

# Wildlife BMPs for Tree Care



California Urban Forests Council  
Annual Conference  
Life Among the Leaves  
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HortScience

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# Presentation Outline

- Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife (5 minutes)
- Awareness training (15 minutes)
  - Why are wildlife important?
  - Determining category
  - Working within categories
  - Responding to emergencies
- Questions/small topics (20 minutes)



Burrowing owl



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Burrowing owl





# Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife

- Roster 90 members
- Project endorsers – 30 individuals and groups
  - Arborists and tree care businesses
  - International Society of Arboriculture (funding from Britton Fund)
  - Wildlife conservation non-profits (several Audubon chapters)
  - State and local agencies (funding from CALFIRE)
  - Nature centers, wildlife rehabilitation centers







# Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife

## 2015-2016

- ☒ Quarterly workshops
- ☒ Website with existing educational materials
- ☒ Scientific literature review
- ☒ Draft Best Management Practices
- ☒ Work with agencies, cities, utilities, arborists, birders, and other wildlife advocates

## 2017-2018

- ☐ Continue quarterly workshops
- ☐ Release Best Management Practices
- ☐ Advocate that agencies and arborists adopt new standards
- ☐ Set criteria for training program
- ☐ Expand educational resources







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# Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife

- Provide recommendations to tree crews in minimizing impacts to wildlife
- May 2016 - Initial framework
- January 2017 - Draft document
- July 2017 - Final document released
- September 2017 – launch new website



Red-breasted nuthatch



# Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife

## Tree Care for Birds

Unlocking the power of arboriculture to enhance habitat

[Home](#)   **[Project Documents](#)**   [Training & Education](#)   [Resources](#)   [Photos](#)   [About Us](#)

## Project Documents

- [Tree Care for Wildlife Best Management Practices](#)
  - [Preventing Harm to Wildlife During Tree Care](#)
  - [Preventing Harm to Wildlife During Tree Care- SPANISH](#)







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# Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife

## Tree Care for Wildlife Best Management Practices in California



Tree Care for Birds and Wildlife

Kara Donohue, Ryan Gilpin, and Corey Bassett

[www.treecareforbirds.com](http://www.treecareforbirds.com)

[bmp@treecareforbirds.com](mailto:bmp@treecareforbirds.com)



### Preventing Harm To Wildlife During Tree Care

Almost all bird nests are protected by law. The tree care worker can reduce harm to wildlife, comply with bird regulations, and know how to protect wildlife habitat. Become familiar with the Best Management Practices and other materials at:

[www.treecareforbirds.com](http://www.treecareforbirds.com).

#### Job Steps Affected by this Topic

- Working during the nesting season vs the non-nesting season.
- Preparation before work begins.
- Actions when safety concerns conflict with wildlife regulations.
- Action when wildlife are accidentally impacted.

#### Potential Risks

- Harming wildlife unnecessarily.
- Violation of bird regulations and possible fines.
- Negative public relations.



Immature songbird by Four Oaks

#### WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES

If you find injured wildlife or an immature bird out of its nest, call a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center before intervening. Parents are highly likely to continue caring for immature birds when they have fallen out of the nest. It is against the law to take a wild bird home as a pet.





# Awareness Training Video

≡ You Tube Red

Search



## Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife

Awareness Training



**Ryan Gilpin**

[bmp@treecareforbirds.com](mailto:bmp@treecareforbirds.com)



0:00 / 15:20

TreeCareForBirds.com





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Northern mockingbird





# Main Point

- If you find a nest with eggs or young wildlife in it, stop working near it
- Ultimately, the person who impacts the nest is responsible
- Can find nesting wildlife anytime, anywhere. Some times and areas are more likely.



Anna's hummingbird



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Western bluebird





# Why are wildlife important? - Law

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918

- Treaty between US, Canada, Japan, Mexico and Russia.
- Don't kill or injure native birds, fledglings, eggs or active nests.
- Would include scaring off parents leaving young or eggs to die.
- \$15,000 fine and jail
- Congress discussing changes

Active – occupied of eggs or nestlings, or is otherwise essential to the survival of a juvenile bird

- California has similar law



# Why are wildlife important? - Law

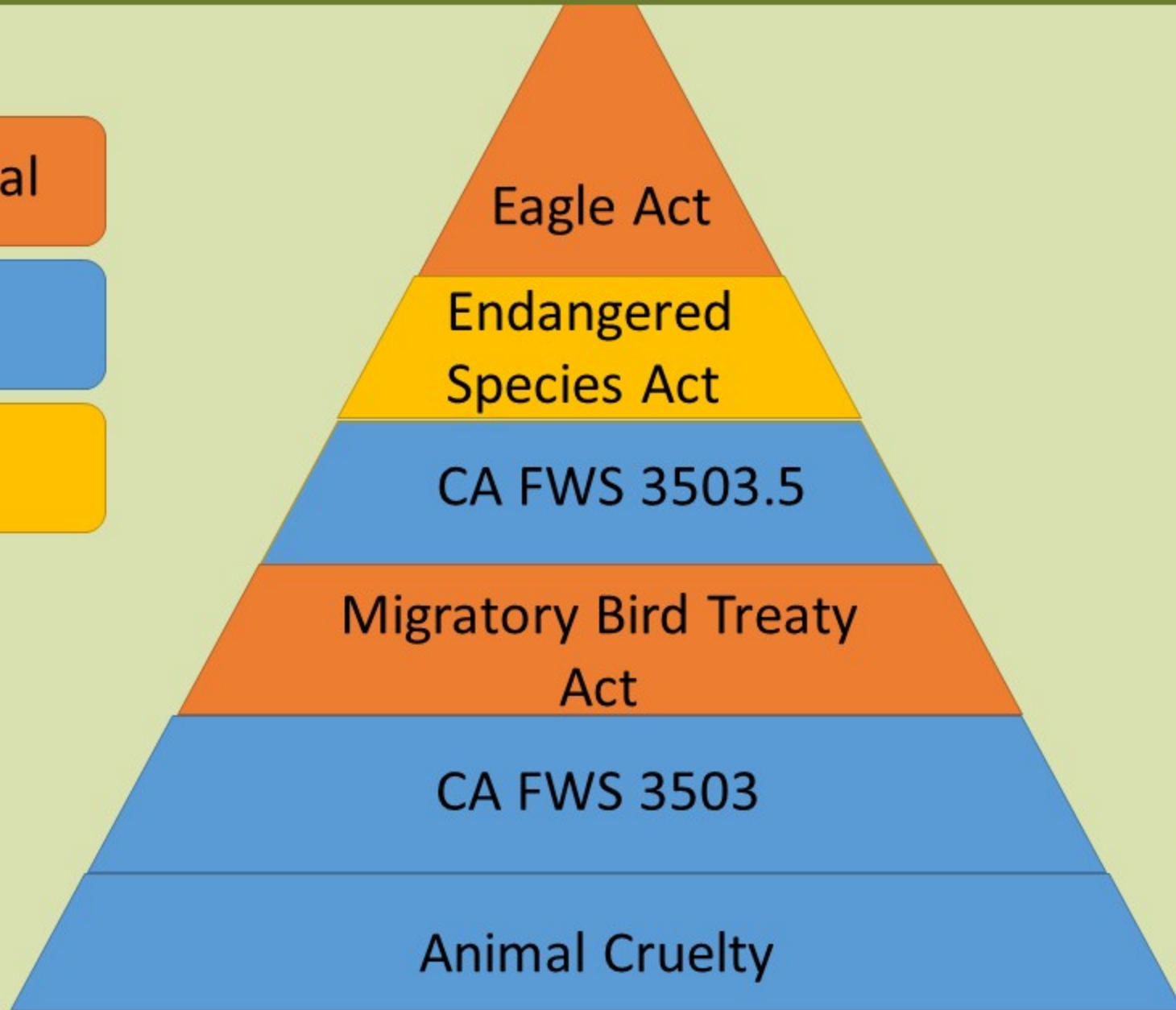
MBTA started because of women's hat fashion







# Why are wildlife important? - Law



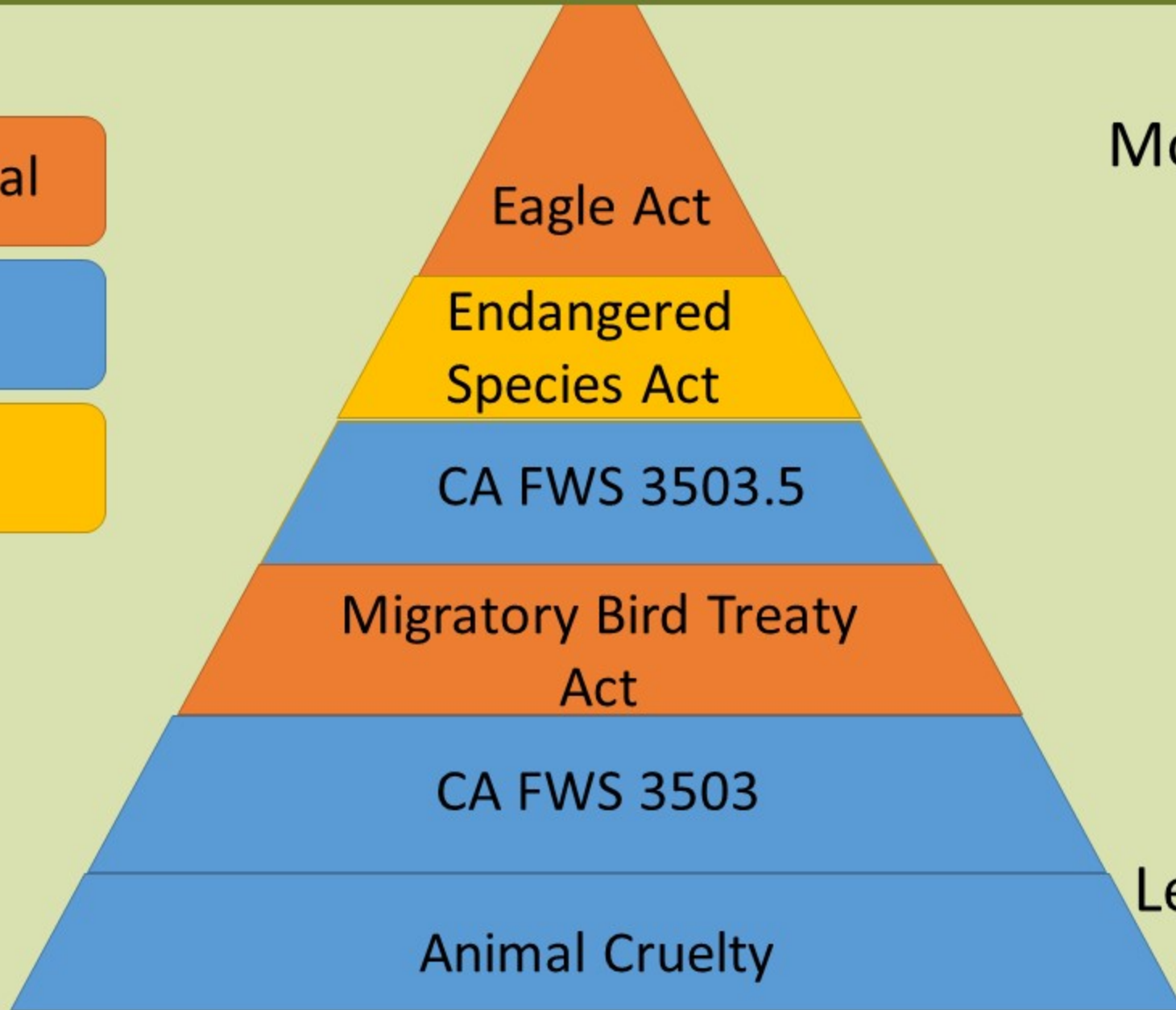
Few species



Many species



# Why are wildlife important? - Law



More restrictive



Less restrictive





# Why are wildlife important? - Law

- Most birds and nests that have eggs or young nests are legally protected
- Some nests are protected when no eggs or young
- Some other wildlife have legal protections
- Laws are about outcomes, not actions



Eastern fox squirrel



# Why are wildlife important? - Public

- Wildlife is important to many clients and members of the public
  - 550,000 Audubon members in North America
  - Americans spent \$41 billion on birding in 2011
- Even if not concerned about law enforcement, may be concerned about negative publicity



Canada goose





# Why is wildlife important? - Ecosystem















## Keeping Oak Woodlands Healthy

*If the birds are there, the oak woodland is healthy.*



**How do you know if your oak woodland is healthy?** Look for these 12 oak woodland focal species—together they feed and nest in the different layers of a healthy oak woodland forest. **Healthy oak woodlands are important habitats for birds and other wildlife, and also places where we farm and ranch.** Healthy oak woodlands provide food, cover, and safe access to water for over 300 different kinds of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians—more than any other habitat in California. **If the birds are there, your oak woodland is healthy!** Tips for keeping your oak woodland forest healthy are on page 2.

	<b>Acorn Woodpecker</b>	<b>Oak Titmouse</b>	<b>Nuttall's Woodpecker</b>	<b>Northern Flicker</b>	<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>	<b>Ash-throated Flycatcher</b>	<b>Lawrence's Goldfinch</b>
Photos Courtesy of Tom Grey							

	<b>Western Bluebird</b>	<b>California Quail</b>	<b>Western Scrub-Jay</b>	<b>Yellow-billed Magpie</b>	<b>Lark Sparrow</b>
Photos Courtesy of Tom Grey					



# Why is wildlife important? - Ecosystem

- Wildlife are bioindicators of forest health
- Every young bird leaving a nest in the trees that we care for show that we are caring for our urban forests.
- Why limit our discussion on the benefits of the urban forest?



Western tanager





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American robin, Melissa Orozco



# BMP Categories

Breeding season	Habitat Value		
	Low	High	Riparian
Breeding season February - August	Category 2	Category 3	Category 3
Non-breeding season Sept - January	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3





# BMP Pre-Work Inspection Form

## Appendix V - Pre-work Inspection Form

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Certification Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Weather conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description of work: \_\_\_\_\_ When is work: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wildlife Biologist: \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Rehabilitator: \_\_\_\_\_

### Habitat Value

#### Low

- ☐ High human use
- ☐ High impervious surfaces
- ☐ Low plant species diversity
- ☐ Low plant structural diversity
- ☐ Far from water bodies
- ☐ Few mature, dead and dying trees
- ☐ Few/no wildlife present

#### Riparian

- ☐ Within or adjacent to water bodies
- ☐ Within or adjacent to dry water channels
- ☐ Riparian vegetation present

#### High

- ☐ Low human use
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- ☐ Close to water bodies
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- ☐ Abundant wildlife present

#### Breeding Season

- ☐ Breeding Season (Feb. 1 – Aug. 31)
- ☐ Non-breeding Season (Sep. 1 – Jan. 31)

#### **Category**

☐ Category 1

☐ Category 2

☐ Category 3

Recommended level of training: \_\_\_\_\_



# Riparian Habitat



Brian French





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# High Value Habitat



Monica Edwards





# High Value Habitat

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# Low Value Habitat



Brian French





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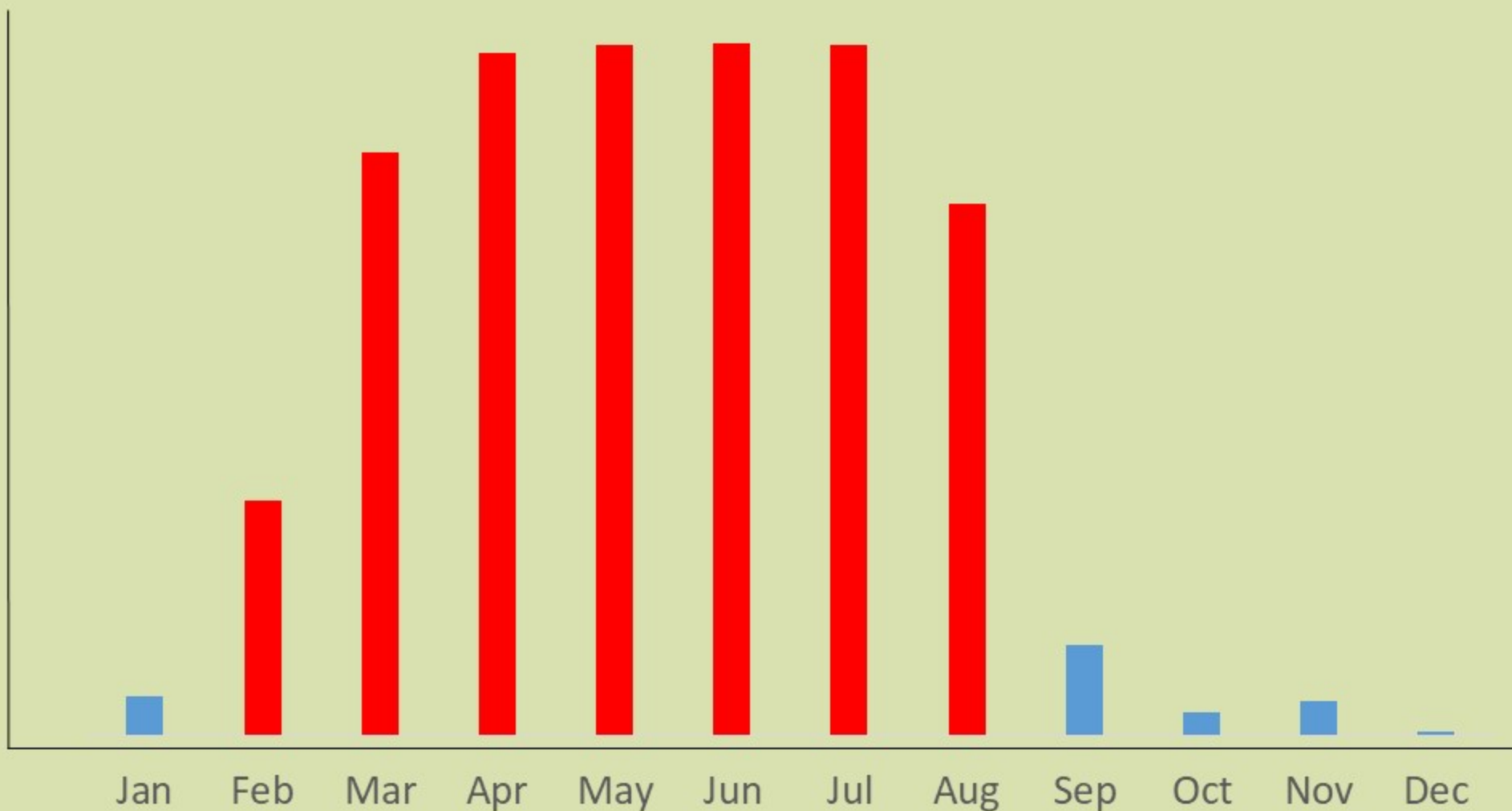


Brian French



# Breeding Season

Observations  
of breeding  
birds in Santa  
Clara County



Data from Sequoia Audubon Society 2001





# BMP Categories

Breeding season	Habitat Value		
	Low	High	Riparian
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Non-breeding season Sept - January	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3



# BMP Categories

- How much training might be adequate to handle different wildlife situations?
- Category 1 – Awareness training
- Category 2 – Wildlife Trained Arborist
- Category 3 – Wildlife biologist



Western scrub jay





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Mourning dove

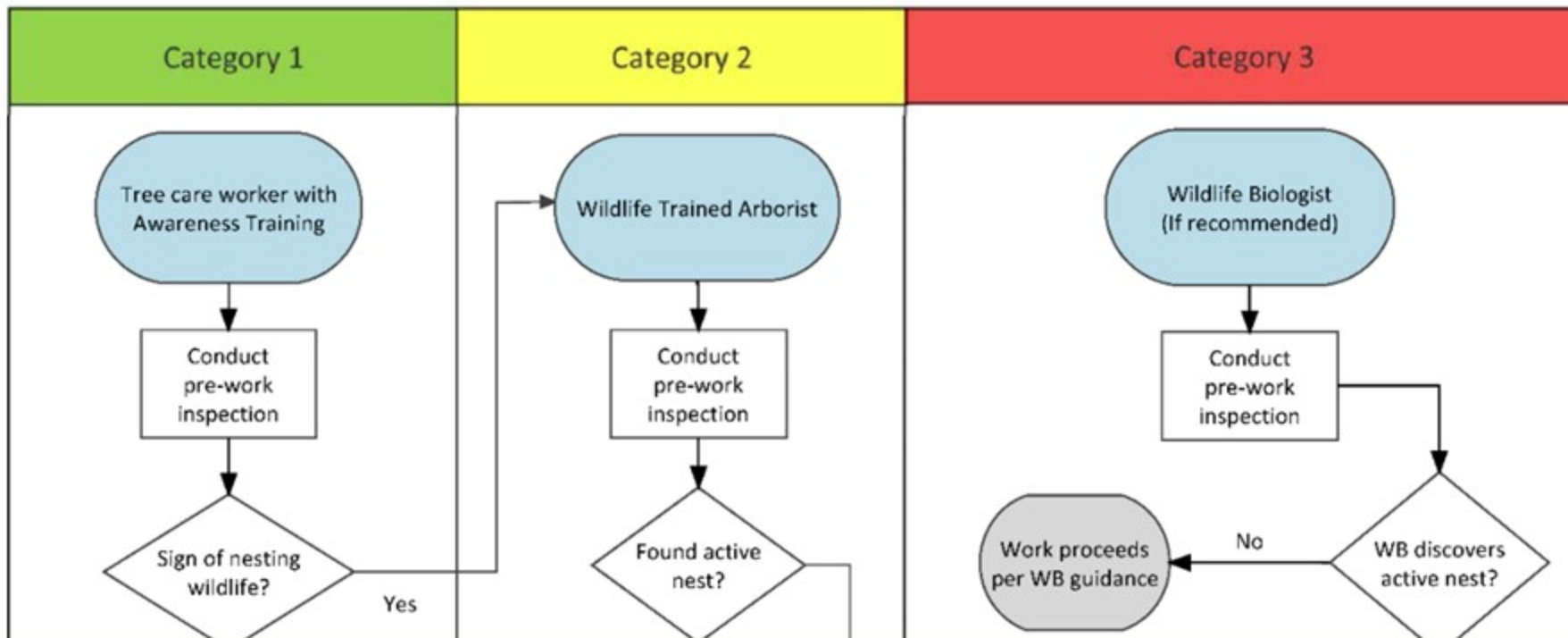


# Working Within Categories

## Project Preparation

	Low value habitat	High value habitat	Riparian habitat
Non-breeding season	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Breeding season	Category 2	Category 3	Category 3

## Fieldwork







# Wildlife Biologist and Rehabilitator

## Wildlife Biologists

Web search – “consulting ecologist (City name)”

[www.treecareforbirds.com](http://www.treecareforbirds.com)

## Wildlife Rehabilitator

Web search – “wildlife rehabilitator (City name)”

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Investigations/Rehab/Facilities](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Investigations/Rehab/Facilities)



Osprey with nest



# Wildlife Biologist and Rehabilitator

**Daniel Edelstein**

**[danieledelstein@att.net](mailto:danieledelstein@att.net)**

**415-382-1827**

**[www.warblerwatch.com](http://www.warblerwatch.com)**

**WildCare**

**76 Albert Park Lane**

**San Rafael, CA 94901**

**415-456-7283**

**[www.discoverwildcare.org](http://www.discoverwildcare.org)**





# WildCare Flow Chart



## I found a baby bird. *Now What?*



**Is the bird sick or hurt?** Unable to flutter wings, bleeding, wings drooping unevenly, weak, or shivering? Is she alive, but unresponsive or cold to the touch? Are there insects on her? Has she been attacked by a cat or dog?

**Is the bird orphaned?** It is extremely rare for wild animals to abandon their young. Are you certain the parents are not around?

NO

YES

**Is the bird feathered?**

NO

YES

**It's a nestling!**

The baby needs help.  
Can you find the nest? Is it intact?



NO

YES

**It's a fledgling!**

Normal behavior to be hopping on ground; parents are still feeding the baby.  
Is the bird safe from cats, dogs, and people?



NO

YES

**Bring the bird to WildCare**

Can you transport her immediately?

NO

YES

**To transport an injured or orphaned bird to WildCare**

1. Prepare a container. A shoebox with air holes in the lid lined with a small

Visit



# Pre-work Inspection

## Inspection

- ☐ Scan the sky, trees, ground, shrubs, and branches.
- ☐ Check trunk or branch cavities and holes in the ground.
- ☐ Listen for wildlife sounds.
- ☐ Look for wildlife flying or running away.

## Signs of nesting wildlife

- ☐ Nests that may have eggs or young
- ☐ Concentrations of white colored droppings
- ☐ Wildlife exhibiting breeding behavior
- ☐ Wildlife carrying nesting materials
- ☐ Wildlife repeatedly visiting an area

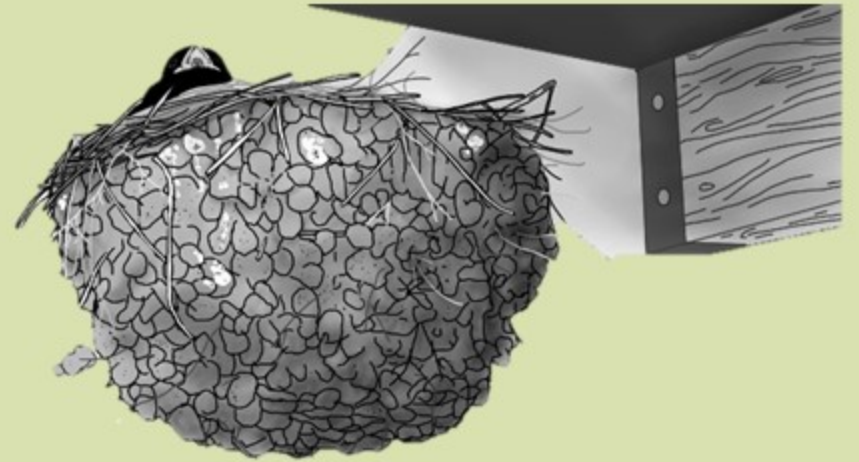


Monica Edwards





# Nests

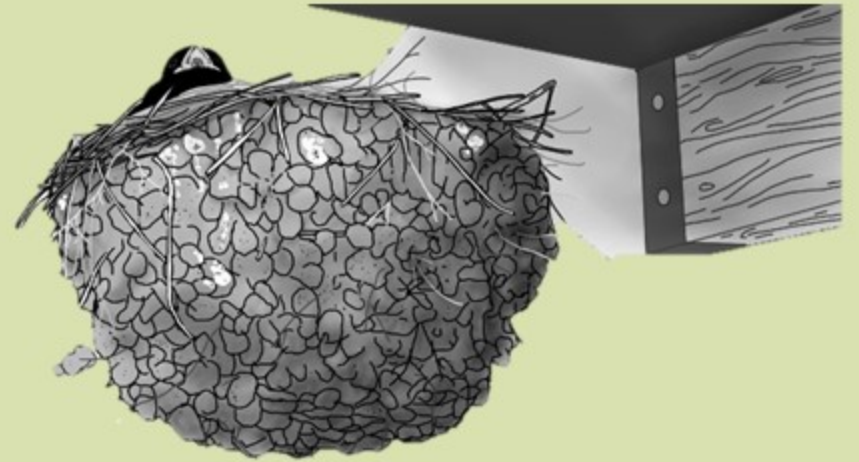


Brian French and Monica Edwards





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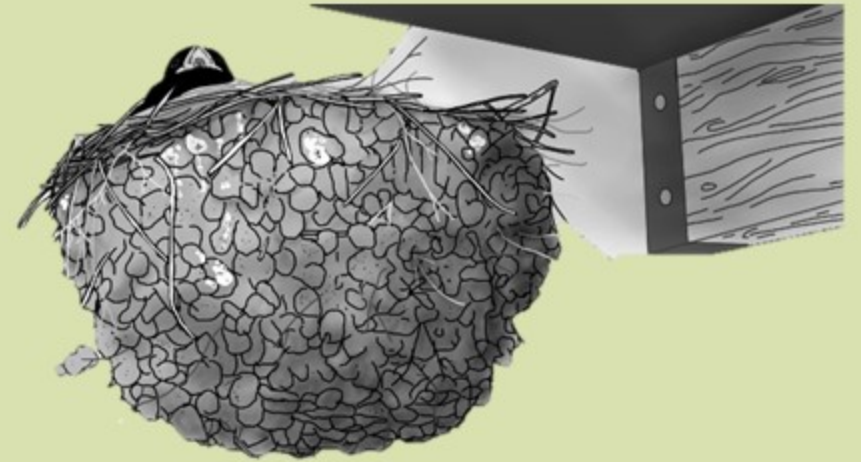


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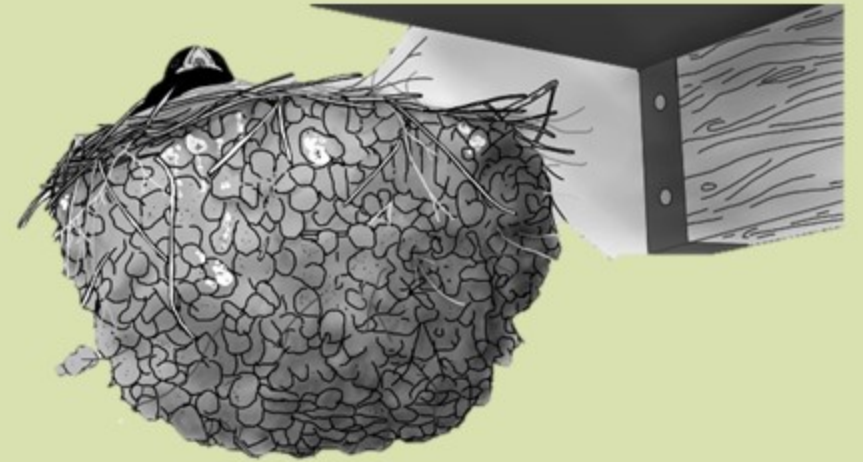


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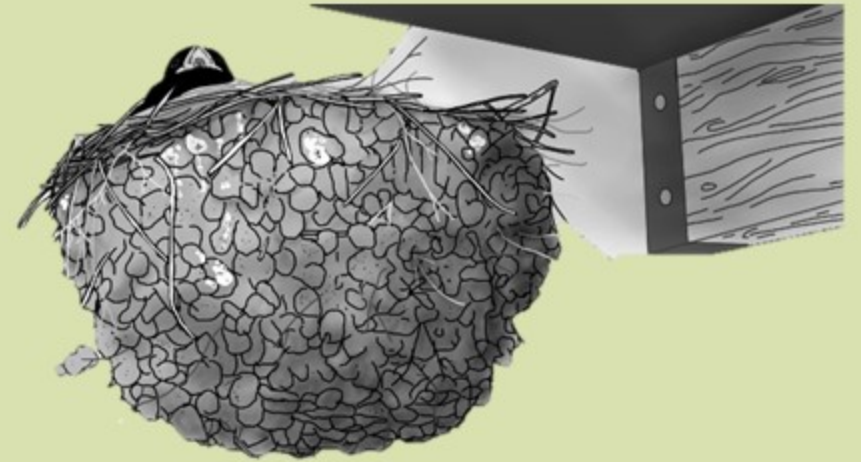
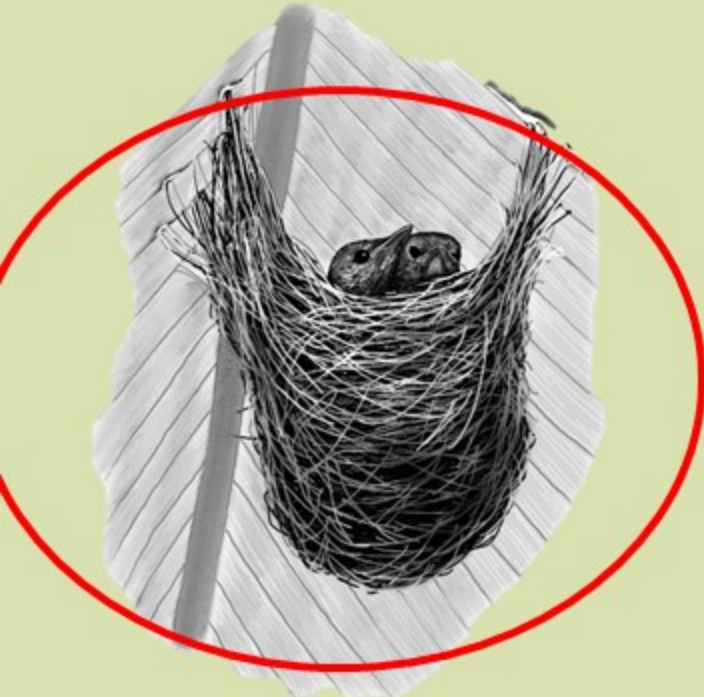


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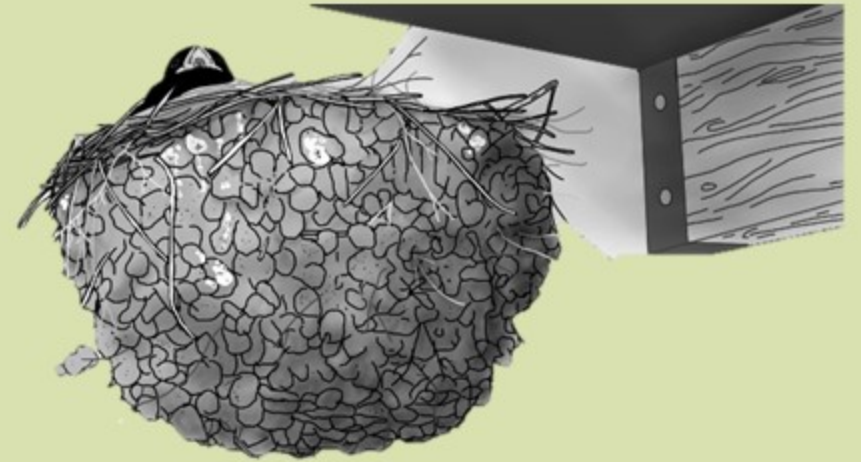


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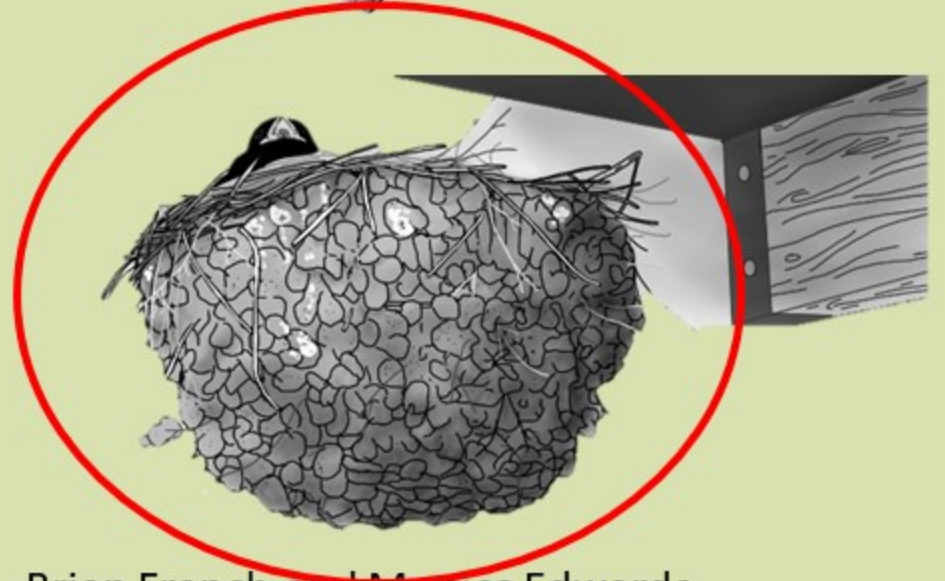


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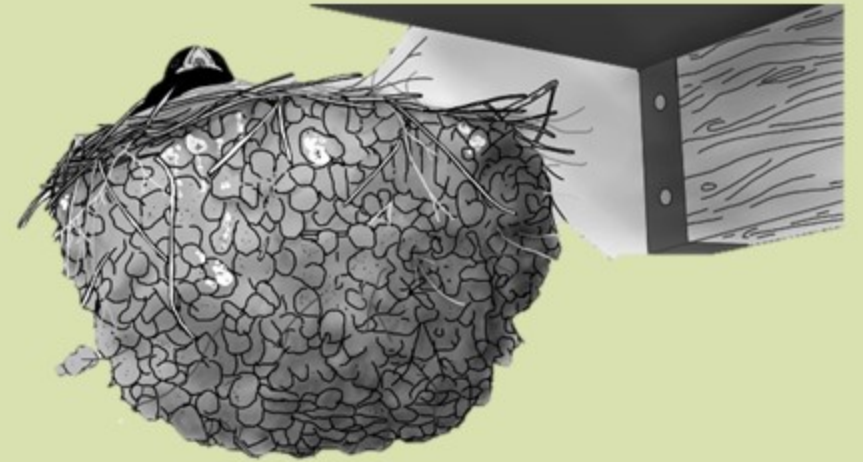


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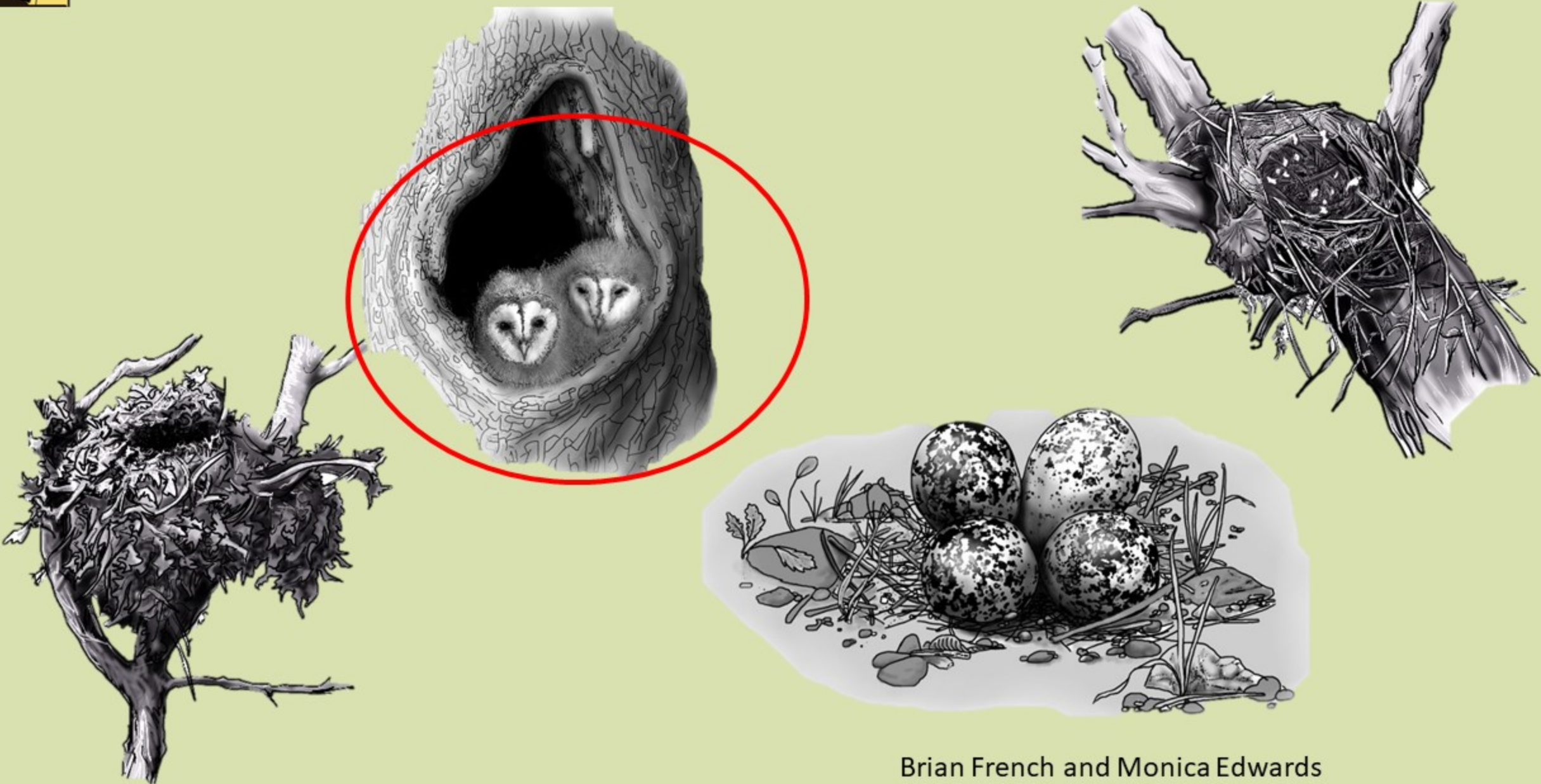


Brian French and Monica Edwards





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Brian French and Monica Edwards



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Brian French and Monica Edwards





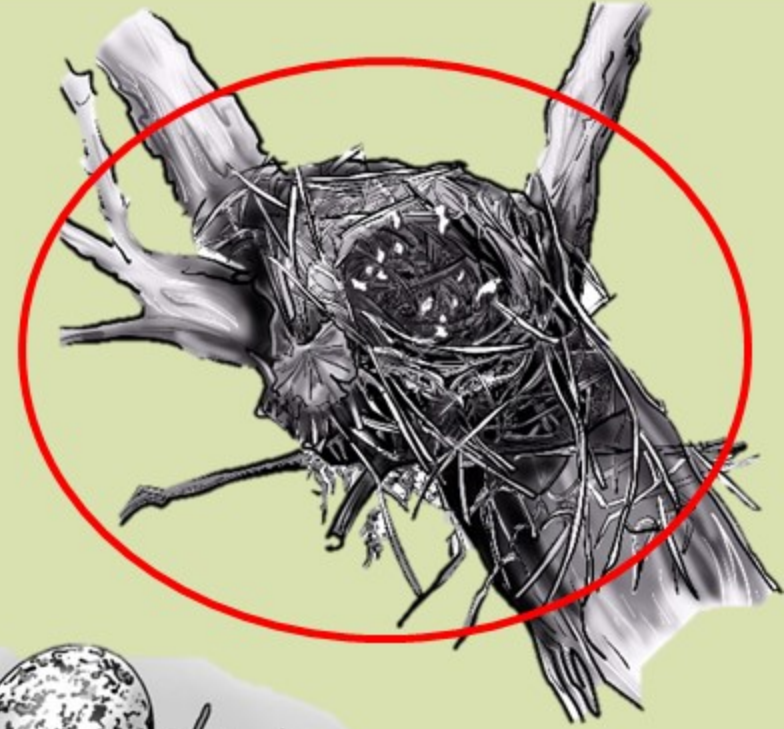
# Nests



Brian French and Monica Edwards



# Nests



Brian French and Monica Edwards





# Nest Locations





## If find an active nest

- Stop working near the nest.
- Generally, you can continue working after young have left (weeks).
- Ask advice from someone with more experience, Wildlife Biologist.

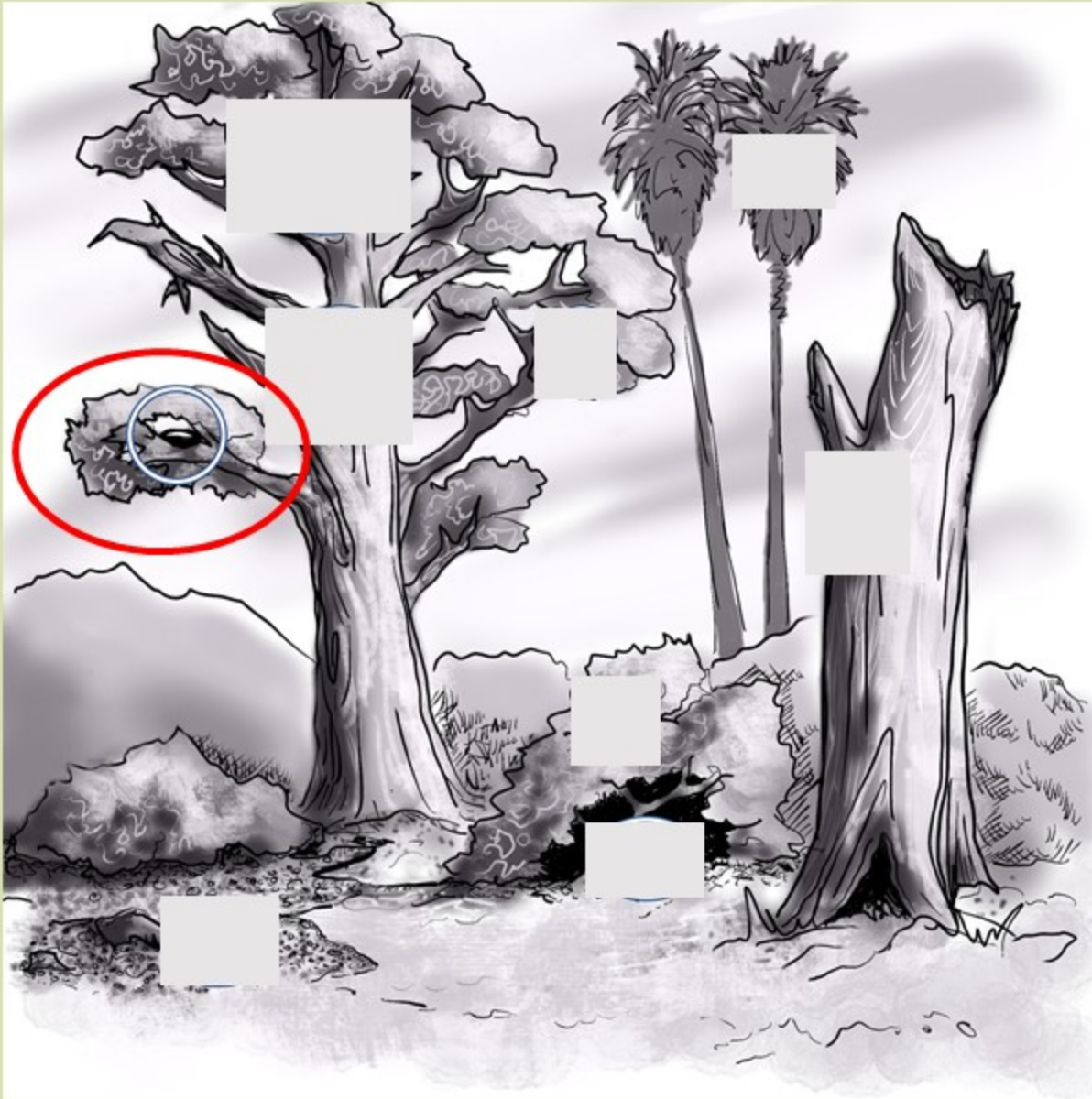


House finch





# Impacting Nest





# Impacting Nest



**Remove tree or  
branch with  
nest**

**Clear violation**





# Impacting Nest

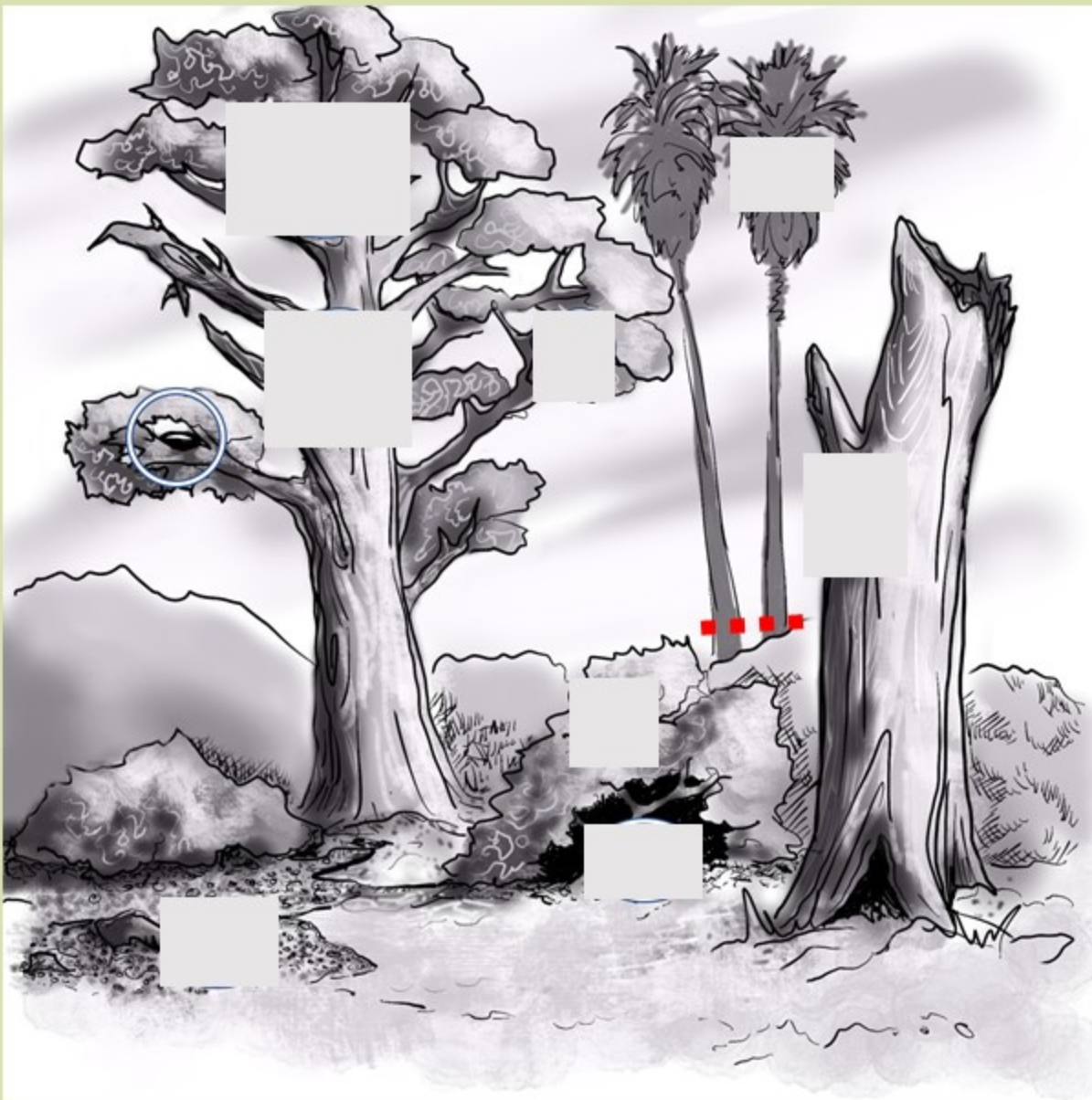


**Remove branch  
in same tree,  
bush or tree  
nearby**

**Possible  
violation**



# Impacting Nest



**Remove distant  
trees**

**Unlikely  
violation**





# Other Advice

- Get training.
- Read Best Management Practices and use what makes sense for you.
- Understand laws, buffers, and recommendations for your area and situation.



Red-tailed hawk with nest





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Egret nests



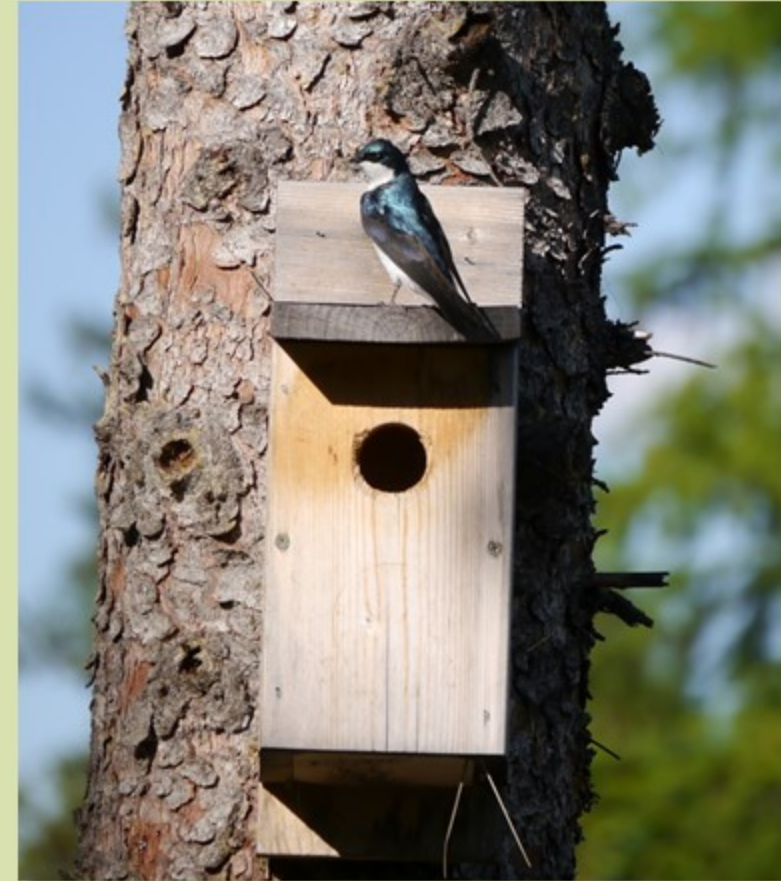




# Emergency

## Health and Human Safety

- Possible to get approval to remove/relocate active nest
- We recommend a level 2 assessment by a Tree Risk Assessment Qualified individual
- Contact Wildlife Biologist
  - Can help if contacting US Fish and Wildlife Service and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.
  - If no time, consider documenting and taking action, bring wildlife to rehabilitator.



Tree swallow in nest box



# Emergency

## Wildlife Emergency

- If wildlife are injured or young/eggs are abandoned, call wildlife rehabilitator and ask for advice.
- Nests in trees scheduled for work is not an emergency and should not be removed.



Black-crowned night heron





# Main Point

- If you find a nest with eggs or young wildlife in it, stop working near it
- Ultimately, the person who impacts the nest is responsible
- Can find nesting wildlife anytime, anywhere. Some times and areas are more likely.



Anna's hummingbird



# Thank You Funders

## Primary funders



Many secondary funders





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Egret nests





# Presentation Outline

1. What training is currently available? 2 minutes

2. Managing Wildlife Habitat  
5 minutes

3. Identifying Protected Birds  
4 minutes

4. What about non-bird wildlife?  
1 minute

5. How do I learn about birds?  
1 minute

6. The Value of Trees to Wildlife  
5 minutes

7. How would I use the BMPs?  
5 minutes

8. Does this put too much on the arborist? 4 minute

9. Do you have a cute hummingbird video? 2 minutes

10. So, I have to hire a Wildlife Biologist? 2 minutes





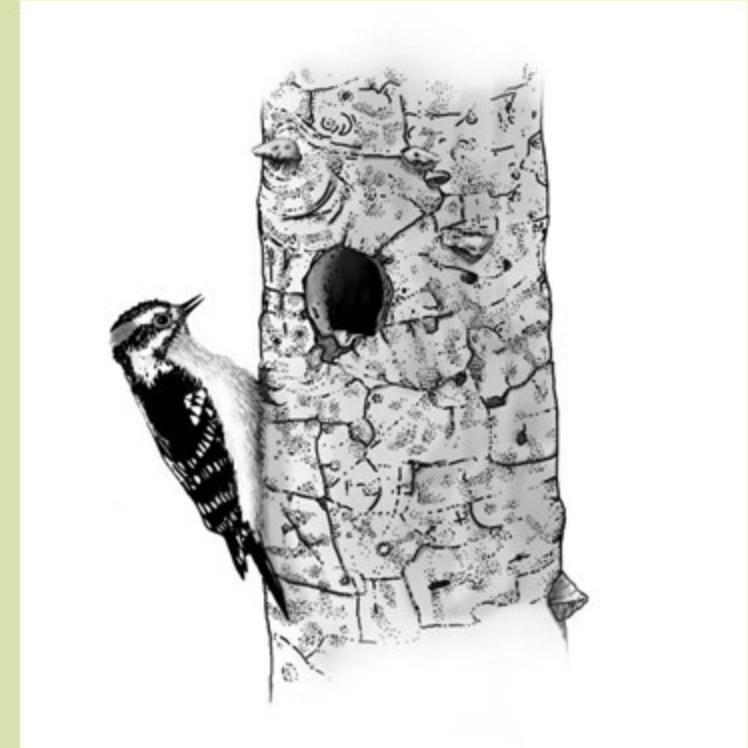
# 1. Current Training



[www.simstlc.com/](http://www.simstlc.com/)



[www.hortscience.com](http://www.hortscience.com)



[www.arboriculture.international](http://www.arboriculture.international)



# Current Training



[www.simstlc.com/](http://www.simstlc.com/)

- 5 or 6 hour course
- Been actively involved in Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife





# Current Training



[www.arboriculture.international](http://www.arboriculture.international)



[www.hortscience.com](http://www.hortscience.com)

- PNW ISA - Brian French – Creating Wildlife Habitat Trees
- I co-taught the class in March, discussing with Rose offering for WCISA

Return



## 2. Managing Wildlife Habitat

Is this tree pruned to ANSI A300 Standards?

BEFORE



AFTER







## 2. Managing Wildlife Habitat

Is this tree pruned to ANSI A300 Standards?

- Removed more than 25%
- Heading cuts/Topped
- Jagged cuts





# ANSI A300 2017 Revision

- Removed more than 25%
- Heading cuts/Topped
- Jagged cuts





# ANSI A300 2017 Revision

- Removed more than 25%
- Heading cuts/Topped
- Jagged cuts
- Not in update
- “Pruning operations should remove no more living material than what is necessary to achieve specified objectives”



# ANSI A300 2017 Revision

- Removed more than 25%
- Heading cuts/Topped
- Jagged cuts

- “A heading cut should only be made... to accomplish specific pruning objectives, such as: ...conserving or creating wildlife habitat”





# ANSI A300 2017 Revision

- Removed more than 25%
- Heading cuts/Topped
- Jagged cuts

- “Branches shall be precut when necessary to avoid splitting of the wood or tearing of the bark.”



# ANSI A300 Standards 2017 Revision

3 ways they now include wildlife

- Objective - Manage wildlife habitat
- Applicable laws - Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act
- Heading cuts exemption - Wildlife habitat





# ANSI A300 Standards 2017 Revision

3 ways they now include wildlife

- Objective - Manage wildlife habitat
- Applicable laws - Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act
- Heading cuts exemption - Wildlife habitat



# Managing Wildlife Habitat

Is this tree pruned to ANSI A300 Standards?

- Objective – Stop giant sequoia from taking over the house and provide as much wildlife habitat as possible.



Thank you Brian French – Arboriculture International





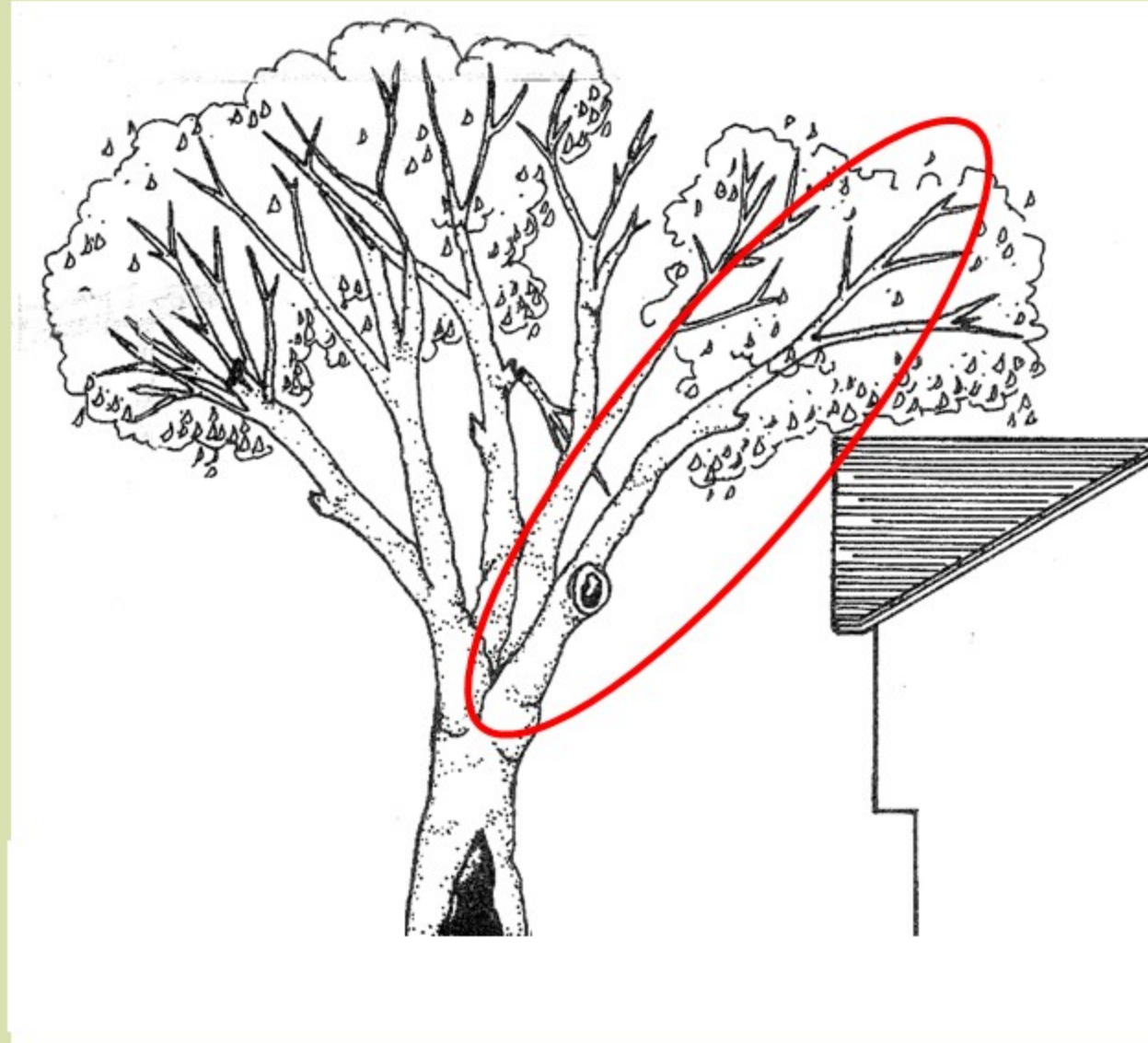
# Managing Wildlife Habitat

3 Ways that ANSI A300 2017 Standards include wildlife

- Objective - Manage wildlife habitat
- Applicable laws - Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act
- Heading cuts exemptions - Wildlife habitat



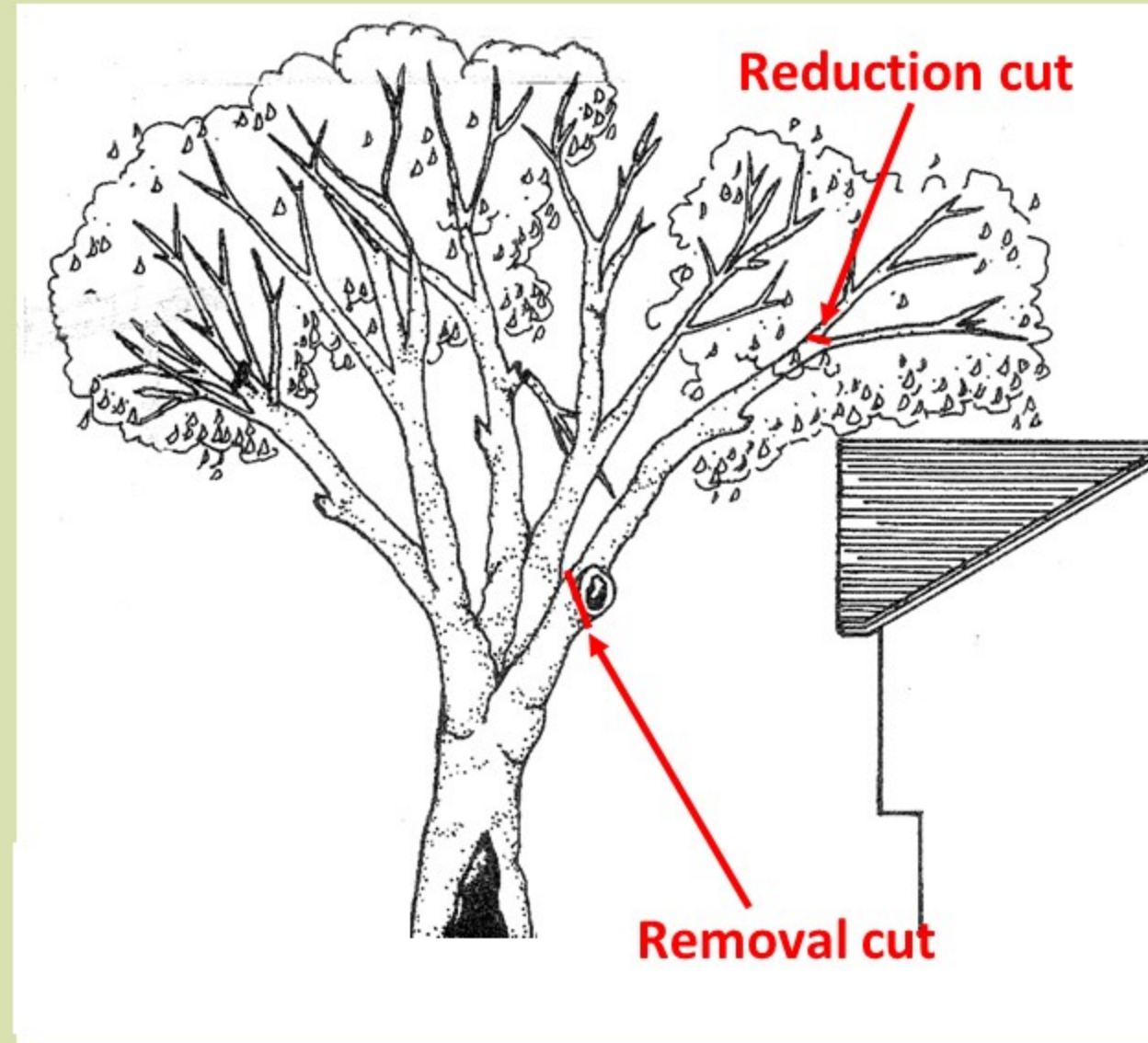
# How can a heading cut help wildlife?





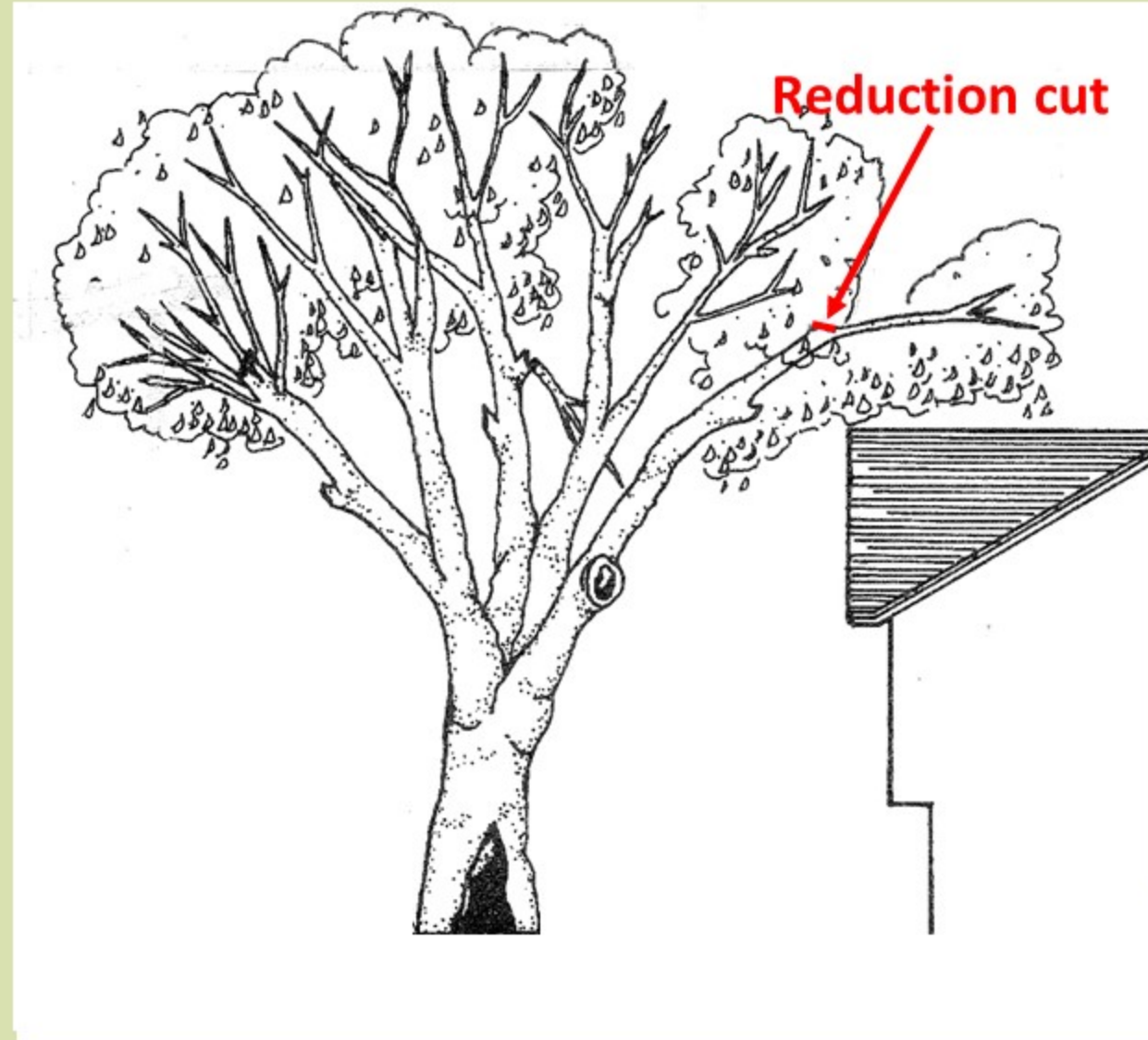


# How can a heading cut help wildlife?





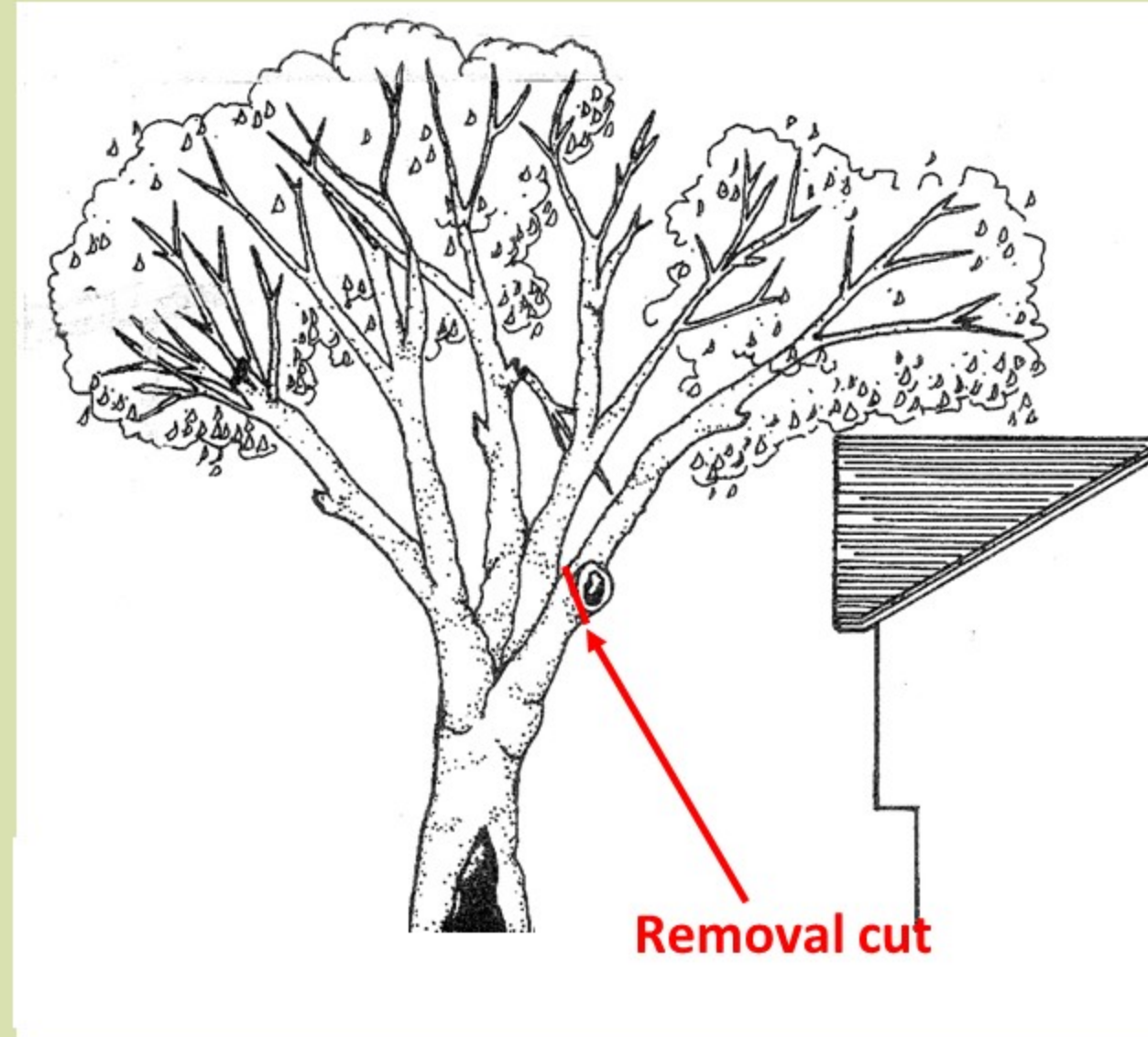
# How can a heading cut help wildlife?





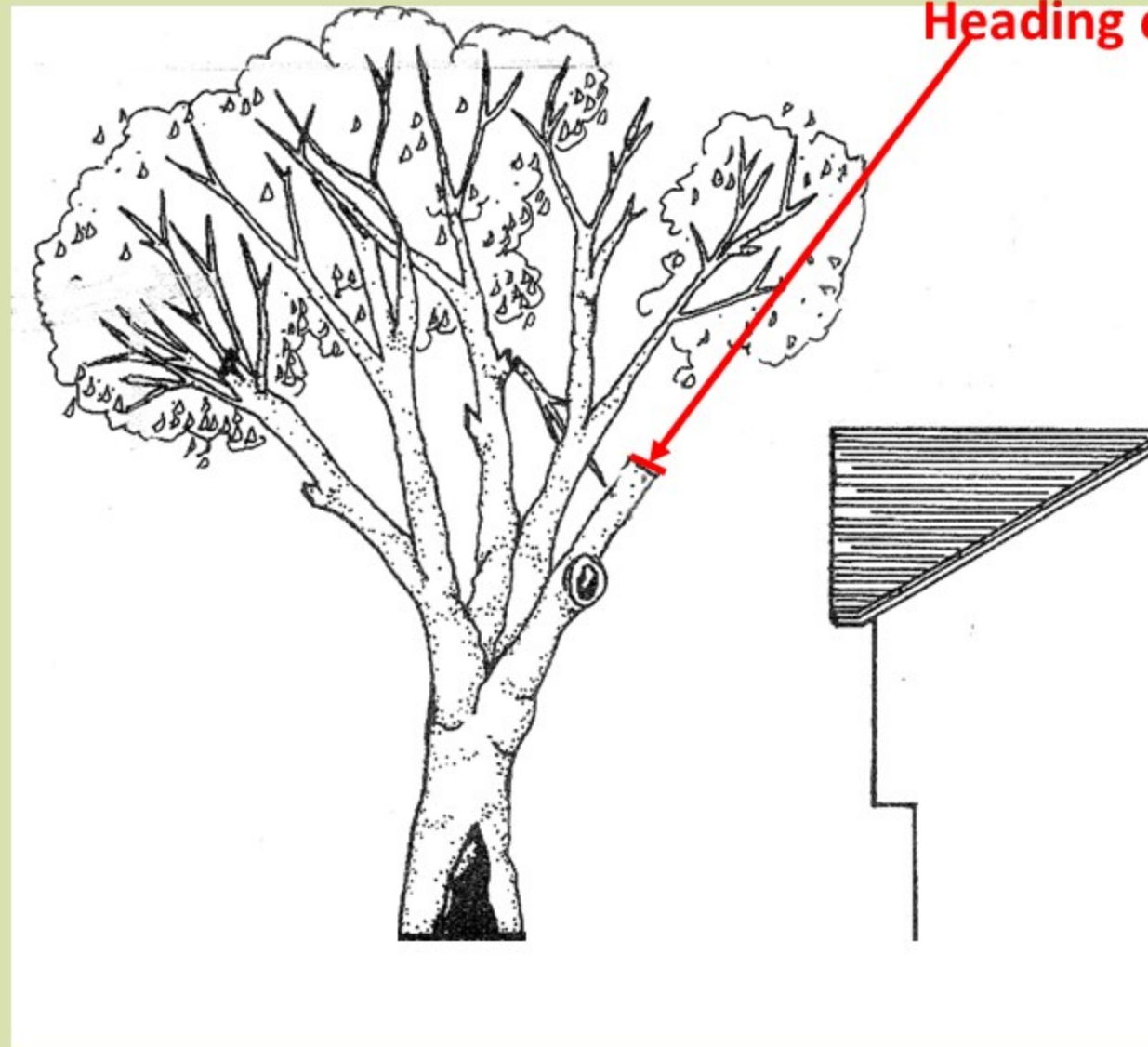


# How can a heading cut help wildlife?





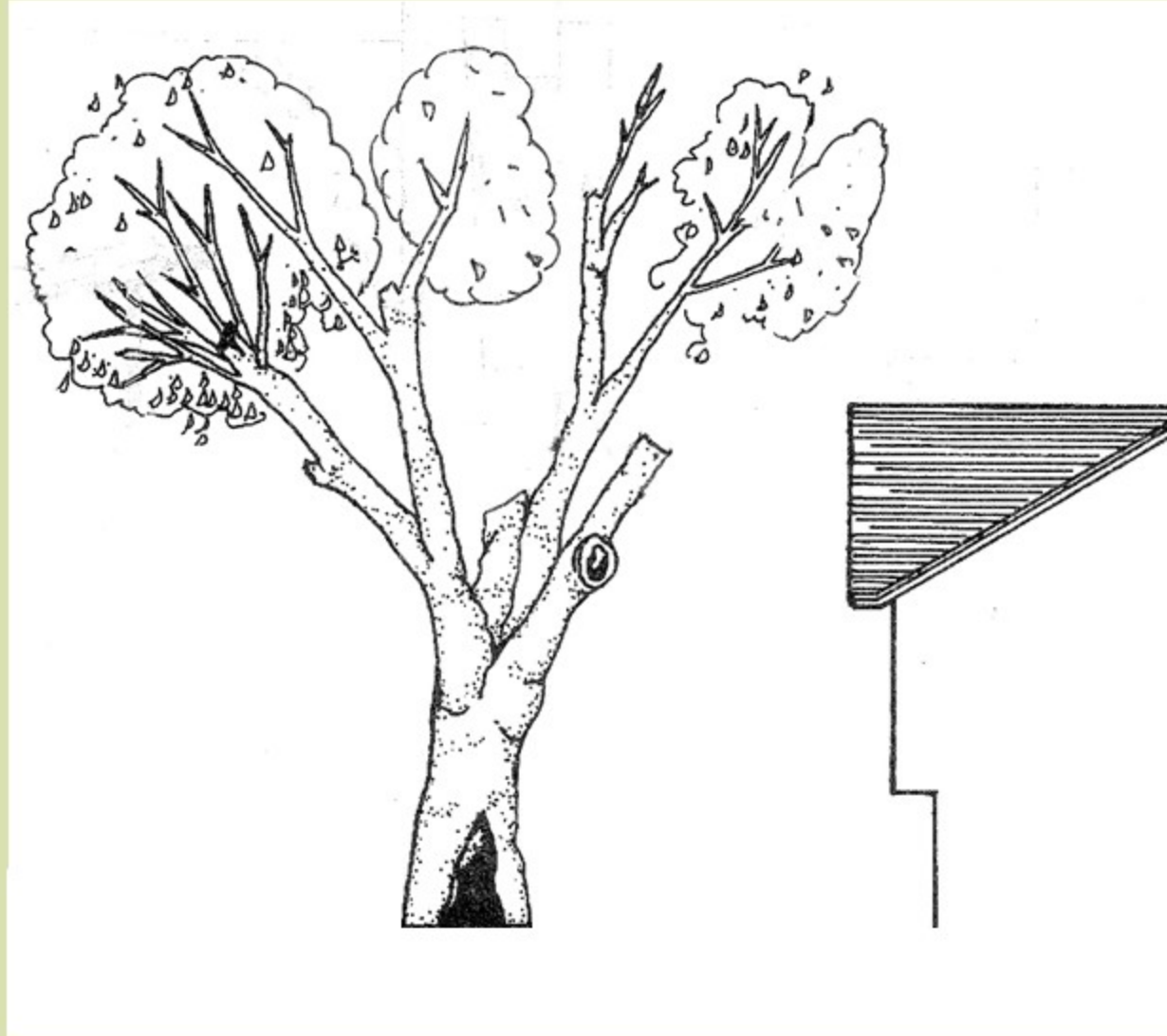
# How can a heading cut help wildlife?





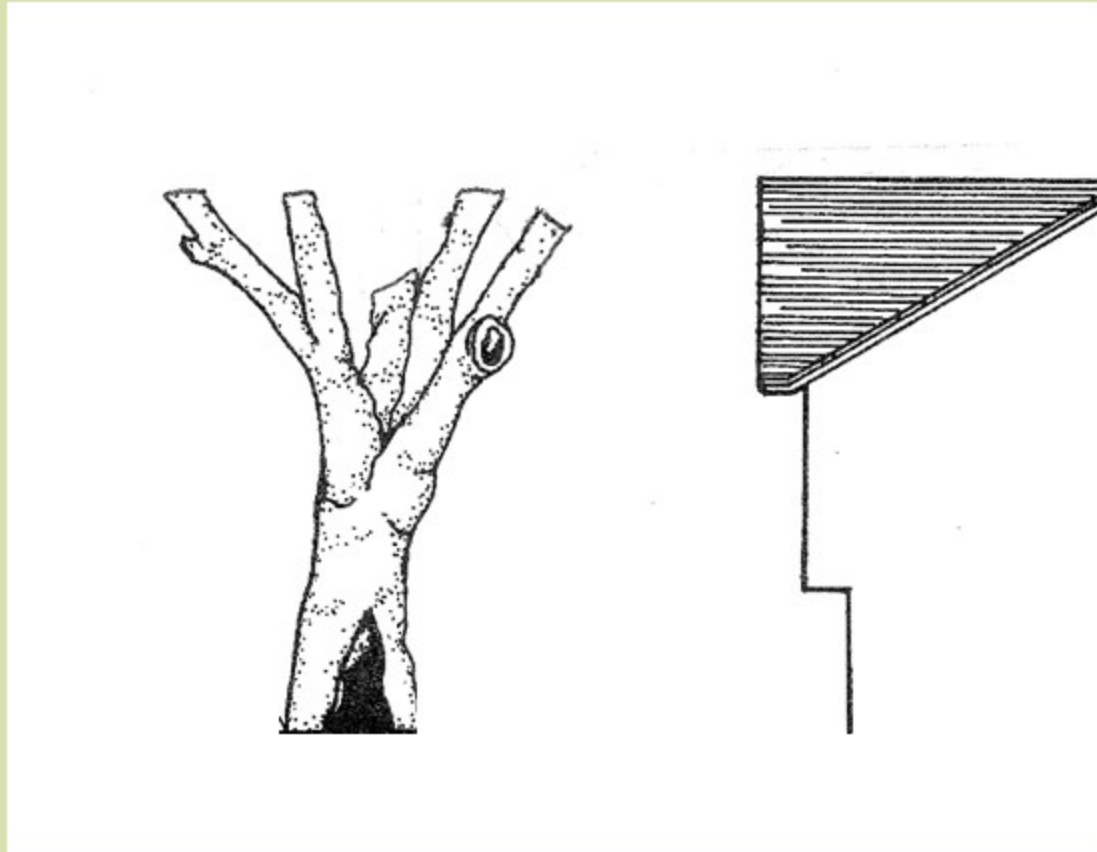


# How can a heading cut help wildlife?





# How can a heading cut help wildlife?



[Return](#)





### 3. Identifying Protected Birds

- USFWS lists 1026 bird species protected by the MBTA
  - Non-native – not protected
- California has over 350 species
  - CDFW lists 3 not protected



Canvasback



# Birds look similar!



© Don Rash/GBBC



© Beth Graham





# Birds look similar!

Eurasian collared dove – Non-native



Mourning dove - Native



© Don Rash/GBBC

Rock pigeon – Non-native



© Beth Graham



# Birds look similar!



© Finiky



© Christopher L. Wood



© Jamie Chavez





# Birds look similar!

European starling – Non-native



© Finiky

American crow - Native



© Christopher L. Wood

Brewer's blackbird- Native



© Jamie Chavez



# Birds look similar!



© Robert J. Baker



© Seth Reams



© Maria Corcacas/PFW





# Birds look similar!

House sparrow – Non-native



© Robert J. Baker

Song sparrow - Native



© Seth Reams

House finch  
Native



© Maria Corcacas/PFW



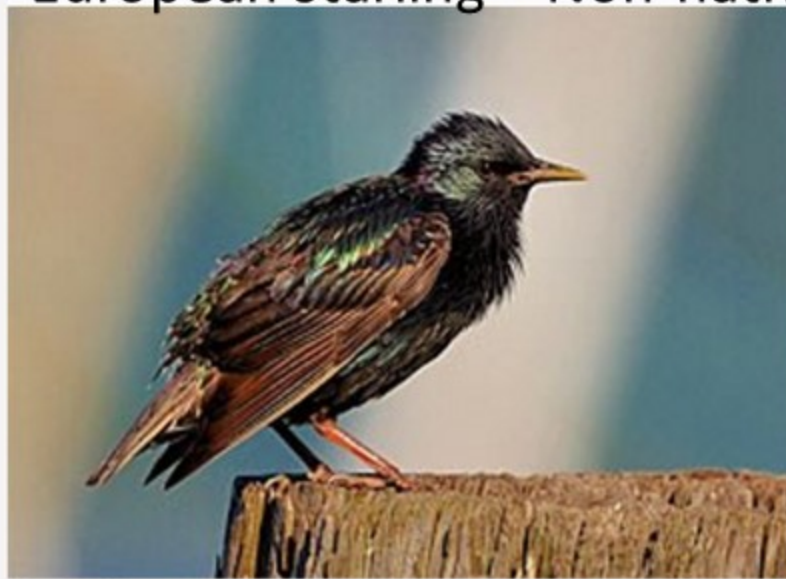
# Birds look similar!

House sparrow – Non-native



© Robert J. Baker

European starling – Non-native



© Finiky



© Beth Graham

Rock pigeon– Non-native

Return





## 4. Non-bird Wildlife

- Mammals
  - Tree squirrels
  - Opossums
  - Wood rats
  - Raccoons
  - Bats
- Lizards
- Amphibians



Tree squirrel nest



# Non-bird Wildlife

- Not as many regulations
- No MBTA for mammals
  - Animal Cruelty
  - Don't drop from tree, etc.
- Check local laws
- Maybe don't worry about buffers, but don't remove active nests
- Endangered Species
  - Woodrats



Eastern fox squirrel





# Squirrel Breeding Season



Data from Sequoia Audubon Society 2001

[Return](#)



## 5. How do I learn about birds?

- Try to notice them (looks, sounds, habits)
- Your local Audubon walks and classes
- Bird ID books
  - I like Sibley (I have the Phone app)
  - My wife likes Birds of North America
- [www.allaboutbirds.com](http://www.allaboutbirds.com)
- Binoculars



Canada goose

Return





## 6. The value of trees to wildlife

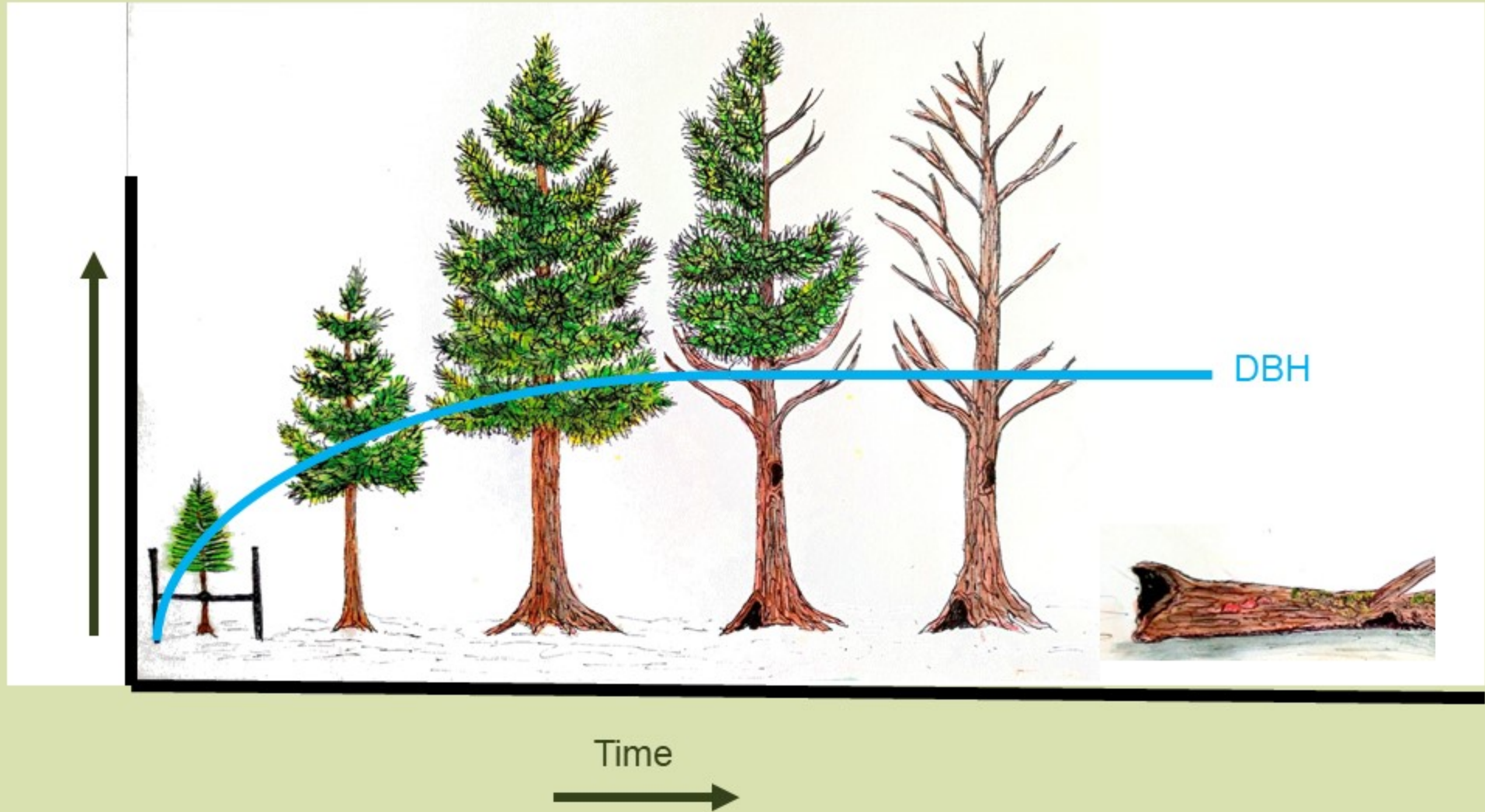


Time





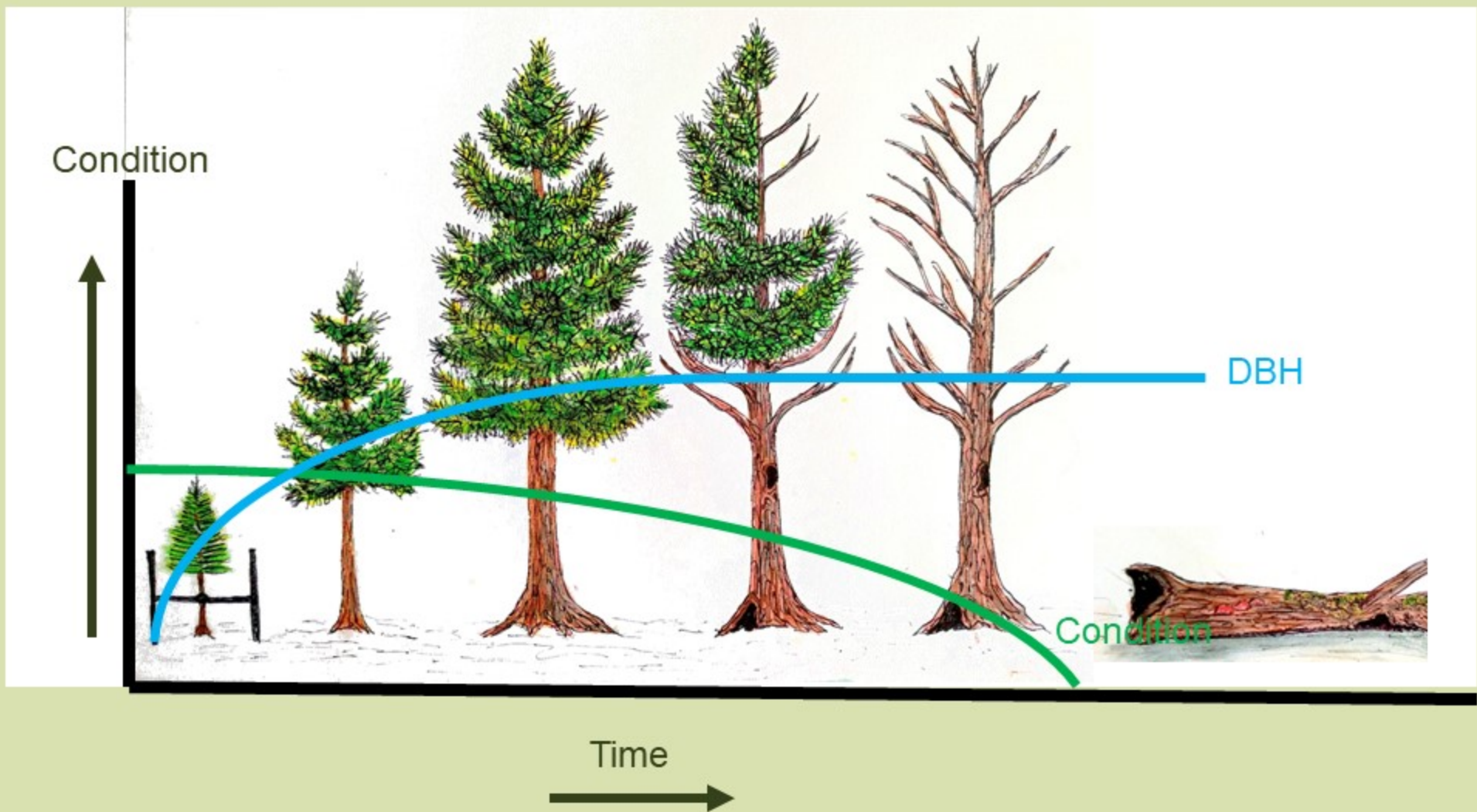
# The value of trees to wildlife





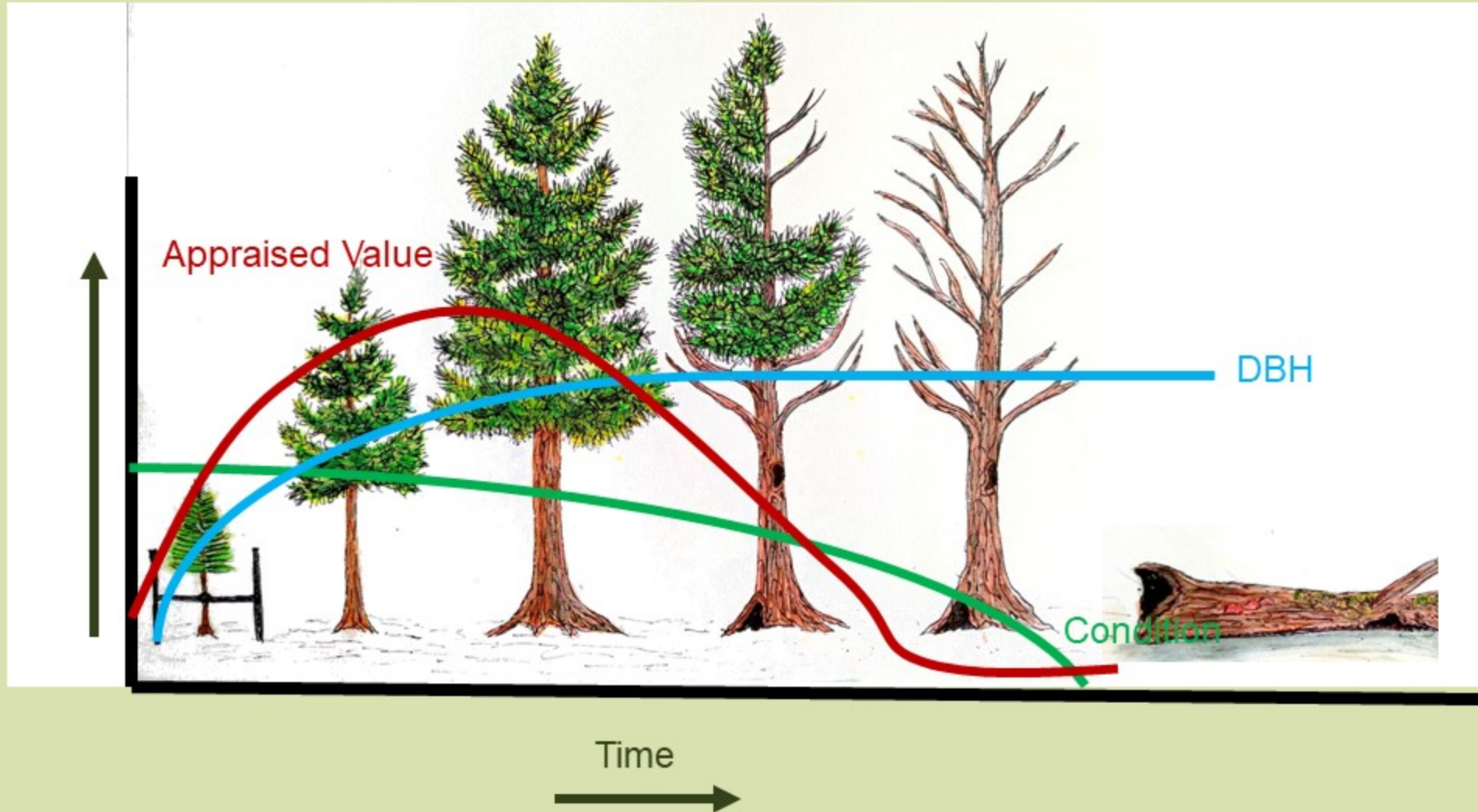


# The value of trees to wildlife





# The value of trees to wildlife

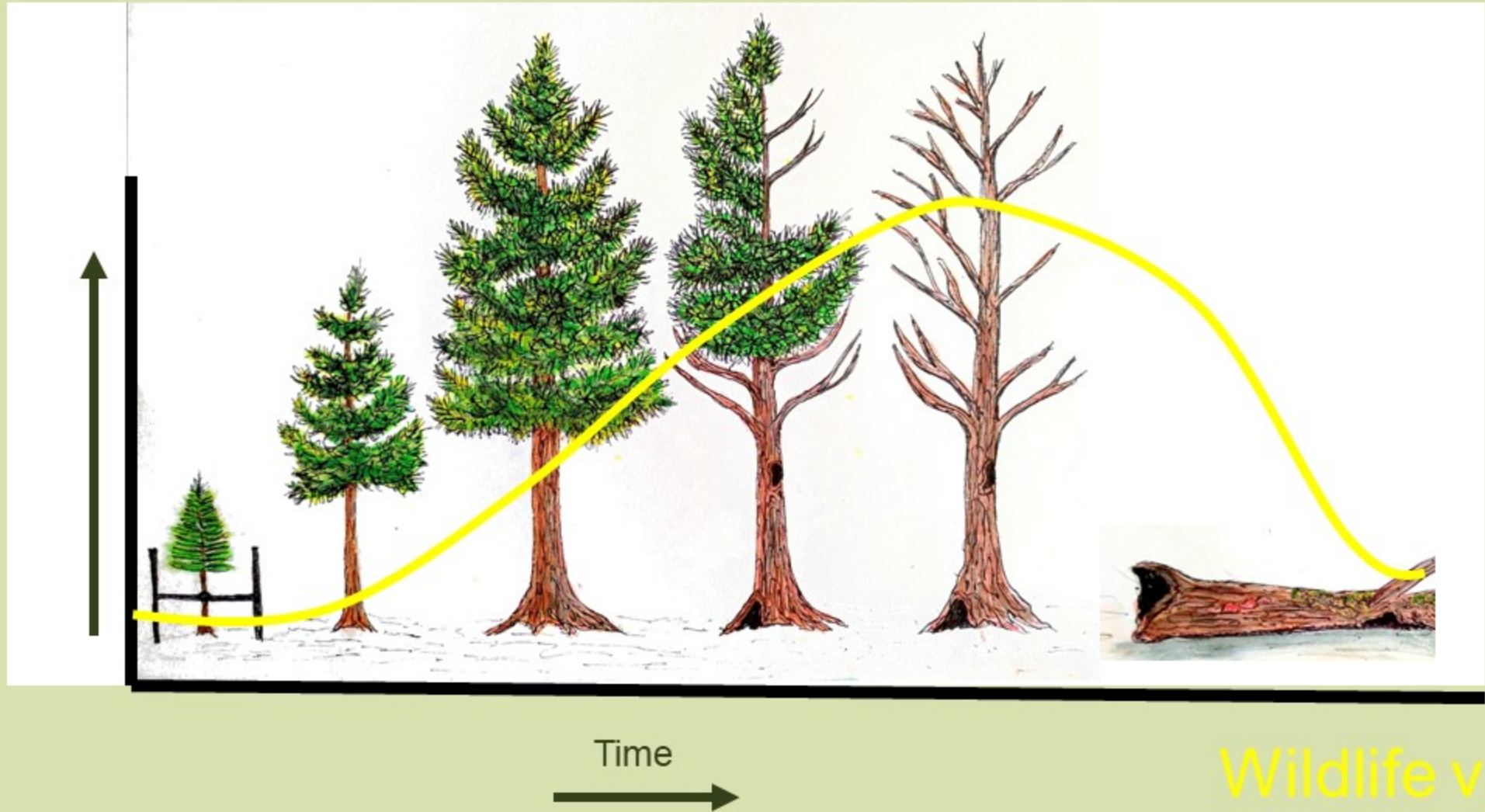


Trunk Formula Method =  $.785 * \text{DBH}^2 * \text{Condition} * \text{Species Rating} * \text{Location Value}$



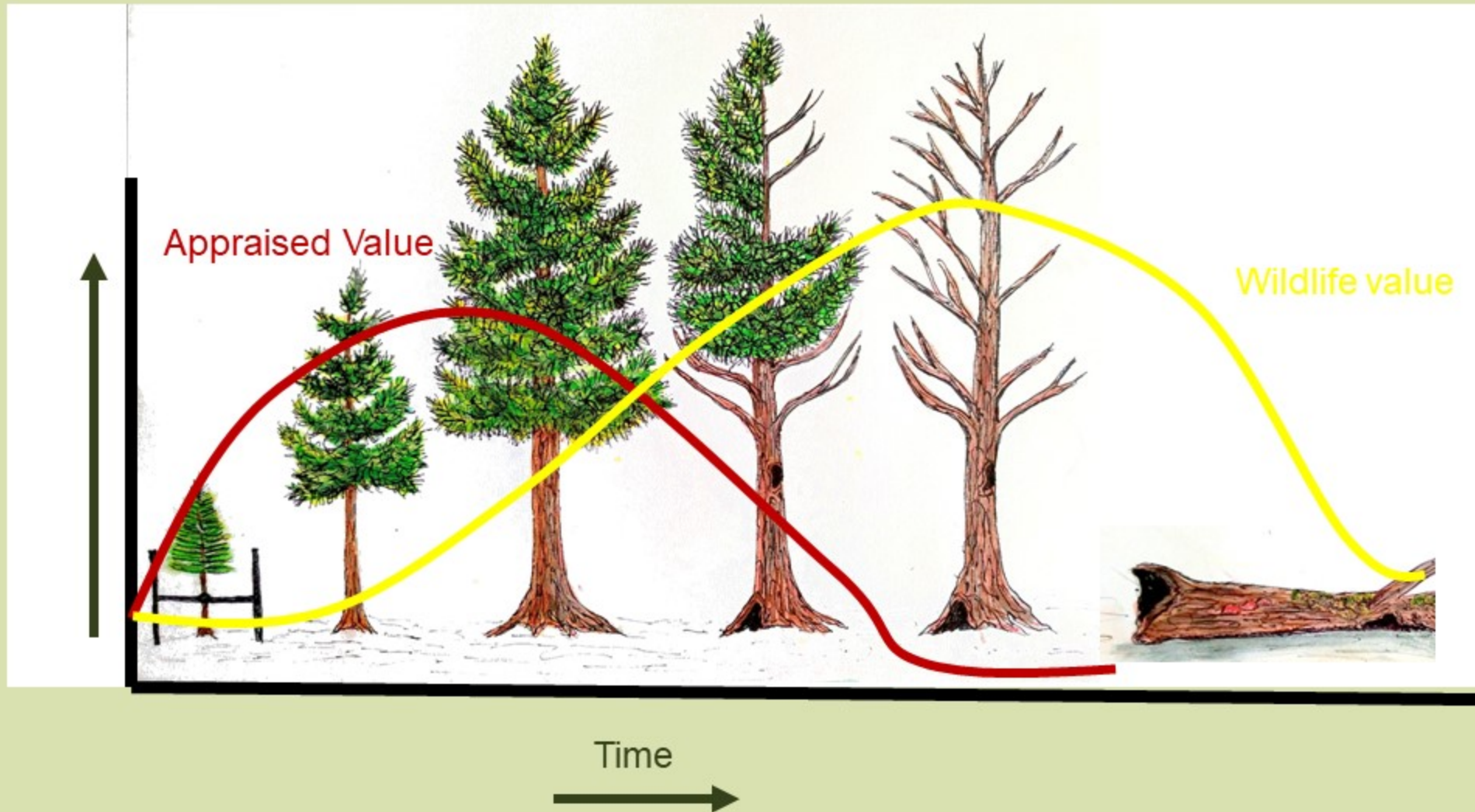


# The value of trees to wildlife





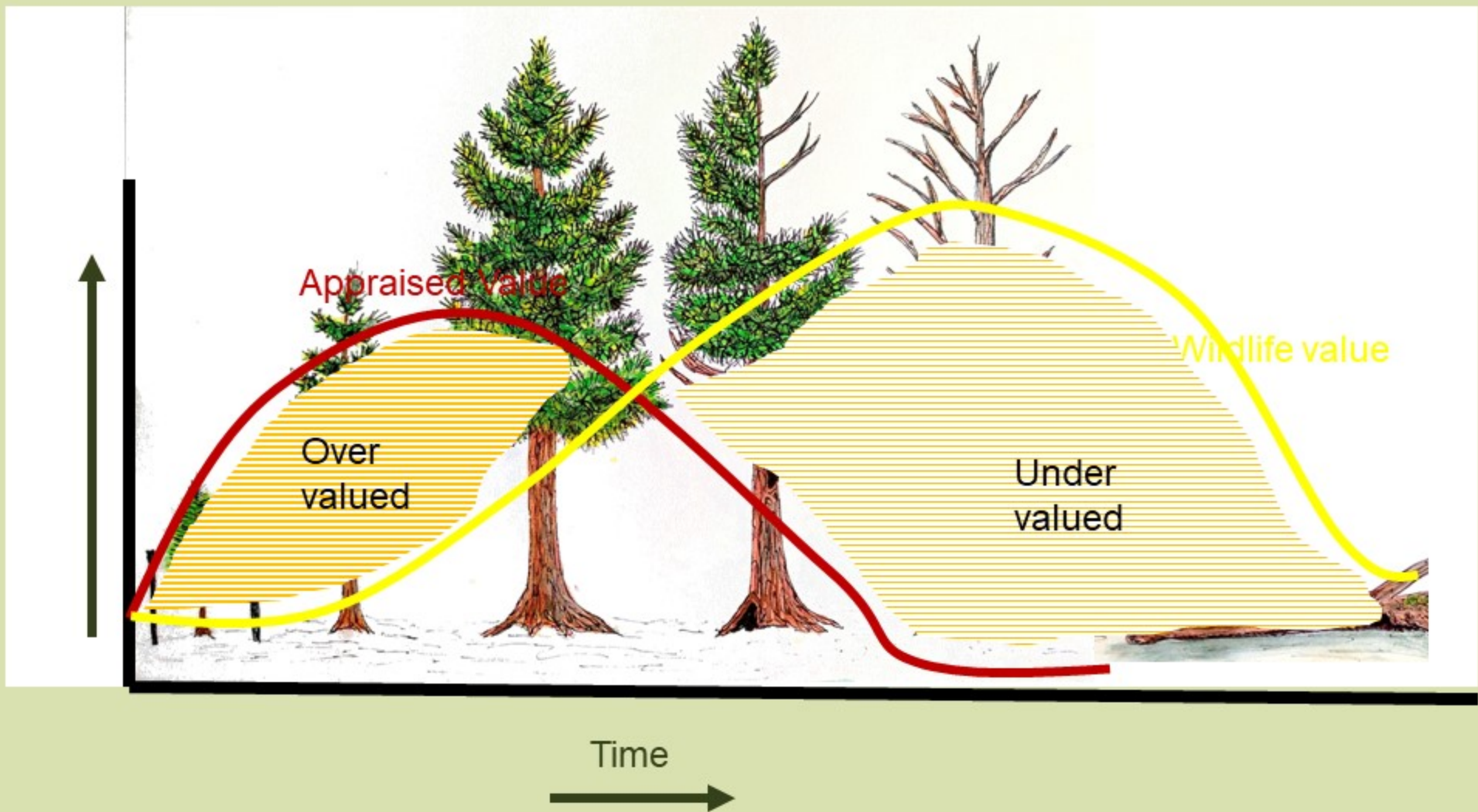
# The value of trees to wildlife







# The value of trees to wildlife





# The value of trees to wildlife

DATE: 1 March 2017

Mr. Mark Duntemann  
Natural Path Forestry  
Naturalpathforestry@gmail.com  
CTLA ISA Representative

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Guide to Plant Appraisal, 10<sup>th</sup> edition.

In view of the Council's incorporation of the concept of the ecosystem value of trees when appraising properties, we would like to pose for your consideration the added but often-undervalued dead tree. Science abundantly substantiates the ecological or "second life" value of such trees. Their removal is particularly impactful to birds that nest in them (about 85 species in North America do so) and to wildlife that rely on them for prey and other benefits. It is reasonable to assume that this is not widely understood by appraisers, and is regrettably overlooked in property transactions, particularly within urban regions.

As your document suggests, in this context a dead tree is customarily assigned no value whatsoever (i.e. Chapter 5 page 18). We would like further consideration of the value of the dead tree and suggest that the value of a dead tree is not and should not be considered 0.

Return





## 7. How would I use the BMPs?

If I was managing a crew with a large contract (City) managing tree care for a year or more...



Band-tailed pigeon



# How would I use the BMPs?

Read the BMPs carefully and contact the authors if anything was unclear.

Even outside of California

[bmp@treecareforbirds.com](mailto:bmp@treecareforbirds.com)



Canvasback





# All crew members watch and read.

## Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife

### Awareness Training

**Ryan Gilpin**  
bmp@treecareforbirds.com

TreeCareForBirds.com

0:07 / 16:12



## Preventing Harm To Wildlife During Tree Care

Almost all bird nests are protected by law. The tree care worker can reduce harm to wildlife, comply with bird regulations, and know how to protect wildlife habitat. Become familiar with the Best Management Practices and other materials at:  
[www.treecareforbirds.com](http://www.treecareforbirds.com).

### Job Steps Affected by this Topic

- Working during the nesting season vs the non-nesting season.
- Preparation before work begins.
- Actions when safety concerns conflict with wildlife regulations.
- Action when wildlife are accidentally impacted.

### Potential Risks

- Harming wildlife unnecessarily.
- Violation of bird regulations and possible fines.
- Negative public relations.



Immature songbird by Four Oaks

### WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES

If you find injured wildlife or an immature bird out of its nest, call a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center before intervening. Parents are highly likely to continue caring for immature birds when they have fallen out of the nest. It is against the law to take a wild bird home as a pet.



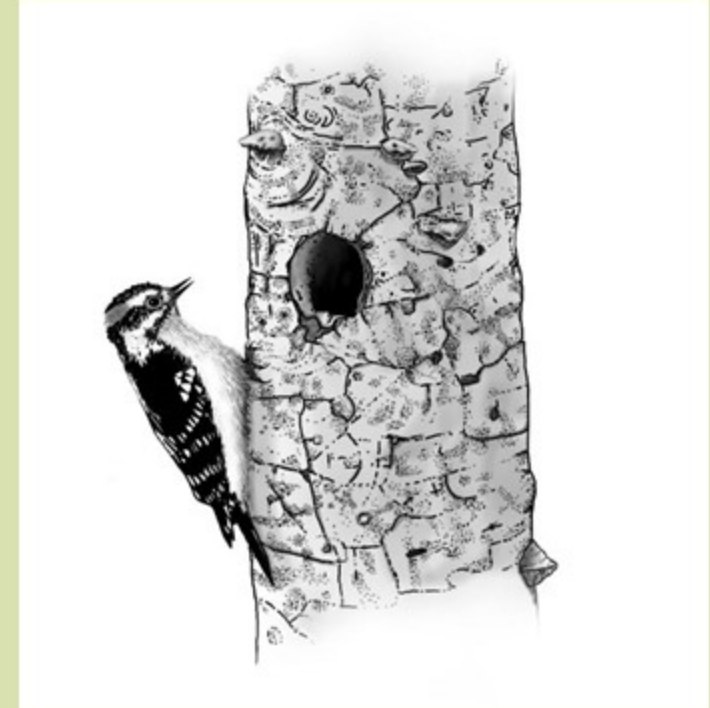
# Crew leaders more training.



[www.simstlc.com/](http://www.simstlc.com/)



[www.hortscience.com/](http://www.hortscience.com/)



[www.arboriculture.international](http://www.arboriculture.international)





# Develop relationship with Biologist and Rehab



Home About Services Publications Resources Contact Blog

Surveys



ENVIRONMENT • DESIGN


Services Process Projects Company Blog News Contact



**PROJECT WILDLIFE**  
A PROGRAM OF SAN DIEGO HUMANE SOCIETY

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## Opossums

The Opossum is the only North American marsupial, meaning they reproduce using a pouch instead of a womb like a kangaroo. Although native to the East coast of the US, Opossums can now be found from coast to coast across America as a result of human development. They are very prevalent in urban areas and act as nature's clean-up crew happily munching on insects, rodents and unsecured trash!


[Read More »](#)

### Contact Us

Project Wildlife Serves San Diego County, California.

If you are outside of our geographical area **visit the "emergency" page at Wildlife International** or contact your local Department of Animal Control or state Fish and Game office.

**Project Wildlife Info Line**  
Project Wildlife Serves San Diego County





# Perform pre-work inspections

## Inspection

- ☐ Scan the sky, trees, ground, shrubs, and branches.
- ☐ Check trunk or branch cavities and holes in the ground.
- ☐ Listen for wildlife sounds.
- ☐ Look for wildlife flying or running away.

Monica Edwards



## Signs of nesting wildlife

- ☐ Nests that may have eggs or young
- ☐ Concentrations of white colored droppings
- ☐ Wildlife exhibiting breeding behavior
- ☐ Wildlife carrying nesting materials
- ☐ Excessive feces accumulate

Paradise Point - tree removal Job # 1265-22

Wildlife Pre-work Inspection Form  
 Inspector: Ryan Gubin Certification Level: WFA Date: 5/10/17  
 Time: 7AM - 7:30 AM Weather conditions: Sunny  
 Description of work: 3 tree removal When is work scheduled: 5/11/17  
 Contact for Wildlife Biologist: 858.750.3200 Wildlife Rehabilitator: 619.225.9453

### Habitat Value

#### Low

- ☒ High human use
- ☒ High impervious surfaces
- ☐ Low plant species diversity
- ☒ Low plant structural diversity
- ☐ Far from water bodies
- ☒ Few mature, dead and dying trees
- ☒ Few/no wildlife present

#### High

- ☐ Low human use
- ☐ Low impervious surfaces
- ☒ High plant species diversity
- ☐ High plant structural diversity
- ☒ Close to water bodies
- ☐ Many mature, dead and dying trees
- ☐ Abundant wildlife present

### Riparian

- ☐ Within or adjacent to water bodies
- ☐ Within or adjacent to dry water channels
- ☒ Riparian vegetation present

### Breeding Season

- ☒ Breeding Season (Feb. 1 - Aug. 31)
- ☐ Non-breeding Season (Sep. 1 - Jan. 31)

### Category

- ☐ Category 1
- ☒ Category 2
- ☐ Category 3

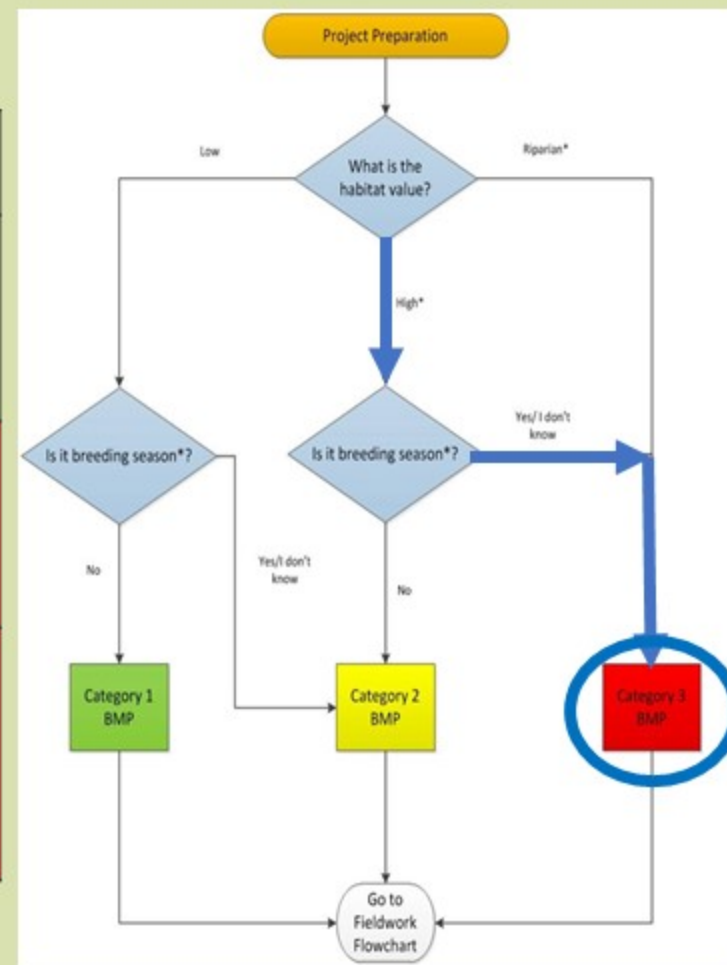
Recommended level of training: WFA





# Work in High Habitat during non-breeding

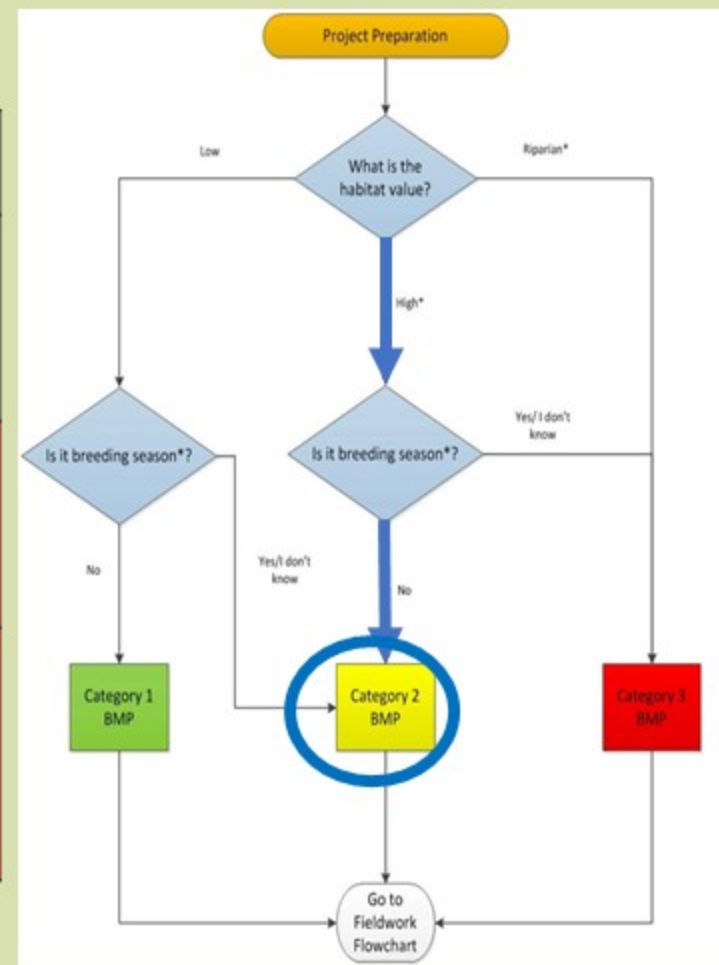
	Habitat Value		
	Low	High	Riparian
Breeding season February - August	Category 2	Category 3	Category 3
Non-breeding season Sept - January	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3





# Work in High Habitat during non-breeding

Breeding season	Habitat Value		
	Low	High	Riparian
Breeding season February - August	Category 2	Category 3	Category 3
Non-breeding season Sept - January	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3







# Establish Risk Tolerance

- How much of an impact can I tolerate to get my job done?
  - Ethically
  - Client/public relations
  - Regulatory agency



Red-tailed hawk with nest



# Find Nest – Delay Work



- ID bird/nest
- Stay buffer distance away
- Estimate when inactive and re-inspect





# Stay Buffer Distance Away

## Appendix IV - Bird Group Breeding Information Table

Bird Group	Typical Breeding Season	Incubation (Eggs)	Chicks	Buffer LHV (Radius in feet) <sup>1</sup>	Buffer HHV/R <sup>2</sup>
Waders (e.g. herons, egrets)	January through August	19-27 days	21-81 days	200	300
Eagles	January through July	35-46 days	10-11 weeks	Bald 660 feet Golden 0.5-1 mile	Bald 660 feet Golden 0.5-1 mile
Birds of Prey (e.g. hawks, vultures, falcons)	February through August	25-36 days	4-7 weeks	300	500
Doves and Pigeons (mourning doves and band-tailed pigeons)	February through November	14-20 days	13-30 days	100	300
Owls Burrowing owl <sup>3</sup>	January through July February through June	26-35 days	28-60 days	300	500
Hummingbirds	December through July	13-18 days	20-23 days	100	300
Woodpeckers Acorn woodpecker <sup>3</sup>	April through August March through October	11-13 days	~30 days	100	300
Many songbirds (e.g. finches, kingbirds, mockingbirds)	February through August	11-17 days	9-25 days	100	300



# Call if problems/uncertain

1. Difficult situation – Call wildlife biologist
2. Wildlife emergency – Call wildlife rehabilitator



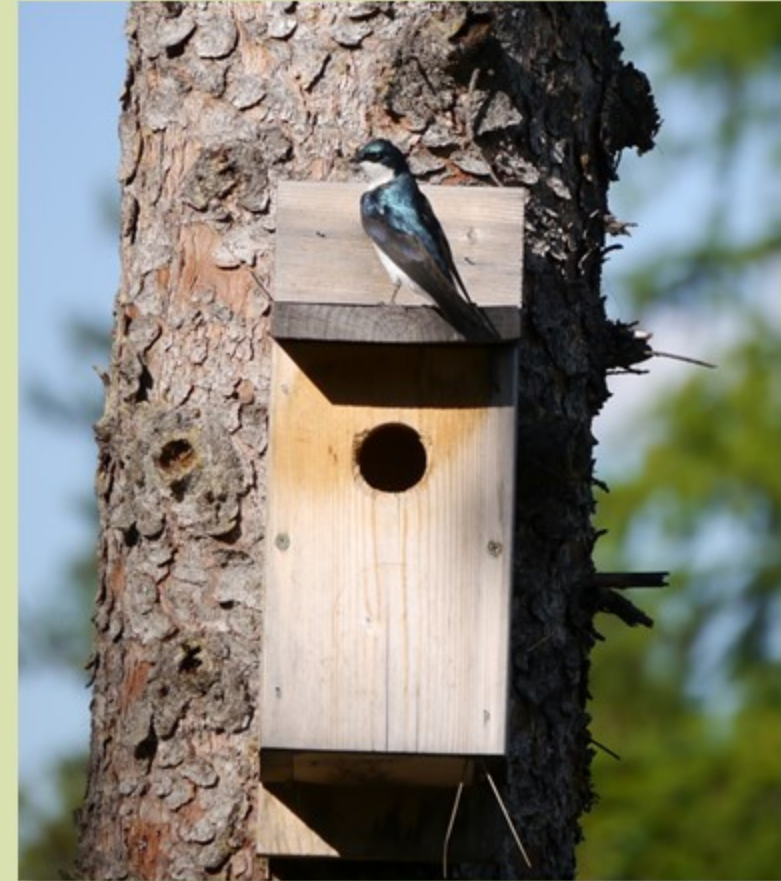
Osprey with nest





# Manage Wildlife Habitat

- Retaining dead, dying trees when possible
- Inspection cycle not pruning cycle
- Increase under represented habitats
- Diversify habitats



Tree swallow in nest box

[Return](#)



## 8. Does this put too much on the arborist?

1. Don't the wildlife BMPs and your recommendation to do a pre-work inspection put additional responsibility on the arborist that was not there before?
2. Isn't it the land owners'/managers' responsibility to ensure that nesting wildlife are not present prior to starting work?



Mountain bluebird





## 8. Does this put too much on the arborist?

1. Don't the wildlife BMPs and your recommendation to do a pre-work inspection put additional responsibility on the arborist that was not there before?
2. Isn't it the land owners'/managers' responsibility to ensure that nesting wildlife are not present prior to starting work?



Mountain bluebird



# Does this put too much on the arborist?



3/31/2015

Damian and his crew were great! They cleared brush and trimmed oak trees on our one and a half acre lot. He did exactly what he promised and came in very close to the estimate. Our property looks fantastic. Damian and his crew showed so much care to avoid **bird** nests in the trees. Tree Surfers definitely won us over and the before and after photos he sent were impressive not to mention how much safer our property is now from fire.

Was this review ...?



Useful 1



Funny



Cool



10/24/2016

This is the worst landscape company possible, even imaginable. The company was hired by our condominium homeowners association. Here are only a few problems we have with TLC:

9. TLC landscape workers, and their tree workers, do not check for birds nests before they over-trim hedges and trim or remove large trees; their workers say checking for birds nests is not necessary because "most nests are just squirrels";





# Does this put too much on the arborist?

My conversation with California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife...

“Ultimately the one impacting the  
nest is the one responsible.”





# Does this put too much on the arborist?



## Baby herons mangled in woodchipper in Oakland, critics say



Pictured is a baby black-crowned night heron after surgery to its beak. A tree-trimming incident in Oakland left it, and four others, injured this weekend. (International Bird Rescue)

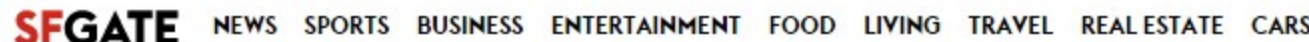


By **Alicia Banks**



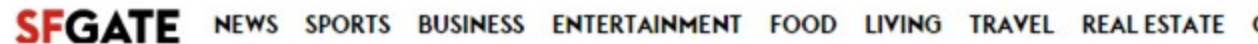
## No charges for Oakland tree trimmer accused of injuring heron chicks

LOCAL / L.A. Nov



## Rehabilitated herons, hurt during pruning, freed in Oakland

By **Marisa Lagos** Updated 10:50 am, Sunday, June 8, 2014



## Tree trimmer accused of hurting baby birds a bird lover

By **Carolyn Jones** Updated 6:41 am, Friday, May 16, 2014







# Does this put too much on the arborist?

1. The public and regulating agencies think that it is our responsibility.
  2. Some arborists are getting in real trouble with MBTA and other laws.
- arborists are making tough decisions with wildlife
  - we provide them information about how to do it responsibly.



American robin



# Does this put too much on the arborist?

1. Don't the wildlife BMPs and your recommendation to do a pre-work inspection put additional responsibility on the arborist that was not there before?
2. Isn't it the land owners'/managers' responsibility to ensure that nesting wildlife are not present prior to starting work?







Does this put too much on the arborist?

Yes!



Does this put too much on the arborist?

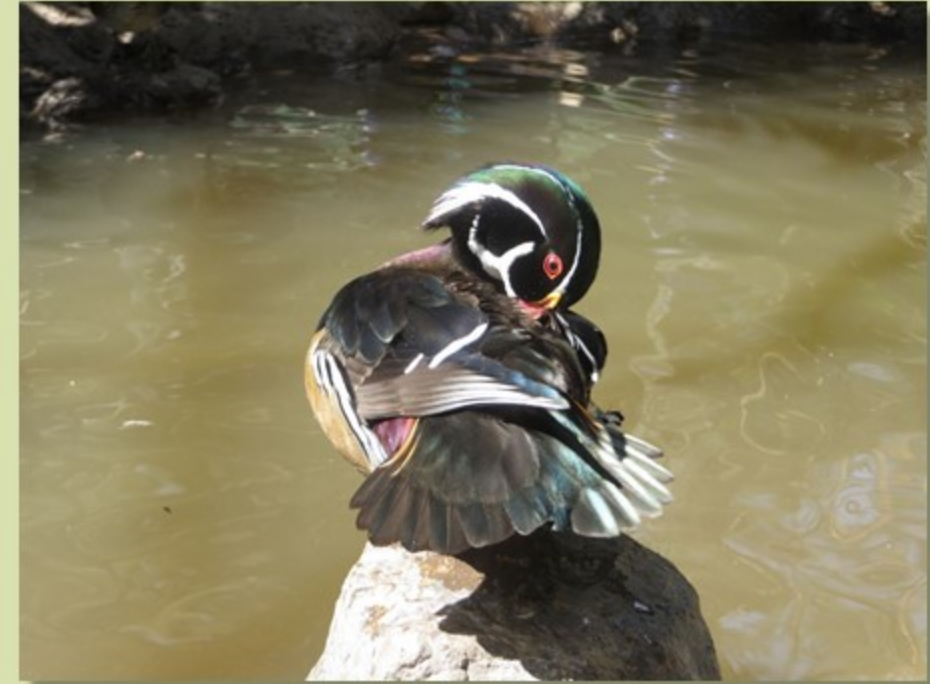
Yes!, but...





# Does this put too much on the arborist?

1. Who will the public and law enforcement blame if there is a problem?
  2. What if it wasn't done or wasn't done well?
- This responsibility is already on us
  - denying that responsibility won't do us any good.
  - We don't want to get anyone in trouble; trying to keep people out of trouble



Wood duck



## 9. Cute Video of Hummingbird



[Return](#)





## 10. So I have to hire a Wildlife Biologist?

1. Wont need Wildlife Biologist very often
2. I recommend forming a relationship with when for when you have problems.



Egret nests



# So I have to hire a Wildlife Biologist?

Breeding season	Habitat Value		
	Low	High	Riparian
Breeding season February - August	Category 2	Category 3	Category 3
Non-breeding season Sept - January	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3

Breeding season	Habitat Value		
	75%	20%	5%
50%	35%	10%	2.5%
50%	35%	10%	2.5%





# So I have to hire a Wildlife Biologist?

In BMPs:

- Never says shall
- Never says have to
- No formal authority
- Helps arborists stay out of trouble
- Specifically states that if you have a better way, do that.



Mourning dove



# So I have to hire a Wildlife Biologist?

Probably a good idea if:

- Important timeline in high habitat area
- Need to work near an active nest
- Health and human safety emergency
- Working in riparian areas



[Return](#)



# Wildlife BMPs for Tree Care



California Urban Forests Council  
Annual Conference  
Life Among the Leaves  
August 24, 2017

**Ryan Gilpin**

HortScience

[ryan@hortscience.com](mailto:ryan@hortscience.com)

[bmp@treecareforbirds.com](mailto:bmp@treecareforbirds.com)