

Along The Trail

by ken legg

It won't be necessary for me to refer to any text for information on this subject. I have lived intimately with the barn swallow this last summer. They were so anxious to make my acquaintance that one pair built a nest over our kitchen window, while others were on the office porch, over the shop door and on a neighbor's garage. When their nests wouldn't stick to the walls I put up a ledge and they sat their nest on it. I was

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TIME APPOINTED FOR PROVING WILL, ETC. No. 14,874

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of GERTRUDE E. MAIN, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the probate of the will of Gertrude E. Main, deceased, and for the issuance of letters Testamentary has been filed in this court, and that OCTOBER 5, 1956 at 10:00 o'clock A. M. of said day, and the courtroom of said court, in the courthouse, in the city of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, have been fixed as the time and place for the hearing of said petition, when and where all persons interested may appear and contest the same and show cause why said petition should not be granted. Reference is hereby made to said Petition for further particulars.

Dated SEPTEMBER 19, 1956.

TOM M. KELLEY,

Clerk.

By Florence B. Mulam,

Deputy Clerk.

LUCAS, WYCKOFF & MILLER,
Attorneys for Petitioner,
P. O. Box 475,
Santa Cruz, California.
Sept. 23 to Oct. 3

NOTICE OF INTENDED SALE SCLTC 60815

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That FRED L. FRANCIS, owner of that certain business known as "Linda Vista Laundromat", 2832 Mission Street, Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, consisting of all furniture, fixtures, equipment and business goodwill pertaining to the conducting of such establishment, intend to sell same.

The name and address of the intended Vendor is:

FRED L. FRANCIS, 333 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, California.

The name and address of the intended Vendee is:

VIOLET MIRTALLO, 207 Miramar Drive, Santa Cruz, California.

That the said sale will be consummated and the purchase price paid over at the office of Santa Cruz Land Title Company, 115 Cooper Street, Santa Cruz, California, at 11:00 on October 1, 1956.

DATED: Santa Cruz, California, September 14, 1956.

FRED L. FRANCIS,
Sept. 23



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doing so, out of kindness, but had ulterior motives also. I wanted to study their habits, and at night when the adults were sleeping I sneaked up on the nest and clapped a butterfly net over them. Then, each was fitted with an identifying color band.

I especially want to determine how many return next year. By having the colored bands on them I hope to learn whether pairs remain together in succeeding years and if they use the same building on which to put their nest.

Barn swallows are in California from April until September; the rest of their year is spent in Central or South America. They arrive on the nesting grounds later than other swallows. On April 16, this year, I was exploring a large flat marshland with a shallow lake in the middle. Many swallows were flying about and feeding above the marsh. Several bank swallows and cliff swallows were in the party, but the largest numbers were tree swallows. A lone barn swallow flew with the others.

Shortly after the birds arrive, the pairs begin to search for suitable nest sites. Some sort of projection to support the bottom of the nest seems to be desired. However, they will build without this bottom support, merely plastering the nest to a smooth wall. Unless the wood is rough and unpainted such unsupported nests usually do not hold.

The birds must be expecting rain, and must know that mud nests in the rain are unstable, for all the nests I have seen were under some overhanging eave or inside a building.

Nests are composed of mud pellets mixed with grass or other binding material, as hair or feathers. One nest which I examined had 40 feathers in it. Most of these were chicken feathers, and the nearest chicken yard was a mile away.

Barn swallows may be said to be somewhat colonial, or have semi-colonial habits, depending upon circumstance. They are not as strictly colonial as cliff or bank swallows.

I recall finding what I would consider a true colony on the Steele ranch north of Davenport. Eight pairs had nests in one small building. A disturbance at one nest caused a reaction among all other birds of the group. At Prairie creek, where usually only one nest was on a building, and where the buildings were rather far apart, the pairs of swallows were not in as close contact and were less affected by one another. Perhaps in this circumstance we should not say that they are living as a colony.

For the two weeks that incubation of the eggs is in progress only one bird occupies the nest at night. This is probably the female because some investigators believe that, whereas some

male birds do set on eggs, they are not capable of producing body heat sufficient to incubate eggs.

After the eggs are hatched both parents spend the night on the nest. Nest sites are well marked with excreta. The feces of the young is carried away by the parents, therefore, that which marks up the walls and floors of buildings is from the adults.

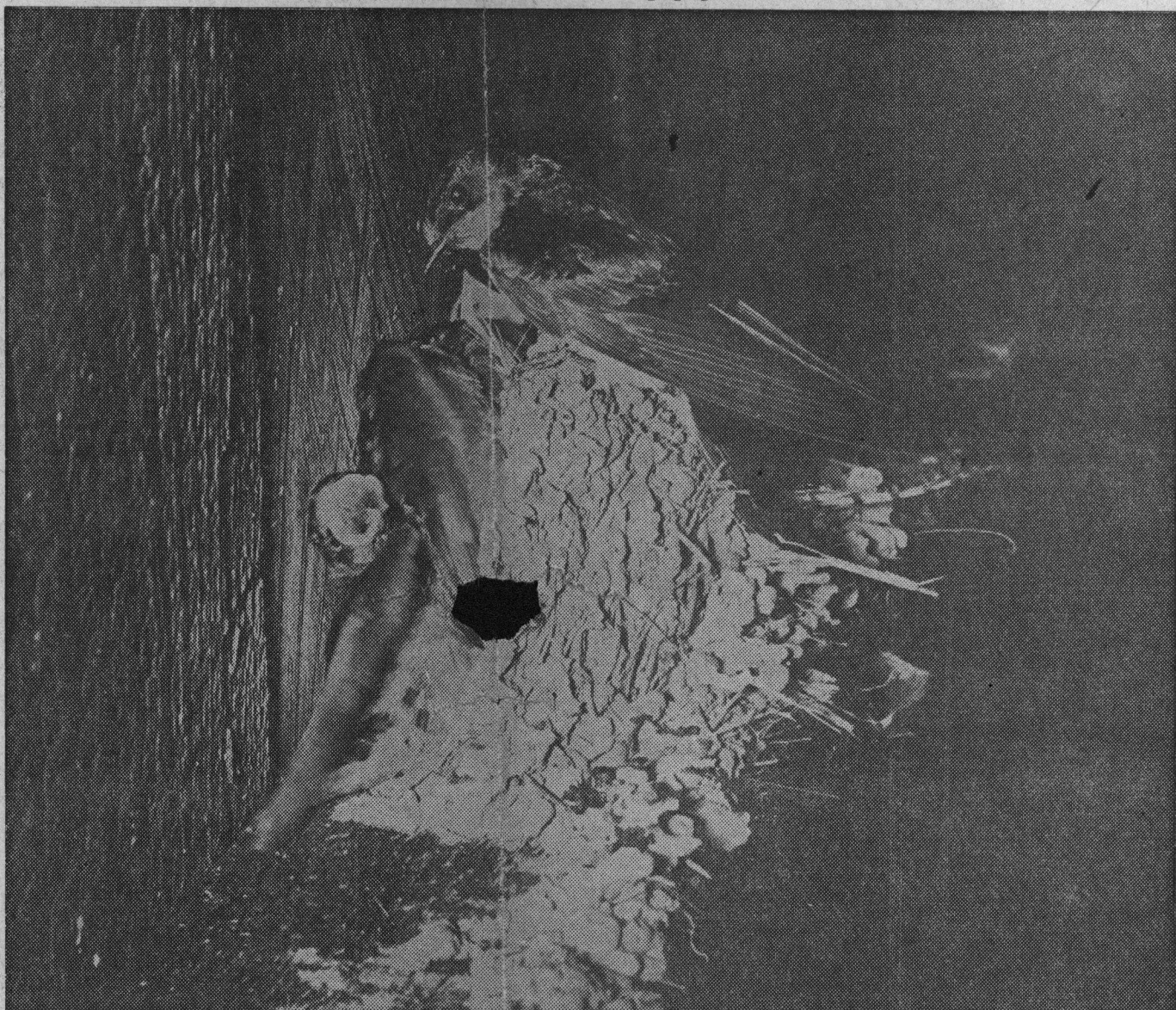
One who has seen a barn swallow habitat can visualize all the requirements — an extensive expanse of field over which to hunt insects, some buildings, preferably old and dilapidated, in which to place their nests, and a stream or pond with water enough to moisten clay soil to make it mud. These seem to be the main requirements.

In northern California barn swallows are found coastsides. The species is found throughout North America where they are somewhat of an aristocrat among swallows because of the two long tail feathers. There is little difference in the plumages of males and females, although of some 116 study skins which I recently inspected at the University of California there were no females as dark as the darkest-colored males.

In adults, the forehead is rusty brown, the back is metallic blue, and the underparts are cinnamon. This may vary, some showing more white than others. I suspect this may be an age characteristic, and those with the darker cinnamon breasts may be older birds.

Sometime in September, after having raised two broods of young, the families will gather on some telephone wire for a day or so, preparatory to the long journey

Barn Swallow Makes Happy Home For Self



Glaaring one-eyed at the flash of the camera, this barn swallow appears to be showing just

a tinge of animosity at the photographer who invaded its privacy to catch a picture as the

birds works on its clay nest, preparing a spot for its young

to be raised. But it will not go away—not after all the work of building that nest.

New Ordinance To Affect West Cliff Building

An emergency ordinance come before the council last night, prohibiting construction on West Cliff.

completion of the erosion project.

"The measure is to protect prospective the area," said a city federal erosion project that a certain amount has to be done, interfere with development the area."

south. Many times these swallow the fall. If one tion run wild he ents giving the final instruction. He may decide t ing their final p fueling up their sects. Silly? Mayb can prove this is anyone prove it

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Articles Valued At \$300 Stolen

ROBBERY INVESTIGATED

Sheriff's investigators are looking into a reported break-in at

HER FIRST CHOICE