March 28, 2015

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW)
PO Box 50003
Los Angeles, CA 91416-50003

Dear CLAW:

The Los Angeles Audubon Society endorses CLAW’s Barn Owl Nesting Box Program. This program is an excellent opportunity to educate the public about the deadly effects of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides on birds and to encourage nesting of a native raptor.

Barn Owls are distributed worldwide and in Los Angeles County are found in low-elevation open habitats. They require cavities for nesting and historically most nests were found in oaks, sycamores, and cliff and arroyo banks, according to data compiled for the Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas. Recent nesting records are found in the Santa Monica Mountains and other foothill regions, the Baldwin Hills, the San Fernando Valley, and the Palos Verdes Peninsula and in early days would have been found from the coast to the foothills.

Barn Owls consume large numbers of rodents and can help to control rodent populations, although participants should pursue a multi-pronged integrated pest management approach (e.g., sealing off rodent entry points, practice good sanitation practices).

Participants can learn more about birds and birding in Los Angeles by visiting the Los Angeles Audubon website at www.laaudubon.org.

Sincerely,

Travis Longcore, Ph.D.
President