
**Guthrie, D.A., "Bird Surveys along the Santa Clara River and Its Tributaries
near Valencia, California" (1993; 1993A)**

Original in Matt Carpenter's
Office

1993 *Acuna*

BIRD SURVEYS ALONG THE SANTA CLARA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

NEAR VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA, 1993

Prepared for:

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August 3, 1993

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Nature and Scope of Surveys

During the spring and early summer of 1993 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. After initial surveys, which found no vireos, calls of least Bell's vireo were played during a subsequent census to elicit response from territorial males. Survey routes were designed to cover all areas of each section of the river, with emphasis 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, Kenyon Corey 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 5 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 5 years were conducted according to the protocol 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; Old Highway to the mouth of Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence to State Route 126.

Length of section, 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. 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.

Area 2. Santa Clara River; Old Highway to McBean Parkway.

Length of section, 1.4 miles. The Santa Clara River flows continuously in this section. Spring flooding removed most wet riparian vegetation along this section of the river.

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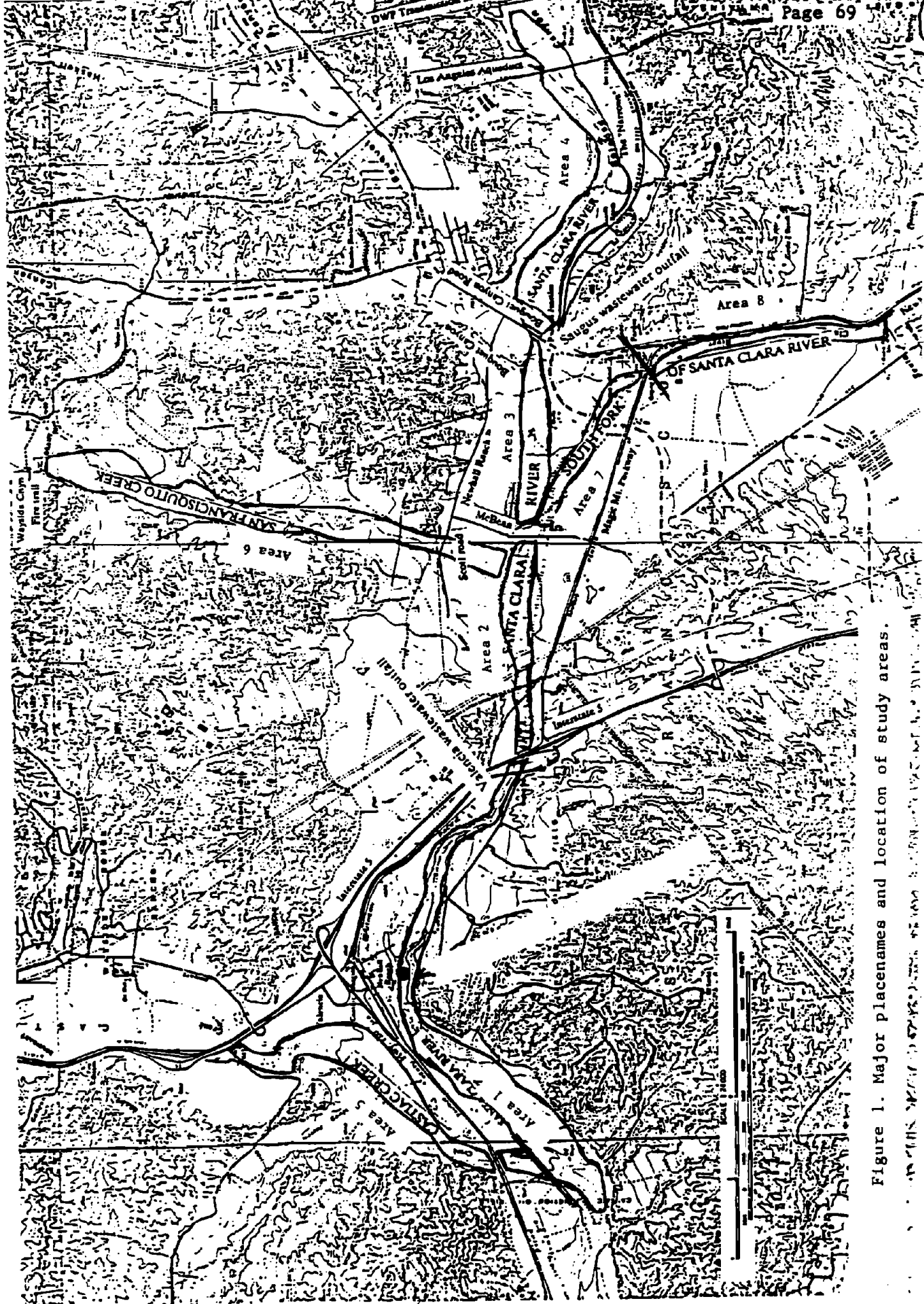


Figure 1. Major placenames and location of study areas.

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

Length of section, 1.2 miles. Water, supplied by the Saugus wastewater outfall at the Boquet Canyon Bridge, is continuous in this section of the Santa Clara River. Spring flooding removed most wet riparian vegetation and destroyed tracts that were part of a revegetation project along this portion of the river.

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

Length of section, 2.3 miles. This section of the Santa Clara River was wet during April and May but was dry by the time of the June census.

Area 5. Castaic Creek; Route 125 to Old Road next to Interstate 5.

Length of section, 2.5 miles. Spring flooding removed about half the vegetation from this section of Castaic Creek. However, there was water flowing throughout the survey period and large stands of willow supported by storm drain runoff from housing projects near the upper portion of this section were not affected by flooding.

Area 6. San Francisquito Creek; Santa Clara River upstream 2.5 miles.

Length of section, 2.5 miles. This section was wet in April and May but dry during June and July. Spring flood removed much low vegetation from this section but did not affect large islands of cottonwoods in the stream channel.

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

Length of section, 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. Some standing water was present near the McBean bridge.

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

Length of section, 1.8 miles. This section of the river was dry except for damp areas formed by runoff from culverts along the west side of the creek. Cattails developed in these wet areas supported redwing blackbirds and song sparrows. Most of the rest of this section consists of bare sand wash with a few islands of cottonwoods.

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, therefore, 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. A few species such as Anna's Hummingbird that nest early in the season may be underestimated. Numbers observed may decrease slightly in May when birds are less active during nesting, and increase in July when young birds leave the nest.

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, house finch, phainopepla and loggerhead shrike in July follow 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 Bachcharis on low flats adjacent to the main stream channel. Wooded areas along the river that had shown evidence of die off prior to 1992 as the result of extended drought resprouted and were green in 1993.

Table 9 presents census data from the past 4 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 (areas 1 - 3) where water flow is permanent. The decrease in numbers from 1990 to 1991 is a reflection of the severe drought experience in southern California during this period. 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. In 1993, spring flood further removed wet riparian vegetation and there was little regrowth prior to the nesting season. Low numbers of song sparrows are an indication of this destruction of wet riparian habitat.

Numbers of yellow warblers, another species dependent upon wet riparian vegetation, were down in 1993. This may also be due in part to increases in brown-headed cowbirds. Bewick's wren is a common inhabitant of the drier sections of the riparian zone that were not so heavily impacted by spring flooding. Numbers of this species show an increase in 1992 and 1993, wet years, over the numbers in drier 1991. This is presumably due to increases in insect food.

Flooding during the spring of 1992 and 1993 eliminated wet riparian vegetation during the period when birds were establishing territories and thus caused a decrease in numbers of those species dependent upon wet riparian vegetation. Flooding also eliminated many mature areas of willows and created openings along the Santa Clara River which should with time result in increased wet riparian habitat.

Sensitive Species

Least Bell's Vireo

No least Bell's vireos were observed in 1993. In 1992 and other years previous to this a singing male was observed in Area 1 at Castaic Junction. This individual was in wet riparian vegetation near a water cress pond. This area was totally eliminated by spring floods in 1993. The only other area where least Bell's vireos have been observed in recent years was in wet riparian growth just

downstream from the McBean Bridge. Wet riparian vegetation in this area has also been totally eliminated by spring flooding.

Yellow Warbler

The yellow warbler is considered a 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 of the birds observed were probably migrants and this species is known to sing its territorial song during migration. Numbers in 1993 were down from those observed in previous years. This may be due to destruction of vegetation by spring floods or to the increasing effects of parasitism by brown headed cowbirds.

Yellow-breasted Chat

The yellow-breasted chat is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Chats were observed sparingly along the wet sections of the Santa Clara River. Of those observed in 1993, only one pair was considered to be nesting; the rest were migrants. This number is down from the 5-6 observed in 1992.

Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's Hawk is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Two pairs of Coopers hawks were observed in 1993, the same number as observed in 1992. This species is a resident that nests and hunts in riparian woodland habitat.

Loggerhead Shrike

This species is a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Shrikes were observed along San Francisquito Creek and the South Fork of the Santa Clara River.

California Horned Lark

This species is a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Horned larks were observed near Castaic Junction in plowed fields adjacent to the Santa Clara River.

Black-shouldered Kite

This species is considered "Special" by the State of California. A pair of kites nested in the dry woodland on the north side of the Santa Clara River near the confluence with Castaic Creek.

Summer Tanager

The summer tanager is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. A summer tanager was observed sporadically in the dense cottonwoods just downstream from the Valencia Wastewater plant.

Golden Eagle

This species is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. An eagle was observed flying over the Santa Clara River in the vicinity of Magic Mountain on July 4th. Eagles forage widely over the coastal sage and chaparral hillsides adjacent to the Santa Clara River.

Table 1. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993: Santa Clara River from Old Highway along I-5 to the mouth of Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence to State Route 126.

Species	date:	4/13	4/27	5/6	5/12	5/30	6/18	7/4	7/18	Status
Green-backed Heron	-	3	3	2	-	3	-	2	R	
Bl. cr. Night Heron	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	
Mallard	-	9	15	15	2	-	1	5	R	
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	S	
Black-sh. Kite	-	1	2	4	-	1	2	-	R	
Cooper's Hawk	-	1	-	3	2	1	-	2	R	
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	R	
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	2	4	4	1	5	4	5	R	
Red-tailed Hawk	-	3	2	4	-	1	4	3	R	
American Kestrel	-	-	3	2	2	-	-	-	R	
California Quail	13	24	26	29	18	8	16	55	R	
Sora Rail	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	
Killdeer	5	12	14	6	13	29	14	23	R	
Spotted Sandpiper	-	3	5	8	3	10 (3)	16	7	S	
Least Sandpiper	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	
Domestic Pigeon	-	1	-	5	17	6	12	6	R	
Mourning Dove	5	14	9	11	19	20	14	21	R	
Spotted Dove	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	R	
White-throated Swift	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	R	
Black-ch. Hummingbird	1	3	1	5	6	3	2	7	S	
Anna's Hummingbird	1	10	7	12	11	7	7	20	R	
Costa's Hummingbird	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	S	
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	
Nuttall's Woodpecker	7	8	10	13	3	21	16	16	R	
Downy Woodpecker	-	-	2	3	9	9	8	6	R	
Hairy Woodpecker	2	3	2	4	4	5	5	7	R	
Northern Flicker	1	3	3	5	2	5	7	9	R	
Hammond's Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	
Pac. Slope Flycatcher	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	
Black Phoebe	-	-	-	2	1	3	8	14	R	
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	9	14	11	13	12	15	12	15	S	
Western Kingbird	2	2	1	-	-	7	3	2	S	
Horned Lark	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	R	
Violet-green Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	S	
N. Rough-w. Swallow	4	18	20	24	6	49	16	3	S	
Barn Swallow	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	S	
Cliff Swallow	-	8	-	6	53	2	52	10	S	
Scrub Jay	-	18	22	15	21	21	19	23	R	
American Crow	9	8	32	19	20	27	39	16	R	
Common Raven	19	9	14	20	11	7	8	52	R	
Plain Titmouse	1	10	6	-	15	20	13	39	R	
Bushtit	4	7	18	28	20	6	3	28	R	
Bewick's Wren	28	51	40	51	41	43	21	54	R	
House Wren	6	12	13	18	16	24	8	1	R	
Marsh Wren	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	
Western Bluebird	6	-	1	2	-	7	8	8	S	
Swainson's Thrush	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	S	
American Robin	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	R	

Table 1.(cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993:
 Santa Clara River from Old Highway along I-5 to the mouth of Castaic
 Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence to State Route 126.

Species	date:	4/13	4/27	5/6	5/12	5/30	6/18	7/4	7/18	Status
Wrentit		4	-	3	-	-	2	-	1	R
N. Mockingbird		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R
Calif. Thrasher		-	5	2	5	8	9	4	7	R
Cedar Waxwing		-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Phainopepla		-	-	-	4	-	2	-	18	R
European Starling		12	15	5	16	20	22	67	53	R
Warbling Vireo		-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Orange-cr. Warbler		-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler		1	11	11	5	2	2	3	1	S,M
Yellow- r. Warbler		21	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Black-th. grey Warbler		1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
MacGillivray's Warbler		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Common Yellowthroat		9	7	4	1	3	7	17	15	R
Wilson's Warbler		2	23	9	2	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat		1	1	3	1	-	2	2	1	S
Summer Tanager		-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	S
Western Tanager		3	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak		8	22	11	19	20	22	22	16	S
Blue Grosbeak		1	-	2	1	-	3	4	3	S
Lazuli Bunting		-	-	-	-	-	-	11	13	S
Rufous-sided Towhee		7	12	10	24	8	14	16	11	R
California Towhee		6	10	4	10	7	7	13	10	R
Chipping Sparrow		2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Lark Sparrow		-	-	-	1	-	-	8	41	R
Song Sparrow		44	36	34	63	67	78	54	95	R
Lincoln's Sparrow		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
White-cr. Sparrow		1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Red-winged Blackbird		2	16	-	9	11	25	3	59	S
Brewer's Blackbird		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	R
Brown-headed Cowbird		8	32	22	23	20	37	31	23	S
Hooded Oriole		3	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	S
Northern Oriole		1	2	5	3	3	1	2	4	S
House Finch		8	4	4	2	-	4	16	46	R
Pine Siskin		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Lesser Goldfinch		1	4	7	14	-	5	3	26	R
Lawrence's Goldfinch		-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	R
American Goldfinch		45	6	2	-	-	-	-	3	W,M
Total Species:		48	61	51	52	38	50	48	52	
Total Individuals:		336	504	458	554	498	637	621	910	

Total Species on all visits: 85

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

() = Young Birds

Table 2. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993: Santa Clara River from Old Highway along I-5 to McBean Parkway.

Species	date:	4/13	4/29	5/7	5/15	6/10	7/7	7/19	Status
Green-backed Heron		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Bl. cr. Night Heron		-	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Mallard		5	1	2	1	1	1	-	R
Cinnamon Teal		-	-	-	-	-	-	4	M
Cooper's Hawk		-	-	-	1	-	1	-	R
Golden Eagle		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	R
Red-shouldered Hawk		1	-	1	1	2	1	2	R
Red-tailed Hawk		2	1	1	1	1(2)	2	3	R
California Quail		30	8	12	6	8	9	4	R
Killdeer		1	1	3	4	6	16	9	R
Spotted Sandpiper		-	1	-	-	-	2	1	S
Least Sandpiper		3	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Domestic Pigeon		1	3	-	2	-	3	-	R
Mourning Dove		3	3	2	3	1	15	15	R
Black-ch. Hummingbird		-	1	-	1	-	1	2	S
Anna's Hummingbird		3	-	2	1	-	8	7	R
Belted Kingfisher		1	1	-	-	-	-	-	W
Nuttall's Woodpecker		5	4	3	4	5	9	9	R
Downy Woodpecker		6	2	3	4	6	10	4	R
Hairy Woodpecker		2	-	1	-	2	2	1	R
Northern Flicker		2	-	-	1	2	-	-	R
Black Phoebe		5	-	3	4	5	15	21	R
Ash-thr. Flycatcher		5	5	4	3	1	9	11	S
Cassin's Kingbird		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	S
Western Kingbird		5	-	-	-	-	2	2	S
Violet-green Swallow		6	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
N. Rough-w. Swallow		40	14	20	16	28	-	2	S
Cliff Swallow		-	-	2	-	3	37	6	S
Barn Swallow		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Scrub Jay		2	5	3	6	4	8	15	R
American Crow		2	8	4	5	4	1	2	R
Common Raven		13	2	4	8	6	-	5	R
Plain Titmouse		22	5	3	4	1	11	7	R
Bushtit		24	6	8	15	27	5	15	R
Bewick's Wren		8	21	15	13	11	27	18	R
House Wren		2	3	4	4	6	-	2	R
Western Bluebird		9	1	-	3	2	5	12	R
Swainson's Thrush		-	-	1	-	1	-	-	S
American Robin		-	1	-	-	-	6	1	R
Calif. Thrasher		2	2	-	1	-	3	2	R
Phainopepla		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	R
American Pipit		4	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Loggerhead Shrike		-	-	-	-	-	-	2	R
European Starling		3	5	10	6	14	90	20	R
Solitary Vireo		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Orange-cr. Warbler		7	-	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Nashville Warbler		4	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler		-	2	1	2	2	2	-	S
Yellow- r. Warbler		45	-	-	-	-	-	-	W

Table 2. (cont.) Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993:
Santa Clara River from Old Highway along I-5 to McBean Parkway.

Species	date:	4/13	4/29	5/7	5/15	6/10	7/7	7/19	Status
Black-th. grey Warbler		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Common Yellowthroat		5	1	1	1	2	3	-	R
Wilson's Warbler		13	5	2	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat		-	-	-	1	-	1	-	S
Western Tanager		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak		7	6	5	6	7	9	11	S
Blue Grosbeak		-	-	-	-	-	1	2	S
Lazuli Bunting		-	-	-	-	-	4	7	S
Rufous-sided Towhee		7	6	5	4	7	11	4	R
California Towhee		1	1	3	1	2	5	1	R
Lark Sparrow		-	-	-	-	-	13	28	R
Song Sparrow		18	12	16	15	19	26	15	R
Red-winged Blackbird		-	-	2	-	-	-	-	S
Tricolored Blackbird		-	-	-	-	-	5	-	M
Brewer's Blackbird		-	-	-	-	-	8	-	R
Yellow-headed Blackbird		1	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Brown-headed Cowbird		9	6	7	9	8	10	11	S
Northern Oriole		-	-	1	-	-	2	2	S
Purple Finch		15	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
House Finch		-	10	8	6	5	150	100	R
Lesser Goldfinch		4	2	-	2	-	8	9	R
American Goldfinch		32	3	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Total Species:		47	40	35	37	33	45	40	
Total Individuals:		389	165	163	168	200	559	394	

Total Species on all visits: 70

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

() = Young Birds

Table 3. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993: Santa Clara River from Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean parkway.

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>4/29</u>	<u>6/10</u>	<u>Status</u>
Mallard		2	-	R
California Quail		4	4	R
Killdeer		6	6	R
Mourning Dove		3	2	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker		-	2	R
Downy Woodpecker		-	1	R
Hairy Woodpecker		2	1	R
Black Phoebe		-	4	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher		2	3	S
N. Rough-winged Swallow		3	12	S
Scrub Jay		4	9	R
American Crow		6	2	R
Common Raven		39	26	R
Plain Titmouse		1	2	R
Bushtit		6	4	R
Bewick's Wren		3	4	R
Western Bluebird		1	-	R
California Thrasher		1	1	R
European Starling		-	2	R
Yellow Warbler		1	-	M,S
MacGillivray's Warbler		1	-	M
Wilson's Warbler		3	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak		4	1	S
Blue Grosbeak		1	-	S
California Towhee		3	1	R
Song Sparrow		5	6	R
Red-winged Blackbird		3	-	S
Brewer's Blackbird		-	1	R
Brown-headed Cowbird		-	1	S
House Finch		-	8	R
Total number of Species:		23	23	
Total number of Individuals:		104	103	

Total Species on all visits: 30

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

Table 4. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993: Santa Clara River from power line 2.5 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon Rd. to Boquet Canyon Road Crossing.

Species	date:	4/29	6/10	Status
Mallard		4	-	R
Red-tailed Hawk		3	4	R
American Kestrel		2	1	R
California Quail		4	18	R
Killdeer		11	16	R
Spotted Sandpiper		2	-	M
Domestic Pigeon		-	2	R
Mourning Dove		32	74	R
Great Horned Owl		1	-	R
Black-ch. Hummingbird		1	5	S
Anna's Hummingbird		6	9	R
Acorn Woodpecker		1	-	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker		4	10	R
Hairy Woodpecker		1	-	R
Northern Flicker		2	-	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher		1	1	S
Western Kingbird		2	10	S,M
Rough-winged Swallow		-	1	S
Cliff Swallow		-	3	S
Scrub Jay		10	21	R
American Crow		2	4	R
Common Raven		32	11	R
Plain Titmouse		3	4	R
Bushtit		11	13	R
Bewick's Wren		12	26	R
Western Bluebird		-	5	R
Northern Mockingbird		2	9	R
California Thrasher		-	6	R
Loggerhead Shrike		-	1	R
European Starling		4	91	R
Warbling Vireo		2	-	M
Orange-crowned Warbler		1	-	M
Yellow Warbler		1	-	M
Black-throated Gray Warbler		1	-	M
Wilson's Warbler		5	-	M
Western Tanager		1	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak		3	-	R
Blue Grosbeak		-	2	S
Lazuli Bunting		-	2	S
Rufous-sided Towhee		1	3	R
California Towhee		2	2	R
Song Sparrow		2	2	R
Red-winged Blackbird		2	6	S
Brewer's Blackbird		4	8	R
Brown-headed Cowbird		8	6	S

Table 4 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993:
 Santa Clara River from power line 2.5 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon
 rd. to Boquet Canyon Road Crossing.

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>4/29</u>	<u>6/10</u>	<u>Status</u>
Northern Oriole		11	2	S
House Finch		25	22	R
Total number of species:		29	34	
Total number of Individuals:		222	405	

Total Species on all visits: 47

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

Table 5. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993: Castaic Creek from Old Road west to Rte. 126.

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>4/17</u>	<u>6/9</u>	<u>Status</u>
Snowy Egret		1	-	M
Green-backed Heron		4	-	M
Mallard		1	1	R
Cooper's Hawk		-	1	R
Red-shouldered Hawk		-	1	R
Red-tailed Hawk		1	-	R
American Kestrel		1	-	R
California Quail		26	20	R
American Coot		3	-	M
Sora Rail		1*	-	M
Killdeer		3	8	R
Mourning Dove		3	7	R
Black-ch. Hummingbird		2	-	S
Anna's Hummingbird		6	4	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker		5	6	R
Downy Woodpecker		1	6	R
Northern Flicker		-	3	R
Black Phoebe		-	6	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher		3	6	S
Western Kingbird		3	-	M
N. Rough-winged Swallow		48	37	S
Cliff Swallow		50	1	S
Scrub Jay		16	16	R
American Crow		12	7	R
Common Raven		7	3	R
Plain Titmouse		2	7	R
Bushtit		8	13	R
Bewick's Wren		16	27	R
House Wren		5	-	R
Wrentit		1	-	R
Western Bluebird		-	2	R
California Thrasher		4	3	R
European Starling		6	4	R
Orange-crowned Warbler		2	-	M
Yellow Warbler		2	1	S
Yellow-rumped Warbler		3	-	W
Common Yellowthroat		24	4	R,M
Yellow-breasted Chat		1	-	S
Black-headed Grosbeak		8	10	S
Rufous-sided Towhee		5	7	R
California Towhee		5	6	R
Lark Sparrow		-	1	R
Song Sparrow		20	18	R
Lincoln's Sparrow		1	-	M
Red-winged Blackbird		97	50	S
Brewer's Blackbird		2	4	R
Brown-headed Cowbird		22	10	S

Table 5 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993:
 Castaic Creek from Old Road west to Rte. 126.

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>4/17</u>	<u>6/9</u>	<u>Status</u>
Northern Oriole		-	5	S
House Finch		4	6	R
Lesser Goldfinch		-	5	R
House Sparrow		2	-	R
Total number of species:		42	36	
Total number of individuals:		437	316	

Total Species on all visits: 51

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

* found dead

Table 6. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993: San Francisquito Creek for 2 Miles above Main Channel.

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>4/25</u>	<u>6/14</u>	<u>Status</u>
Mallard		3	1	R
Red-tailed Hawk		1*	6	R
California Quail		65	28	R
Killdeer		10	12	R
Greater Yellowlegs		1	-	M
Least Sandpiper		8	-	M
Domestic Pigeon		2	2	R
Mourning Dove		13	20	R
Spotted Dove		2	-	R
Greater Roadrunner		-	1	R
Great Horned Owl		2	1	R
Costa's Hummingbird		4	-	S
Anna's Hummingbird		1	1	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker		5	4	R
Western Wood Pewee		1	-	R
Black Phoebe		4	3	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher		6	4	S
Western Kingbird		14	2	S,M
N. Rough-winged Swallow		2	-	S
Cliff Swallow		1	1	S
Barn Swallow		2	-	M
Scrub Jay		10	11	R
American Crow		2	3	R
Common Raven		36	14	R
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1	-	M
Plain Titmouse		2	3	R
Bushtit		11	4	R
Bewick's Wren		8	9	R
House Wren		1	2	R
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		3	-	W
Wrentit		-	2	R
Northern Mockingbird		5	3	R
California Thrasher		6	5	R
American Pipit		1	-	M
Phainopepla		-	4	R
Loggerhead Shrike		2	2	R
European Starling		5	19	R
Warbling Vireo		2	-	M
Orange-crowned Warbler		10	-	M
Yellow Warbler		7	-	M
Yellow-rumped Warbler		5	-	W
Common Yellowthroat		2	1	R
Wilson's Warbler		19	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak		5	1	S
Blue Grosbeak		1	-	S
Lazuli Bunting		4	-	S
Rufous-sided Towhee		1	5	R

Table 6 (cont.) . Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993:
San Francisquito Creek for 2 Miles above Main Channel.

Species	date:	4/25	6/14	Status
California Towhee		6	12	R
Lark Sparrow		-	1	R
Song Sparrow		6	11	R
Lincoln's Sparrow		2	-	M
Red-winged Blackbird		25	6	S
Brown-headed Cowbird		17	4	S
Hooded Oriole		2	-	S
Northern Oriole		7	10	S
House Finch		3	31	R
Pine Siskin		29	-	W,M
Lawrence's Goldfinch		7	-	R
Lesser Goldfinch		2	-	R
American Goldfinch		55	-	W,M
House Sparrow		2	-	R
Total number of species:		57	37	
Total number of individuals:		459	255	

Total Species on all visits: 61

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

* nesting

Table 7. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993: South Fork from Rte. 126 to McBean Parkway.

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>4/25</u>	<u>6/9</u>	<u>Status</u>
Green-backed Heron		1	-	M
Black-crowned Night Heron		3	-	M
Mallard		2	-	M
Turkey Vulture		1	-	M
Red-tailed Hawk		-	2	R
American Kestrel		1	2	R
California Quail		8	4	R
Killdeer		6(3)	10	R
Greater Yellowlegs		1	-	M
Mourning Dove		-	13	R
Black-chinned Hummingbird		-	2	S
Anna's Hummingbird		2	4	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker		1	2	R
Black Phoebe		-	3	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher		-	4	S
Western Kingbird		2	-	S,M
N. Rough-winged Swallow		1	-	S
Scrub Jay		5	5	R
American Crow		1	-	R
Common Raven		10(2)	3	R
Plain Titmouse		-	4	R
Bushtit		6	6	R
Rock Wren		-	1	R
Bewick's Wren		2	10	R
Northern Mockingbird		-	2	R
California Thrasher		6	-	R
European Starling		2	7	R
Orange-crowned Warbler		3	-	M
Yellow Warbler		4	-	M
Yellow-rumped Warbler		12	-	W
Black-throated Gray Warbler		1	-	M
MacGillivray's Warbler		1	-	M
Wilson's Warbler		9	-	M
Western Tanager		1	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak		2	1	S
Rufous-sided Towhee		1	-	R
California Towhee		2	3	R
Song Sparrow		1	-	R
Red-winged Blackbird		-	8	S
Hooded Oriole		1	-	S
Northern Oriole		6	2	S
House Finch		11	6	R
Pine Siskin		3	-	W

Table 7 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993:
 South Fork from Rte. 126 to McBean Parkway.

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>4/25</u>	<u>6/9</u>	<u>Status</u>
Lesser Goldfinch	-	2		R
House Sparrow	-	2		R

Total number of species: 34 25
 Total number of individuals: 119 108

Total Species on all visits: 45

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

() = Young birds

Table 8. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1993: South Fork from Newhall Creek to Rte. 126.

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>4/25</u>	<u>6/9</u>	<u>Status</u>
Red-tailed Hawk		1	-	R
American Kestrel		-	2	R
California Quail		2	6	R
Killdeer		3	7	R
Mourning Dove		3	6	R
Anna's Hummingbird		3	4	R
Nuttall's Woodpecker		-	2	R
Dusky Flycatcher		1	-	M
Ash-throated Flycatcher		-	1	S
N. Rough-winged Swallow		2	-	S
Scrub Jay		2	3	R
American Crow		-	2	R
Common Raven		5	2	R
Bewick's Wren		-	1	R
Northern Mockingbird		1	5	R
Loggerhead Shrike		-	1	R
European Starling		-	19	R
Warbling Vireo		2	-	M
Orange-crowned Warbler		4	-	M
Yellow Warbler		2	-	M, S
Yellow-rumped Warbler		1	-	W
MacGillivray's Warbler		1	-	M
Common Yellowthroat		2	1	R
Wilson's Warbler		7	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak		1	-	S
California Towhee		-	1	R
Song Sparrow		5	13	R
White-crowned Sparrow		7	-	W
Red-winged Blackbird		-	6	S
Brewer's Blackbird		-	14	R
Brown-headed Cowbird		-	10	S
Northern Oriole		3	2	S
House Finch		6	9	R
Lesser Goldfinch		-	5	R
House Sparrow		-	8	R
Total number of species:		22	24	
Total number of individuals:		64	130	

Total Species on all visits: 35

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

Table 9. Comparison of Populations of Selected Species, 1990 - 93.

Species	Year	Census Areas								Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Song Sparrow	1993	63	15	6	2	18	11	0	13	128
	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	1993	5	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	8
	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	1993	51	11	4	26	27	9	10	1	139
	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.