



Cabrillo  
Marine  
Aquarium

# FISHIN' FOR F.A.Q.'S

Volume I

Issue 2



## Fun Facts

The Brown Pelican can hold about 3 gallons of water and fish in its pouch!

They have air sacks beneath their skin and in their bones which makes them very buoyant.

All birds lay eggs. The eggs in a nest are referred to as a clutch.



Bird eggs have a hard outer shell that protects the baby bird while it's developing inside. Egg shells have various colors and patterns depending on the type of bird that laid them. They can be a **rainbow** of hues, from simple **white, cream, buff, and tan shades** to **lavender, mint green, yellow, teal, gray, red-orange, pink, and blue-green.**

Eggs may be plain, or they may have markings in different colors, such as **red-brown, deep purple, black, gray, or green.** Spots, flecks, specks, splotches, blotches, and squiggles can all be marked on eggs and add to their color variations.

### Q. Do all birds migrate?

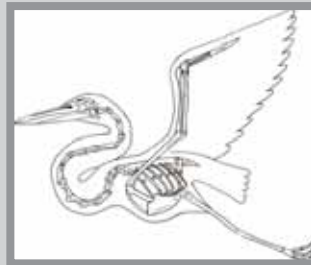
Not all birds migrate, but the majority of birds do. In fact, in North America about 75% of birds migrate. They do this for various reasons, for example, to find a more abundant source of food or a better climate. While many species of fish, mammals, and even insects undertake amazing **migratory** journeys, birds as a group are the most mobile creatures on Earth. Even with our trains, planes, bikes, and many vehicles, humans can't equal the mobility of birds!

### Q. How do birds sing?

Birds make tons of different sounds: chirps, rattles, whistles, trills, croaks, drumming, and many more. Vocal sounds are made by a special organ only birds possess called the **syrix**. The syrix is located at the very top of the birds' windpipe. The air that comes in through the windpipe causes thin membranes to vibrate and produce sound.

### Q. Do birds have hollow bones?

Yes! With hollow bones a bird can fly very long distances without getting worn out from carrying its own weight.



Hollow bones look like other bones, with the usual hard exterior you'd expect a bone to have. But instead of being filled with **marrow** like human bones, a hollow bone has an air cavity inside. The hollow part of a bird bone isn't wasted space. In some bones, the hollow cavities contain extensions of the air sacs from the lungs. These air sacs help the bird to get the oxygen it needs to fly quickly and easily.



## Just for Laughs

- Q. Why do seagulls fly over the sea?  
A. Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be bay-gulls!

## At CMA

Be sure to check out the **Channel Islands** Exhibit and learn about the unique adaptations of marine birds

## FAST FACTS

Common Name:  
Brandt's Cormorant

Diet: hunt squid & many types of fish; anchovy, herring, sculpin & seabass

Clutch size: 1 to 6 eggs

Incubation period: unknown

Egg description: Pale blue, or bluish-white

Habitat: marine coastlines & estuaries near the ocean; rest & roost on rocky islands, cliffs and sometimes beaches.

Conservation status: Vulnerable status; Populations are on a decline in some U.S. territories

