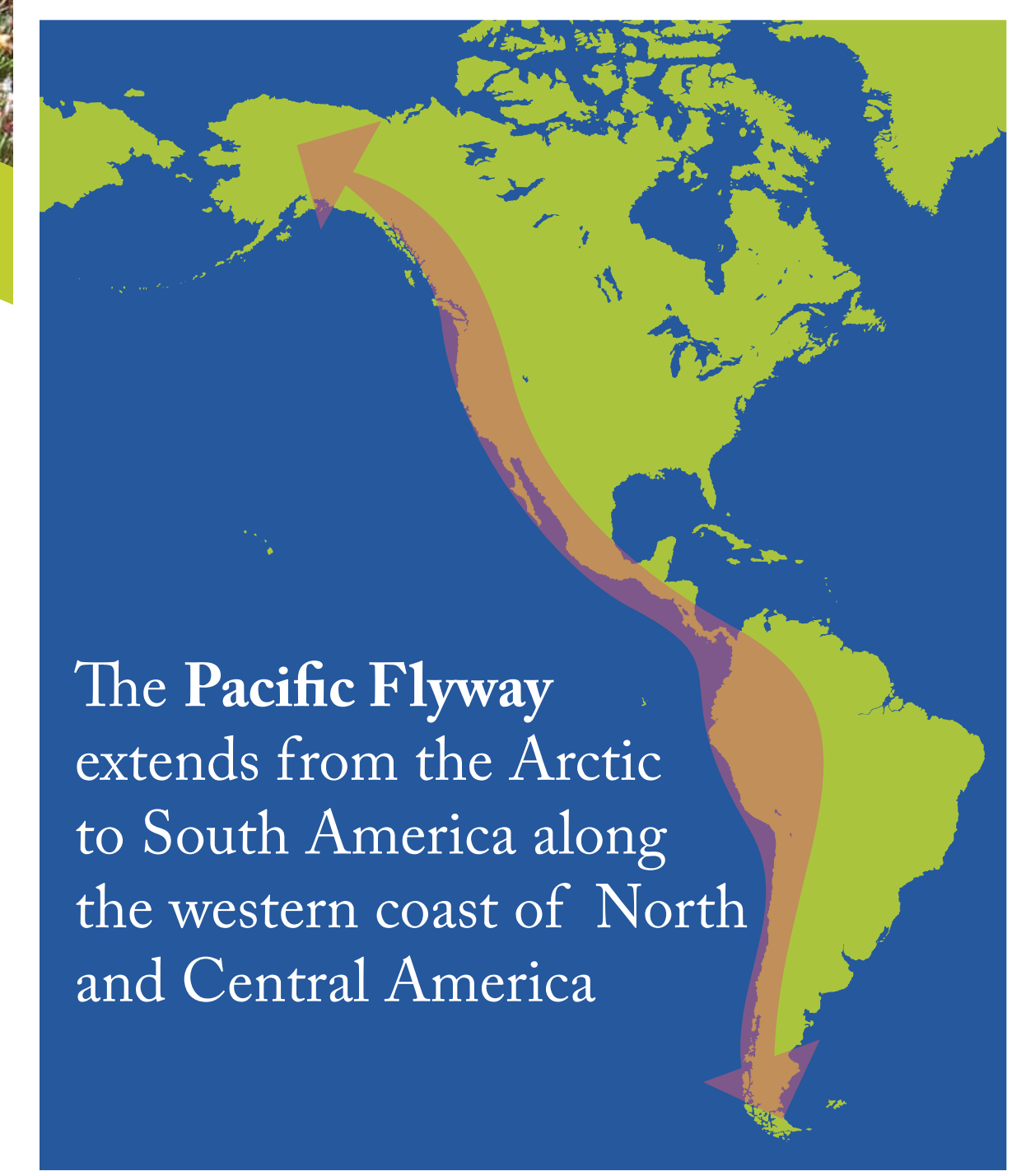


# Making Homes for Wildlife on the Move in San Diego!

## What is a flyway?

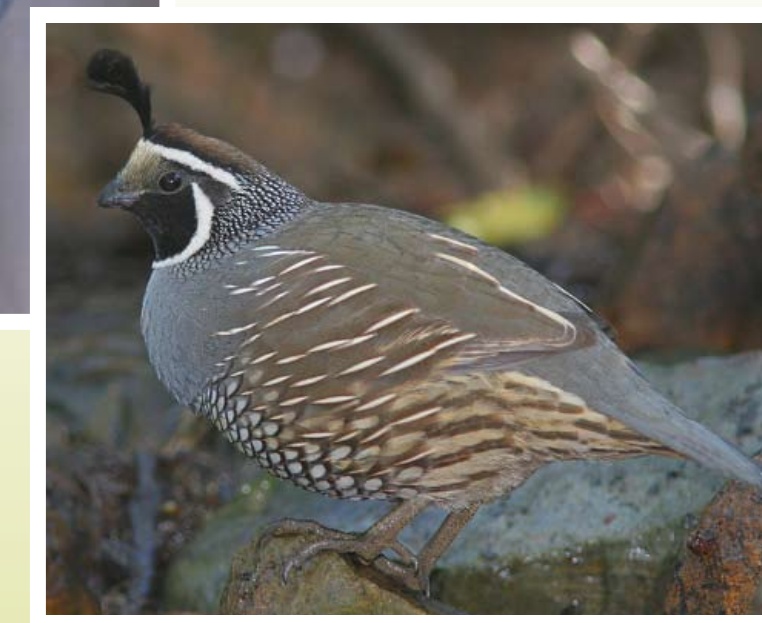
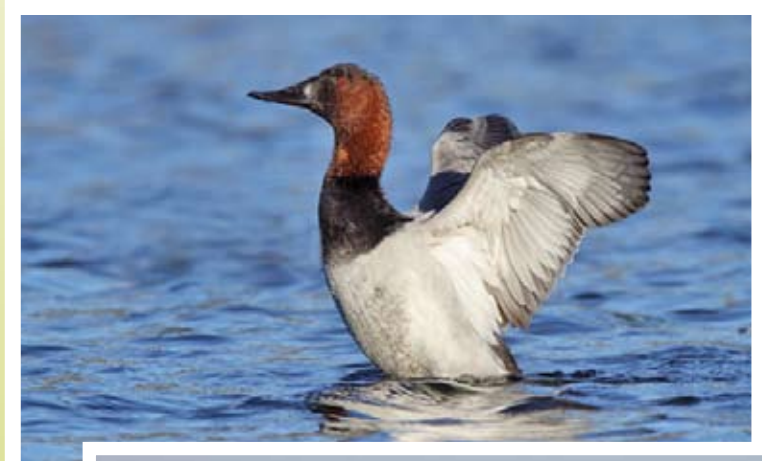
A flyway is a migratory route like a highway in the sky that millions of birds around the world use in Fall and Spring to travel to breeding areas, sometimes far from their summer homes.



Some bird species fly thousands of miles to specific nesting locations and depend on finding native habitat there to breed successfully.

These long-distance flyers need many places to stop, rest and forage along the way. Wetlands, whether coastal or inland, are extremely important migratory stop-overs.

Most of our wetlands have been lost to development, filled in for agriculture and other human uses... The **San Dieguito Lagoon** just to the north of Crest Canyon attracts hundreds of species of birds, including migratory waterfowl each winter and resident wading birds year-round.



Native plants furnish food and shelter for visiting birds using the Pacific Flyway as well as our resident species like the federally-threatened California gnatcatcher here in Crest Canyon. This urban canyon is an excellent example of **coastal sage scrub** habitat that supports many other native birds such as California quail, Costa's hummingbird and California towhee.

Native plants like the ones shown in the garden along the trail to your left provide food, shelter and nesting material for our native wildlife. You can help create habitat by planting these and other natives at home — and bring wildlife to your own backyard!

**Did you know...**  
*the rufous hummingbird weighs 3.3 grams (a little more than a penny) and flies 3,000 miles between Alaska and Mexico... twice a year!*

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