

## Bluebird Trail Update

For the seventh consecutive year the bluebird boxes along the Betsie Valley Trail found a lot of activity. Of the 48 boxes, 37 contained nests and two were even used twice.

Twenty-six boxes contained bluebird nests and 18 of these were successful, producing an estimated 68 young bluebirds.

Tree swallows used 10 boxes and 9 of these produced about 32 young. Cold weather may have been responsible for reduced flying insect activity which in turn took a toll on these insect dependent birds with 9 dead adults found in the boxes.

Three boxes were used by other species, a house wren, a chickadee and one unidentified species that built a bulky nest of grasses and then abandoned it.

Another box, post and all, disappeared this year bringing the total missing to six over the past seven years (three disappeared the first year).

Keith Westphal

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

According to its bylaws, Benzie Audubon Club's board is made up of ten members, and the term for each board position is two years. Half of the positions become open each year, and new board members are elected at the Annual Meeting. This year's nominating committee was made up of board members Sally Cook (Publicity) and Char Ester (Membership).

The open positions and nominations are:

Vice President – Char Ester  
Treasurer – Doug Cook  
Membership - Carl Freeman  
Field Trips - Bryce Dreeszen  
Conservation - Doug Wozniak  
Programs - David Lean has been appointed to fill Judy's Macey's position (but also needs to be voted on by the membership).

Additional nominations from the floor to fill these five positions will be very welcome. The Board meets every two months to discuss club business and to plan programs and activities. If you have an interest in serving on the Benzie Audubon Board, please tell one of the board members. Also, all of our board meetings are open to members.



### Win A Prize !

Identify this bird

The editor will give anyone who can identify this bird a free bookmark !

On our recent trip to California I was fortunate to spend an afternoon with several American Dippers (their official name), also known as water ouzels. Though the waterfalls in Yosemite NP were mostly empty because of lack of water in the fall (this is usual) and the ouzels were not playing in the rough water and my still images do not do them justice, I thought you might enjoy this 1917 poem by Harriet Monroe (1860-1936). You may notice there is poetic license in the color of the bird as it is gray instead of brown.



### The Water Ouzel

by Harriet Monroe

Little brown surf-bather of the mountains!  
Spirit of foam, lover of cataracts, shaking your wings in falling waters!  
Have you no fear of the roar and rush when Nevada plunges --  
Nevada, the shapely dancer, feeling her way with slim white fingers?  
How dare you dash at Yosemite the mighty --  
Tall, white limbed Yosemite, leaping down, down over the cliff?  
Is it not enough to lean on the blue air of mountains?  
Is it not enough to rest with your mate at timberline, in bushes that hug  
the rocks?  
Must you fly through mad waters where the heaped-up granite breaks them?  
Must you batter your wings in the torrent?  
Must you plunge for life and death through the foam?

