



# EYES AND EARS ON BURROWING OWLS

## A PROJECT OF POMONA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY



Burrowing Owls are small, ground-dwelling owls that use underground burrows for nest sites and shelter. These appealing birds have bullet-shaped bodies and long legs, giving the appearance of an owl popsicle, and engage in amusing antics such as turning their heads almost upside down to get a good look at birders who are trying to look at them. They are often out in daylight and thus are easier to observe than the rest of the owl clan.

At one time these owls were very common in California and, even as recent as 10 years ago, they were a common sight in the Chino and Ontario areas. However, loss of habitat, the use of pesticides, and the killing of burrow-excavating ground squirrels have drastically reduced their numbers.

### Our Mission and Strategies

The mission of the **Eyes and Ears on Burrowing Owls Project** is to protect the remaining owls so they are not totally eliminated from the Pomona Valley. School children, families, and all of us want to make sure that these native birds can continue to live and raise their owlets in their native territory.

The project focuses on four areas in Chino and Ontario where there are still active nesting grounds for the owls: On or near Ontario International Airport, the College Park Burrowing Owl Preserve in Chino, the Chaffey College-Chino fields, and the grounds of the California Institute for Men in Chino. We identify the nesting sites, monitor the burrows during the nesting season, identify threats to the owls and their nesting habitat, and work to eliminate or reduce the threats.



### General Goal

The long-term goal is to maintain a healthy, viable breeding population of Burrowing Owls in the Pomona Valley Audubon area. Each of the four nesting sites is critical because it currently supports or has the potential to support a significant number of active burrows. The areas are close enough for owls to travel between them, thereby promoting genetic diversity.



### How You Can Help

- ★ Sign up to become a Friend of the Burrowing Owls. Friends will receive news about the Pomona Valley area owls and opportunities to help.
- ★ Volunteer to become a Burrowing Owl monitor during the nesting season. You will receive instructions on how to find the owls and report your finding.
- ★ Report sightings of Burrowing Owls: The owls can sometimes be found in vacant lots, at airports, golf courses, or school grounds. They like open space with no or few trees, low vegetation, and a good population of ground squirrels who excavate burrows that the owls use.

For more information, email us at: [pomonavalleybirdalliance@gmail.com](mailto:pomonavalleybirdalliance@gmail.com)

Photography by Carol A Coy

