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## **Egg-citement on the Owlcam at The Water Conservation Garden**

*Fans of Hoot and Holla thrilled as wild barn owl chicks hatch in public view via the live Owlcam*

**San Diego, CA**—Two owlets of a mated pair of barn owls have hatched to the delight of a growing base of fans that have been monitoring the owls round the clock via a live Owlcam at The Water Conservation Garden, viewable at [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org). Hoot and Holla, so named by Garden staff, took up residence in an owl nesting box at the five-acre garden mid-February, and have been making preparations for their brood since Holla laid her first egg on February 17.

“Holla has been such a great mother, patiently turning her eggs and keeping them warm for over 30 days, and Hoot has kept her well fed with rabbits and rodents”, said Pam Meisner, Education Specialist at The Water Conservation Garden. “We’ve been eagerly awaiting the first hatching, and are so thrilled that the time has finally arrived. Being able to share this experience with the public, who has been monitoring the progress along with us, has made it even more meaningful and exciting.”

The first owlet was born Sunday morning, March 20, and the second was born Monday, March 21. The Garden has been receiving excited emails and comments on their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/WaterConservationGarden](http://www.facebook.com/WaterConservationGarden), by fans delighted with the development. There are four more eggs left to hatch, and if all goes well, the rest should hatch in the order they were laid, in one- to two-day intervals. Newly hatched barn owls weigh about  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce and their eyes remain closed for 2 weeks, making them totally dependent upon their mothers during that time.

The Garden is developing standards-based owl education programs for visiting schoolchildren, and an owlet naming contest will be offered to grade schools once the last egg hatches.

On Saturday, April 9, Ms. Smarty Plants (Pam Meisner) will present an owl education program, *Ms. Smarty Plants Gives a Hoot*, at 10:00am in the Garden’s amphitheater, during the [Spring Garden Festival](#), and owl watch family nights are in the works for the end of April.

Members of the public can learn more about the options for installing their own owl boxes by visiting Air Superiority’s website, [www.barnowlboxes.com](http://www.barnowlboxes.com).

### About the Water Conservation Garden

Opened in 1999, the Garden is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting water conservation in the landscape through excellent exhibits and programs that educate and inspire the public. The Garden is supported in part by member water agencies, garden partnerships and private donations. For more information, please visit [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org) or call 619-660-0614 x10.

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