



BULLETIN OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

June 1952

ORNITHOLOGICAL QUIZ

DO YOU KNOW-----?????????????

1. Why do birds sing?
2. How often do adult birds molt?
3. How do birds "know" when to migrate?
4. Why do some birds "try to get through the window" in the spring?
5. Why are many male birds more brightly colored than the females?

(Answers on a following page).

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

The month of May is the high point in the nesting cycle for most of the species in central California. Many more records were sent in than can be published in this issue of the Bulletin. The response of the members to our plea for contributions of records to the "Nesting Survey" has been extremely gratifying. Please continue to send in your records. June will be the month of numerous records of fledgling birds being fed by adults. These records are urgently needed.

- GREEN HERON. Two calling in flight, Los Gatos, May 17. Emily Smith.
- BLACK BRANT. Mouth of Scott Creek, Santa Cruz Co., 23 on May 17. Grace Brubaker.
- CALIFORNIA QUAIL. Adults and 16 young less than a week old, May 25, east foothills, J. C. DeVoss. (Not yet reported on west side of S.C. Valley-Ed.)
- BLACK-NECKED STILT. Incubating, Los Esteros Rd. near Alviso, May 4. E.S.
Four eggs seen in this nest on May 8. C.S.
- FORSTER TERN. Elkhorn Slough, May 24, 159 nests counted which were estimated to be about half of those present. 135 contained 3 eggs; 15, 2 eggs; 8, one egg; and one, 2 newly hatched nestlings. C.S.
- BAND-TAILED PIGEON. About 50 in eucalyptus grove in Los Gatos, May 3, present there since Mar. 17, E.S. Six each evening, May 17-23, Woodside, R. Pleas; about 12 roosting Menlo-Atherton High School, May 12, Les Sleeper still present in Los Altos, May 23. Lynn Robbins.
- MOURNING DOVE. Nest with two eggs, San Felipe Rd., 8 mi. SE San Jose, May 13, C.S.
- VAUX SWIFT. Two entered a chimney in Los Gatos, May 20. E.S.
- ANNA HUMMINGBIRD. Incubating near Saratoga, April 26. Victor Burke.
- ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD. Nest begun May 10, first egg laid, May 20, Los Gatos, Gladys Record
- BLACK PHOEBE. Feeding nestlings, Los Gatos, May 17, E.S. Nest barely begun at Stevens Creek, May 17, C.S.
- WESTERN FLYCATCHER. Large nestlings May 17 at Stevens Creek, C.S. In Los Gatos, young fledged May 24 and second nest started May 25, 15 feet from the first nest. Gladys Record.
- WOOD PEWEE. Building May 2 near Los Gatos and nest being completed May 17 at Stevens Creek, C.S.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Feeding small nestlings, May 17, Stevens Creek, C.S.
- VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW. Building under roof-tile, Apr. 30, Menlo Park, Marjorie Davis.
- BANK SWALLOW. Entering burrows, West Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, Apr. 29, Eva Allen.
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. One entered hole in bank, Mt. Hermon, Apr. 29, E.A.
- BARN SWALLOW. Nest with 5 eggs near Alviso, May 6, C.S.; building at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, May 16, Malcolm Miller and Lynn Robbins.

PURPLE MARTIN. Four birds, one entered last years nest hole, Mt. Hermon, Apr. 29, E.A.

STELLER JAY. Recently fledged young, Woodside, May 28, C. and E. Mueser.

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE. Nestlings, May 4, Searsville Lake, M. Miller; nest-building near Saratoga, May 14. C. and A. Prusman. Large fledglings being fed near Los Gatos, May 22. E.S.

PLAIN TITMOUSE. Recently hatched nestlings, Menlo Park, Apr. 30. Marjorie Davis. Fledglings near Los Gatos, May 19. E.S.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Fledged young near Los Gatos, May 18, E.S.; fledglings being fed, Los Gatos, May 20. Gladys Record.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Heard and seen on Summit Road, May 3. E.S.

WREN-TIT. Nest with two young and an infertile egg, near Los Gatos, May 18. C.S. Carrying nest material near Los Gatos, May 30. E.S.

BROWN CREEPER. Pair building near Woodside, May 26 and 28. C. and E. Mueser.

BEWICK WREN. Relining first nest, Palo Alto, May 13. 5 of 7 eggs of first brood hatched and fledged. Edith Buss.

CALIFORNIA THRASHER. Building second nest and feeding fledgling, Menlo Park, Apr. 30. Marjorie Davis.

ROBIN. Female building second nest while male fed fledglings and courted female, near Los Gatos, May 18. E.S.

HERMIT THRUSH. Singing near Woodside, May 28. E.S.; Mt. Madonna Park, May 24, C.S.

RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH. 10 birds calling and singing near Woodside, Apr. 30, R.P. Call notes May 2 and song May 17 near Los Gatos, E.S.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD. Feeding nestlings near Los Gatos, May 18, E.S.

TOWNSEND SOLITAIRE. Distinctive call note repeated many times from high in a fir on Summit Road, May 3. Could not see the bird. E.S.

CEDAR WAXWING. Flock seen regularly until May 10 near Los Gatos. E.S.

HUTTON VIREO. Large fledglings begging from adults near Saratoga, May 13, C. and A. Prusman; nest with eggs near Woodside, May 17, Roberta Pleas.

SOLITARY VIREO. Building May 18, incubating May 29 (3 eggs plus one of Cowbird) in Los Gatos. Gladys Record. (see record under Cowbird following).

WARBLING VIREO. Incubating Apr. 29, feeding nestlings May 14, attacking a Cowbird in same location in Los Gatos, Apr. 18. E.S.

PARULA WARBLER. On May 24 at Point Lobos, Mr. Kenneth Legg reported the presence of a pair of this eastern species in the Monterey Pines near the Rangers house. Also seen by other competent observers. This is the first record of this species in the state of California. C.S.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. Small nestlings, Los Gatos, May 10. Gladys Record.

YELLOW WARBLER. Young in nest at Stevens Creek, May 17, C.S.

AUDUBON WARBLER. Three males "chasing each other", Santa Cruz Mts., May 8 and 9, Mary Ellen Shore. Singing on Summit Road, May 3, E.S.

HERMIT WARBLER. Seen and heard, Summit Rd., May 3; 3 singing males, Mt. Hamilton, east side of summit, May 6, E.S.

TOLMIE WARBLER. Pair near Los Gatos, May 2; 3 other males heard near Los Gatos, E.S.

LONG-TAILED CHAT. Woodside, May 4, R.P.; Los Gatos, May 14-31, G. Record.

HOODED ORIOLE. Nest with large young in fan palm, San Salvador between 6th. and 7th. in San Jose, May 26. Young left by May 28. Jene Pankow.

BULLOCK ORIOLE. Feeding nestlings near Los Gatos, May 18, E.S.

COWBIRD. Egg in nest of Solitary Vireo, Los Gatos, May 29. G. Record.

WESTERN TANAGER. Nest in live oak (eggs?) at county picnic grounds, Stevens Creek, May 17, C.S.; both parents feeding fledglings, Los Gatos, May 23; on May 29 female on nest close to same spot (25 feet away) G.R.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK. Nestlings near Saratoga, May 14 (Prusmans).

LAZULI BUNTING. Menlo Park, Apr. 30, E.S.; building, Alum Rock Park, May 19, M. Vessel

EVENING GROSBEEK. Last seen at Zwaal's feeding tray on May 14 (4 present).

LAWRENCE GOLDFINCH. Male feeding fledglings, female incubating second clutch nearby near Los Gatos, May 19, E.S.

SPOTTED TOWHEE. Feeding nestlings near Saratoga, May 13, A. Prusman and Emily Smith

OREGON JUNCO. Fledglings near Saratoga, May 13, A.P.; building, Woodside, May 26, E

SONG SPARROW. Fledgling and parents, Menlo Park, Apr. 30, Marjorie Davis; building at Stevens Creek, May 17, Milton Seibert; nest with one egg, San Jose May 28 and 3 small nestlings near Los Gatos, June 1, C.S.

ORNITHOLOGICAL QUIZ

Following are the answers to the questions on the first page of this issue.

1. Bird song functions primarily to advertise the presence of a male bird on his territory. It serves as an aggressive threat to other males of the same species and thus usually makes actual fighting unnecessary. Secondly, bird song serves to indicate the presence of a male with a territory to unmated females.
2. All adult birds molt at least once each year following the nesting season. This is the "post-nuptial" molt and at this time the entire plumage is replaced. Some species have a partial molt before the nesting season. In this "pre-nuptial" molt the parts of the plumage which are different in winter and summer are the ones which are replaced.
3. The changing length of day is the timing device which regulates the schedule of bird migration. The response of the bird is instinctive. Increasing day length in the spring stimulates the pituitary gland which in turn stimulates the reproductive system and the nervous system. The "release" of the pattern of behavior which we call "migration" occurs when a certain level of stimulation is reached. Since day-length is precise in its annual cycle, the remarkable constancy of arrival dates for migratory birds is understandable. The Capistrano swallows are famous but all other migratory birds are equally exact in their arrival which will vary about 5 to 10 days each side of an average date.
4. In many species the male birds defend territories during the breeding season. Other males of their own species are attacked if they intrude into the territory of an established male. The bird "trying to get in the window" is fighting his own reflection, mistaking it for a persistent intruder. Shiny hub caps, car doors, etc. evoke a similar response. A stuffed specimen will sometimes be beaten to pieces by a territorial male. Try placing a large mirror where your dooryard Brown Towhee or Song Sparrow can easily find it and see what happens.
5. The bright plumage of male birds functions in the same way as song. It serves to identify males of a species to one another and to the females. Display of plumage usually accompanies song when a male is defending his territory. It is biologically advantageous to a male bird to be conspicuous because his ability to defend his territory determines his reproductive success.

Charles Sibley

To The Members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society:

The Editors of the Bulletin are interested in learning if their efforts meet with your approval. We would appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Bouquets will be appreciated and Brickbats will be used to build a better Bulletin. Let us know what articles, sections, etc. you have enjoyed---- or otherwise.

Charles Sibley and Emily Smith

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PRELIMINARY NOTICE

Would you like to have the opportunity to learn more about birds? Would you be interested in a series of meetings for the purpose of studying specimens of California birds, learning their identification, life history, field characters, etc? Dr. Sibley says he'll give such a course if there is sufficient interest....to begin in October. Let me know if you like the idea.

Elsie Hoeck, 55 S. 6th. St., San Jose.
CYpress 5-1410

C A L E N D A R F O R J U N E

We were sorry to hear that the Butano Forest cavalcade trip, planned for next Saturday, June 7, has had to be postponed.

FIELD TRIP TO EAGLE ROCK, at the north end of Ben Lomond Mountain, next Sunday, June 8. By way of Mount Hermon and Felton. Interesting trees, shrubs, and wild flowers, as well as birds. Meet in Los Gatos, at the Lyndon Hotel, in time to start at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

REGULAR JUNE MEETING, in Alum Rock Park, next Monday, June 9. Meet at the Lodge in the Park at 4:00 p.m., for late afternoon birding. Picnic supper at 6:00, at tables near the Lodge. Bring basket lunch—there are grills if you want to cook. Coffee, cream, and sugar will be served, but bring your own cup and spoon.

At the evening meeting, at 7:30, in the Lodge, Mr. Albert Wool will show his colored motion picture film, "California Wildlife," which he showed at the Audubon Convention at Asilomar this year. After the program, which will include field observations of birds by members, there will be a business meeting to elect officers and directors for next year.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD TRIP, June 11, with Mrs. Frances Sibley, in the neighborhood of her home. Meet at Quito Fire Station on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, about halfway between Saratoga and Los Gatos, at 8:00 a.m. These midweek bird watching—and listening to bird songs—trips are proving to be very enjoyable. Beginners are especially welcome.

FIELD TRIP TO FORTOLA STATE PARK, formerly the Shrine Redwood Grove, on Sunday, June 22. Meet at 8:00 a.m., on Skyline Boulevard (Highway 5) at junction of Alpine Road, about 6 miles from Saratoga Gap, and 7 miles from the La Honda Road crossing. Bring lunch.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD TRIP, June 25, with Mrs. Roberta Pleas, to the beautiful grounds of Mrs. Stanley Morshead in Woodside. Meet at the entrance to Searsville Lake at 8:00 a.m. More good birding!

FIELD TRIP TO POINT LOBOS RESERVE STATE PARK, Saturday, June 28, with Mrs. Grace Brubaker as leader. Meet at the gate to the Park, 3 miles south of Carmel, on Highway 1, at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Point Lobos is small in area but rich in its variety of native animals and plants.

REPORTS OF FIELD TRIPS taken during May will be mailed out next week.

NEW MEMBERS. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is pleased to welcome following new members: Col. A.E. Merrill, 93 Reservoir Road, Los Gatos; Mr. Milton L. Seibert, 906 No. 4 St., San Jose; Mrs. Langford W. Smith, 215 Edelen Ave., Los Gatos; Mrs. S.S. Tucker, P.O. Box 66, Los Altos.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
President --- Albert J. Wool, Rt. 2, Box 728, San Jose
Corr. Sec. -- Miss Eva Allen, P.O. Box 772, Los Gatos
Editor ----- Charles G. Sibley, Rt. 1, Box 241, Los Gatos
Assoc. Ed. -- Miss Emily Smith, Rt. 1, Box 387, Los Gatos
Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, alternately in San Jose and Palo Alto. Guests are always welcome.

TIME LIMIT ON BUTANO FOREST

The magnificent Coast Redwoods on the "flats" in the vicinity of the north fork of Butano Creek are being felled—which means that choice area of the Butano Forest is now lost to us. However, there is still time, very short time, to save the virgin redwood forest on the slopes of the south fork. The Santa Cruz Lumber Company, which has a contract with the Pacific Lumber Company, owner of the Butano Forest lands, to cut the timber, will not begin operations in the south grove until after July 1, 1952. Meantime the Pacific Lumber Company is asking the prevailing market price for the land. There are 1680 acres in this tract which the State Division of Beaches and Parks has designated as desirable for a state park. How much of this forest primeval can be purchased depends on the amount subscribed by the people of California. You know the story. We, the people, raise the money, and the State matches the amount. Through the efforts of the Butano Forest Associates (organized to carry on to completion the efforts of far-sighted men and women who have been working for years to save Butano Forest for a park) money has been made available for the purchase of a considerable area, but more is needed, to save every tree possible. In the short time left this organization has set 1040 acres as its goal. Mr. Ralph H. Shaw, the president, gave us the following figures two months ago.

Cost of 1040 acres of the south grove ----- \$667,000

Value of Mt. Madonna and San Mateo Memorial Parks, donated to the State by Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties -----	\$485,000
Raised from private subscription -----	47,000
State matching fund -----	47,000
Still required -----	43,000
State matching fund -----	43,000
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	\$667,000

Because the land is not generally adaptable for extensive use by crowds, much of it will be kept as a wilderness area, with trails not too far from parking places on the scenic Butano Ridge Road. (It was from this ridge road, on our field trip to Butano Forest, that we looked down onto the magnificent green canopy of the trees in the south grove. Remember the rhododendrons blossoming near by, and the Hermit Thrush singing?)

The Sierra Club and other clubs interested in preserving wilderness areas have helped in the crusade to save Butano Forest for a state park. Some of our members belong to the Butano Forest Associates, and others have made individual contributions. At our December meeting in Palo Alto when Mr. Bert Werder showed a film taken in Butano Forest, a start was made toward a fund to be subscribed by the Society as a whole. \$111.00 was contributed by members and friends of the Society. It is time now to complete that fund. As Audubon Society members we are dedicated to conservation. Here's our chance to do something about it. An every member contribution, however small the amount, will make our Butano Forest Fund a very real expression of the Society's belief in conservation. Please send your contribution to Mrs. McRae right away. The sooner the Park Commission gets the money the more effectively it can negotiate with the lumber company. We are setting June 15 as the dead line. If you have questions to ask, bring them to the meeting next Monday (see Calendar) or contact a member of the Butano Forest Fund Committee.

Leona Jakobsen, Emily Smith, and Neil Dickinson,
Butano Forest Fund Committee.