



# SPECIES OF THE MONTH

**White-tailed Kite**

*Elanus leucurus*



# White-tailed Kite

- Small to medium-sized raptor
- Long, forked-tail and narrow, pointed wings
- Wingspan - up to 43 inches
- Underside - white, black wing tips, wristlet spots
- Topside - pale gray, black shoulders, white head
- Juveniles - cinnamon wash on breast and crown
- Can hover in the air like a kite!



# White-tailed Kite

- Permanent California residents
- In coastal areas, west of the Sierra Nevada foothills, Central Valley, and arid regions of southern California
- In several Core Areas in western Riverside County
- Also breeds in OR, WA, TX, and FL



# Habitat

- Foraging habitat:  
agriculture, grasslands, alkali marsh, playas and vernal pools, freshwater marsh, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, and chaparral
- Breeding habitat:  
riparian scrub, woodland, and forest; juniper woodland and scrub; and oak woodland and forests





# Nesting Season

- Courtship – early December
- Nest construction – early January
- Egg laying – early February
- Clutch size – 3 to 5 eggs
- Incubation period – 30 to 32 days
- Young fledge (leave nest) – 4 to 5 weeks
- Young remain dependent on parents for 2 to 3 months
- May attempt a second brood (nest again in the same season)





# Species Objectives

1) At least 19,880 acres of suitable breeding habitat.

\*To date, conserved ~15,224 acres

2) At least 10 core breeding areas including:

Prado Basin/ Santa Ana River, Lake Mathews-Estelle Mountain, Temescal Wash, Wasson Canyon, Murrieta Creek, Temecula Creek, Vail Lake, Wilson Valley, Lake Skinner, Diamond Valley Lake area, Lake Perris/Mystic Lake

3) At least 281,890 acres of suitable foraging habitat.

\*To date, conserved ~156,149 acres



# Species Objectives



4) Protect, and buffer from disturbance, the known winter roost area along San Timoteo Creek and any future identified winter roost locations.

\*This includes a 250-meter radius buffer around roost site to include conservation of undeveloped habitat.

5) Maintain (once every 3 years) the continued use of, and successful reproduction at 75% of the Core breeding Areas.





**THANK YOU!**

