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**Guthrie, D.A., "Birds along the Santa Clara River and Its Tributaries near  
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**BIRDS ALONG THE SANTA CLARA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES  
NEAR VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
LEAST BELL'S VIREO; SPRING 1990**

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During the late Spring and early Summer of 1990 a survey was conducted of a section of the Santa Clara River and its tributaries in the vicinity of Valencia, California to determine habitat use by breeding birds. Special emphasis was placed on locating species considered rare and endangered. These included the least Bell's Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Willow Flycatcher.

Each survey was conducted on foot by observers well acquainted with both visual and auditory patterns of southern California birds. All surveys occurred between 6 and 10 am. and at a time of year when breeding birds are active. A taped voice of least Bell's Vireo was played periodically to elicit response from territorial males during all surveys and during the June surveys, voices of Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow Flycatcher were also played.

To facilitate surveys, the area was divided into eight sections (Figure 1) as follows:

**Area 1. Santa Clara River, I-5 to the mouth of Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence to State Route 126.**

Length of area, 4.0 miles. The Santa Clara River flows continuously in this section and is augmented by the Valencia wastewater outfall near the upstream end of this section. Riparian vegetation is well developed. Ponds have been created for cultivation of water cress along a portion of the stream. Except for a short section adjacent to the Santa Clara River, this section of Castaic Creek in dry.

**Area 2. Santa Clara River, I-5 to McBean Parkway.**

Length of area, 1.4 miles. The Santa Clara River flows continuously in this section and riparian vegetation is well developed. Ponds have been created for cultivation of water cress along a portion of the stream.

**Area 3. Santa Clara River, McBean Parkway to Boquet Canyon Road.**

Length of area 1.2 miles. Water, supplied by the Saugus wastewater outfall at Boquet Canyon bridge, is continuous in this section of the Santa Clara River.

**Area 4. Santa Clara River, Boquet Canyon Road upstream to DWP transmission lines.**

Length of area, 2.3 miles. This section of the Santa Clara River showed signs of spring flooding but was totally dry during this study.

**Area 5. Castaic Creek, Route 126 to Interstate 5.**

Length of area, 2.5 miles. Although there was evidence of spring flooding, the only water during this study was two small pockets of runoff from culverts at the northern end of the area.

**Area 6. San Francisquito Creek, from Santa Clara River upstream 2.5 miles.**

Length of area, 2.5 miles. This section was dry except for the

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Figure 1. Major placenames and location of study areas.

section below Newhall Ranch Road which was continuously wet due to runoff from the nearby industrial park.

**Area 7. South Fork of Santa Clara River, McBean Parkway to Magic Mountain Parkway (Route 126).**

Length of area, 1.0 miles. This section was completely dry.

**Area 8. South Fork of Santa Clara River, Route 126 to Newhall Creek.**

Length of area, 1.8 miles. This section of the river was dry except for damp areas formed by runoff from three culverts along the west side of the creek and one culvert on the east side of the creek.

The eight areas described above do not correspond to the 9 areas of this section of the river system studied by Henrickson (1988). In his study Henrickson divided the vegetation along the river into 9 vegetative communities. Table 1 lists these communities and shows how much of each exists within the 8 birds study areas outlined above.

The 9 plant communities listed by Henrickson form a mosaic within the Santa Clara River system. Because birds are mobile organisms and move freely between plant communities, it did not seem feasible to identify species preferences among the plant communities listed by Henrickson. Rather, four broad plant community associations for the birds observed are identified. These are **wet riparian, dry riparian, open areas, and scrub**. Two additional non-vegetated habitat categories are also included. These are **aerial** for species such as vultures, swallows and swifts that fly over the area but seldom land and **stream** for species such as herons that feed in water. Acreages of these habitat associations in each study area are shown in table 2.

## **DISCUSSION**

Field observations for the 8 study areas are presented in Tables 3-10. This section is not intended as an exhaustive analysis of these observations but rather as a commentary useful for interpretation of the results.

### **Wintering and Migrant Species**

April counts recorded a few late lingering wintering individuals but these records are not indicative of true winter population levels. Migratory individuals were present during May counts but had departed by June. In a few cases, as with Cliff Swallow and Red-wing Blackbird, counts in early Spring recorded large numbers of migrants. Later counts, presumably of breeding birds, were smaller (see table 3). The high count of yellowthroats in Area 3 on April 17th (Table 5) is believed to represent migratory birds.

### **Population levels - Breeding Birds**

Breeding species are most noticeable when males are defending territory with song. However, many species sing during stops during migration. Identification of breeding individuals usually requires repeated sightings of singing individuals in the same territory or location within a habitat. While two to three visits to an area are insufficient to determine population levels with

**Table 1. Plant Community Acreages in Bird Study Areas.**

| Plant Communities of<br>Henrickson, 1988 | Bird Study Areas |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 1                | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7-8   |
| 1. Wet Herbaceous                        | 34.6             | 3.4   | -     | 1.0   | -     | 1.3   | 3.0   |
| 2. Wet Mixed Shrub                       | 73.5             | 12.1  | 18.1  | 1.1   | 5.4   | -     | -     |
| 3. Dense Willow-Cottonwood               | 148.4            | 77.3  | 6.7   | 13.7  | 42.3  | 11.0  | -     |
| 4. Dry Willow Scrub                      | 69.9             | 1.8   | 15.2  | 103.9 | 26.2  | 62.4  | 2.4   |
| 5. Dry Open Floodplain                   | 40.2             | 6.1   | 89.6  | 151.6 | 23.0  | 52.6  | 97.8  |
| 6. Cottonwood Groves                     | 26.1             | 37.2  | 3.8   | 25.2  | -     | 29.4  | -     |
| 7. Scalebroom Scrub                      | -                | -     | -     | -     | -     | 99.3  | -     |
| 8. Great Basin Scrub                     | 0.8              | -     | 10.7  | 46.9  | 0.9   | 2.3   | -     |
| 9. Weedy Herbaceous                      | 15.6             | 4.4   | 31.5  | 0.2   | 12.0  | 72.8  | -     |
| totals                                   | 409.1            | 142.3 | 175.6 | 343.6 | 109.8 | 331.0 | 103.2 |

**Table 2. Acreages of Plant Associations in Bird Study areas used in this Study.**

| Bird Associations<br>this study | Study Areas |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                 | 1           | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7-8   |
| Wet Riparian (1,2)*             | 108.1       | 15.5  | 18.1  | 2.1   | 5.4   | 1.3   | 3.0   |
| Dry Riparian (3,4,6)            | 244.4       | 116.3 | 25.7  | 142.8 | 68.5  | 102.8 | 2.4   |
| Open (5,9)                      | 55.8        | 10.5  | 121.1 | 151.8 | 35.0  | 125.4 | 97.8  |
| Scrub (7,8)                     | 0.8         | -     | 10.7  | 46.9  | 0.9   | 101.6 | -     |
| totals                          | 409.1       | 142.3 | 175.6 | 343.6 | 109.8 | 331.0 | 103.2 |

\* Numbers refer to plant communities listed in Table 1.

great accuracy, they do show general population trends.

At least three factors affect population observations of breeding birds along the Santa Clara River. One, noted above, is when early counts are augmented by migratory individuals passing through the area, as occurred with swallows, Red-wing Blackbird and yellowthroat. The second, is when populations are augmented by young of the year. This occurs with species usually identified visually, such as quail, doves and hummingbirds. The third is when species from drier habitats are attracted to water. Many species, such as house finch, mourning dove and raven show large fluctuations in population numbers due to sporadic visits to stream areas from the surrounding drier habitats.

Given these qualifications, the data in Tables 3-10 do present fairly accurate pictures of the breeding populations of several species.

#### **Habitat Preferences - Riparian Species**

Each species has its own needs and habitat preferences and this is evidenced in the field observations. Only a very small number of species are strictly associated with wet riparian habitat. These include Blue Grosbeak, Least Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, Yellowthroat and Red-wing Blackbird. The last two species are especially associated with cattail marshes. Song Sparrows began nesting early in the year after spring floods when cattails and other wet riparian developed along temporary water courses. By the time of censusing, much of this wet riparian habitat was drying out. Upon completion of nesting these individuals left these dry areas and moved to the banks of permanent streams. Thus the Castaic Creek counts of Song Sparrow were high at the beginning of the study but low later while counts along the Santa Clara River show the reverse trend.

#### **Species of Concern**

A pair of Least Bell's Vireo were found in young willow beside a water cress field near the intersection of Rte 126 and I-5 (see figure 1). This species has nested in this area in previous years according to censuses conducted by RECON.

Yellow Warblers were present along the permanent portions of the Santa Clara River where vegetation was well developed (Areas 1,2,3) and to a lesser extent in areas where cottonwoods were present even though surface water was absent (Areas 4,7,10). Castaic Creek (Area 5) supported a large population and showed that surface water had been present until just before the time of surveys.

A small number of willow flycatchers were observed singing and presumably were nesting. No Yellow-billed Cuckoos were observed during the study.

#### **COMMENTS ON STUDY AREAS**

**Area 1. Santa Clara River, I-5 to the mouth of Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence to State Route 126.**

This area contains the largest amount of wet riparian habitat and the largest number of species associated with this habitat as well as water birds were seen in this area. Swallows nested on cliffs along the river and under

bridges at I-5. Hawks nested in taller cottonwoods and hunted over adjacent grasslands. The counts of many species increased in June, presumably due to birds from adjacent areas being attracted to the permanent flow of the Santa Clara River.

**Area 2. Santa Clara River, I-5 to McBean Parkway.**

The June 28th census included the large section of dry cottonwood forest along the southern portion of this area with a result of higher counts of woodpeckers, titmouse and Bewick's Wren. Elderberry was also in fruit in June and attracted numbers of House Finch, Starlings, grosbeak, jays and crows from surrounding areas.

**Area 3. Santa Clara River, McBean Parkway to Boquet Canyon Road.**

This area has much open gravel and little vegetation compared to other areas with the result that observations of riparian species were low. Barn Owl roosted under the McBean bridge and Cliff Swallow nested on the bridge.

**Area 4. Santa Clara River, Boquet Canyon Road upstream to DWP transmission lines.**

There were almost no wet riparian species in this area owing to the lack of permanent water. Dry riparian species such as Bewick's Wren were also not as numerous as in area with permanent water. Quail were abundant and hawks foraged widely over the open sections of the area.

**Area 5. Castaic Creek, Route 126 to Interstate 5.**

Horned Lark were resident in abandoned agricultural fields adjacent to the study area. Despite lack of surface water, cottonwoods thrived along the river channel indicating subsurface water and these attracted several riparian species.

**Area 6. San Francisquito Creek, from Santa Clara River upstream 2.5 miles.**

The only wet riparian species were found near the Santa Clara River where runoff from the nearby industrial park supported cattails and willows in the lower portion of San Francisquito Creek. Red-wing and Blue Grosbeak were present in this section. The rest of the area was dry and supported dry riparian species.

**Area 7. South Fork of Santa Clara River, McBean Parkway to Magic Mountain Parkway (Route 126).**

This section is narrow, bounded in part by concrete sides. Due to the low amount of riparian vegetation bird observations were low.

**Area 8. South Fork of Santa Clara River, Route 126 to Newhall Creek.**

Cattails are developed in pockets supported by runoff from adjacent housing and these supported redwings and other riparian species. Swallows hunted over these areas and nested under the Rte. 126 bridge. Several species (House Finch, Mockingbird) moved in and out of the area from neighboring suburbs.



## REFERENCES

Henrickson, J., D.A. Guthrie and D.L. Soltz, 1988. Biological Resources along those Portions of the Santa Clara River, South Fork of the Santa Clara River, San Francisquito Creek and Castaic Creek controlled by Newhall Land and Farming Company. Report prepared for Newhall Land and Farming Company

Table 3. Bird Observations in Area 1; Santa Clara River, Interstate 5 to Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from Confluence to Rte. 126.

| Species                   | April 19 | May 8 | June 21 | Status | Habitat |
|---------------------------|----------|-------|---------|--------|---------|
| Great Egret               | 1        | -     | -       | M      | S       |
| Green-backed Heron        | 2        | 3     | -       | R      | S,D     |
| Mallard                   | 5        | 10    | 1       | R      | S,W     |
| Turkey Vulture            | -        | -     | 1       | S      | A       |
| Black-shouldered Kite     | -        | -     | 2       | R      | D,R     |
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | 4        | 3     | 2       | R      | D,W     |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | 2        | 5     | 1       | R      | R,D     |
| American Kestrel          | 2        | 1     | 1       | R      | R,D     |
| California Quail          | 11       | 27    | 26      | R      | C,D,R   |
| American Coot             | 2        | -     | -       | M      | S       |
| Killdeer                  | 3        | 2     | 3       | R      | R       |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | -        | 2     | 2       | R?     | S       |
| Mourning Dove             | 9        | 29    | 19      | R      | R,D     |
| Great Horned Owl          | -        | -     | 1       | R      | D,R     |
| Vaux's Swift              | -        | 12    | -       | M      | A       |
| White-throated Swift      | 10       | -     | 4       | R      | A       |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | 3        | 1     | -       | S      | C,D     |
| Anna's Hummingbird        | 11       | 4     | 8       | R      | W,D     |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker      | 4        | 3     | 10      | R      | D,W     |
| Downy Woodpecker          | 5        | 2     | 4       | R      | W,D     |
| Northern Flicker          | 3        | 4     | 7       | R      | D,W     |
| Willow Flycatcher         | -        | -     | 1       | S      | W,D     |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher   | 7        | 5     | 9       | S      | C,D     |
| Black Phoebe              | 1        | 6     | 11      | R      | S,W     |
| Western Kingbird          | -        | -     | 3       | S      | D,R     |
| Horned Lark               | -        | 1     | -       | R?     | R       |
| Violet-green Swallow      | -        | 20    | 9       | S      | A       |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow   | 22       | 70    | 91      | S      | A       |
| Cliff Swallow             | 380      | 52    | 43      | S,M    | A       |
| Scrub Jay                 | 29       | 32    | 41      | R      | D,W,C   |
| Common Crow               | 18       | 19    | 24      | R      | D,R     |
| Northern Raven            | 4        | 4     | 5       | R      | D,R     |
| Plain Titmouse            | 12       | 8     | 20      | R      | D,W     |
| Bushtit                   | 14       | 26    | 72      | R      | D,W,C   |
| Bewick's Wren             | 53       | 77    | 72      | R      | D,C,W   |
| Western Bluebird          | -        | -     | 6       | R?     | D       |
| Wrentit                   | 1        | 3     | 2       | R      | C       |
| California Thrasher       | 9        | 8     | 2       | R      | D,W,C   |
| Phainopepla               | -        | 5     | -       | R      | D,C     |
| European Starling         | 21       | 10    | 14      | R      | D,R,    |
| Solitary Vireo            | 1        | -     | -       | M      | W,D     |
| Bell's Vireo              | -        | -     | 2       | S      | W       |
| Warbling Vireo            | 1        | 1     | -       | M      | W,D     |
| Orange-crowned Warbler    | 4        | -     | -       | M      | W,D,C   |
| Yellow Warbler            | -        | 16    | 8       | S      | W       |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler     | 37       | -     | -       | M      | W,D,C   |
| Common Yellowthroat       | 8        | 9     | 21      | R      | W       |
| Wilson's Warbler          | 2        | 3     | -       | M      | W,D     |
| Yellow-breasted Chat      | 1        | 5     | 9       | S      | W,D     |

Table 3 (cont.). Bird Observations in Area 1; Santa Clara River, Interstate 5 to Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from Confluence to Rte. 126.

| Species               | April 19 | May 8 | June 21 | Status | Habitat |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|---------|--------|---------|
| Western Tanager       | -        | 1     | -       | S      | W,D     |
| Blue Grosbeak         | -        | 3     | 8       | S      | W       |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | 22       | 15    | 20      | S      | D,C,W   |
| Rufous-sided Towhee   | 32       | 56    | 37      | R      | D,W     |
| California Towhee     | 13       | 2     | 6       | R      | C,D     |
| Chipping Sparrow      | 1        | -     | -       | M      | W,D,C   |
| Song Sparrow          | 48       | 117   | 105     | R      | W       |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 12       | -     | -       | M      | C,D,W   |
| Red-winged Blackbird  | 150      | 54    | 24      | R      | W       |
| Brewer's Blackbird    | 2        | 2     | -       | R      | R,D     |
| Brown-headed Cowbird  | 27       | 54    | 65      | S      | W,D,C   |
| Northern Oriole       | 7        | 2     | 3       | S      | D,W     |
| House Finch           | 21       | 14    | 41      | R      | D,R,W   |
| American Goldfinch    | 15       | 6     | -       | R      | D,W,C   |
| Lesser Goldfinch      | 12       | 16    | 46      | R      | D,C     |
| Lawrence's Goldfinch  | -        | -     | 3       | R      | D,C,W   |
| House Sparrow         | -        | 22    | -       | R      | R,D     |
| Totals: Individuals:  | 1064     | 852   | 915     |        |         |
| Species:              | 49       | 49    | 48      |        |         |
| Observer miles:       | 6.0      | 6.0   | 6.0     |        |         |
| Individuals per mile: | 177      | 142   | 153     |        |         |

STATUS: M - Migrant or wintering species;  
R - year round resident;  
S - present during summer only

HABITAT: A - Aerial; flying over all habitats  
C - Coastal Sage Scrub or Chaparral  
D - Dry riparian woodland habitat  
R - Ruderal and agricultural fields  
S - Stream bars and banks  
W - Wet riparian habitat

Table 4. Bird Observations in Area 2; Santa Clara River, Interstate 5 to McBean Parkway.

| Species                 | April 17 | May 16 | June 22 | Status | Habitat |
|-------------------------|----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Great Egret             | 1        | -      | -       | M      | S       |
| Red-shouldered Hawk     | 2        | 2      | 4       | R      | D,W     |
| Red-tailed Hawk         | 2        | -      | 1       | R      | R,D     |
| California Quail        | 10       | 14     | 46      | R      | C,D,R   |
| Killdeer                | -        | -      | 8       | R      | R       |
| Mourning Dove           | -        | -      | 14      | R      | R,D     |
| Anna's Hummingbird      | 2        | 1      | 7       | R      | W,D     |
| Red-breasted Sapsucker  | -        | -      | 1       | R      | D       |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker    | 3        | 1      | 24      | R      | D,W     |
| Downy Woodpecker        | -        | 2      | 9       | R      | W,D     |
| Northern Flicker        | 1        | -      | 9       | R      | D,W     |
| Western Wood Pewee      | -        | 1      | -       | S      | D,W     |
| Willow Flycatcher       | -        | -      | 1       | S      | W,D     |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher | 1        | 3      | 9       | S      | C,D     |
| Black Phoebe            | -        | -      | 1       | R      | S,W     |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow | 15       | 10     | 13      | S      | A       |
| Cliff Swallow           | 20       | -      | -       | S      | A       |
| Scrub Jay               | 5        | 7      | 22      | R      | D,W,C   |
| Common Crow             | 2        | 2      | 28      | R      | D,R     |
| Northern Raven          | 6        | 2      | 10      | R      | D,R     |
| Plain Titmouse          | 5        | 4      | 10      | R      | D,W     |
| Bushtit                 | 6        | 30     | 10      | R      | D,W,C   |
| Bewick's Wren           | 10       | 15     | 45      | R      | D,C,W   |
| Western Bluebird        | -        | -      | 4       | R?     | D       |
| Wrentit                 | -        | -      | 2       | R      | C       |
| California Thrasher     | 6        | 4      | 10      | R      | D,W,C   |
| Phainopepla             | -        | 1      | -       | R      | D,C     |
| European Starling       | 4        | -      | 50      | R      | D,R,    |
| Yellow Warbler          | 2        | 20     | 6       | S      | W       |
| Yellow-rumped Warber    | 30       | -      | -       | M      | W,D,C   |
| Common Yellowthroat     | 5        | 3      | 8       | R      | W       |
| Wilson's Warbler        | 3        | 2      | -       | M      | W,D     |
| Yellow-breasted Chat    | -        | 4      | 2       | S      | W,D     |
| Black-headed Grosbeak   | 25       | 27     | 44      | S      | D,C,W   |
| Rufous-sided Towhee     | 6        | 12     | 40      | R      | D,W     |
| California Towhee       | -        | -      | 9       | R      | C,D     |
| Song Sparrow            | 40       | 82     | 18      | R      | W       |
| Red-winged Blackbird    | 30       | 26     | -       | R      | W       |
| Brown-headed Cowbird    | 8        | 24     | 19      | S      | W,D,C   |
| Northern Oriole         | 3        | 2      | 14      | S      | D,W     |
| House Finch             | 12       | 10     | 107     | R      | D,R,W   |
| American Goldfinch      | 15       | -      | -       | R      | D,W,C   |
| Lesser Goldfinch        | -        | 12     | 20      | R      | D,C     |
| Totals: Individuals:    | 280      | 323    | 625     |        |         |
| Species:                | 30       | 28     | 35      |        |         |
| Observer miles:         | 1.4      | 1.4    | 2.8     |        |         |
| Individuals per mile:   | 200      | 231    | 223     |        |         |

Table 4 (cont.). Bird Observations in Area 2; Santa Clara River, Interstate 5 to McBean Parkway.

STATUS: M - Migrant or wintering species;  
R - year round resident;  
S - present during summer only

HABITAT: A - Aerial; flying over all habitats  
C - Coastal Sage Scrub or Chaparral  
D - Dry riparian woodland habitat  
R - Ruderal and agricultural fields  
S - Stream bars and banks  
W - Wet riparian habitat

Table 5. Bird Observations in Area 3; Santa Clara River, Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean Parkway.

| Species                   | Apr. 17 | May 12 | May 17 | Status | Habitat |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Cooper's Hawk             | 1       | -      | -      | R      | W,D     |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | 1       | -      | -      | R      | D,R     |
| California Quail          | 2       | 14     | 17     | R      | W,D,R,C |
| Killdeer                  | 8       | 3      | 12     | R      | R,S     |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | 1       | -      | -      | M,     | S       |
| Domestic Pigeon           | -       | 20     | 6      | R      | R       |
| Gr. Roadrunner            | -       | -      | 1      | R      | C,R     |
| Barn Owl                  | -       | -      | 1      | R      | R       |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | 3       | 1      | -      | S      | D,C     |
| Anna's Hummingbird        | 2       | 9      | 1      | R      | W,D,C   |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker      | -       | -      | 1      | R      | D       |
| Downy Woodpecker          | 1       | -      | -      | R      | W,D     |
| Northern Flicker          | -       | -      | 1      | R      | D       |
| Pacific Slope Flycatcher  | 1       | -      | -      | S      | W,D     |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher   | -       | -      | 1      | S      | D,R     |
| Western Kingbird          | -       | 1      | -      | S      | D,R     |
| Bank Swallow              | 1       | -      | 1      | S      | A       |
| Cliff Swallow             | -       | 46     | 33     | S      | A       |
| Scrub Jay                 | 6       | 3      | 6      | R      | D,W,C   |
| Common Crow               | 1       | -      | 2      | R      | D,C     |
| Northern Raven            | 8       | 11     | 14     | R      | D,C     |
| Plain Titmouse            | 3       | 2      | 1      | R      | D,W     |
| Bushtit                   | 12      | 14     | 3      | R      | D,W     |
| Bewick's Wren             | 1       | 14     | 7      | R      | D,C,W   |
| Wrentit                   | -       | 2      | -      | R      | C       |
| California Thrasher       | 2       | 4      | 4      | R      | C,D,W   |
| European Starling         | -       | 3      | -      | R      | R,D,    |
| Warbling Vireo            | -       | 2      | -      | M      | D,W     |
| Orange-crowned Warbler    | 5       | -      | -      | M      | D,W     |
| Yellow Warbler            | -       | 2      | -      | S      | W       |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler     | 4       | -      | 1      | M      | C,W,D   |
| Bl. throated Gray Warbler | 1       | -      | -      | M      | W,D     |
| Common Yellowthroat       | 12      | 1      | -      | R      | W       |
| Wilson's Warbler          | 6       | 4      | 2      | M      | W,D,C   |
| Black-headed Grosbeak     | -       | 2      | 5      | S      | D,W     |
| Rufous-sided Towhee       | 6       | 2      | 3      | R      | D,W     |
| California Towhee         | 2       | 6      | 2      | R      | D,C     |
| Song Sparrow              | 40      | 36     | 29     | R      | W,D     |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow    | 6       | -      | -      | M      | C,R,D   |
| White-crowned Sparrow     | 30      | -      | -      | M      | C,R,D   |
| Dark-eyed Junco           | 1       | -      | -      | M      | D,R,C   |
| Red-winged Blackbird      | 9       | 4      | 2      | R      | W       |
| Brown-headed Cowbird      | 2       | 6      | 8      | S      | W,D,R,C |
| Northern Oriole           | -       | 1      | 3      | S      | D,W     |
| House Finch               | 8       | 8      | 11     | R      | R,D,W   |

Table 5 (cont.). Bird Observations in Area 3; Santa Clara River, Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean Parkway.

| Species              | Apr. 17 | May 12 | May 17 | Status | Habitat |
|----------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| American Goldfinch   | 6       | -      | -      | R      | W,D     |
| Lesser Goldfinch     | 12      | 3      | -      | R      | W,D,C   |
| Totals: Individuals: | 204     | 224    | 178    |        |         |
| Species :            | 33      | 27     | 28     |        |         |
| Observer miles:      | 1.2     | 1.2    | 1.2    |        |         |
| Individuals per mile | 170     | 187    | 148    |        |         |

STATUS: M - Migrant or wintering species;  
 R - year round resident;  
 S - present during summer only

HABITAT: A - Aerial; flying over all habitats  
 C - Coastal Scrub and/or chaparral  
 D - Dry riparian woodland habitat  
 R - Ruderal and agricultural fields  
 S - Stream bars and banks  
 W - Wet riparian habitat

Table 6. Bird Observations in Area 4; Santa Clara River, Boquet Canyon Rd. upstream to DWP Transmission Lines.

| <u>Species</u>            | <u>May 12</u> | <u>May 17</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Habitat</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | -             | 2             | R             | D,W            |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | 4             | -             | R             | R,D            |
| American Kestrel          | 2             | -             | R             | R,D            |
| California Quail          | 66            | 24            | R             | C,D,R          |
| Mourning Dove             | 17            | 4             | R             | R,D            |
| Great Horned Owl          | 1             | -             | R             | D,R            |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | -             | 1             | S             | C,D            |
| Anna's Hummingbird        | 11            | 1             | R             | W,D            |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker      | 8             | 1             | R             | D,W            |
| Western Wood Pewee        | -             | 1             | M             | D,W            |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher   | 7             | 2             | S             | C,D            |
| Western Kingbird          | -             | 3             | S             | D,R            |
| Scrub Jay                 | 26            | 9             | R             | D,W,C          |
| Common Crow               | 4             | -             | R             | D,R            |
| Northern Raven            | 50            | 8             | R             | D,R            |
| Plain Titmouse            | 2             | 3             | R             | D,W            |
| Bushtit                   | 11            | 28            | R             | D,W,C          |
| Bewick's Wren             | 27            | 19            | R             | D,C,W          |
| Western Bluebird          | -             | 2             | R?            | D              |
| Swainson's Thrush         | -             | 2             | M             | W,D            |
| Northern Mockingbird      | 3             | 2             | R             | D,C,           |
| Wrentit                   | 3             | 1             | R             | C              |
| California Thrasher       | 7             | 1             | R             | D,W,C          |
| Phainopepla               | 3             | 1             | R             | D,C            |
| European Starling         | 6             | 8             | R             | D,R,           |
| Warbling Vireo            | -             | 1             | M             | W,D            |
| Yellow Warbler            | -             | 1             | S             | W              |
| Wilson's Warbler          | -             | 3             | M             | W,D            |
| Black-headed Grosbeak     | 2             | 5             | S             | D,C,W          |
| Rufous-sided Towhee       | 10            | 8             | R             | D,W            |
| California Towhee         | 12            | 14            | R             | C,D            |
| Brown-headed Cowbird      | 7             | -             | S             | W,D,C          |
| Northern Oriole           | -             | 5             | S             | D,W            |
| House Finch               | 49            | 18            | R             | D,R,W          |
| Lesser Goldfinch          | 6             | -             | R             | D,C            |
| House Sparrow             | -             | 2             | R             | R,D            |
| <br>                      |               |               |               |                |
| Totals: Individuals:      | 344           | 180           |               |                |
| Species:                  | 25            | 30            |               |                |
| <br>                      |               |               |               |                |
| Observer miles:           | 2.3           | 2.3           |               |                |
| Individuals per mile:     | 150           | 78            |               |                |



Table 6 (cont.). Bird Observations in Area 4; Santa Clara River, Boquet Canyon Rd. upstream to DWP Transmission Lines.

STATUS: M - Migrant or wintering species;  
R - year round resident;  
S - present during summer only

HABITAT: A - Aerial; flying over all habitats  
C - Coastal Sage Scrub or Chaparral  
D - Dry riparian woodland habitat  
R - Ruderal and agricultural fields  
S - Stream bars and banks  
W - Wet riparian habitat

Table 7. Bird Observations in Area 5; Castaic Creek' Interstate 5 to Rte. 126.

| Species                   | May 1 | May 17 | Status | Habitat |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | -     | 1      | R      | D,W     |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | 1     | -      | R      | R,D     |
| American Kestrel          | 2     | 1      | R      | R,D     |
| California Quail          | 33    | 20     | R      | C,D,R   |
| Killdeer                  | 3     | -      | R      | R       |
| Domestic Pigeon           | 2     | -      | R      | R       |
| Mourning Dove             | 44    | 16     | R      | R,D     |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | 2     | -      | S      | C,D     |
| Anna's Hummingbird        | 4     | 2      | R      | W,D     |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker      | 2     | 4      | R      | D,W     |
| Downy Woodpecker          | 2     | 2      | R      | W,D     |
| Northern Flicker          | 2     | -      | R      | D,W     |
| Willow Flycatcher         | 1     | -      | S      | W,D     |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher   | 4     | 2      | S      | C,D     |
| Western Kingbird          | 1     | -      | S      | D,R     |
| Horned Lark               | 50    | 3      | R?     | R       |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow   | 1     | -      | S      | A       |
| Cliff Swallow             | 5     | 7      | S      | A       |
| Scrub Jay                 | 28    | 12     | R      | D,W,C   |
| Common Crow               | 2     | 5      | R      | D,R     |
| Northern Raven            | 5     | 1      | R      | D,R     |
| Plain Titmouse            | 4     | -      | R      | D,W     |
| Bushtit                   | 8     | 11     | R      | D,W,C   |
| Bewick's Wren             | 48    | 39     | R      | D,C,W   |
| Western Bluebird          | 1     | -      | R?     | D       |
| Wrentit                   | 1     | 6      | R      | C       |
| California Thrasher       | 14    | 3      | R      | D,W,C   |
| European Starling         | 33    | 30     | R      | D,R,    |
| Warbling Vireo            | 1     | -      | M      | W,D     |
| Orange-crowned Warbler    | 1     | -      | M      | W,D,C   |
| Yellow Warbler            | 4     | 10     | S      | W       |
| Bl. throated Gray Warbler | 1     | -      | M      | W,D     |
| Common Yellowthroat       | 1     | 2      | R      | W       |
| Wilson's Warbler          | 8     | -      | M      | W,D     |
| Black-headed Grosbeak     | 9     | 9      | S      | D,C,W   |
| Rufous-sided Towhee       | 12    | 31     | R      | D,W     |
| California Towhee         | -     | 4      | R      | C,D     |
| Song Sparrow              | 74    | 11     | R      | W       |
| Red-winged Blackbird      | 18    | 44     | R      | W       |
| Brewer's Blackbird        | 3     | -      | R      | R,D     |
| Brown-headed Cowbird      | 31    | 14     | S      | W,D,C   |
| Northern Oriole           | 3     | 2      | S      | D,W     |
| House Finch               | 5     | 8      | R      | D,R,W   |
| Lesser Goldfinch          | 9     | -      | R      | D,C     |
| Totals: Individuals:      | 483   | 310    |        |         |
| Species:                  | 42    | 28     |        |         |
| Observer miles:           | 2.5   | 2.5    |        |         |
| Individuals per mile:     | 193   | 124    |        |         |

Table 7 (cont.). Bird Observations in Area 5; Castaic Creek, Interstate 5 to Rte. 126.

STATUS: M - Migrant or wintering species;  
R - year round resident;  
S - present during summer only

HABITAT: A - Aerial; flying over all habitats  
C - Coastal Sage Scrub or Chaparral  
D - Dry riparian woodland habitat  
R - Ruderal and agricultural fields  
S - Stream bars and banks  
W - Wet riparian habitat

Table 9. Bird Observations in Area 7; South Fork of the Santa Clara River,  
McBean Parkway to Rte. 126

| <u>Species</u>            | <u>April 17</u> | <u>May 12</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Habitat</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk           | 1               | 3             | R             | R,D            |
| California Quail          | 2               | 22            | R             | C,D,R          |
| Killdeer                  | 2               | -             | R             | R              |
| Mourning Dove             | 3               | 2             | R             | R,D            |
| Gr. Roadrunner            | -               | 3             | R             | C,R            |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | 5               | 4             | S             | C,D            |
| Anna's Hummingbird        | 1               | 3             | R             | W,D            |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker      | -               | 1             | R             | D,W            |
| Downy Woodpecker          | -               | 1             | R             | W,D            |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher   | -               | 1             | S             | C,D            |
| Tree Swallow              | -               | 1             | S             | A              |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow   | 2               | 24            | S             | A              |
| Cliff Swallow             | 1               | 16            | S             | A              |
| Scrub Jay                 | 3               | 7             | R             | D,W,C          |
| Common Crow               | -               | 4             | R             | D,R            |
| Northern Raven            | 4               | 10            | R             | D,R            |
| Plain Titmouse            | 3               | 4             | R             | D,W            |
| Bushtit                   | 10              | 19            | R             | D,W,C          |
| Bewick's Wren             | 2               | 7             | R             | D,C,W          |
| Western Bluebird          | -               | 2             | R?            | D              |
| California Thrasher       | 1               | 2             | R             | D,W,C          |
| European Starling         | -               | 6             | R             | D,R            |
| Orange-crowned Warbler    | -               | 1             | M             | W,D,C          |
| Yellow Warbler            | -               | 3             | S             | W              |
| Common Yellowthroat       | 2               | 1             | R             | W              |
| Wilson's Warbler          | 2               | 1             | M             | W,D            |
| Yellow-breasted Chat      | -               | 1             | S             | W,D            |
| Black-headed Grosbeak     | -               | 1             | S             | D,C,W          |
| Rufous-sided Towhee       | 1               | 2             | R             | D,W            |
| California Towhee         | 8               | 3             | R             | C,D            |
| Savannah Sparrow          | -               | 4             | M             | C,R            |
| Song Sparrow              | 14              | 15            | R             | W              |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow    | -               | 7             | M             | C,R            |
| White-crowned Sparrow     | -               | 22            | M             | C,D,W          |
| Dark-eyed Junco           | -               | 1             | M             | C,R            |
| Brown-headed Cowbird      | 5               | 1             | S             | W,D,C          |
| Northern Oriole           | -               | 1             | S             | D,W            |
| House Finch               | 16              | 6             | R             | D,R,W          |
| American Goldfinch        | 1               | 12            | R             | D,W,C          |
| Lesser Goldfinch          | 1               | 6             | R             | D,C            |
| <br>                      |                 |               |               |                |
| Totals: Individuals:      | 90              | 230           |               |                |
| Species:                  | 23              | 39            |               |                |
| <br>                      |                 |               |               |                |
| Observer miles:           | 1.0             | 1.0           |               |                |
| Individuals per mile:     | 90              | 230           |               |                |

Table 9 (cont.). Bird Observations in Area 7; South Fork of the Santa Clara River, McBean Parkway to Rte. 126

STATUS: M - Migrant or wintering species;  
R - year round resident;  
S - present during summer only

HABITAT: A - Aerial; flying over all habitats  
C - Coastal Sage Scrub or Chaparral  
D - Dry riparian woodland habitat  
R - Ruderal and agricultural fields  
S - Stream bars and banks  
W - Wet riparian habitat

Table 10. Bird Observations in Area 8; South Fork of the Santa Clara River from Newhall Creek to Rte. 126.

| <u>Species</u>           | <u>May 6</u> | <u>May 9</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Habitat</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk          | 1            | 3            | R             | R,D            |
| California Quail         | 10           | 5            | R             | C,D,R          |
| Killdeer                 | 6            | 6            | R             | R              |
| Lesser Yellowlegs        | 1            | -            | M             | S              |
| Domestic Pigeon          | -            | 5            | R             | R              |
| Mourning Dove            | 23           | 21           | R             | R,D            |
| Anna's Hummingbird       | 5            | 2            | R             | W,D            |
| Costa's Hummingbird      | -            | 2            | S             | C              |
| Pacific Slope Flycatcher | 2            | -            | M             | W,D            |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher  | 1            | -            | S             | C,D            |
| Western Kingbird         | 1            | 2            | S             | D,R            |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow  | 6            | 35           | S             | A              |
| Cliff Swallow            | 127          | 86           | S             | A              |
| Scrub Jay                | 6            | 3            | R             | D,W,C          |
| Common Crow              | -            | 1            | R             | D,R            |
| Northern Raven           | 4            | 1            | R             | D,R            |
| Plain Titmouse           | 1            | -            | R             | D,W            |
| Bushtit                  | 19           | -            | R             | D,W,C          |
| Bewick's Wren            | 10           | -            | R             | D,C,W          |
| Northern Mockingbird     | 3            | 4            | R             | D,C            |
| California Thrasher      | 5            | -            | R             | D,W,C          |
| European Starling        | 25           | 5            | R             | D,R            |
| Yellow Warbler           | -            | 1            | S             | W              |
| Common Yellowthroat      | 5            | 4            | R             | W              |
| Wilson's Warbler         | 2            | -            | M             | W,D            |
| Western Tanager          | 2            | -            | S             | W,D            |
| Rufous-sided Towhee      | 1            | -            | R             | D,W            |
| California Towhee        | 3            | -            | R             | C,D            |
| Song Sparrow             | 30           | 25           | R             | W              |
| Red-winged Blackbird     | 49           | 108          | R             | W              |
| Brewer's Blackbird       | 2            | -            | R             | R,D            |
| Brown-headed Cowbird     | 18           | 4            | S             | W,D,C          |
| Northern Oriole          | 6            | -            | S             | D,W            |
| House Finch              | 12           | 32           | R             | D,R,W          |
| Lesser Goldfinch         | 26           | 5            | R             | D,C            |
| House Sparrow            | -            | 9            | R             | R,D            |
| Totals: Individuals:     | 412          | 369          |               |                |
| Species:                 | 31           | 23           |               |                |
| Observer miles:          | 1.6          | 1.6          |               |                |
| Individuals per mile:    | 257          | 230          |               |                |

STATUS: M - Migrant or wintering species; R - year round resident;  
S - present during summer only

HABITAT: A - Aerial; flying over all habitats; C - Coastal Sage; D - Dry riparian woodland habitat; R - Ruderal and agricultural fields; S - Stream bars and banks; W - Wet riparian habitat