

20 April 2006

Town of Knightsen  
Attn. John A. Gonzales, Councilman  
P.O. Box 369  
Knightsen, CA 94548

Dear John,

My name is Gregory Kaltenecker. I am a raptor biologist and work for Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. I am the Director of the Idaho Bird Observatory, a university academic research and environmental education program.

During a recent visit to my relatives, Bill and Gail Martin in Knightsen, I observed a pair of adult Swainson's Hawks exhibiting nesting behavior in a large eucalyptus tree at the end of Eden Plains Road along the main highway through town. The birds acted like a mated pair, were observed perching in the tree near a large nest structure, and exhibited territorial behavior when I approached the tree by flying above it, vocalizing, and perching in prominent locations within the tree. It is highly likely that this pair will attempt to nest in this large tree this year, and may have already laid eggs by this time.

The Swainson's Hawk is a highly migratory raptor, spending winters in Argentina each year. It is protected throughout its range and is considered a threatened species in California. This species is protected from harvest or illegal trade under the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

Local residents should be excited and proud that these birds have decided to breed so close to your community. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Greg Kaltenecker, Director  
Idaho Bird Observatory  
Boise State University  
1910 University Dr.  
Boise, ID 83725