

## County GOP Assembly Will Meet Tuesday

Santa Cruz county Republican assembly will meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Palomar hotel to hear reports on the state convention and to elect new directors for the year, according to Clair Ellis, president.

Ellis said reports will be heard on the convention held March 18-20 in Pasadena.

Tanner Wilson has been appointed chairman of the nomination committee for the local group.

Twenty-four million Americans now living will die of cancer if present death rates for this disease continue.

## VITAMIN HEADQUARTERS

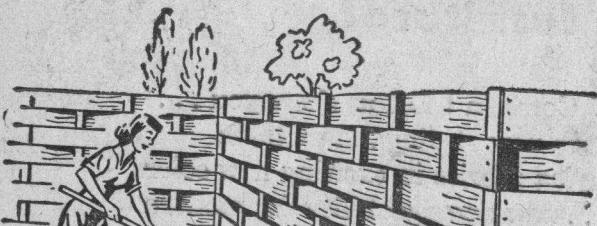
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## YOU'LL HAVE PRIVACY IN YOUR YARD



# Along The Trail

## by ken legg

Two species of hummingbird are common to Santa Cruz. The Anna, principally green in color, is a permanent resident, remaining throughout the year. The Allen, smaller and mostly copper-colored, arrives about the first week in February and departs for the south in September.

Allen hummers favor eucalyptus groves locally. They are more abundant than Annas during the nesting season and a good grove of trees such as the one near the lighthouse has a dozen or more breeding pairs.

The males of both species engage in elaborate courtship performances. That of the Anna takes place in November and by Christmas many females are nest building. Although the first Anna I found moved her nest four times, she began building December 22.

Of the two hummers, Allen has a more spectacular display. When a female is spotted the male begins to execute short flights in an arc back and forth through the air, writhing, bending his body, and shaking so violently it looks like he will shake his feathers off.

After some dozen or more of these pendulum flights he bores straight for the heavens until nearly out of sight. He then turns and plummets earthward, pulling out of the dive above the motionless female who is usually perched near the ground. As he pulls from the dive a sharp whistle is heard. This is probably produced

by air rushing through the bird's spread tail feathers.

I have found hummingbird nests as high as 50 feet and as low as six inches from the ground. Seedling blue gum like the one pictured is a favorite nest site for the Allen. Nests are made of plant down, that of cattails and willows being favored at the Natural Bridges park. This down is bound together, and to the twig, with spider webs. Until you have watched at close range the sewing, tamping and wiggling of a female hummer at work nest building you haven't witnessed industry.

Usually two, but rarely one, pure white eggs about the size of a navy bean are laid. The incubation period is 16 to 17 days and when the young are hatched they resemble blind black bugs. At birth the bill is shaped like that of other birds, growing long only as the days pass.

Hummingbirds in many areas where there are no nectar producing flowers feed mainly on minute insects such as gnats and midges. The young are fed by the female since the male takes no part in family care.

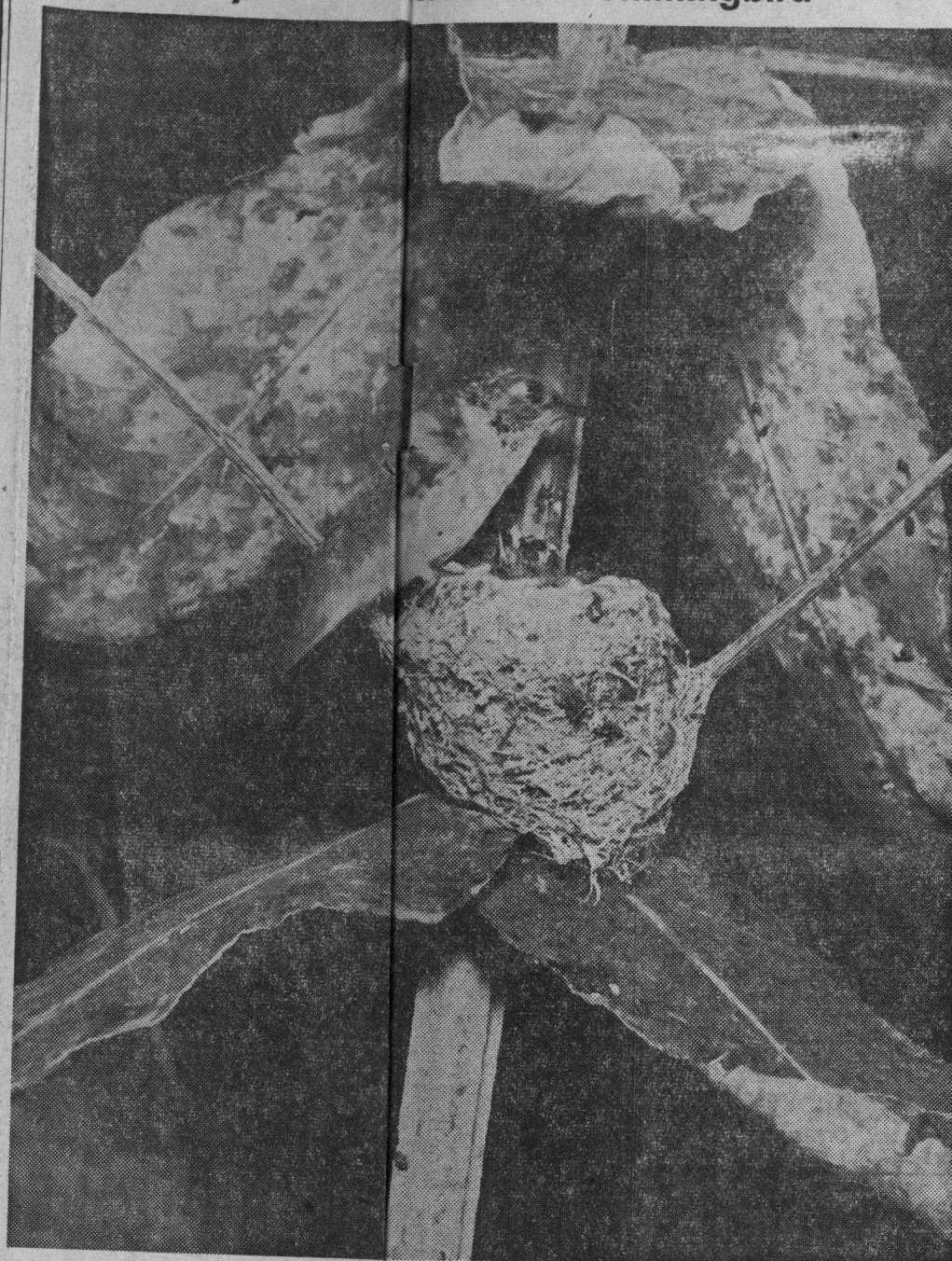
Feeding time at a hummingbird nest is remindful of a sword swallowing act. The little mother perches on the nest rim and buries her long beak in the open mouth of her young. She then pumps him full of regurgitated pre-digested food.

After about 20 days of this treatment the young are able to leave the nest. It is believed that many hummers raise two broods a year and the Allen remains in Santa Cruz until about the first week in September.

Many people are familiar with the Anna hummingbird for it is often seen in winter about fuchsias and other flowers. The Allen is a smaller bird and as mentioned previously is coppery whereas the Anna is green. Males of both species sport iridescent red bibs.

The Pelton avenue eucalyptus grove, as well as the Natural Bridges park, is a good spot to watch and listen for these buzzing little speedsters.

## Any Place Is Fine For A Hummingbird



The female Allen hummingbird, pictured above with her nicely plastered nest, can be happy far above the ground or

near it. All the little woman reeves is the right to change her mind about her

home's location and build another some place else before she lays her eggs and turns to the duties of being a mother.

## Woman Plans Recall Move On Supervisors

A classified ad has been inserted in today's Sentinel-News by Mrs. C. H. M.

## Garfield Park Playground Fetes Spring

The children of Garfield park are greeting spring with a host of new activities. Last week they

## GUARDS, SUNBEAMS HAVE WINTER CAM

Girls of the Osoles Guard and Branciforte Sunbeam troops united for a winter camp at the Salvation Army's Redwood Glen camp. Approximately 50 Santa Cruz Guards and Sunbeams hiked from Camp Evers to the site of Bean Creek road for a full school