

# did you know?

The Yellow-billed cuckoo is a fascinating bird in decline in the western United States. Here's some fun facts about the species.

**6**

Most young cuckoos leave the nest on day 6. They can't fly yet, but climb through the canopy.

## Fast Food

Caterpillars and katydids are what cuckoos like to eat most, but they'll catch tree frogs and grasshoppers to use as fast food for their young.

**30**

Most cuckoo pairs are monogamous, but about 30% of nests have unrelated helper males also feeding the young.

**11**

Yellow-billed cuckoos usually raise their own young, but have laid eggs in nests of at least 11 different kinds of birds.



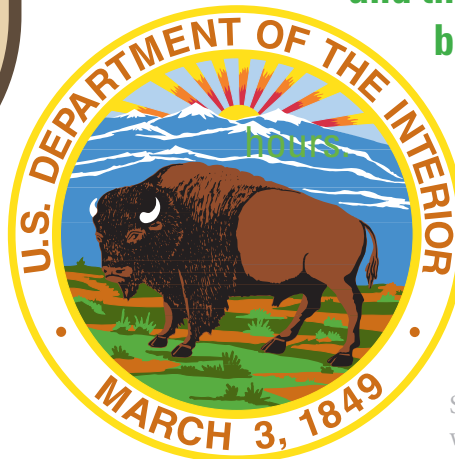
**4**

On the cuckoo's feet, two toes point forward and two point backwards. Most other birds have three pointing forward and one back.



**2**

On day five or six, the nestling's feathers burst out of their sheaths and the cuckoo chicks become fully feathered in just two hours.



**1/2** Feathers make up almost half of the Yellow-billed cuckoos body weight.

Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office  
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