



WINTER  
2013

**THIS ISSUE**

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**Burrow Bites**  
 Bite-Sized Bits of Owl Wisdom  
 Delivered free to your email each month—sign up online

**MISSION**

*To protect and restore Burrowing Owls and their habitats to prevent loss, foster healthy populations, and maintain intact natural communities for an ecologically sound future.*

*Burrowing Owl Conservation Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit, public interest, organization.*

*A message from the Executive Director*

**MAKING LIFE BETTER: Reflecting on 2012 and planning the future**

BOCN leads!

Since its founding, we have been a very ambitious organization and one that thrives on setting strategic, results-oriented goals to measure success. And with incredible passion and a bit of tenacity, we spearheaded renewed public interest across California for this imperiled species, worked with Defenders of Wildlife to garner support

from other California non-profit organizations representing more than 209,000 individuals for a state-wide conservation strategy, have participated in a US Fish and Wildlife Service and Global Owl Project critical habitat restoration program on a now decommissioned Army chemical depot, and have built a solid reputation in which we receive calls and daily requests for assistance from across the U.S.

*(continued on pg. 2)*



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 P.O. Box 894  
 Visalia, CA 93279  
 Tel: 559.372.9499

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 Suite 460  
 Berkeley, CA 94704  
 Tel: 925.240.3399

**Northern CA Field Office**  
 Redding, CA

[info@burrowing-owl.org](mailto:info@burrowing-owl.org)



## A Message from the Executive Director (continued from page 1)

And through your help and investment, we continued to make Burrowing Owl history by increasing conservation work and Burrowing Owl habitat, expanded outreach and education, including the

“Give a Hoot, Get a Hoot” book program that serves children, and enlightened elementary school kids with curriculum-based field trips at the Prewett Park Burrowing Owl Habitat Preserve.



But this is only a small fragment of the work we perform on a daily basis that includes maintaining installed artificial burrows and habitats, identifying and documenting Burrowing Owl colonies, responding to calls for help and information, and rescuing injured owls. We even had the distinct pleasure of being involved in a training video on identifying and protecting sensitive species and habitats that workers involved with solar de-

velopment projects in the Antelope Valley are required to view. Additionally, we have identified a need for greater public involvement to protect California’s Burrowing Owl. Thus, we are now in the very early planning stages of establishing a “Volunteer Corps” in tactical locations across California to better serve communities and Burrowing Owls while streamlining our efforts, resources and time.

So it is with great appreciation that in this issue of The Burrow Guardian we share our successes and express gratitude to all our supporters.

I look forward to continuing our relationship and making a significant impact in the conservation of Burrowing Owls and their habitat.

Sincerely,

Scott Artis  
Executive Director



## STAFF MEMBER TAKES NEW ROLE

*Dee Vieira, former East County Program Manager, has taken on a new role as member of the BOCN Advisory Committee. Her longtime dedication to Burrowing Owls in eastern Contra Costa County helped establish the innovative and successful Prewett Family Park Burrowing Owl Habitat Preserve in Antioch. We look forward to her continued service with BOCN as a valuable advisor.*

**BLUE IS THE  
NEW GREEN**  
IT'S THE COLOR OF  
CONSERVATION



## NEW MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES



Get your BOCN Membership

Your membership supports the conservation and protection of Burrowing Owls

Don't hesitate...order now and wear your support for Burrowing Owls!



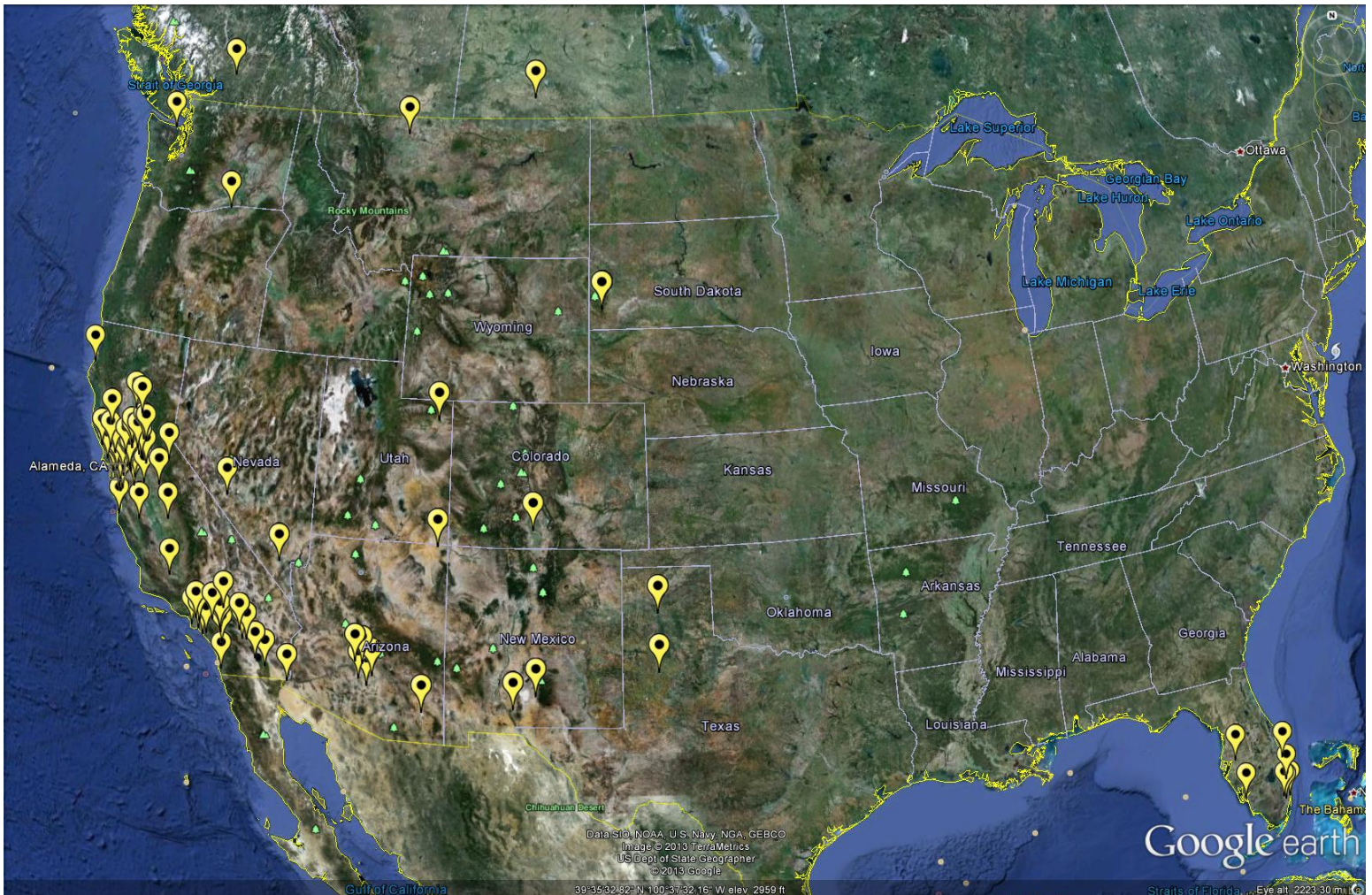
## SNAPSHOT OF OUR REACH—a bird’s eye view our programs

BOCN collects data and sighting reports from all subspecies of Burrowing Owl. Although we primarily work in California and the western states, we are very interested in learning more about these owls and connecting with individuals and organizations spanning North & South America and the Caribbean Islands. In 2012, BOCN received more than 250 sighting reports in North America.

This map represents some of the locations where supporters have sighted, taken an interest in and we have protected Burrowing Owls.



## SIGHTING REPORT LOCATIONS





# BY THE NUMBERS

## MEASURING SUCCESS IN 2012



### Conservation

*Protecting & Restoring Burrowing Owl Colonies*

**47** Artificial Burrows  
Across 6 Sites  
**INSTALLED**

### Field Trips

*Curriculum-based Field Trips*

**174**  **CHILDREN**

### Outreach

*Reaching Out to Landowners & Communities*

**30** Speaking Engagements  
Festivals  
Community Presentations 

### Burrowing Owls

*Suburban Habitat Success*

**26**  **RECORD** number of young fledged at Prewett Park Burrowing Owl Preserve

### Books

*Engaging Children with Burrowing Owl Books*

**125** **DISTRIBUTED**  
to children classrooms  
home school groups


### Class Presentations

*Bringing Ecosystem Education into the Classroom*

**231**  received class presentation  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

### Interpretive Signs

*Investing in our Communities*

**4** Educational Interpretive Signs for Prewett Park Burrowing Owl Preserve 

### Visitors

*Creating a Conservation Imperative*

Increase in unique website visitors over 2011





## SHORT & SWEET

### Messages from our supporters



We live in Yuma, AZ and purchased our house in March 2012. We noticed 2 owls when we moved in that lived in the drainage pipe in our back yard. When we bought our home the back yard had never been landscaped so we had it landscaped and the owls stuck around. Then as the summer went on we had 6 owls!! We love them, they hang out on our back porch and even let us get within an arms reach of them through a window. When we are outside they let us get within about 6-10 feet of them. We live in a neighborhood that is in town. Sometimes the owls have followed me across the street and will land in the yard of the house where I am at the front door. We have seen the owls everyday since moving. Sometimes we see all 6 in one day and sometimes just 2 in one day. They have even pecked and flapped their wings at our doors trying to get in our house.

**Lucky in Arizona!**

Beth - Yuma, AZ

## Making a DIFFERENCE!

Hello, my name is Alison.

I am 16 years old and have just moved to a new house. I went for a walk with my sister and dogs and notice a bird out in a field. I went as close as I could without scaring it; it was a burrowing owl. I love owls and as soon as I saw it I knew I had to do something to protect it. I picked up the trash over by there homes. Something was still bothering me.... there location is at a new housing development where they plan to build on within the next 6 months I believe. I only saw about four but there are many more holes in the ground on that lot. I do not know how long they've been there. I want to help them!

Alison - Brentwood, CA



### Way to go!

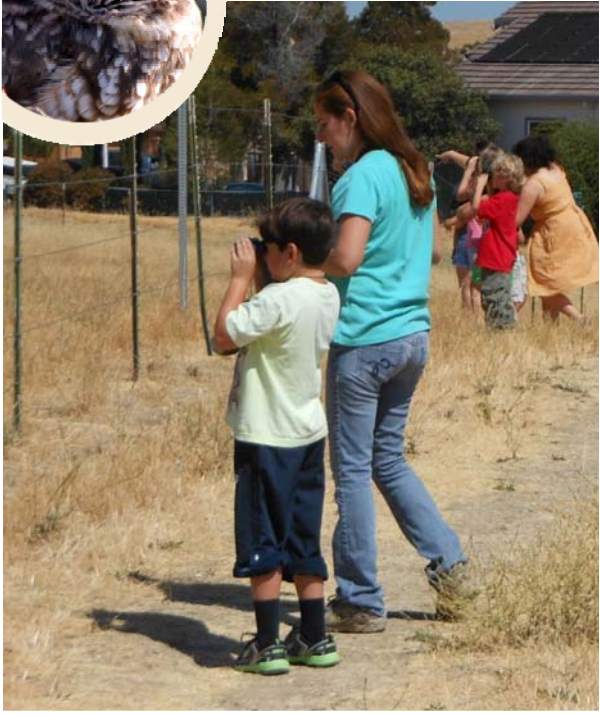
Hi, I found an owl this am in my porch. It is fully feathered but couldn't fly. I have barn cats that were out so I caught the owl. I tried contacting the zoo and NM Game and Fish and left messages. I have had no response. It looks to be a Burrowing Owl. I don't have a clue what to do with it. I hope I hear back from you.

Teresa - Alamogordo, NM

**BOCN Staff assisted Teresa in contacting a local wildlife rescue hospital to ensure the owl would be cared for.**



# Photos from 2012



30 pairs of owls lost their homes!





# THANKING OUR DONORS & MEMBERS

## \$10,000+

Scott & Heather Artis

## \$5,000+

WildCare Bay Area

## \$2,500+

The Lawrence Foundation  
Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife  
Propagation Fund

## \$1,000+

On Shore Foundation  
The Strong Foundation for  
Environmental Values  
Larry Jordan

## \$500+

John & Connie Artis  
Johanna Van De Woestijne

## \$250+

Dee & Daniel Vieira  
Greg Korelich  
Karen & Judy Lively  
Mount Diablo Audubon Society  
Redwood Region Ornithological  
Society

## \$100+

Charlotte Mitchell-Johnson  
Deborah Rodgers  
Teresita & Gary Haag  
Jasmine Scandalis  
Jeffrey Shenot  
Joshua Shenot  
Joel Summerhill  
Julia Stephens  
Luci Graziano  
Rosann Torres

Danute Januta  
George Garner

## \$50+

Sacramento Audubon Society  
Akalak Kunsorn  
Carlyle Washburn  
Catherine Fox  
Daniel Sandri  
Debbie & Steve McFarland  
Donna Vannucci  
Elaine Dosenbach  
Gloria Cannon  
Lawrence Thompson  
Margaret Rader  
Mark Carvey, E3RM, LLC  
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Anonymous  
Jill Flaningam Miller  
Deborah Mendez  
Gary Harrington  
Sherry Starks  
Nathalie Oram

## Up to \$49

Brett Sabbato  
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Michele Swartout  
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Randolph & Cecilia Polk  
Rosemary Fei  
Scotty Going  
Serena Smith  
Susan Sung  
Sylvia Hunt  
Ty & Tammy Ebsen  
Linda White  
Alan Francisco  
Kimberley Moore  
Donna Eck  
Kathy Shimata  
Patricia Matejcek  
Zoe Webber  
Rebecca Cook  
Tanya Sosnowski  
Sarah Starks  
Debbie Miller



Artificial burrow installation with Placer Land Trust, 2011



**LEARN MORE &  
CONNECT WITH US  
ONLINE**

Learn about our conservation projects, research, advocacy efforts and community outreach

[BurrowingOwlConservation.org](http://BurrowingOwlConservation.org)

Keep up with the latest information and check out our blogs:

<http://journowl.com>  
<http://thebirdersreport.com>



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[causes.com/  
causes/529014](https://www.causes.com/causes/529014)

*Burrowing Owl Conservation Network is a project of Earth Island Institute, a 501(c)3 non-profit, public interest, membership organization.*

# Conversations

*"While the courtship of these queer birds lacks the grotesqueness of that of the sage grouse, it has some features no less amusing; after watching a pair, you will conclude, as I did, that the sofa-pillow caricatures are not far from the truth. Sitting as close together as possible on top of their chosen burrow, they converse in soft love notes not unlike a far-away 'kow-kow-kow' of a cuckoo; at the same time caressing with head rubbings and billings."*

**Mrs. Irene G. Wheelock on Burrowing Owl courtship (1904)**

# Getting Involved

## Report a sighting

**Have you seen a burrowing owl or two or more?**

If so, then the Burrowing Owl Conservation Network is looking forward to hearing from you. The information you provide not only aids in our conservation, research and tracking efforts, but it offers burrowing owls a chance for survival in an ever dynamic world full of urbanization. Additionally, it allows us to direct conservation activities to areas or communities that require assistance.

Send your observations to: [sightings@burrowing-owl.org](mailto:sightings@burrowing-owl.org)

## GET THE WORD OUT

Tell your friends about the Burrowing Owl Conservation Network and join our conservation efforts TODAY!



**Burrowing Owl Conservation Network's Staff**

- Scott Artis – Executive Director
- Larry Jordan – Habitat Manager
- Johanna van de Woestijne, MD - West Bay Program Coordinator
- Heather Artis – Education & Outreach Director

**Advisory Board**

- Pamela Flick - Defenders of Wildlife
- Lynne Trulio, Ph.D. - San Jose State University
- Bob & Samantha Fox - Wild At Heart
- Greg Clark - Wild At Heart & the Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative
- Dee Vieira – former BOCN East County Program Manager
- Douglas Heilman - Native plant, sustainability, habitat restoration