Welcome to the second issue of the Junior Observer, a publication created by PRBO Conservation Science for the teachers and students working with the STRAW watershed restoration program.

The next few pages are filled with student artwork, poems, questions, and stories about birds. We would like to thank all the students for the work they did to help restore habitats for birds and other wildlife. And we thank you all very much for the beautiful artwork and poetry.

Enjoy the newsletter, and keep watching birds!

Yours Truly,

Sue, Missy, and Sarah,
PRBO Education Staff

The California Towhee
Pipilo crissalis

Anna, Park School, Dee Uyeda’s 3rd Grade

Description:
- 8 - 10 inches (20 - 25 cm)
- Gray - brown color
- Rust or buff under tail
- Dark brown back, rump, wings, and tail
- A thin necklace of brown spots under the throat

Food:
- Insects
- Seeds
- Fruit

Habitat:
- Suburban gardens
- Open woodlands

Nesting Facts:
- Lays 3 - 4 bluish-white eggs
- Nesting happens from mid-April through June

Other Facts:
They battle their own reflection in windows
Restoration reflections

Poetry and artwork from Dee Uyeda’s 3rd Grade Class, Park School

**Come Back Salmon!**

Come swimming to our creek  
Lovely tails of silver and red  
Ever lasting hope you will come to our creek bed  
A wonderful cry will greet you “look Salmon!”  
Never leave us once you come  

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**The Millions of Ivy**

Are getting tangled  
Around the small Buckeye tree and  
I struggle for the poor tree.

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**Streams rushing down the country**  
Robins flying over them like  
Every bird in the world is wild...  
Evergreens floating in a field of water  
Kindness drifts in the air all around

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Madi  

Julia  

Purna
Poetry & Art

Acorn Woodpecker
Michela, Brookside Elementary Upper Campus Janet Kolpiecki’s Grade 4
Acorn Woodpecker
Your beautiful call
I know it’s just a loud
Waka waka waka,
But for me
It’s a beautiful chirp.
Acorn Woodpecker
Your dark, black feathers
Camouflage in the pitch dark.
Acorn Woodpecker
Your beautiful colors are so colorful.
I love you Acorn Woodpecker
You’re my favorite birds.

Vesta, Manor School
Laura Honda’s Grade 4

Tastebuds

Yo yo yo let me tell you my rap about turkey soup.
On 12/03/03 it was 12:00 and we had to eat…
Mrs. T was making us turkey soup -
She boiled some water
And then put the turkey in the water.
Then she took the meat off the hard turkey bones.
Then she put bay leaves, clover leaves, salt, pepper and the main ingredient Turkey…
The next day Mrs. T warmed the broth and the air was filled with aroma.
After that she put the noodles in the broth, then she served us - mmm…

Brian, B. Tjernell’s 5th grade class, Loma Verde Elementary

My Life Bird
Turkey Vulture, Turkey Vulture,
Why is your head so red?
When I see your beauty,
I feel like I am a turkey vulture Like you.

Travis, Laura Honda’s 4th grade class, Manor School

Turkey Vulture by Daniela from Park School
It’s Nesting Time
For Birds!

Some of the children created songbird nesting cards while learning about bird reproduction—here’s a sample of the great work from Marcia Gunnarson’s K - 1 class, Brookside Elementary.

The Nest Cycle
Early spring brings signs that birds are beginning their breeding cycle. Pairing up, building nests, and raising young is the most important thing birds do all year—and the work the students do to restore habitats helps birds breed safely. Here are some of the questions the students had this year about birds and their nests:

**Brainfood**

How does restoration help birds raise healthy young?
Replacing non-native weeds with native plants provides more places for native birds to hide their nests from predators. Healthy habitats attract more insects, which the adults catch and feed to their chicks.

What if I find a bird nest?
Find your parent or teacher and make sure it is ok to go near it! If the nest has an adult bird who is incubating, you may watch it from a safe distance, perhaps from inside your house or from behind bushes that are more than 50 feet away.

If you find baby birds on the ground, please do not pick them up. Baby birds leave the nest before they can fly and sometimes will need to spend time on the ground while learning this. Their parents are probably still feeding and caring for them, and may even be watching you look at their babies!

Do all birds build nests?
Most birds make a place for their eggs, though it may not look like a nest to us. Western Snowy Plovers scrape a little dish in the sand and line it with pebbles and small shells. Nesting on busy California beaches is one reason these ‘snowies’ have become endangered.

Some seabirds lay eggs right on a rocky cliff-side with only a bit of seaweed for a nest. Fairy terns place a single egg in the fork of a tree branch! Little penguins dig deep burrows sometimes 3 feet long into soft dirt.

**Question of the Day:**
How many different species of birds are there in the world?

Species are humminbirdish! More than 3000 different types of birds found in the world. There are more than 10,000 different species!
Educational Resources

Here’s a list of kits and resources that you can check out to use in your classroom, in addition to the STRAW bird curriculum. To check them out, contact Ruth Hicks at The Bay Institute, (415) 506-0150, or email hicks@bay.org.

Shorebird Sister School Program (SSSP) Trunk:
• Contains activities, puppets, and videos focusing on shorebirds and wetland habitats.
• Get information on shorebird i.d. and research updates, and contact classes in Mexico, and Central and South America through the SSSP pen pals at http://fws.sssp.gov

Songbird Blues Kit:
• Contains activities, puppets, and videos on songbirds

“Wake-up Call - Saving Our Songbirds”:
• 14 min. video on the decline of migratory songbirds

PRBO Educational Opportunities

Field Trips with PRBO:
• Hands-on Classroom Activities
• Restoration Day Activities
• Bird Field Trips

Reflections on Birding at Rush Creek

A lot of walking, Really hot. Muddy-marshy, A lot of learning Sore legs! A lot of fun!

Steff,
B. Tjernell’s 5th grade

PRBO Conservation Science is dedicated to conserving birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through scientific research and education.
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Dear Sue,
Thank you for letting me use the binoculars. Without them I wouldn’t have seen the sleeping Mallard duck....

Renee, B. Tjernell’s 5th Grade, Lona Verde Elementary

To schedule a visit to your classroom or to Palomarin field station, please contact the PRBO Education Program:
Phone: (707)-781-2555, ext. 302