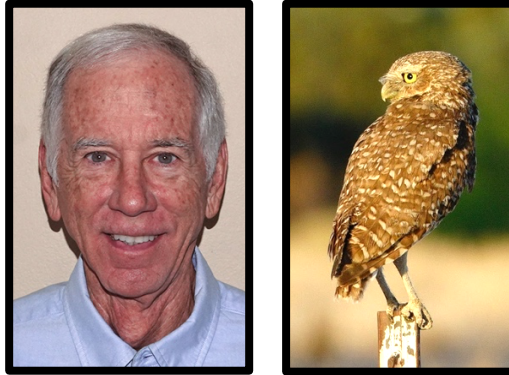


Western Burrowing Owls

50-minute PowerPoint Presentation

Richard S. Walker, D.D.S., M.Ed.



Rick Walker, a retired professor from UNLV School of Dental Medicine, has been an outdoor photographer from an early age. After joining the Red Rock Audubon Society, he became a burrowing owl monitor at the Rainbow Owl Preserve in northwest Las Vegas. The Rainbow Owl Preserve, began as a joint venture of Dr. and Mrs. Braunstein, Red Rock Audubon Society, Gilcrease Orchard and the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Service. Their aim was to preserve land for burrowing owls near Gilcrease Orchard, a 70-acre pick your own fruits and vegetables non-profit foundation, before all adjacent land was developed for housing. The monitors document the owls' behavior and success rate of nesting on two lots with artificial burrows. During Dr. Walker's time monitoring, he developed an interest in learning more about burrowing owls and researched the subject online and at University of Nevada Las Vegas' Lied Library. In 2024, he became an ambassador for the Red Rock Audubon Society. The ambassadors strive to foster a bird-friendly community through engagement and education. He along with other ambassadors provide information about burrowing owls at Gilcrease Orchard's artificial burrows. The presentation, *Western Burrowing Owls*, will describe the owls' appearance, unique adaptations, desert habitat, migration patterns, diet, longevity and bit about the Rainbow Owl Preserve. His videos will show owl vocalizations, mating, casting off of an owl pellet, feeding of the flightless owlets, their rapid growth, bobble-head behavior of the juveniles, the owls' confrontation with a coyote and much more.