

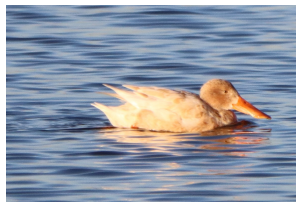
Gillespie Creek Journal

Perhaps you recognize the bird featured in today's 27th "Judy's Nature Notes Newsletter." Yes, it is the Curve-billed Thrasher. On my morning neighborhood walk this week I stopped, captivated by the rejoicing of this well camouflaged bird. Like its Brown Thrasher cousin its melodic song goes on for several minutes warbling through several octaves and tempos. One of my first newsletters focused on "The Sounds of Silence." I now am led by the beauty of this simple creature to listen to the "ambient sounds" that surround me. In effect taking the suggestion of David Wagoner, I have let the "forest" find me.

Good field guides for bird identification and songs are the **Peterson Field Guides**. Available for regional sections of the United States and for specific bird species as **Hummingbirds**. The Peterson guides have been around for decades. Some birders prefer Peterson's clear photographs of the birds in each key. The **Sibley Bird Guides** are recognized as the current "Bible" from my experience birding in Africa, South Carolina and in Arizona. Sibley has many choices including fold out laminated guides that work well when hiking.



Birds with easily distinguished songs that may be filling the ambient air around neighborhoods in the next weeks are: Yellow-rumped Warblers, Purple and Bohemian Waxwings, and of course Robins.



Northern Shoveler Mutant

by Buddy Walker

Shovelers are common ducks seen across the United States. Genetically the male is very colorful. This mutation swims and forages freely among his species in the SRP ponds in Glendale, AZ. To more simply identify other species of birds Cornell University's eBird app and its accompanying Merlin Bird ID app can be downloaded on your iPhone. Easy to use and love!

Lost

Adapted from the San Francisco Chronicle article 1/2/22. David Wagoner wrote this poem in 1972 giving it the title

"Taking a Pause in a Forest"

*No two trees are the same to a Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wrens.
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you, you are surely lost.
Stand still.
The forest knows where you are.
You must let it find you.*

I thank my dear friend Karen Anderson for reading this poem to me. Karen has been a long time volunteer guide in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park Redwood Forest.

If you are looking for good non-fiction nature books to read, check out the following authors:
Julie Zickefoose and Elizabeth Kolbert. Julie is a biologist and artist who has rescued song birds and written beautifully illustrated stories of her experiences. Elizabeth is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist known for her environmental realism. I'm reading her newest book **Under the White Sky**.

Please let me know about your experiences when the ambient sounds and touch of the forest find you!