
**Guthrie, D.A., "Bird Surveys along the Santa Clara River and Its Tributaries
near Valencia, California" (1992)**

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cc J Gray
J Frye

BIRD SURVEYS ALONG THE SANTA CLARA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

NEAR VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA, 1992

Prepared for:

Mark Subbotin
Valencia Corporation
23823 Valencia Blvd.
Valencia, CA 91355

Prepared by:

Daniel A. Guthrie
Joint Science Dept.
Claremont Colleges
Claremont, CA 91711
(714) 621-8000 x 2836

July 31, 1992

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Nature and Scope of Surveys

During the late Spring and early summer of 1992 a survey was conducted of a section of the Santa Clara River and its tributaries in the vicinity of Valencia, California to determine presence or absence of least Bell's vireo and other species of concern. Numbers of all species observed were noted, and special attention was placed on locating species considered rare and endangered.

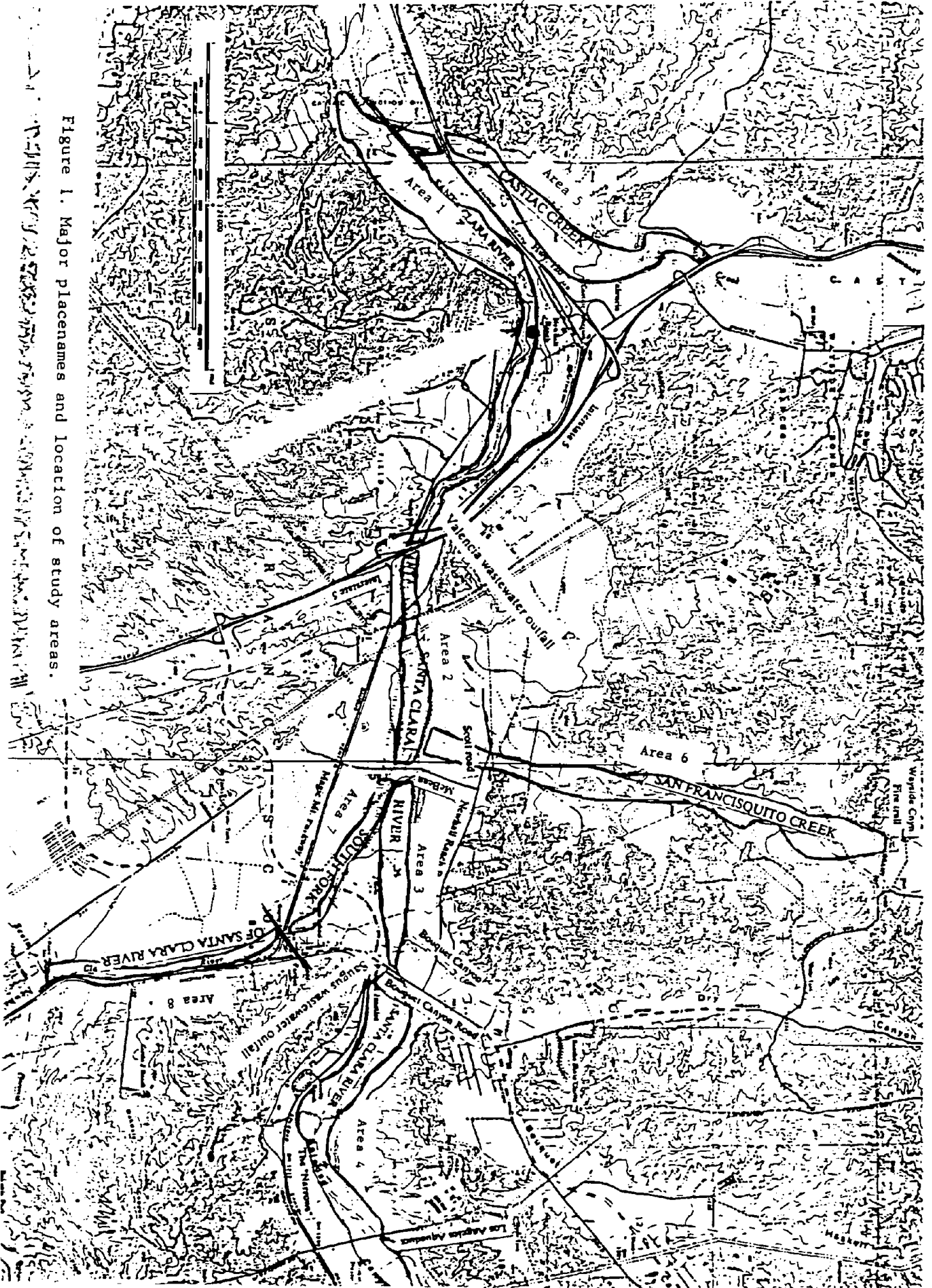
Each survey was conducted on foot by observers well acquainted with both visual and auditory patterns of southern California birds. All surveys occurred between 6 and 10 a.m. Taped calls of Least Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat and Yellow-billed Cuckoo were played periodically to elicit response from territorial males during all surveys. Except on the shorter sections of the river, each survey was conducted by two people. Survey routes varied so as to cover all areas of each section, but emphasis in coverage was placed on wetter habitats where Least Bell's Vireos and other sensitive riparian species are most likely to occur. Personnel for all surveys were Daniel A. Guthrie, Richard F. Clements and Judith A. Sugden.

To facilitate surveys, the area was divided into eight sections (Figure 1). Delineation of the eight areas and comments on each follow. Surveys of the normally dry sections of the river system (areas 3 - 8) where Least Bell's Vireos have not been observed during the past four years were conducted twice during the nesting season. Surveys of the two sections of the Santa Clara River (Areas 1 and 2) where Least Bell's Vireos have been observed during the last four years were conducted according to procedures outlined by the Fish and Wildlife Service (Appendix 1), except that surveys were conducted on a biweekly instead of weekly basis.

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 waste water outfall near the upstream end of this section. Vegetation in the stream channel was severely damaged by Spring flooding, leaving large areas of bare sand at the beginning of the surveys. Although annual vegetation had reclaimed low areas along the

Figure 1. Major placenames and location of study areas.



river by June, several higher areas remained devoid of new growth. Several ponds created for cultivation of water cress along this portion of the river were eliminated by flooding, restricting the amount of wet riparian vegetation. The section of Castaic Creek contained in this area has been dry for the past three years but was flowing throughout the 1992 survey period.

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. Wet riparian vegetation and ponds created for cultivation of water cress along a portion of the stream were completely eliminated by Spring flooding. Despite regrowth of wet riparian vegetation adjacent to the water course during the survey period there were still large areas of bare sand in this section at the end of June.

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. Wet riparian vegetation along this section was removed during spring flooding and did not completely recover during the study period.

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 was totally dry during this study. Large sandy stretches caused by spring flooding did not revegetate during the study period. There were almost no wet riparian species in this area owing to the lack of permanent water.

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

Length of area, 2.5 miles. Spring flooding did not remove much vegetation from this section of Castaic Creek. However, there was water flowing throughout the survey period. In previous years Castaic Creek has been dry.

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 section below Newhall Ranch Road which was continuously wet due to runoff from the nearby industrial park. There was little evidence of damage from spring floods along this section.

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

Length of area, 1.0 miles. The channel along this section of the South Fork is narrow and very sandy. Almost all vegetation along the bottom of the channel was removed by spring floods. Lack of riparian vegetation keeps bird numbers low.

Area 8. South Fork of Santa Clara River, Route 126 upstream 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. Cattails are developed in pockets supported by runoff from adjacent housing and these supported Redwing Blackbirds and other riparian species. Although spring flooding had little effect on this section of the river, bank construction along a portion of the eastern margin of this section eliminated some vegetation and was a disturbance.

Observations

Bird observations are listed in Tables 1 - 8. Different species breed at different times of the year. In general, the species are most easily observed when they are actively defending territories by song during the establishment of breeding pairs. Once pairs are established and nesting begins song often decreases and the numbers of birds observed also decreases. After young leave the nest, numbers observed increase. Thus, for most resident species, numbers of adult birds are most accurately censused in April, when territorial activity is at a maximum. Numbers may decrease slightly in May when birds are less active during nesting and increase dramatically in July when young birds leave the nest. These trends in population levels are indicated in tables 1 for Song Sparrow.

Several species that are not considered riparian species but are common in adjacent coastal sage and chaparral habitats come into the riparian zone in late summer when other vegetational areas are dry. The increase in numbers of Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow and House Finch (Tables 1 and 2) show this trend.

Spring flooding affected several areas by removing wet riparian vegetation along the main stream course and much of the dry riparian willow and *Baccharis* on low flats adjacent to the main stream channel. By and large the larger cottonwoods and willows set back from the main stream channel were not affected by flooding. Many wooded sections along the river had shown evidence of die off during the last two years are the result of an extended drought. These areas showed much evidence of regeneration after the spring rains. Table 9 presents census data from the past three years on selected species. Song Sparrows are dependent upon the narrow band of wet riparian vegetation found along permanent streams. As shown in table 9, they are most common along the sections of stream (1-3) where water flow is permanent. The decrease in numbers from 1990 to 1991 is a reflection of the severe drought experienced in southern California during the last few years. Although 1992 was a comparatively wet year, the removal of most wet riparian vegetation by spring floods further reduced the numbers of this species, especially in area 1. Numbers of Yellow Warblers, another species dependent upon wet riparian vegetation for food were also affected by this flooding (Table 1). However, Bewick's Wren a common inhabitant of the drier sections of the riparian zone that were not so heavily impacted by spring flooding show no decrease in numbers due to flooding in 1992.

Flooding during the spring of 1992 eliminated wet riparian vegetation during April and early May when birds were establishing territories and thus caused a decrease in species dependent upon wet riparian vegetation. However, flooding also eliminated many mature areas of willows and created openings along the Santa Clara River which, by June and July, were becoming covered with a new growth of annuals and young willows. This regrowth should result in increased habitat

and bird densities in 1993.

Sensitive Species

No Least Bell's Vireos were observed in 1992. In 1991 and other years previous a singing male had been observed in Area one at Castaic Junction. This individual was in wet riparian vegetation near a water cress pond. Although this area was not damaged by spring floods, no vireo was present there in 1992. Although we specifically looked for Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow Flycatcher, no individuals of either species were found. The birds considered rare or endangered or Species of Special Concern that were observed are as follows:

Yellow Warbler

The yellow warbler is considered a second priority Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Yellow warblers prefer wet riparian habitat but are also found in large cottonwoods in drier riparian areas. Singing yellow warblers were observed along nearly every section of the Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek. A few were observed along San Francisquito Creek in large cottonwoods. None were observed along the South Fork. A few of the birds observed were probably migrants and this species is known to sing its territorial song during migration.

Yellow-breasted Chat

The yellow-breasted chat is considered a Second Priority Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Chats were observed sparingly along the wet sections of the Santa Clara River.

Cooper's Hawk

The Cooper's Hawk is considered a Third Priority Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Single Cooper's hawks were observed along the Santa Clara River both above and below Interstate 5. This species is a resident species which nests and hunts in riparian woodland habitat.

Loggerhead Shrike

This species is a Category 2 Candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. This species, although declining in numbers over much of the United States seems to be doing well in southern California where it is a resident in drier habitats. Shrikes were present along San Francisquito Creek and a pair with three young were observed along the South Fork of the Santa Clara River between State Rte. 126 and Newhall Creek.

California Horned Lark

This species is a Category 2 Candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Horned Larks were observed near Castaic Junction where they were active on plowed and graded fields adjacent to the Santa Clara River.

Table 1. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River from Interstate 5 to Castaic Creek and along Castaic Creek from its mouth to State Rte. 126.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses								Status
	4-6	4-16	5-5	5-20	6-1	6-17	7-10	7-21	
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	M
Great Egret	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	M
Green-backed Heron	3	1	1	3	4	5	2	6	R
Canada Goose	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Mallard	5	6	4	4	2	7	2	3	R
Cinnamon Teal	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	M
Bl.-shouldered Kite	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	R
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	R
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	2	1	1	4	2	3	2	R
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	2	-	2	2	-	3	R
American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	R
California Quail	5	17	22	10	17	10	5	8	R
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	S?
Sora	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Killdeer	5	5	8	14	11	12	16	12	R
Greater Yellowlegs	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	3	2	2	10	11	S
Mourning Dove	13	3	6	5	3	9	7	4	R
Barn Owl	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	R
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	R
Black-ch. Hummingbird	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	3	S
Anna's Hummingbird	9	10	13	5	3	4	8	13	R
Belted Kingfisher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Nuttall's Woodpecker	10	12	7	17	22	13	18	16	R
Downy Woodpecker	4	15	4	3	3	2	8	6	R
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	-	2	2	-	3	-	R
Northern Flicker	9	2	1	4	1	1	8	3	R
Black Phoebe	1	-	3	2	-	-	13	18	R
Ash-th. Flycatcher	1	10	8	10	12	5	18	21	S
Western Kingbird	3	1	-	1	4	-	-	2	S
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	R
Violet-green Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	S
N. Rough-w. Swallow	19	6	15	23	15	48	7	9	S
Cliff Swallow	-	-	-	-	53	35	4	14	S
Scrub Jay	25	21	22	23	19	21	10	16	R
American Crow	15	7	18	21	37	24	22	15	R
Common Raven	4	6	5	1	18	11	13	8	R
Plain Titmouse	12	10	5	22	11	7	14	23	R
Bushtit	12	18	16	19	33	8	32	36	R
Bewick's Wren	50	46	35	29	43	30	44	34	R
House Wren	11	5	10	7	23	5	11	3	R
American Robin	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	R
Western Bluebird	6	-	1	7	6	-	2	3	R
Wrentit	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	2	R
N. Mockingbird	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	1	R
California Thrasher	3	6	6	9	5	3	5	4	R
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	W
European Starling	19	2	16	11	11	11	6	1	R

Table 1 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River from Interstate 5 to Castaic Creek and along Castaic Creek from its mouth to State Rte. 126.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses								Status
	4-6	4-16	5-5	5-20	6-1	6-17	7-10	7-21	
Warbling Vireo	3	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	M
Orange-cr. Warbler	7	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Nashville Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	3	8	11	9	4	1	2	8	S
Yellow-r. Warbler	71	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Common Yellowthroat	3	10	6	2	6	5	19	5	R
Wilson's Warbler	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	1	M
Yellow-br. Chat	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	2	S
Black-headed Grosbeak	3	16	20	9	20	11	10	10	S
Blue Grosbeak	-	3	-	1	-	1	3	7	S
Lazuli Bunting	-	4	-	-	-	-	12	136	M
Rufous-sided Towhee	16	13	14	10	18	8	14	7	R
California Towhee	4	1	-	5	4	1	10	9	R
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	R
Savannah Sparrow	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Song Sparrow	48	58	61	63	50	61	86	139	R
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
White-cr. Sparrow	15	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Red-w. Blackbird	9	10	32	32	123	16	2	3	S
Brown-h. Cowbird	13	9	12	33	30	25	28	32	S
Northern Oriole	-	14	3	2	4	4	2	10	S
House Finch	2	7	9	6	-	14	65	81	R
Lawrence's Goldfinch	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	R
Lesser Goldfinch	-	32	4	1	-	4	8	2	R
American Goldfinch	56	17	-	2	-	-	2	-	R
House Sparrow	-	-	5	-	6	-	1	-	R
Total No. of Species	46	54	44	44	42	41	45	51	
Total No. of Ind.	511	493	430	438	636	451	564	781	

Total Species on all visits: 74

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only.

Table 2. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River, from McBean Parkway Bridge to Interstate 5, 1992.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses								Status
	4-3	4-24	5-14	5-27	6-8	6-29	7-14	7-23	
Great Blue Heron	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Green-backed Heron	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	R
Black-cr. Night Heron	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Mallard	2	4	2	2	1	-	2	-	R
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	S
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	-	-	-	1	2	2	R
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	2	2	-	2	2	3	3	R
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1	2	4	3	3(1)	6	4	R
American Kestrel	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	R
California Quail	-	24	26	29	26	24	30+	14(+)	R
Killdeer	-	6	5	-	10	2	4	2	R
Least Sandpiper	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Domestic Pigeon	-	-	1	-	4	-	4	1	R
Mourning Dove	2	12	6	7	6	8	7	5	R
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	R
White-throated Swift	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	R
Black-chinned Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	S
Anna's Hummingbird	1	-	9	7	7	4	11	9	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker	9	9	10	11	14	18	12	21	R
Downy Woodpecker	6	6	4	4	4	2	2	4	R
Hairy Woodpecker	-	1	-	3	3	4	3	2	R
Northern Flicker	2	-	1	2	-	-	4	1	R
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Black Phoebe	3	-	2	3	1	4	8	9	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher	-	6	9	6	8	17	13	17	S
Western Kingbird	5	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	S
N. Rough-winged Swallow	5	5	17	10	23	20	1	4	S
Cliff Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	11	14	2	S
Scrub Jay	14	13	13	10	15	20	21	17	R
American Crow	6	2	14	3	11	4	12	9	R
Common Raven	0	3	2	12	12	13	3	1	R
Plain Titmouse	9	5	9	11	12	13	21	34	R
Bushtit	13	16	15	14	30	30	22	27	R
Bewick's Wren	30	22	29	21	35	39	30	45	R
House Wren	4	6	7	6	6	2	2	3	R
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
American Robin	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	R
Western Bluebird	-	3	2	5	8	6	8	2	R
Hermit Thrush	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Northern Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	R
California Thrasher	4	4	9	4	6	2	6	5	R
Cedar Waxwing	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Phainopepla	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	R
European Starling	4	12	20	21	23	16	39	7	R
Warbling Vireo	2	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Orange-cr. Warbler	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	3	8	5	2	1	2	-	1	S
Yellow-rumped Warbler	67	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	W

Table 2 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River, from McBean Parkway Bridge to Interstate 5, 1992.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses								Status
	4-3	4-24	5-14	5-27	6-8	6-29	7-14	7-23	
Common Yellowthroat	13	6	3	2	2	4	2	4	R
Wilson's Warbler	1	14	5	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	S
Western Tanager	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	2	M
Black-headed Grosbeak	2	22	28	14	21	6	18	10	S
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	S
Lazuli Bunting	0	2	-	-	1	8	9	32	S
Rufous-sided Towhee	22	13	19	7	15	11	5	15	R
California Towhee	-	-	-	2	5	1	4	1	R
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	46	R
Song Sparrow	45	36	38	35	45	33	37	41	R
White-cr. Sparrow	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Red-w. Blackbird	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	S
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	R
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	R
Brown-headed Cowbird	8	10	38	16	26	22	21	24	S
Hooded Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	S
Northern Oriole	2	2	3	-	1	7	5	1	S
House Finch	6	9	26	16	15	86	84	177	R
Lesser Goldfinch	3	6	5	-	-	12	2	19	R
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	R
American Goldfinch	-	22	2	-	-	-	6	-	R
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	R
Total Species:	42	42	41	33	37	42	47	45	
Total Individuals	339	347	400	294	406	502	507	645	

Total Species, all visits: 72

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only.

Table 3. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River from Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean Parkway.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses		Status
	4-28	5-21	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	-	R
California Quail	2	6	R
Killdeer	2	6	R
Mourning Dove	1	-	R
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1	-	S
Anna's Hummingbird	1	-	R
Muttall's Woodpecker	2	1	R
Northern Flicker	2	2	R
Black Phoebe	1	-	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2	3	S
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	6	S
Cliff Swallow	6	-	S
Scrub Jay	7	11	R
American Crow	-	2	R
Common Raven	18	10	R
Plain Titmouse	4	2	R
Bushtit	3	2	R
Bewick's Wren	3	5	R
House Wren	1	-	R
Western Bluebird	2	2	R
California Thrasher	3	3	R
Warbling Vireo	2	-	M
Orange-crowned Warbler	4	-	M
Yellow Warbler	3	1	S
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	-	W
Wilson's Warbler	2	2	M
Black-headed Grosbeak	2	5	S
Lazuli Bunting	4	2	M
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	2	R
California Towhee	1	2	R
Song Sparrow	22	8	R
White-crowned Sparrow	1	-	W
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	4	S
Northern Oriole	1	-	S
House Finch	3	12	R
Total number of Species:	32	23	
Total number of Ind:	116	99	

Total number of species, all visits: 35

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only.

Table 4 . Birds Observed along the Santa Clara River, Boquet Canyon Rd.
upstream to DWP Transmission Lines.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses		Status
	4-28	5-21	
Red-tailed Hawk	-	1	R
American Kestrel	-	2	R
California Quail	11	15	R
Killdeer	2	-	R
Mourning Dove	6	13	R
Black-ch. Hummingbird	-	1	S
Anna's Hummingbird	2	8	R
Costa's Hummingbird	1	-	S
Nuttall's Woodpecker	3	3	R
Northern Flicker	1	3	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	4	S
Western Kingbird	-	6	S
Violet-green Swallow	-	2	S
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	2	S
Scrub Jay	5	9	R
American Crow	-	2	R
Common Raven	27	51	R
Plain Titmouse	2	17	R
Bushtit	8	19	R
Bewick's Wren	10	15	R
House Wren	1	1	R
Western Bluebird	-	2	R
Wrentit	-	1	R
Northern Mockingbird	3	2	R
California Thrasher	1	4	R
Phainopepla	2	4	R
European Starling	8	11	R
Yellow Warbler	2	1	S
Black-headed Grosbeak	3	2	S
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	4	R
California Towhee	3	4	R
Song Sparrow	1	2	R
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	2	S
Northern Oriole	4	9	S
House Finch	20	53	R
Lesser Goldfinch	2	-	R
House Sparrow	-	5	R
Total Number of Species:	26	34	
Total Number of Ind.	131	280	

Total Species, all visits: 37

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only.

Table 5. Bird Observations Along Castaic creek from I - 5 to State Rte 126.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses		Status
	4-14	5-4	
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	-	M
Mallard	8	2	R
Red-tailed Hawk	-	2	R
American Kestrel	1	-	R
California Quail	16	24	R
Black-necked Stilt	-	1	M
Killdeer	2	8	R
Greater Yellowlegs	-	1	M
Spotted Sandpiper	-	1	S
Mourning Dove	4	4	R
Anna's Hummingbird	5	1	R
Belted Kingfisher	1	-	W
Nuttall's Woodpecker	2	2	R
Hairy Woodpecker	2	-	R
Norhtern Flicker	1	-	R
W. Wood-Pewee	2	-	M
Ash-th. Flycatcher	2	5	S
Western Kingbird	1	1	S
Horned Lark	-	4	R
N. Rough-w. Swallow	29	6	S
Scrub Jay	18	13	R
Common Crow	-	10	R
Common Raven	4	5	R
Plain Titmouse	8	2	R
Bushtit	23	8	R
Bewick's Wren	15	6	R
House Wren	4	1	R
Wrentit	2	-	R
N. Mockingbird	1	-	R
California Thrasher	1	6	R
European Starling	6	-	R
Warbling Vireo	8	1	M
Orange-cr. Warbler	6	1	M
Yellow Warbler	5	-	S
Yellow-r. Warbler	36	-	W
Wilson's Warbler	-	2	M
Common Yellowthroat	2	3	R
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	-	S
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	6	3	S
Blue Grosbeak	1	-	S
Lazuli Bunting	-	2	M
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	4	R
California Towhee	3	1	R
Song Sparrow	9	5	R
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	1	M
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	-	W
White-cr. Sparrow	27	-	W
Red-winged Blackbird	8	18	S
Brewer's Blackbird	2	-	R

Table 5 (cont.). Bird Observations Along Castaic creek from I-5 to State Rte. 126.

<u>Species</u>	Dates of 1992 Censuses		<u>Status</u>
	4-14	5-4	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	9	S
House Finch	2	2	R
Lesser Goldfinch	4	2	R
Americian Goldfinch	9	-	R
Total Number of Species:	44	36	
Total Number of Individuals:	293	167	

Total Species, all visits: 53

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only.

Table 6. Bird Observations along San Francisquito Creek from the Santa Clara River upstream for 2.5 miles.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses		Status
	4-14	4-29	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1	R
American Kestrel	3	-	R
California Quail	26	28	R
Killdeer	2	-	R
Mourning Dove	21	24	R
Greater Roadrunner	-	1	R
Black-ch. Hummingbird	2	1	S
Anna's Hummingbird	-	2	R
Acorn Woodpecker	1	-	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker	3	2	R
Say's Phoebe	-	1	W
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	3	3	S
Cassin's Kingbird	1	-	M
Western Kingbird	5	8	S
Scrub Jay	13	10	R
Common Raven	7	2	R
Plain Titmouse	2	1	R
Bushtit	9	6	R
Bewick's Wren	7	11	R
House Wren	5	2	R
Western Bluebird	2	-	R
N. Mockingbird	4	6	R
California Thrasher	4	7	R
Phainopepla	1	-	R
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	R
European Starling	1	2	R
Nashville Warbler	1	-	M
Yellow Warbler	-	3	S
Yellow-r. Warbler	16	-	W
Wilson's Warbler	-	4	M
Black-h. Grosbeak	2	11	S
Lazuli Bunting	1	-	M
Rufous-sided Towhee	8	8	R
California Towhee	12	16	R
Song Sparrow	9	14	R
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	-	W
White-cr. Sparrow	20	-	W
Red-w. Blackbird	6	12	S
Western Meadowlark	-	1	R
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	9	S
Hooded Oriole	-	4	S
Northern Oriole	11	17	S
House Finch	9	17	R
Lesser Goldfinch	4	2	R
Total Number of Species:	37	33	Total Species, all visits: 44
Total Number of Individuals:	229	237	

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only.

Table 7. Birds Observed along the South Fork of the Santa Clara River, McBean Parkway Upstream to Magic Mt. Parkway (Rte. 126).

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses		Status
	4-28	5-21	
Turkey Vulture	-	1	M
Red-tailed Hawk	-	1	R
California Quail	2	6	R
Killdeer	-	6	R
Mourning Dove	4	5	R
Black-chinned Hummingbird	2	-	S
Anna's Hummingbird	3	1	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker	-	2	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher	3	1	S
Western Kingbird	2	-	S
Cliff Swallow	2	-	S
N. Rough-winged Swallow	2	10	S
Scrub Jay	1	2	R
Common Raven	3	-	R
Plain Titmouse	3	1	R
Bushtit	2	-	R
Bewick's Wren	8	2	R
Western Bluebird	-	1	R
California Thrasher	2	2	R
European Starling	2	-	R
Black-headed Grosbeak	2	1	S
Lazuli Bunting	1	-	M
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	-	R
California Towhee	1	-	R
Song Sparrow	7	-	R
Brewer's Blackbird	-	6	R
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	6	S
Northern Oriole	1	-	S
House Finch	6	16	S
Lawrence's Goldfinch	3	-	R
Lesser Goldfinch	-	2	R
House Sparrow	2	-	R
Total Number of Species:	25	19	
Total No. of Individuals:	71	72	

Total Species, all visits: 32

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W.- Winter Only.

Table 8. Birds Observed along the South Fork of the Santa Clara River, Magic Mt. Bridge (Rte. 126) upstream to Confluence with Newhall Creek.

Species	Dates of 1992 Censuses		Status
	4-29	5-22	
Red-tailed Hawk	-	1	R
American Westrel	1	1	R
California Quail	4	6	R
Killdeer	8	2	R
Mourning Dove	3	11	R
Anna's Hummingbird	2	6	R
Western Kingbird	1	3	S
N. Rough-winged Swallow	3	2	S
Scrub Jay	1	1	R
Common Raven	3	3	R
Northern Mockingbird	1	4	R
Loggerhead Shrike	-	5	R
European Starling	4	15	R
Wilson's Warbler	-	1	M
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	1	R
Song Sparrow	10	12	R
Brewer's Blackbird	-	2	R
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	-	S
Northern Oriole	-	1	S
House Finch	1	12	R
House Sparrow	-	6	R
Total Number of Species:	14	20	
Total No. of Individuals;	45	95	

Total Species, all visits: 21

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only.

Table 9. Comparison of Populations of Selected Species, 1990 - 1992.

Species	year	Census Area								Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Song Sparrow	1992	63	38	28	2	5	14	7	10	167
	1991	112	30	39	-	9	7	12	24	233
	1990	117	82	36	-	11	16	15	30	307
Yellow Warbler	1992	9	5	3	1	-	3	-	-	21
	1991	23	8	2	2	17	4	-	4	60
	1990	16	20	2	1	10	-	3	1	53
Bewick's Wren	1992	35	29	3	10	6	11	8	-	102
	1991	46	5	8	8	3	13	5	3	91
	1990	77	15	14	27	48	17	7	10	215

Appendix 1. Fish and Wildlife Rules for Least Bell's Vireo Censuses.

LEAST BELL'S VIREO SURVEY GUIDELINES

1. All riparian areas should be surveyed once a week from April 1 to July 31. These dates encompass the period during which most vireo nesting activity occurs. If additional information on vireo habitat utilization is needed, these surveys should be extended to August 31. Information typically collected after July 31 will reflect a broader extent of the riparian habitat and other adjacent habitat types that the vireo utilizes during the latter phase of the breeding season, especially when the young become independent of the adults.
2. Surveys must be conducted by qualified biologist(s) familiar with song and plumage characteristics of the vireo.
3. Surveys shall be conducted between dawn and 11:00 a.m. Surveys shall avoid periods of excessive heat, wind, and rain.
4. All vireo detections (e.g., vocalization points, areas used for foraging, etc.) should be used to define individual home range. These data need to be mapped on a large-scale aerial photograph.
5. Data on vireo breeding status (e.g., number and location of paired or unpaired territorial males, nest building efforts, feeding of nestlings, location of vireo nests, etc.) should be noted during each survey.
6. All sightings of cowbirds and their numbers in vireo territories should be noted during each survey.
7. No attempts should be made to locate or examine vireo nests unless authorized by permits issued by California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
8. A final report should be prepared which describes survey dates, methods, locations, and information identified in items 4, 5, and 6 above.

If you have any questions regarding these survey guidelines, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (714) 643-4270.