dedicated volunteers: Veterinarian Todd Cecil; Education Team Shawnie Williams and Sharyl Massey; Weekend Team Loren Sopata, Jordyn Dewar, and Travis and Whitney Gray who welcomed baby boy Kilian Gray in August. Our volunteers love keeping our enclosures neat and tidy, ready for any inspection. They also love learning about and seeing the raptors up close — every volunteer has a favorite education bird!

*Blessings to each of you, Nancy and John Conney*



**Sky Hunters** RAPTOR EDUCATION & REHABILITATION

**Member and Sponsor Application**

RETURN TO SKY HUNTERS

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

Donate at our website  
[www.skyhunters.org](http://www.skyhunters.org)  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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**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

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

**Get to Know Local Raptors**  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)**

Sharp-shinned Hawks are small, with long tails and short, rounded wings. Males are about the size of an American kestrel; females are about 1/3 larger than males.

You're most likely to spot Sharp-shinned Hawks during migration, especially fall migration, when they're the most plentiful raptors seen at hawkwatch sites.

Most Sharp-shinned Hawks spend their summers where they breed under the canopy of dense forests, occasionally coming into the open to circle in the sky or fly across a field. But they do also visit suburban areas with some tree cover, especially where bird feeders or spilled grain encourage congregation of small birds. Songbirds make up about 90% of their diet.

They bear a remarkable resemblance to Cooper's hawk; however, Sharpies are much smaller. Their numbers appear to have remained stable between 1966 and 2015.

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Sharp-shinned\\_Hawk/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Sharp-shinned_Hawk/overview)

