

From hovering position bird drops relatively slowly with high angle wings held in stationary position to contact on ground

Some birds had 1 to 2 missing tail feathers and some had last primary (proximal) missing.

No calls heard.

A red-shouldered hawk observed 2 different times in area.

A marsh hawk flew up canyon

Group of crows called until sundown at head of trees as if harrasing an owl, then left down canyon. Two alighted in same tree as no to kite and called but kite ^{did} not react but remained in same position.

Some chasing of two kites but mostly, resting, hunting and hovering, sailing high (400')

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Friends at Pio Pico T.T. (plus 3 dogs)

Pio Pico Preserve, T.T., San Diego Co., California

July 1, 1983

checked white-tailed kites this AM at 11:00 A.M. walked thru trees on S side canyon and no evidence of kites until I approached position 5 (see map previous date) when 9 kites (7 adult, 2 imm) left an isolated dead live oak about 100' from edge of main trees.



live oaks in canyon.

They flew to about 150' and then gained elevation of around 200-300' but above tree area. They then dispersed in several directions and later (20') 2 imm kites returned and alighted in same roosting (resting) tree ^{100' away} when I took 4 photographs 830701-1 to 830701-4. while I was hidden among trees and on upper slopes of canyon walls. The other kites never came closer than 1/10 mi, for the 2 hours I was there hidden among the trees. I would say that their tolerance for man is about 1/10 mile and that when they leave they remain in area but about a 1/10 mi distance separation. Three great horned owls (together) in same area.