



## Why Not Be A Bird-Watcher?

by Bill Dillinger

I was talking to a ranger at the Salton Sea State Recreation Area one day when he mentioned a rare bird that had paid them a brief visit. Guys came in from all over,” he said. “One guy flew in all the way from New York.

“He slogged through the muck out to the shoreline, found the bird, then slogged right back, threw his stuff in the car, and headed back to LAX. Now what was the point of all that?”

“Bird lister,” I said. “Doesn’t care about the bird. Just wants to add it to his list.”

Aren’t some of us like the guy from New York? Do we know or care about the birds we put on our lists?

We can all enrich our experience by really watching birds.

Where do the birds we list nest, and what kind of nests do they build? How do they care for their young? What happens to the young birds after they fledge?

And how about courtship? Many of us have seen the spectacular dives of the hummingbirds. But according to my birding bible<sup>1</sup>, even the house finch puts on a show that can be downright operatic.

Singing and fluttering his wings, the male finch follows his lady, and if she pauses encouragingly, hops around her with drooped wings and raised tail, crest, and head feathers. She may sing a short aria herself before giving in—Zerlina and Don Giovanni?

A romancing mourning dove goes in for “gliding, spiraling aerial displays and on the ground, strutting with feathers spread and head nodding” the book says.

The white-breasted nuthatch has an elaborate courtship

ritual, the male presenting his lady-love with gifts of food while bowing and singing, feathers raised on head and tail – what lady bird could resist?

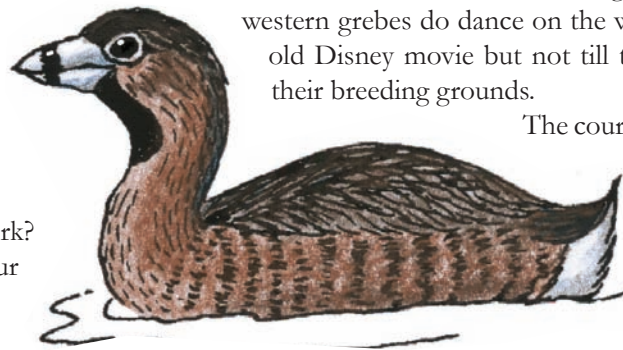
Most other birds have courting rituals, too. And yes, western grebes do dance on the water as they did in the old Disney movie but not till they’ve flown north to their breeding grounds.

The courtship of the pied-billed grebe, the only one of the family that nests here, is “more vocal than visual.” The male does a lot of calling, and as the affair gets

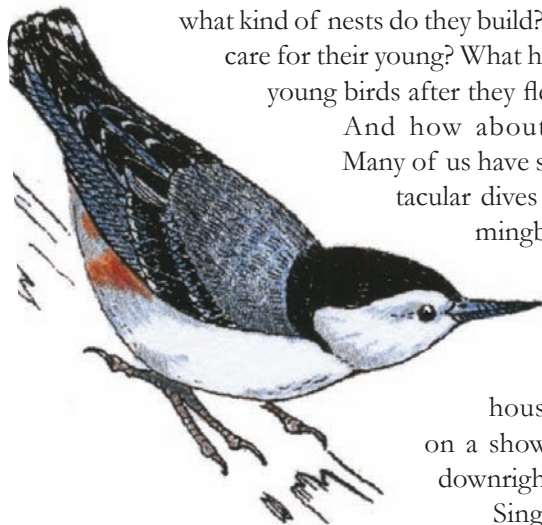
more intimate, the male and female actually do a duet – bird opera, again.

The males defend their territory as ceremoniously as knights of old. Standing stiffly at the border, they first turn back-to-

see **Birds** on page 3



*Pied-billed grebe*



*Whitebreasted nuthatch*

## Bird & Breakfast at Effie Yeaw on March 23 & 24

by Paul Tebbel

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) and Sacramento Audubon are teaming up again this year to offer a special weekend of morning birding trips coupled with wonderful breakfast fare. Known as “Bird & Breakfast,” this event combines some of our best local bird guides pointing out nests and local rarities together with wonderful food, good coffee, and other fun to help raise money for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. No extensive birding experience is necessary—this event caters to all levels.

This year will be truly special as it is both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday will be a longer bird walk; the traditional breakfast buffet featuring gourmet casseroles—and all tickets are

see **Bird & Breakfast**, page 5

**Painting Where the Wild things Are - Saturday, June 8 - Art Gala**

# President's Message

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**ARNHA**

American River Natural History Association  
P.O. Box 241 • Carmichael, CA 95609  
916-489-4918 • www.arnha.org

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Dear ARNHA Members,

One of my New Year's resolutions is to spend more time at the Nature Center. Yours too? It's an easy resolution to keep, isn't it? With all that's going on at the EYNC—weekday programs for kids; weekend programs for families; the Nature of Things Workshop Series for adults; the March 23, & 24 Bird and Breakfasts (that's right, two opportunities to participate this year!); the opening of the Songbirds exhibit in the Discovery Room; and planning for ARNHA's major fundraiser, the June 8 Painting Where the Wild Things Are Art Gala. I look forward to seeing you at these activities.

Behind the scenes we're busy, too. Staff, Board members, docents, and volunteers continue to 1) review and improve business practices to ensure the sustainability of the Nature Center, 2) raise funds to continue to provide existing and new nature education programs for all age groups, and 3) develop and strengthen relationships with non profits and community organizations in the Sacramento region to fulfill ARNHA's mission to deliver nature education.

As always, "Thank You" for your continued support! See you at the Nature Center soon.

Regards,

*Diana*

P.S. Keep a bird's eye out this year for updated editions of two of ARNHA's most popular publications – *Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* and *An American River Almanac*. Trust me...you're going to want copies for yourself and as gifts for others who appreciate nature and the Parkway!

## Bill Griffith • Environmental Steward

Bill Griffith, avid kayaker, environmental steward, and proud carrier of a Save the American River Association card signed by Effie Yeaw, died December 27 at home following his regular routine of paddling on the American River. The 85-year-old wildlife biologist was widely known for winning many ribbons for having competed in every Eppie's Great Race since 1976. In his daily paddling excursions on a two-mile stretch of the river, he collected litter from along the shoreline. Griffith served 40 years as a biologist in the California Department of Fish & Game, retiring in 1990 as coordinator of the department's wildlife and pesticide program.

Birds, continued from page 1

back and call belligerently, heads held high and bills up-pointing. Each then turns and tries to stare down the other. (What happens if this doesn't work, the book doesn't say.)

The nest they're defending doesn't seem too much -- "a

shallow sodden platform of decaying vegeta-



Bushtit



tion, anchored to reeds and grasses in open water."

But heat from the decaying mass helps keep the eggs warm.<sup>2</sup>

The young hatch ready to swim but are often carried on the mother's back, even when she dives.

Coots and some ducks may carry their young like this too.

If you're not lucky enough to see any of these displays, at least keep your eye out for nests.

A bushtit nest made mostly of pink and blue tinsel is probably the fanciest I've ever seen. Their ordinary nest is remarkable enough, for the tiny birds weave a foot-long sack of plant material and hang it from a branch with spider web. But Technicolor?

Then there was the little

brown bird peering out at me from a moldy old shoe caught in a willow during some past flood.

Most nests are more conventional, either the cups made by robins, jays, and finches, or cavities -- natural or drilled by woodpeckers.

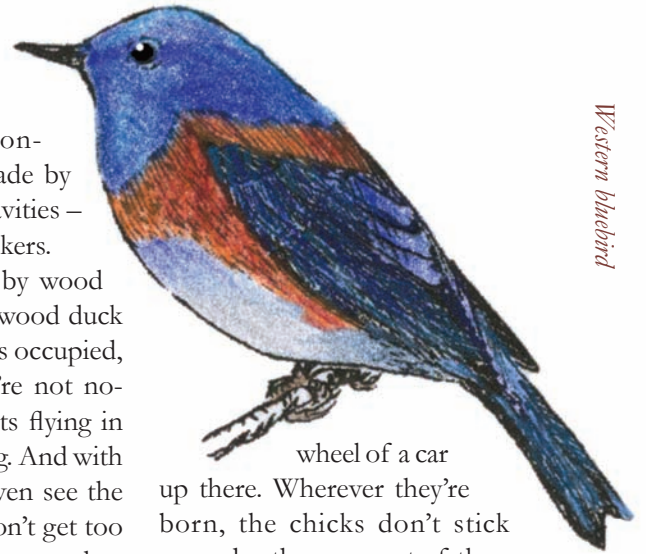
Tree cavities are favored by wood ducks, but they'll readily use wood duck boxes as well. Find a box that's occupied, and watch discreetly. If you're not noticed, you may see the parents flying in and out to feed their young. And with great luck, you might even see the young emerging. (But don't get too close; if the birds notice you, they may stop feeding and even abandon the nest.)

How do they get out of the box? A special claw helps them climb up to the nest hole when they're ready to leave. Then, like paratroopers they bail out, fluttering to the ground where they're assembled by the mother and led off to the nearest water. Swimming after her, they can submerge submarine-style, like grebes, if danger threatens.

Western bluebirds also use nesting boxes, as will other birds -- not to mention bees and wasps, as anyone who has nervously checked boxes can tell you.

Killdeer just make a small depression in almost any kind of gravel in which to lay their speckled eggs, even gravel driveways. The eggs blend in so well it's almost impossible to spot them. And if predators get too close to the nest, the parents flutter about, dragging a wing to seem easy prey and thus lead their enemies astray.

Killdeer find flat graveled roofs particularly enticing as nesting areas -- no chance of getting crushed by the



Western bluebird

wheel of a car up there. Wherever they're born, the chicks don't stick around -- they pop out of the eggs on long legs and run for cover.

House finches lay four to five eggs at a time and may have up to three broods in a season. They solve the teen-ager problem by kicking the young out as soon as they've matured enough to fly.

Titmice nest in cavities, lay six to eight tiny eggs, feed their young on regurgitated food for three or four days, and like the finches, kick them out of the nest as soon as they can fend for themselves.

The white-breasted nuthatch nests in cavities or deserted woodpecker holes.

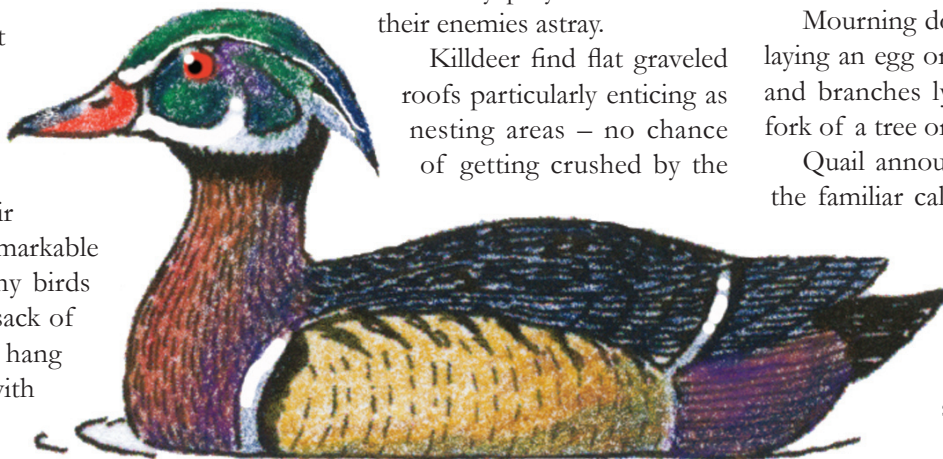
Scrub jays, according to the book, lay three to six eggs in a cup-shaped nest. It takes the eggs a couple of weeks to hatch and another week for the young to fly on their own.

The male feeds the female before and during incubation, and she does most of the brooding. While most birds drive off unmated strays and offspring, jays often welcome them as helpers.

Mourning doves are careless nesters, laying an egg or two on a nest of twigs and branches lying haphazardly in the fork of a tree or even on the ground.

Quail announce their presence with the familiar call and court with a little dance. They're ground nesters, laying a dozen eggs or so in a shallow depression concealed in grass or shrubs.

They would rather walk or run than fly, and a mother



Wood duck

continued next page

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trailed by several chicks is a common sight along the Parkway. I once saw such a parade, all wearing what looked like ballet leg-warmers – “cotton” from the cottonwoods stuck to their legs.

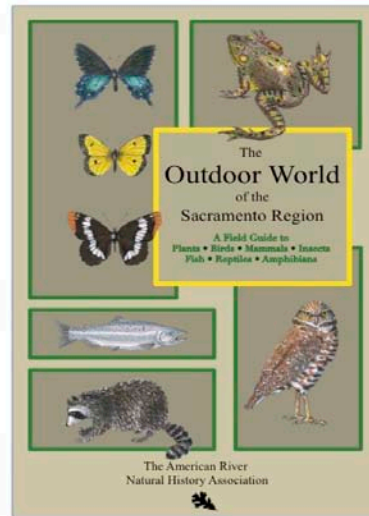
That’s the sort of thing that makes a bird watcher’s day!

*Bill Dillinger, an early ARNHA board member, was chief of the Public Information Division of the California Department of Fish & Game before his retirement.*

<sup>1</sup>*The Birder’s Handbook* by Ehrlich, Dobkin, & Wheye

<sup>2</sup>*The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* Jo Smith and Peter J. Hayes, editors. ■

## NEW Color Edition The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region



Coming soon with 265 full-color illustrations and updated descriptions of 600 plants, birds, mammals, insects, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. 240 pages

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## 2012 Wild Animal Count Finds Uncommon Bird Species

*By Lea Landry*

On December 1, 12 teams of intrepid birders gathered along the American River Parkway for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) Wildlife Count, established by Jack Hiehle in 1985. The count covers both sides of the American River, from Nimbus Dam to Discovery Park. Despite robust winds, intermittent showers, and the high discharge of water from the Nimbus Dam (5000 cubic feet per second), a decent 115 species of birds were seen this year. This compares favorably with the record-setting 123 species in 2010 and 115 species in 2009.

Over 50 counters and 12 team leaders scoured the water, land, and air to find the usual suspects plus some mammal and bird species that are uncommon in this area for this time of year. Unusual bird species included Red Crossbill and Great-tailed Grackle (first time on the list), Greater White-fronted and Cackling Geese, Lesser Scaup, Common Loon, Cattle Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Sora, Chipping and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and Tricolored Blackbird. The sea lions

sent a single representative this year. Five coyotes were seen, compared with none found last year. The deer population appears to be moderate, with 67 seen, compared with 114 in 2009. The number of Wild Turkeys was way up with 131 seen, compared to only 28 in 2011. A new mammal visitor was the House Rabbit seen in area 10.

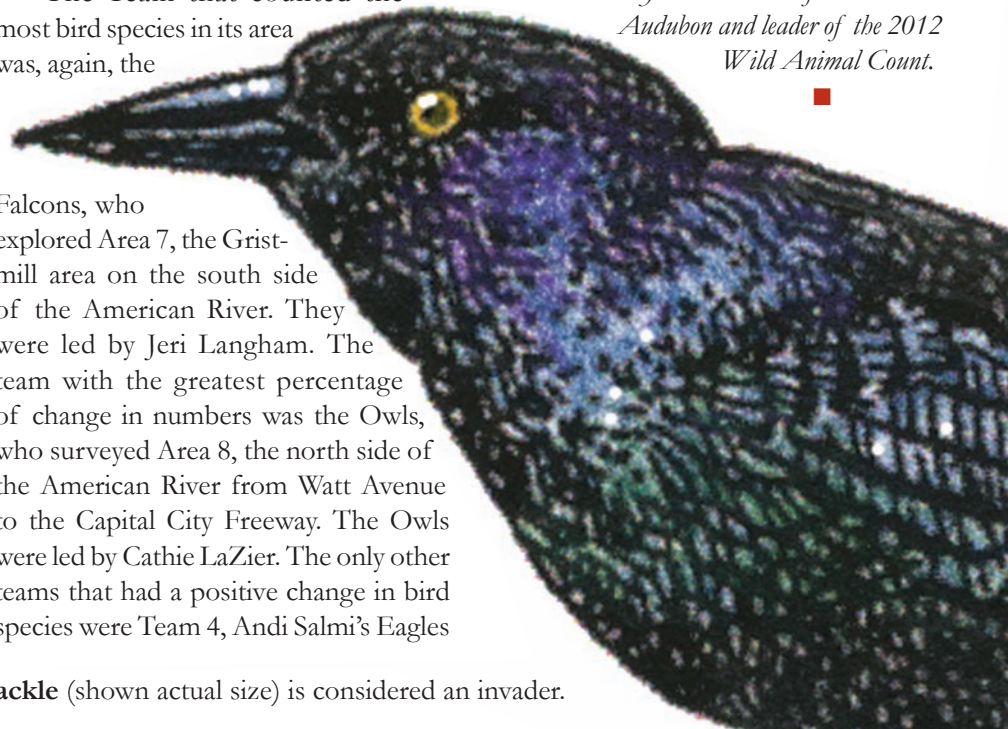
The Team that counted the most bird species in its area was, again, the

Falcons, who explored Area 7, the Gristmill area on the south side of the American River. They were led by Jeri Langham. The team with the greatest percentage of change in numbers was the Owls, who surveyed Area 8, the north side of the American River from Watt Avenue to the Capital City Freeway. The Owls were led by Cathie LaZier. The only other teams that had a positive change in bird species were Team 4, Andi Salmi’s Eagles

at Rossmoor Bar and River Bend Park; Team 12, Robert Sewell’s Otters at Sutter’s Landing; and team 6, Keith Kwan’s Bluebirds, who covered the North Area including William B Pond.

The results of the 2012 ARNHA Wildlife Count are on the Effie Yeaw Nature Center website at SacNatureCenter.net. Look under “Happening Now.”

*Lea Landry is a member of Sacramento Audubon and leader of the 2012 Wild Animal Count.*



# Spring is "Tule Time!"

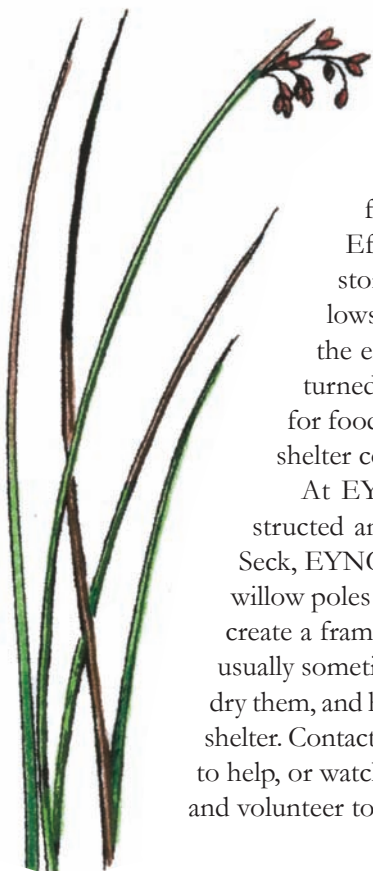
by Margaret Leavitt



On the right, Brena Seck, Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC) Lead Naturalist, and volunteer Harold Harrington II work on a tule shelter in the EYNC replica Valley Nisenan Maidu village. Photo by Kari Bauer

Spring is "tule time!" As the winter flood waters receded, the Nisenan Maidu people came down from their permanent villages on bluffs to spend the spring and summer months along the river. They built temporary structures, similar to the tule shelter and granary found in the replica Nisenan Maidu village at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, to use for shelter and storage over the summer. Made from tules and willows, the shelters were used for just one season. At the end of summer, after the tules had dried out and turned yellow, and the shelters were no longer needed for food storage, they were burned. The next spring, tule shelter construction began again.

At EYNC, one of the replica tule shelters is reconstructed anew every year. Led by EYNC Naturalist Brena Seck, EYNC staff and volunteers collect willow and lash the willow poles together with peeled willow bark or grapevine to create a framework. When local tules are just the right height, usually sometime in April, Brena and her helpers harvest them, dry them, and hang them over the willow framework to cover the shelter. Contact Brena at [brenas@sacnaturecenter.net](mailto:brenas@sacnaturecenter.net) if you'd like to help, or watch for an email from EYNC when it's "tule time," and volunteer to participate in this ancient custom. ■



The **Common Tule**, sometimes called bulrush, is a perennial growing up to six feet tall

## Bird & Breakfast *from page 1*

\$35. Sunday is more family friendly, and the breakfast will feature pancakes done by the Carmichael Kiwanis plus other breakfast fare. Tickets for Sunday are \$25 for 12 and older, \$10 for ages 6-11. Both mornings start at 8am. As an added treat, Jim and Marilyn from the Mendocino-based Discount Binoculars will be here both days so you can try out their wide range of binoculars and spotting scopes - and they know what birders like!

We encourage you to participate in one of these mornings as the birding and the food are fabulous, plus you'll get to spend the best part of the day with your fellow birders. To make a reservation and set up your method of payment, please call the nature center at 916-489-4918 between the hours of 9am - 4pm from Tuesday through Sunday. This event almost always sells out, so please make your reservation soon.

*Paul Tebbel is the Executive Director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.* ■

## Rockin' Robin

This hungry robin perches on your finger and will be the star of your puppet show. Made by Folkmanis

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## Young Birders Learn the Ritual of a Bird Count

By Maureen Geiger

The Second Annual Sacramento Area Kids' Christmas Bird Count was a smashing success! Attended by 18 children and youth, their associated family and friends, 14 leaders and 11 other volunteers, everyone had a great time.

This year's count was a partnership with Effie Yeaw Nature Center, and the Nature Center turned out to be a perfect venue for the count. Kids formed four teams in cold and bright, clear weather and set off into different areas of the park.

When the teams returned, the Official Compilation began in the Nature Center with results projected on the big screen by team, species and numbers of birds, giving everyone the chance to see what all teams had observed. Young birders picked out gifts donated by Wild Birds Unlimited in Loehman's Plaza and other donors. Refreshments were served, and the young birders learned the joys of reliving the event.

About 40 species were seen including more than 400 individual birds. A Merlin perched in a tree long enough to accommodate sightings by many birders, and a beautiful Red-shouldered Hawk posed next to the Nature Center.

The entire count was captured with photos of everyone in action from pre-registration chaos to tired but satisfied departures. The images are pure magic and will be found on [sacramentoaudubon.org](http://sacramentoaudubon.org) in a month or so.

*Maureen Geiger is a long-time field trip leader for Sacramento Audubon and organizes field trips for families with children to encourage young birders and give local families an opportunity to get their children outdoors.*



Young birders scan the scene for another bird species during Youth Bird Count. Photo by Kari Bauer

### Creek Week Set April 13

The Sacramento Area Creeks Council's "Creek Week" campaign to preserve and protect natural streams hits its annual high point Saturday, April 13, when volunteers turn out from 9 a.m. to noon to clean up trash from area streams followed by a two-hour celebration in Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael.

Volunteers will receive a free lunch and T-shirt, along with contests, exhibits and other fun activities. The deadline for volunteers to register is April 9 at [www.CreekWeek.org](http://www.CreekWeek.org). The more than 50 clean-up sites are listed on the website.

ARNHA co-founder Jo Smith was co-founder of Creek Week with Frank Cruzon in 1990. ■



## SPRING CLEAN-UP

By Linda Thomas

On Saturday, April 20, ARNHA members, friends, and family are invited to join the annual Spring Clean-Up at Ancil Hoffman Park. The event, sponsored by the American River Parkway Foundation, will be held from 9 A.M. until Noon.

Volunteers will pick up litter along the American River at Ancil Hoffman Park and the Nature Preserve. Removing trash and debris helps prevent pollutants from entering the watershed, harming wildlife, or creating hazards for recreational users.

"I helped out because I wanted to keep the area beautiful for other people," commented a volunteer at last year's cleanup. Other volunteers say they enjoy getting exercise and contributing to the beauty of the parkway at the same time.

Participants should wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. Gloves and bottled water will be provided, but volunteers are encouraged to reduce waste and bring their own gloves and refillable bottles.

After arriving at Ancil Hoffman Park, volunteers should follow the signs to the "River Clean-Up" station in the picnic area. Drivers will receive a parking pass at the Clean-Up sign-in table. It is important to register in advance for the Spring Clean-Up on the American River Parkway Foundation's web site at [www.arpf.org](http://www.arpf.org). For more information, call ARPF at (916) 486-2773.

*Linda Thomas, ARNHA's Clean-Up Coordinator, is a member of the ARNHA Board.* ■

The new 4th edition of [Biking and Hiking the American River Parkway](#) is available at the Discovery Shop inside the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, and selected local bookstores, for \$14.95.

or online at [www.arnha.org](http://www.arnha.org)

# Nature Camps Teach

by Margaret Leavitt

On a clear, crisp November day, with wild turkeys gobbling in the background, Fall Nature Camps attendees gathered at Effie Yeaw Nature Center to study the long journey of the salmon. Through film, stories, and fish printing, campers ages 5 to 12 learned about the life cycle of the salmon that populate the American River in the fall on their exhausting journey from the ocean upstream to the gravel beds where they themselves had hatched in previous years. There they spawn, leaving caches of eggs in the gravel before dying.

The high point of the morning was a hike led by EYNC Lead Naturalist Shawna Protze (wearing salmon earrings, of course!) to the river to see the action. The ground was muddy from a recent rain, and the river was running swiftly, but that didn't stop the budding naturalists from spotting a number of salmon leaping out of the water on their way to upstream gravel beds. Admittedly, the smell was a little off-putting at first.

Noted Aiden Moseley, age 9, a frequent EYNC camper, "You'd smell the dead fish, and you'd think you wanted to get away and then you'd see bones."

The salmon carcasses littering the banks gave Shawna a chance to point out the parts of the salmon and explain their life cycle. The campers quickly got over any squeamishness and listened attentively. In all, they counted 78 dead salmon (those that had already spawned) along the riverbanks. "It was fun when you'd find a live salmon after experiencing all those dead salmon. Finally, a live salmon! I was so glad!" exclaimed Aiden.

Winter Nature Camps over the December holidays brought the chance for eager young birders to learn about the birds of EYNC. They heard bird jokes from Naturalist Brena Seck ("Why did the robin go to the hospital? For "Tweetment"?"), examined feet, skulls, and feathers from various birds, painted gourd birdhouses to take home, and then set out on a bird walk. After learning how to use binoculars from Naturalist Brena, the young birders played Bird Bingo while they hiked, spotting a variety of birds in various habitats and checking them off on their Bingo cards.

On their return, they were greeted by three of EYNC's resident birds, Tanner, Skye, and Rocky, out with their handlers, enjoying the winter sunshine. Accomplished young birders Anna Smith and Giacomo Del Piero agreed that their favorite bird was the red-shouldered hawk – both the wild ones seen and heard in the Preserve on the hike, and Skye, with whom they visited up close afterward!

Other Fall and Winter Nature Camps focused on wild turkeys, owls, and safe adventuring. Spring Nature Camps will be held March 25 - 28. More information and registration materials should be available by mid-February; check the EYNC website at [www.sacnature-center.net](http://www.sacnature-center.net) or call the Center for details.

*Margaret Leavitt is a docent-in-training and volunteer receptionist at EYNC. ■*

## Salmon Life Cycle, Bird Body Structure



*Aiden Moseley, age nine, contemplates salmon who have spawned and died to complete their life cycle.  
Photo by Keri Bauer.*

The **California Slender Salamander** is a lungless salamander that breathes through its skin

# 'Owls' Highlight Holiday Sale

Despite stormy weather, a power failure, and a diversionary owl rescue mission, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's annual Holiday sale on December 1 proved another success.

"Vendors had to set up their wares with flashlights, and the first customers had to shop in the dim lighting that came in through the windows for nearly an hour," said Naturalist Hannah Barnes, who coordinated the sale. And EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel and Senior Naturalist Shawna Protze temporarily left the sale and used two ladders to extricate a Great Horned Owl that became snagged by one of its talons 30 feet up in a driving range net at the Ancil Hoffman Golf Course.

While such complications led to a lower turnout, Hannah said sales were relatively good compared to 2011. She

said best-selling items were *Good Luck Baby Owls*, a new, beautifully illustrated children's book; gourd ornaments; and Night Sky, Solar Science, and Clean Water kits.

"Another smash hit were fleece neck warmers that Michelle Mandell of Fair Oaks made and donated to the sale," Hannah said. "And of course the 'Owl' purses that (ARNHA vice president) Liz Williamson makes always sell like hot cakes."

Hannah also praised Margaret Rogers for generously donating her time, materials, and skills to provide a courtesy gift wrap with beautiful origami decoration.

"Overall, the sale was fun and successful," Hannah said. "People were able to buy meaningful holiday gifts and support the Nature Center at the same time. So it was a win, win situation." ■

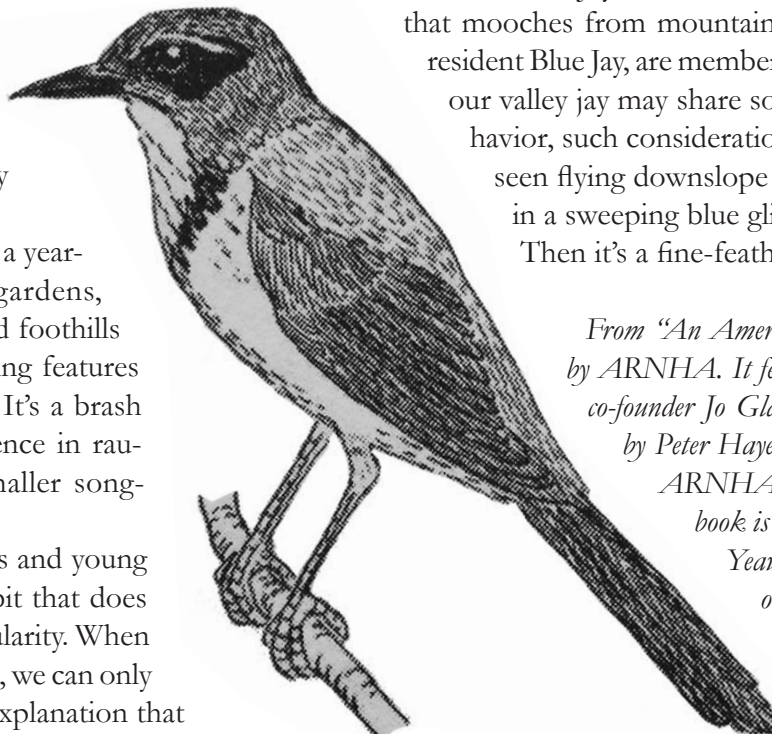


## Blue Dandy

There are many apt expressions about birds: "As the crow flies," "birds of a feather flock together," "a bird in the hand," etc. But we could never understand the origin of "naked as a jaybird." The jaybird that we see hereabouts, the Western Scrub-Jay, is a sartorial dandy, boasting a bright blue head, wings, and tail; gray-brown "saddle" on the back, and a buffy breast.

But the Scrub-Jay that is a year-around fixture in home gardens, river woods, and oak-dotted foothills does have some unredeeming features that should be mentioned. It's a brash sort, broadcasting its presence in raucous tones and edging smaller songbirds away from the feeder.

Its diet includes the eggs and young of nesting songbirds, a habit that does nothing to enhance its popularity. When we hear about such outrages, we can only fall back on the scientist's explanation that the jay is preserving the balance of nature,



### an excerpt from AN AMERICAN RIVER JOURNAL

eliminating the efforts of the inexperienced or incautious birds. "It takes the touch of adversity, well met," wrote ornithologist W.L. Dawson, "to bring out the admirable traits of bird character, as well as humans."

The Scrub-Jay and its crested cousin, the Stellar's Jay that mooches from mountain campers, and the eastern resident Blue Jay, are members of the crow family. While our valley jay may share some of their anti-social behavior, such considerations are forgotten when it is seen flying downslope from one oak to the other in a sweeping blue glide against a pale blue sky. Then it's a fine-feathered friend, indeed.

*From "An American River Journal," published by ARNHA. It features drawings by ARNHA co-founder Jo Glasson Smith and nature essays by Peter Hayes, retired newspaper editor and ARNHA associate board member. The book is available for \$9.75 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, ARNHA.org, and selected book stores. Visit ARNHA.org "Podcasts," to hear readings of the essays by the editor.*



# Nature Photography Workshop Set May 3, 5

Lewis Kemper, internationally recognized nature photographer, will conduct a two-part Nature Photography Workshop at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Friday, May 3, and Sunday, May 5.

The two-hour May 3 seminar, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Building, will include a presentation on composition and light. Instruction will continue Sunday morning in the EYNC

Nature Preserve with a sunrise field session. After a continental breakfast, participants will choose their best shots from the morning for a group critique and discussion.

Reservations are required: \$110 for ARNHA members, \$120 for non-members. Call 489-4918 to make a reservation, or visit [www.arnha.org](http://www.arnha.org)

The workshop is the third in ARNHA's 2013 "Nature of Things" Seminar and Field Study Series. Educator-field ornithologist Ed Harper conducted the first on Birds of Winter in the Sacramento Valley and Effie Yeaw Nature Center Executive Director Paul Tebbel presented The Private Lives of Sandhill Cranes beginning February 7. (Details, [www.arnha.org](http://www.arnha.org)). ■

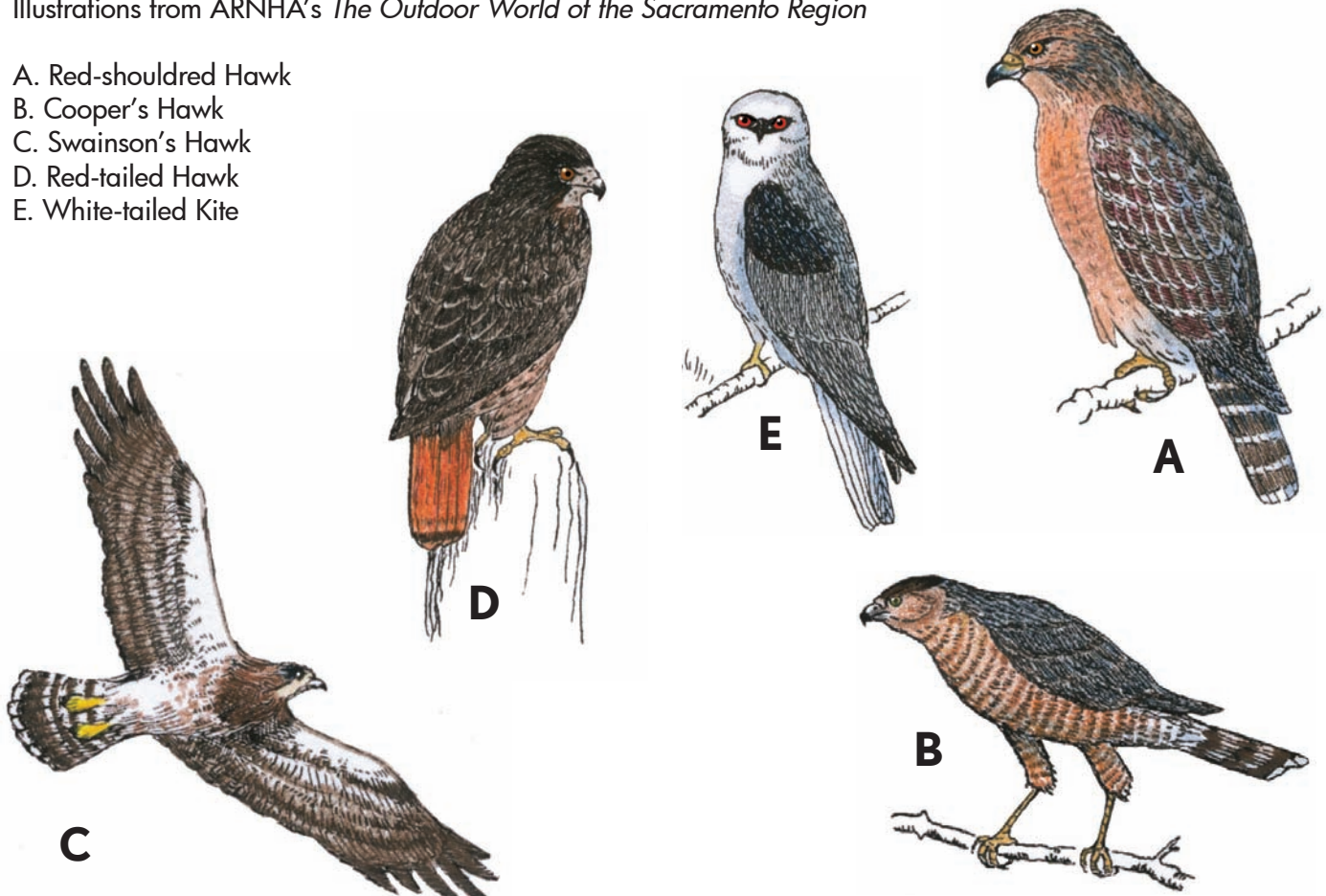
## Ask a Naturalist

**Q** – What are the different hawks found in the Sacramento area?

**A** – **EYNC Senior Naturalist Shawna Protze:** "There are several hawk species that call the American River and adjoining Sacramento County communities their home; hawks as small as the Scrub-Jay-sized Cooper's Hawk to the Red-tailed Hawk with its impressive 4 1/2-foot wingspan. Common woodland species like Cooper's Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks are frequent neighborhood inhabitants in much of the Carmichael, Citrus Heights, and Fair Oaks areas. Communities with more open space, like Rancho Cordova, Roseville, and Rio Linda, will also see more Red-tailed Hawks and perhaps White-tailed Kites. There are a couple of migrants, or temporary seasonal visiting hawks, to the region such as the Sharp-shinned Hawk and the Swainson's Hawk." ■

Illustrations from ARNHA's *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*

- A. Red-shouldered Hawk
- B. Cooper's Hawk
- C. Swainson's Hawk
- D. Red-tailed Hawk
- E. White-tailed Kite



# Preserve Committee Relentless in Restoring Health to Habitat

by Connie Wade

Throughout 2012, dedicated members of ARNHA's Preserve Management Committee (PMC) and EYNC volunteers made the plan for a healthier Preserve come true.

In 2012, these volunteers have happily waded into the Nature Study Pond up to their waists to thin the overgrown Cattails, not once but twice! (Operation Cattail #1, in August and #2, in October).

They have stretched out flat on a rubber raft, pushing overgrown duckweed toward the pond edge for thinning.

They have placed cages around the Preserve's native oak tree seedlings to protect them from grazing deer and rabbits. They have cleared weeds that sprout inside the cages to allow unobstructed sunlight and available soil moisture to get to these growing oak trees. They have placed larger cages around the oak trees that have outgrown their original cages.

They have mowed down and weed-whacked the dreaded yellow star thistle in an assertive effort to control the spread of this aggressive non-native plant within the Preserve.

They have hand-removed yellow star thistle in selected areas of the meadow and planted the native Santa Barbara Sedge in its place.

They have removed other non-native, invasive plant species as well, including Italian thistle and poison hemlock.

They have trained, advised, and monitored the CSUS Student Interns working in the Deer and Wild Turkey Survey and the Oak Tree Caging and Maintenance Programs.

These hardworking and enthusiastic habitat warriors include the ARNHA Preserve Management Committee (PMC) member volunteers Carol Ann Capper, Kelly Cohen, Peter Cross, Marilyn Escobar, Jim Hill, Elaine Hujambojoie, Jeff Kemp, Smokey Murphy, Linda Thomas,

and other EYNC Volunteers recruited by Jamie Washington, EYNC Volunteer Coordinator. They include Bud Banker, Walter Dong, Linda Holmes, Gregg Hutchison, Fred Kendle, Alex Kovar, Jeri Merritt, Jerry Prod, and Bill Spaller.

Mary Maret, Liaison, Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks; Paul Tebbel, Liaison, EYNC Staff; and

Steven Wolcott, EYNC Staff Member also helped the project succeed.

Many of these projects are ongoing, so if you want to help, email Connie Wade at [cwade@wadeassociates.com](mailto:cwade@wadeassociates.com).

*Connie Wade is Chair of the Preserve Management Committee and a member of the ARNHA Associate Board. ■*



*Flat on their bellies holding the pushing rod are EYNC volunteer Linda Holmes on right, PMC Member volunteer Smokey Murphy on left. Paddling are PMC Member volunteer Kelly Cohen on right, Paul Tebbel on left. Photo by Connie Wade*

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## ARNHA Calendar of Events

- **Bird and Breakfast**  
Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24, 2013, 8 am to 10:30 am  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see page 1)
- **Spring Nature Camps**  
March 25 to 28, Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see story page 7)
- **Creek Week Celebration**  
Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Carmichael Park (See page 6)
- **Great American River Clean-Up**  
Saturday, April 20, 9 am to 12 noon, Ancil Hoffman Park  
Phone 486-2773 for more information (See page 6)
- **Lewis Kemper Nature Photography Workshop**  
Friday, May 3 and Sunday, May 5  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see page 9)
- **Painting Where the Wild Things Are Art Received**  
Friday April 19, 1–5pm and Saturday April 20, 11am–3pm.  
Sacramento Fine Arts Center, 916-971-3713
- **Painting Where the Wild Things Are Gala**  
Saturday, June 8, 2013, 4 pm to 7:30 pm  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center

## New Members: October-December 2012 – Welcome

- Janice Anderson
- John Archer
- Rose Bates
- Chris & Dave Beeby
- Chris & Sandra Beery
- Bette Benedetti
- Cathy & Bert Betts
- Caroline Billings
- The Bluemel Family
- Kathy Bradshaw
- John & Jennifer Bressler
- Lisa Brizee
- Craig & Janene Chaffee
- Larry & Jane Chavez
- Helen Childs
- Jerry D. Clevenger
- James Collins
- The Conley/Ellison Family
- Dana Cross
- Bob Deal
- Bobby Delamar
- Anthony DeRiggi
- Bill & Claudia Dopkins
- The Hansen Family
- Susan Ferrara
- Virginia Feuchter
- Scott Finley
- Bruce Forman
- Lisa & Justine Fowler
- Janice Gan
- Carol Gannon
- Anne Glass
- Christi Graham
- Rusty Haley
- Karen Hall-Sandlund
- M.J. Hamilton & Dave Reed
- Denise Harms
- Therese Hart
- Eileen Heinrich
- Theresa Henning
- Eleanor Hofflet
- Glen Holstein
- Diane & Julian Holt
- Dane & Kandy Hudson
- Lloyd & Margaret Islip
- Nelofer Jamall
- Eloise Janecke
- Allan Jones
- Kendra Jones
- Tina Khatherian
- Catherine A. Kiefer
- Mary & Peter Lennarz
- Susan Lorimer
- Katie Mack
- Walter & Patti Malhoski
- Michelle & Matt Mandell
- Frank Martire
- Joan Matsler
- Kate Mawdsley
- Chelsea Miller
- Karen Mongeau & Mark Herold
- April & David Morrison
- Fred K. Morrison
- Gregory M. Noble
- John & Dee Peacock
- Pam & Jim Peacock
- William Phillips
- George & Maro Poulos
- David E. & Mary V. Root
- Alessandro Rossi
- Charles Rutsch
- Julie & Jack Sarell
- Karl Schweikert
- Steven Phillips & Jessica Siegman
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- David Spicer
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- Mary Tuthill
- Lynne Tweten
- William Vance
- Margaret Veldman
- Kim Waldrup
- Tom & Kim Walker
- Nancy Westlund
- Bill & Nancy Whitaker
- William G. White Jr.
- Mark & Sandy Wigginton
- Flora Yen