

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West



Angels Creek Northern Harrier – Photo Credit: Patricia Sanders

The Northern Harrier is a medium-sized raptor with an owl-like face, long-wide wings, yellow legs, a sharp-hooked beak and a rounded tail.

The female harrier is larger than the male, but they both have white feathers above their black-stripped tails.

These harriers fly low to the ground when hunting for reptiles, birds, amphibians and other small mammals. They rely on their hearing and vision to capture their prey in grasslands, marshes, wetlands and pastures.

Between April and July, the males try to impress the females by performing barrel rolls. Once the female's eggs are fertilized, she can lay three to six eggs which incubate for 29 to 31 days. During this time, the male harrier is responsible for providing the food for the female and offspring.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.colintalcroft.com/Sonoma_County_Bird_Watching_Spots/Northern_Harrier.html