

The wasp factor

Are your nestboxes ready?

Many monitors are concerned with nests or nestboxes which have been abandoned by their would-be occupants. **Dean Sheldon**, veteran bluebirder from Ohio, writes: Whenever there is a situation of abandonment, it would pay the trail manager to look deep inside the box at the rear corners of the interior. Oftentimes,

paper wasps [not the European Paper Wasp] will build a small flower-like nest which is suspended on a stalk from the roof of the box. When that happens, birds will not use the box or may abandon the nesting until the wasps and their nests are destroyed. This wasp invasion may be responsible for the situation in which a box

is being very actively used by bluebirds and then, for no apparent reason, the bird activity surrounding the box ceases. My experience has shown that these wasp nests are also an important factor inhibiting the use of nestboxes by many, if not all, cavity nesters. This is "old hat" information to the experienced bluebirder, but it may solve a serious problem/puzzle for the newcomer.



BLUEBIRDS FLY!

California Bluebird Recovery Program's newsletter

—sponsored by National Audubon Society-California
—an affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

for the encouragement and conservation of cavity-nesters—especially bluebirds—anywhere in the West

Annual Report for 2000: Totals up. Bluebirds up. Reporters down. Nestboxes down.

With the reports in, CBRP was disappointed that many failed to report. Many continue to report on old forms that do not provide sufficient data for analysis. But the good news is: that in spite of lower numbers of reporters and nestboxes, we have the highest totals in five years (see page 2). And with the higher totals, the Western Bluebird seems to hold on with nearly 7000 reported statewide.

This is all the more interesting when we have specialists like **Steve Simmons** in Merced County who has only large boxes(402) and fledged 3303 Barn Owls, Wood Ducks, and Screech Owls, and **Jan Wasserman** of Ventura County whose total of 226 nestboxes yielded only Tree Swallows (696).

This year, we asked **Robert L Franz** of Orange County to look over our reports and give us some analysis. His reports are found in the next column and elsewhere in this edition. In the next column, it should be noted that the totals for Riverside and Los Angeles came from one monitor, **Dick Purvis**, and Mariposa's was **Sheila Tarvin**'s. The nestboxes in Orange, Los Angeles, and Riverside, are almost exclusively hanging boxes.

WHAT YOUR REPORTS MEAN TO ME

By Robert L Franz

Fledges per Nest (F/N) is one of the first things we look at. Everyone is interested in how their boxes are producing. Here were the leaders last year:

- Marion Kunkel**, Amador: 1 box, 13 fledged, F/N=13.0
- James Wright**, El Dorado: 2 boxes, 19 fledged, F/N=9.5
- Sully Reallon**, Orange: 16 boxes, 129 fledged, F/N=7.6
- Dick Purvis**, San Bdn: 4 boxes, 27 fledged, F/N=6.8
- Susan Bulger**, Orange: 7 boxes, 46 fledged, F/N=6.6

Marion Kunkel's ratio of 13 is all the more amazing as all 13 came from only one brood in each of two nests (6 and 7) —an average of 6.5 per nest. In the same box she had 5 more eggs but no fledges resulted.

Jim Wright's number was achieved by fledging 14 in 2 tries, a staggering 7 per nest—followed up by 5 more in a second brood.

The high county totals were:

- Merced:** 402 boxes, 3303 fledged, F/N=8.22 (all large boxes)
- Riverside:** 41 boxes, 156 fledged, F/N=5.12
- Mariposa:** 2 boxes, 10 fledged, F/N=5.00
- Lake:** 43 boxes, 138 fledged, F/N=4.76
- Amador:** 172 boxes, 815 fledged, F/N=4.68
- Los Angeles:** 44 boxes, 200 fledged, F/N=4.55
- Orange:** 795 boxes, 3561 fledged, F/N=4.39 (98% small boxes)

Merced's high is due to all the Wood Ducks which often have a clutch of 12. Orange's success is amazing inasmuch as it represents nearly 800 boxes.

5-year comparison shows improving conditions

The table below shows the increasing number of birds reported to CBRP over the last 5-year period. Although the number of monitors reporting last year decreased, including the number of nestboxes monitored, the total increase in birds reported was nearly 20% greater than in 1999.

Those responsible for last year's increases would seem to be the loyal landlords who are providing safer, more reliable housing for our cavity-nesters. This is seen by calculating the average number of birds fledged per nestbox. The figure has steadily increased every year since CBRP has been in business. This would seem to mean the loyal monitors are moving their boxes to better locations, protecting them from predators, and otherwise caring for their tenants better. The average per box for each of the five years has been 2.1, 2.3, 2.7, 2.9, and a big jump to 3.8 in 2000. (Even without the large increase in high-average birds like Wood Ducks, last year's per box average would be 3.4.) Keep up the good work.

TOTAL CAVITY-NESTERS REPORTED TO CBRP					
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
WEBL	3020	5398	5227	6050	6927
MOBL	137	6	160	130	159
TRES	477	554	2008	1984	2058
VGSW	30	252	324	450	358
HOWR	218	205	445	365	244
BEWR	10	18	55	21	23
OATI	314	423	627	680	627
CBCH	54	27	66	88	123
MOCH	217	54	83	84	61
WBNU	50	93	126	115	97
ATFL	295	485	562	487	367
AMKE		45	40	33	50
WODU	237	777	1591	2225	3951
OTHERS	5	56	6	36	67
TOTAL:	5077	8393	11326	13122	15705
NESTBOXES	2400	3642	4142	4596	4167

California Bluebird Recovery Program

Founded in 1994, supported by National Audubon Society-California and affiliated with the North American Bluebird Society, CBRP is "for the encouragement and conservation of cavity-nesters—especially bluebirds—any-where in the West."

CBRP is non-profit, has no paid staff, and is supported entirely by the efforts of volunteers and donations accepted by the Mt.Diablo Audubon Society on CBRP's behalf.

CBRP members had located and reported on more than 4,000 nestboxes by the end of 2000, with more than 15,000 cavity-nesters fledged—nearly half of them western and mountain bluebirds.

CBRP welcomes membership from the public who wish to support its program, and especially seeks those who will place appropriate nestboxes in the proper habitat, faithfully monitor the birds' progress through the nesting season, and report yearly on the results.

CBRP can furnish nestbox plans, a monitoring guide, forms for monitoring and reports, technical advice through a network of county coordinators, and sometimes the nestboxes themselves.

Membership, which includes this quarterly newsletter is available for a donation of \$5 or more made payable to "MDAS—Bluebirds" and mailed to CBRP, 2021 Ptarmigan Dr #1, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Donations are tax-deductible.

California Bluebird Recovery Program

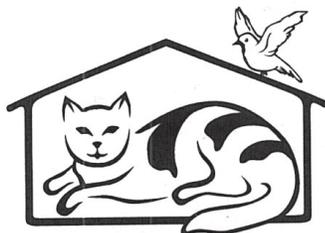
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CATS INDOORS!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER BIRDS & CATS

OKLAHOMA QUOTES US

We were pleased to receive a packet of reports from the OK Dept of Wildlife Conservation. The article from our last issue, *Wildlife 'rehabber' speaks out*, by Janet Bruening was reprinted for all members of the Oklahoma Nestbox Project by the State agency.

They too spread the word about House Sparrows and European Starlings threatening our native species.

POSSIBLE ANTIDOTE?**SUDDEN OAK DEATH
THREATENS CAVITY-NESTERS**

Sudden Oak Death was first observed in Marin County in 1995. Caused by a fungus called *Phytophthora*, it causes the layers below the bark of oaks to dissolve, weakening the tree and making it highly susceptible to secondary attacks by insects and other fungi.

The typical symptoms of an infected tree include the seeping of a dark reddish-brown viscous sap from lower portions of the main stem, dead discolored patches beneath the bark, extensive tunneling by small insects, and dark circular fruiting bodies (conks) of fungi on the bole.

First seen in tanoak, it has now been found extensively in coast live oak. Thus far, blue oak, valley oak, Engelmann oak, and canyon (gold cup) live oak have shown no signs of infection.

But researchers believe the California black oak of the western sierra and interior live oak are also susceptible. The ornamental rhododendron is a host to the fungi and may be responsible for its spread.

The implication for cavity-nesting birds could be severe. The Acorn Woodpecker, a primary cavity builder, depends on oaks for its existence. Widespread loss of oaks would severely impact the woodpeckers and secondarily all of the cavity-nesters that depend on the woodpecker cavities for their natural nesting sites.

A multiple agency task force has been formed to try to find methods of halting the spread of this new pest. They seek the help of observant citizens who will report any incident of SOD. A website has been developed for direct reporting of a suspect tree. It is:

<http://camfer.cnr.berkeley.edu/oaks/>
You may also report by phone to your

local County Agricultural Commissioner, or Farm Advisor (often listed on your County pages as Farm & Home Advisor, or University of California Cooperative Extension Farm and Home Advisor).

SOD has now been reported extensively in Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties with outbreaks observed in Mendocino, Humboldt, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties.

Besides helping in the detection, here are some things you can do to reduce the spread of SOD. Don't bring rhododendrons or firewood back from infested counties. Before returning home from coastal areas, wash soil from your shoes, mountain bikes, car tires and the like. At home, keep your landscape oaks healthy with occasional deep watering; and avoid compacting or trenching soil near the trees. A healthy tree can more easily resist infection.

AS *BLUEBIRDS FLY!* was going to press, news was released that a researcher at UC Berkeley may have found a cure for SOD. A spray of the chemical phosphonate, a fertilizer, may kill the fungus.

Nevertheless, it may be years before the cure is readily available. As reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on 3/10, it could take numerous studies and millions of dollars before the compound is approved for use as a pesticide, and that is only if a manufacturer decides to follow through.

In the meantime, members of **CBRP** can include surveillance of oak trees along with our monitoring of nestboxes. Prompt reporting will assist the task force and may help halt the spread of SOD.

**Support our
sponsors**

Founded in 1978, the **North American Bluebird Society** (NABS) is a non-profit organization determined to increase the populations of the three species of bluebirds on this continent. Inasmuch as the populations of these birds have diminished due to the maladroitness of human beings, as well as natural disasters, the society strives to explain the importance of preserving native cavity-nesters.

The society works within the bounds of effective conservation to study obstacles impeding bluebird recovery and to promote ideas and actions which might reduce their effect.

Membership is \$15. NABS's mailing address is PO Box 74, Darlington, WI 53530.



There are local chapters of the **National Audubon Society** (NAS) in all fifty states, Guam, and Latin America. In California there are over fifty local chapters. Chapters have newsletters, monthly programs, and field trips to local areas of interest.

To join NAS, contact your local Audubon Chapter, or call NAS-California at (916) 481-5332. National dues are \$20 for new members, and include a bimonthly magazine as well as membership privileges in your local Audubon chapter.

More on the annual report:

An analysis of the Western Bluebird in CA

By Robert L. Franz

Most species of birds reported were not widespread enough to make statistically sound comparisons. So this analysis deals only with the Western Bluebird.

Fledges per Egg (F/E)

There are four counties with .90 or higher F/E:

Calaveras: 30 eggs, 28 fledged, F/E=.93

Alameda: 250 eggs, 225 fledged, F/E=.90

Fresno: 80 eggs, 72 fledged, F/E=.90

Lake: 48 eggs, 43 fledged, F/E=.90

Three of the four are in more Northern counties. Southern counties such as Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles and San Bernardino showed ratios of .73 to .80.

Fledges per Hatchling (F/H)

The survival rate of hatchlings seems to bear little relationship to latitude. Rates of .90 occurred in 16 counties with 10 of them in counties north of Fresno.

Fledges per Try (F/T)

Those with the highest success in fledging birds from active nests (where at least 1 egg was laid) were:

Betty Lovejoy (Orange):

1 try, 7 fledged, F/T=7.0

Wm Barlow (El Dorado):

2 tries, 13 fledged, F/T=6.5

Jim Wright (El Dorado):

3 tries, 19 fledged, F/T=6.3

Connie Diernisse (Contra Costa):

1 try, 6 fledged, F/T=6.0

Ligia Moran (El Dorado):

2 tries, 12 fledged, F/T=6.0

Grant & Lori Nelson (El Dorado):

2 tries, 12 fledged, F/T=6.0

Jane & Tom Sartoris (El Dorado)

3 tries, 18 fledged, F/T=6.0

Counties with the best ratios were:

Lake: 9 tries, 43 fledged, F/T=4.8

Alameda: 48 tries, 225 fledged, F/T=4.7

Calaveras: 6 tries, 28 fledged, F/T=4.7

It looks like WEBLs enjoy making more fledglings per try in El Dorado County as 5 monitors reported F/T of 6 and above. Note, however, that the tries for these number no more than 3.

Second/Third Broods (F/T)

A comparison of second brood fledges/try with first-brood ratios shows a mixed bag when latitude is considered. Contra Costa has the most F/T gain (+85 %) and most of the activity is east of SF Bay. The second-most gain is in Kern (+45 %) and their nestboxes are east of Bakersfield. But surely the nestboxes in the most southerly counties such as Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Orange and even SLO, should be among the highest. Not at all. Second-brood F/T were down 73 % in SLO, down 62 % in Riverside, down 86 % in San Bernardino, no change in Los Angeles and up a miniscule 2% in Orange.

Locations of third-broods seem to defy the logic of weather. Out of the five counties reporting third broods, four of them (Alameda, Placer and Yuba/Sutter) are in counties near and north of San Francisco. The fifth is Orange, which is no surprise weather-wise.

FOR MONITORS: A CAUTIONARY TALE

This is a true story from V.W. of Hampton, Connecticut, which she originally wrote for her hometown newsletter, The Hampton-Gazette. It was reprinted in the Old Farmer's Almanac, 2000 edition.

Like most everyone who lives in the country I try to prepare well each season. So, one weekend last spring, when *Earthcare* said it was time to "put the mice out of the bluebird houses," I set out to do just that. Using a small hand cultivator to claw out the debris, a jug of water to slosh it out, and a long handled brush for scrubbing, I started my spring-mouse cleaning.

Things were going well until a panic-stricken mouse leaped out, landed at my feet and bolted for nearest cover—the long, dark, tunnel of my pants leg!

The term: "went ballistic" comes to mind but doesn't begin to describe the scene. It took a lot of flapping and yelling and an update of the Macarena, alternating between fast-forward and reverse to dislodge it.

Once I thought I had that accomplished, it took some time to quit shaking and regain a regular heartbeat.

Then I continued on my rounds. Because we have several widely spaced bluebird boxes, it took quite some time to finish the job.

Back at the house, I had settled down with a hot cup of tea, when I felt a sudden motion at my beltline. I thought the dog had nudged me and turned to speak sharply to him for begging. To my horror, he was lying quietly some distance away.

Quickly clapping one hand over the struggling "lump" and tearing wildly at my zipper with the other, I headed outside at a dead run with my dungarees at half-mast. The mouse popped out running in midair in the direction of the state forest, while I ran in the opposite direction.

A lesson to share: When cleaning out bluebird houses, wear elastic bands around the bottoms of your pants.

(Keeps out the ticks, too. —Ed.)

HERE ARE YOUR FORMS



Copy one for each nestbox; save the Annual Report for season's end.

California Bluebird Recovery Program

ANNUAL REPORT

Name: _____ Year: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Location of Trail (or Name): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ County: _____

No. Boxes: 1-Standard: _____ ; 2-Larger than Std: _____ ; 3-Smaller than Std: _____ ; Total: _____

No. Box pairs (2 boxes within 15 feet of each other): _____.

		1st Brood	2nd Brood	3d Brood	Total
Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
		No. Nests hatching 1 or more:			
Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
		No. Chicks fledged:			
Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
		No. Nests hatching 1 or more:			
Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
		No. Chicks fledged:			
Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
		No. Nests hatching 1 or more:			
Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
		No. Chicks fledged:			
Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
		No. Nests hatching 1 or more:			
Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
		No. Chicks fledged:			
Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
		No. Nests hatching 1 or more:			
Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
		No. Chicks fledged:			
Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
		No. Nests hatching 1 or more:			
Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
		No. Chicks fledged:			
Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
		No. Nests hatching 1 or more:			
Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
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Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
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Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
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		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
		No. Chicks fledged:			
Species:		No. Nests with 1 or more eggs:			
		No. Nests hatching 1 or more:			
Box Type No.:		No. Nests fledging 1 or more:			
		No. Eggs laid:			
		No. Chicks hatched:			
		No. Chicks fledged:			

Clip and save this form till season's end to report your birds

DON YODER'S

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Delayed Reports = Delayed Editions: Once again the Editor has finished compiling available reports of the past year's nesting activity. There comes a time to break off telephoning monitors who reported last year but who failed to send in their figures for the latest season. It is a tiring, strenuous, time-consuming, job—one that would not be necessary if reports were submitted when the nesting season is finished. Beside that extra work, the timeliness of our publishing schedule is thrown all out of kilter and no longer follows four copies a year which you as subscribers expect and to which you are entitled. Foot dragging causes the anchor to drag.



A few of 'our birds' may be rushing the season and overly anxious to start 2001 nesting activity. In fact, not only has nesting begun, but so has the egg laying, clearly signalling the start of another new season. **Lee Franks**, San Mateo, reported that 5 eggs were laid in January but were later abandoned.



Welcome to a new territory. It is fairly well accepted that different varieties of birds can most often be found at different altitudes. One such typical upper level bird is the Pileated Woodpecker, most often found in the Sierra—up in the big trees that can accommodate their required large

HERE ARE YOUR FORMS



Page 5-6 is your **INDIVIDUAL NEST-BOX FORM**. Please copy one form for each nestbox. They will provide you with the information needed for your annual report. Page 7-8 is the **ANNUAL REPORT FORM**. Clip it out and save it for the end of the season.

cavities. Our disbelief was stretched when **Fred Hanes** phoned to report a "big woodpecker" hanging around his area near Cordelia (intersection of Routes I-80 and 680) in Solano County. That is just about as lowland an area as could be found. But he sent a beautiful colored picture to prove his report was not a fairy tale. Where there is one, we hope there are two who will stay around to expand their territory for the new season. (They are cavity-nesters too and we can provide a nestbox plan for these big fellows since no trees there could accommodate them).



And that reminds us that our efforts to offer nestboxes for bluebirds can extend to other cavity-nesters as well. With few exceptions the box design is the same—it is only the dimensions of the hole, floor and cavity that vary. And you largely control who will use your boxes just by the size you provide.



Help for Every Monitor: Although we have publicized it several times in the past, a good many monitors and trail managers seem unaware that 'help is at hand.' We refer to the great guide, *Monitoring your Bluebird Trail in California*. It is written by our Editor, **Hatch Graham**, and is now in its 3rd Edition. We have copies on hand at \$3.00 each, postage included; free with new Newsletter subscriptions of \$10 or more, postage prepaid. Eleven (11) or more copies will come to you at \$2.00 per copy, plus postage. Please make checks payable to **MDAS-Bluebirds** and forward to the Ptarmigan address appearing elsewhere in this newsletter.



If you needed any proof that nest-

boxes are attractive to and do benefit varieties other than bluebirds, **Kathy & Andy Aldrich**, Tuolumne County, report that a solitary Western Screech Owl took over a box placed for kestrels. No nesting activity while he watched the world go by. Word gets around when space is available.



Kestrels do get to some boxes first, per a report by **Larry Bodiford**, also Tuolumne. Besides 17 fledged in 6 boxes, a 7th bird was still nesting at the last inspection so her results are not clearly established.



Disappointments will happen in spite of our best efforts. **Judith Burdkardt**, San Luis Obispo, had her 10 boxes in good condition, good locations, normal weather, without predators, or other known unfavorable conditions—but the totals are down from prior years. She surely would like to find causes or reasons.



New locations may be more productive. Various factors which may not always be evident to the trail manager may produce good—or no—results. Location is one of these elements. **Carole Dahl**, naturalist for East Bay Regional Parks, Contra Costa, feels that a change of location of each of the nestboxes on the Black Diamond trail may prove more productive for the 2001 season. Other monitors whose boxes failed to meet expectations may also want to consider such a measure. Simply facing a box in a new direction may also change the results. In Amador, **Jean Dorall** is also planning some box moves. She has no explanation as to why a neighbor's box, hanging in full hot sun, has produced 2 families.



Small flocks of bluebirds of vari-
—next page

MORE NOTES

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ous ages find habitat to their liking and are continuing to greet **Robert Franz**, Orange, as he approaches his boxes in city parks. *(It would seem they are remembering someone who has taken good care of them. Bob's production totals certainly help the population of bluebirds in Orange County).*



In Yuba, **Helen Goforth** watched as tree swallows held out to thwart nesting attempts by bluebirds, while an Ash-throated Flycatcher raised 3 youngsters nearby.



In Calaveras **LaVerne Hagel** observed bluebirds in the vicinity, in addition to those enjoying the boxes she had placed for their use.



In coastal Humboldt **David Hagemann** sees bluebirds arrive early in the season, nest and hatch, but repeatedly have difficulty feeding the young when confronted by frequent fog rolling in over the coast. to his 800 ft. elevation. A bluebird feeder has not been successful in overcoming the problem. He wonders if other birders in similar situations have experienced the problem? *(Check with Janet King in Ukiah who feeds mealworms. —Ed.)*



Looking back on five years' monitoring experience, **Richard Kempton**, Ventura, has provided first-time housing for an Oak Titmouse and had his first failure with Ash-throated Flycatchers. Bluebird numbers were average and back on a normal schedule—a month earlier than last year.



Chuck & Karin Lowrie, Amador, engaged that master bander, **Hatch**

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Protection, restoration, & maintenance of Western Bluebird habitat in the West

Forest scientists from Northern Arizona U and the Bureau of Land Management are restoring 4,000 acres of ponderosa pine forest in the Mt Trumbell area of Northern Arizona.

Western Bluebirds were once abundant when this forest consisted of open areas, forest clearings, savannahs, and had extensive edges.

The restoration consists of mechanical thinning, slash manipulation, prescribed burning, and reseeding of native grasses and plants.

The bluebirds are being studied with micro-video cameras, and close monitoring with a minimum of disturbance. After fledging, nests are examined for blowflies.

Thus far, 93% of nests in treated, open forests successfully fledged at least one nestling compared to only 61% in the untreated, dense forests, report **Heather & Stephen Germaine**, biologists with the Arizona Game & Fish Department.

Failures resulted from abandonment, severe weather in conjunction with low food availability, and predators—principally snakes, corvids (jays, crows, ravens), ground squirrels, raccoons, and , near urban areas, house cats.

On another front, in California, 10 million acres of oak woodland savannah are the state's most biologically diverse habitat. About 80% of these woodlands are privately owned, and two-thirds of them are used for domestic livestock grazing.

Economic pressures constitute a great threat to the continuation of these lands in the grazing regime which has existed since the colonization of California by the Spanish. (The mission period began at San Diego in 1769 and continued until 1823.)

The clearing with the consequent loss of oaks in the Sacramento-San

Joaquin Valleys has already eliminated the Oak Titmouse, the Western Bluebird, and many other cavity-nesters from the now nearly treeless valley. The continuing growth of population and demand for developed agriculture puts great pressure on the remaining 10 million acres of prime habitat.

In parts of the Central Coast, the value of grazing land may be less than 10% of that for cultivated agriculture or urban development according to **Rick Standiford**, forest management specialist at UC Berkeley. "Some estimates of land values on the Central Coast are \$300 to \$500 per acre for grazing land, \$8,000 per acre for vineyard development land, and \$20,000 per acre for residential development land," he says.

"Land markets are beginning to take these amenity values of hardwood rangelands into account, reducing the opportunity costs of developing these lands. Economic institutions like conservation easements and property tax policies, such as the Williamson Act, enable landowners to benefit from the environmental and recreational values of their rangelands and may play a critical role in the fate of these lands for future Californians."

In sum, Standiford says, "Given the increasing overall value of hardwood rangelands, it pays for landowners in California to maintain them and the health and vigor of oaks on their lands."

While an aggressive nestbox program serves as mitigation, enlightened land management policies are still our foremost conservation tools.

Material obtained from Bluebird, Journal of the North American Bluebird Society, v.23, no.1, Winter 2001, and Breakthroughs, College of Natural Resources, UCB, v.5, no.3, Fall 1999.

Call your coordinator if you need help—

Are you having problems identifying your birds? Are you having problems with wasps, blowflies, mites? Have your nestlings been abandoned? Are your nestboxes being invaded by House Sparrows? Your County Coordinators can give you advice and assistance, or have resources they can call on to help. Keep in touch.

COUNTY	COORDINATOR	STREET	CITY/STATE/ZIP	PHONE VOX	PHONE FAX	EMAIL
Alameda	Ann Kositsky	1090 Miller Ave	Berkeley, CA 94708	(510) 527-5091		aipa@pacbell.net
	Raymond A. Fontaine	P.O. Box 92	Livermore, CA 94551	(510) 447-0213		
Amador	Penny Brown	20624 Parkside Dr	Pine Grove, CA 95665	(209) 296-3849		penny@cdepot.net
Butte	Emily Harbison	3536 Butte Campus Dr	Oroville, CA 95965	(530) 895-2449		deb@cin.butte.cc.ca
Calaveras	La Verne Hagel	466 Thompson Lane	Copperopolis, CA 95228	(209) 785-2363		
Contra Costa	Shirley&Warren Engstrom	232 Tharp Drive	Moraga, CA 94556	(925) 376-4695		wlese@juno.com
	Oscar Enstrom	1932 Golden Rain Rd	Walnut Creek, CA 94595	(925) 952-9261		bigol@lanset.com
El Dorado & Amador Georgetown Divide	Hatch Graham	P.O. Box 39	Somerset, CA 95684	(530) 621-1833	(530) 621-3939	birdsfly@innercite.com
	Viola Sampert	5655 Hollow Ln	Greenwood, CA 95635	(530) 333-0318		
Lake	Jeannette Knight	PO Box 152	Cobb, CA 95426-0152	(707) 928-5250		
Lassen	Edward Bertotti	470 413 Wingfield	Susanville, CA 96130	(530) 257-3774		
	Mike Magnuson	PO Box 767	Chester, CA 96020	(530) 258-2141		
Los Angeles	Tom Rickman	PO Box 2017	Susanville, CA 96130	(530) 257-2151		
	Doug Martin	13066 Sherley Street	Sylmar, CA 91342	(818) 367-8967		
Madera	William Rihn	PO Box 1648	Coarsegold, CA 93614	(209) 683-3052		
Marin	Ruth Beckner	15 Portola Avenue	San Rafael, CA 94903	(415) 479-9542		
	Meryl Sundove	37 Greenwood Bch Rd	Tiburon, CA 94920	(415) 388-2524	(415) 388-0717	
Mariposa	Lawrence Punte	9443 Banderilla Dr	LaGrange, CA 95329	(209) 852-2559		
Modoc	Charles Welch	PO Box 825	Alturas, CA 96101	(530) 233-4534		
Napa & Sonoma	David Graves	1500 Los Carneros Ave	Napa, CA 94559	(707) 257-0843		
Nevada	Walt Carnahan	12821 Bradford Dr	Grass Valley, CA 95945	(530) 273-4599		walt@oro.net
Orange	Dick Purvis	936 S Siet Place	Anaheim, CA 92806	(714) 776-8878		Dickersly@aol.com
Placer	Lesia Chan	9720 Oak Leaf Way	Granite Bay, CA 95746	(916) 791-4529		habitat@jps.net
Plumas	Patricia Johnson	PO Box 767	Chester, CA 96020	(530) 258-2141		
Riverside	Melissa Browning	10154 Beaumont Ave	Cherry Valley, CA 92223	(909)845-9266		
San Bernardino	Glen Chappell	1923 Abbie Way	Upland, CA 91784	(909) 981-1996		Chappell@CHS.Chaffey,K12.CA.US
San Diego	Rosemary Fey	PO Box 1245	Borrego Spgs,CA 92004	(619) 767-5810		
San Joaquin	Thomas Hoffman	10122 E Woodbridge Rd	Acampo, CA 95220	(209) 369-8578		thoffman@lodinet.com
San Luis Obispo	Judith Burkhardt	8560 El Corte	Atascadero, CA 93422	(805) 466-3272		burkhardt@thegrid.net 3.
San Mateo	Howard Rathlesberger	230 Ridgeway	Woodside, CA 94062	(650) 367-1296	(650) 369-4788	Rathlesberger@email.msn.com
Santa Barbara	Richard Willey	4172 Vanguard Dr	Lompoc CA 93436	(805)733-5383		willey@utech.net
Santa Clara	Garth Harwood	5901 Pescadero Crk Rd	Pescadero CA 94060	(650) 879-0724		GarthHar@aol.com
Santa Cruz	Nanda Currant	530 Amigo Road	Soquel, CA 95073	(408) 462-3703		hearth@cruzio.com
Sonoma	Mike Crumly	23555 Hwy 21	Sonoma, CA 95475	(707) 996-7256		
Sutter	Kevin A. Putman	2884 Coy Dr	Yuba City, CA 95993	(530) 755-1480		dputman@syix.com
Tehama	Pete Flower	331 Oak Street	Red Bluff, CA 96080	(530) 527-0392		
Tulare	Peter C. Morrison, MD.	325 So. Willis	Visalia, CA 93291	(209) 733-1154		
Ventura	Jan Wasserman	1158 Beechwood St	Camarillo, CA 93010	(805) 987-3928		bandlady@west.net
Yuba	Kevin A. Putman	2884 Coy Dr	Yuba City, CA 95993	(530) 755-1480		dputman@syix.com
All Other Counties	Don Yoder	2021 Ptarmigan #1	Walnut Creek, CA 94595	(925) 937-5974	(925) 935-4480	cbrp@value.net



Find out more about your birds—have them banded

When you have determined your estimated hatching date, call a bander if one is near. Schedule permitting, the bander may be able to band the adult incubating the eggs and/or the nestlings a week or so after they pip from the eggs. Banding helps us learn about the site fidelity of the adults, the dispersal of the chicks, longevity, and other elements of population dynamics.

Amador & southern El Dorado	Hatch Graham	(530) 621-1833	birdsfly@innercite.com
El Dorado	Susan Yasuda	(530) 644-2324	syasuda@fs.fed.us
Northern El Dorado	Dave Delongchamp	(530) 333-2304	selkaijen@jps.net
Los Angeles	Walter Sakai	(310) 434-4702	sakai_walter@smc.edu
Mendocino & Lake	Janet King	(707) 462-3277	kingfarm@sonic.net
Orange	Christine Mukai		cmukai@chambersgroupinc.com
Placer & northern Sacramento	Dee Warenycia	(916) 786-5056	warbler5@aol.com
San Francisco Peninsula	Lee Franks	(650) 592-7733	funseekers2@juno.com
San Francisco Peninsula	Howard Rathlesberger	(650) 367-1296	Rathlesberger@email.msn.com
Solano & Yolo	Melanie Truan	(530) 750-3825	mtruan@ucdavis.edu
Sutter & Yuba	Kevin Putman	(530) 755-1480	dputman@syix.com
Ventura	Jan Wasserman	(805) 987-3928	bandlady@west.net

*ALPHA CODES FOR COMMON CAVITY-NESTERS

ATFL=Ash-throated Flycatcher
 BNOW=Barn Owl
 CBCH=Chesnut-backed Chickadee
 HOSP=House Sparrow
 EUST=European Starling
 MOBL=Mountain Bluebird
 MOCH=Mountain Chickadee
 TRES=Tree Swallow
 VGSW=Violet-green Swallow
 WEBL=Western Bluebird
 WBNU=White-breasted Nuthatch
 WODU=Wood Duck

Anyone desiring to band who can commit 2 or 3 days per week is encouraged to contact Hatch Graham.

MORE NOTES

—□□□□ □□□□ 10

Graham, to verify and label six Oak Titmouse chicks, thus entering the records of banded birds.



Because she is unique among all of our reporters we must recognize **Barbara Moore**, Nevada Co, being the principal monitor recording Mountain Bluebirds—and not just a couple of birds but 136 of them. That's a pretty nice day's work. (*Don, it's more than that at that elevation... —Ed.*)



WE NEED YOUR NEWS!

Please email *BLUEBIRDS FLY!* with news of your Spring arrivals. We would like the first egg dates of all of our cavity-nesters for our next issue. We're not looking for the earliest but the range. So everyone, please, let us know when the hens lay.

The quarterly folding party

Usually 4 times a year, **Don & Sue Yoder** make a trek from Walnut Creek to Sacramento. Simultaneously, **Hatch & Judy Graham** descend into the valley from Somerset. They have previously arranged with **Jennifer Jacobs**, office manager, at National Audubon—California to use their conference room to assemble this newsletter.

Prior to this quarterly trip, Jennifer has faxed the updated mailing list of Audubon Chapter Presidents and Editors to Hatch. The mailing lists have been updated and the newsletter printed.

While Sue, Don, and Hatch fold and seal each of 600+ newsletters, Judy affixes the mailing labels and sorts the mail into the bundles required for bulkmail by the Postal Service.

For the “free” copies to the 108 Audubon officers, NAS—CA covers all the mailing.

YES, CBRP DOES COLLECT DUES

Sometimes in our zeal to recruit monitors, some of our coordinators give folks the impression that all of our services are free. Not so. Some see our bulk mail indicia, and think we are a free service of **National Audubon Society**. Not so. We have no grants.

Some of the first-time recipients of our newsletter have paid nothing and are surprised when later we ask for a contribution. We apologize for the misunderstandings. We can't be free.

CBRP is not financed by anyone but individual donors. We are affiliated financially with **Mt Diablo Audubon Society (MDAS)**, a non-profit independent chapter of NAS. They keep our accounts. All of our operating capital comes from the \$5 *or more* we ask for an annual subscription. This (barely) pays for the newsletter.

All services are by volunteers. We do solicit subscriptions and donations.

Your subscription is a benefit of membership. Membership is available for as little as \$5 per year but *more* is greatly appreciated. We send the newsletter to many cooperators but we need paid members to keep printing. The year and month of your membership expiration is shown in the upper right side of your label, e.g., 200106=June 2001.

Please send correspondence to address on page 2
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