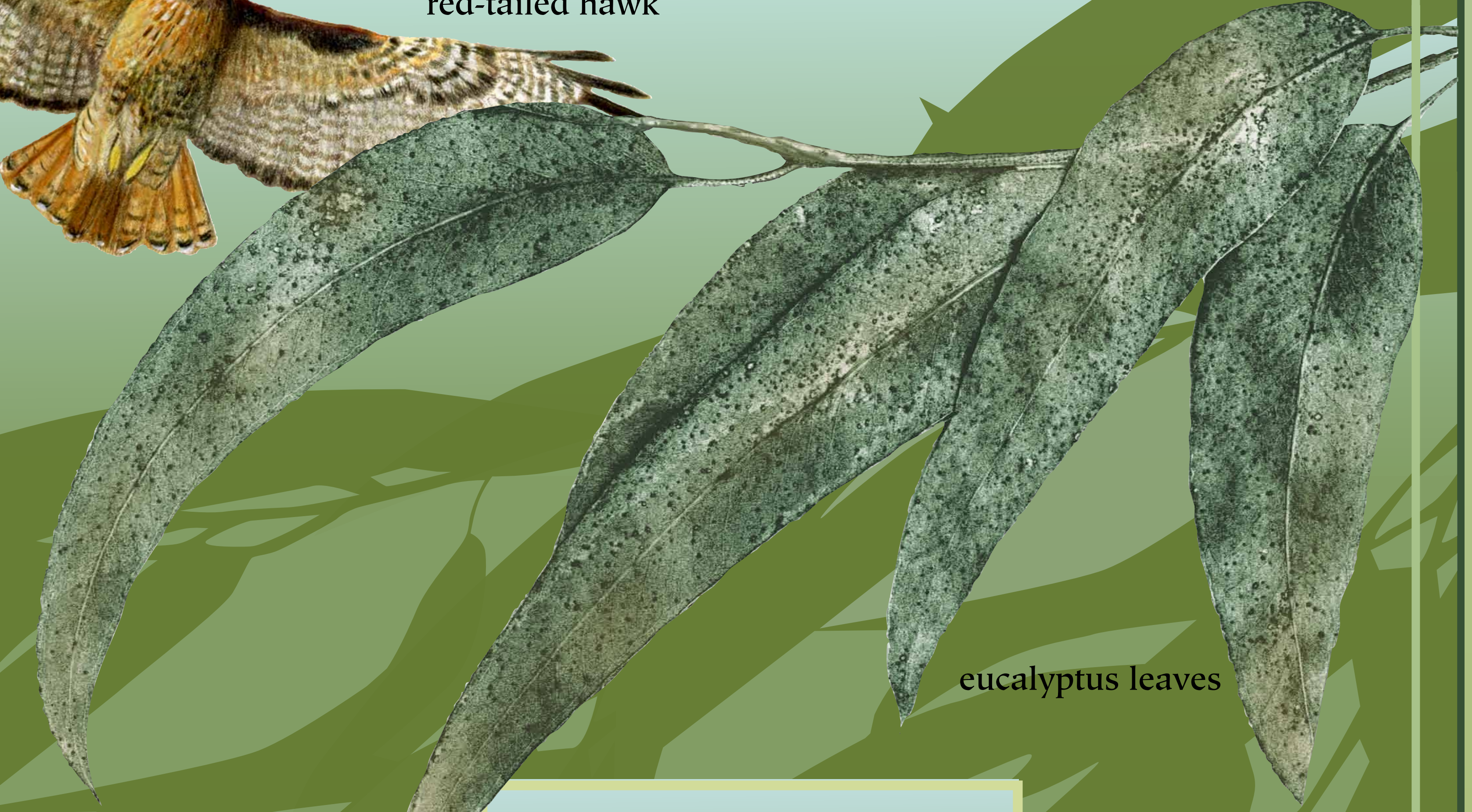


Winter or summer, moist sea breezes fill these eucalyptus groves with windsong and precious precipitation. The trees were planted in the early 1900s to provide hardwood timber and watershed protection. This north slope forest receives little direct sunlight so moisture lingers and decomposition can proceed year-round. Winter rains penetrate extensively into the developing soil. In fall, the grove shields the soil from parching Diablo winds.



red-tailed hawk



eucalyptus leaves

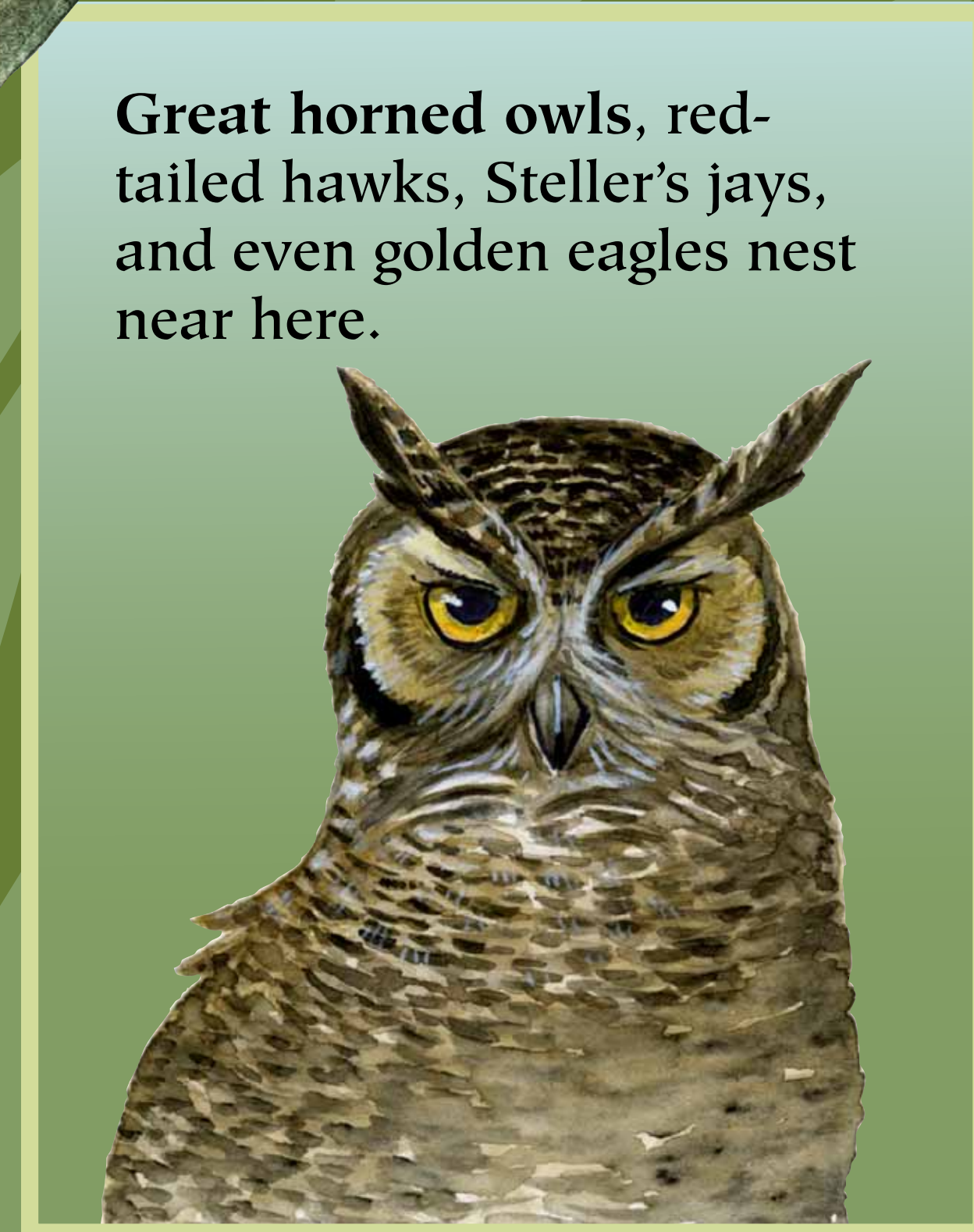


large hound's tongue

Wilde Legard



Steller's jay



Great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, Steller's jays, and even golden eagles nest near here.



scrub jay

Many of the "new forest" trees were planted by jays storing acorns and bay nuts.



woodland star

Wilde Legard

These groves also safeguard an emerging "new forest" of bay laurel, madrone, and coast live oak. The understory includes coyote brush, blackberry, hazelnut, snowberry, toyon, and wild currant. Other plants include: hounds tongue, sword fern, wood fern, fairybells, woodland star, alum root, and angelica. Newts and tree frogs spend the dry season here. As rains resume, they become active and feed on soil invertebrates. In winter, they migrate to nearby streams and ponds.



California newt

illustrations by Doyle Wegner and Pam Ohausen

Where Eucalyptus Forest Was Planted, Moist Chaparral Has Sprouted