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**Guthrie, D.A., "Bird Surveys along the Santa Clara River and Its Tributaries  
near Valencia, California, 1998" (July 28, 1998; 1998B)**

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# BIRD SURVEYS ALONG THE SANTA CLARA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

NEAR VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA, 1998

Prepared for:

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

Prepared by:

Daniel A. Guthrie  
W.M. Keck Science Center  
925 N. Mills Ave  
Claremont Ca. 91711  
(909) 607-2836

July 28, 1998

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**Nature and Scope of Surveys**

During the spring and early summer of 1998 surveys were conducted along 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.

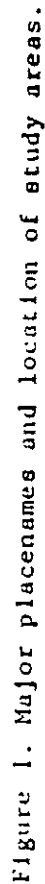
Each survey was conducted on foot by observers well acquainted with both visual and auditory patterns of southern California birds. All surveys occurred between 6 and 10 a.m. If no vireos were found during the first two surveys, calls of Least Bell's Vireo were played during subsequent censuses to elicit 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, 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 4,6-8) and sections where Least Bell's Vireos have not been observed in the past (Area 3) were conducted twice during the nesting season. The second survey was delayed until June to insure that late arriving species such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow Flycatcher would not be missed. Surveys of the remaining sections of the Santa Clara River (Areas 1-3,5) were conducted according to the protocol outlined by the Fish and Wildlife Service (Appendix 1), and consisted of 8 surveys, two each in April, May, June and July. The first survey in July was restricted to areas where vireos had been seen in the past. Thus, while the species seen were noted, numbers of individuals were not recorded. 7

**Habitat Condition and Bird Observations.**

Due to El Nino, the winter of 1998 was very wet, with several heavy rains which caused severe flooding along most sections of the river. Except for Castaic Creek, where flooding was controlled by upstread dams, flooding removed all wet riparian vegetation along the river as well as many sections of large trees. Wet riparian vegetation was only beginning to appear during the July censuses.

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Water continued to flow in all sections of the river throughout the census period.

Tables 1 through 8 present bird observations in each of the specific study areas for 1998. Different species breed at different times of the year. In general, 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 and May, 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 June and early July when birds are less active during nesting, and increase in late June and 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 Mourning Dove in late July follow this trend.

The general effect of flooding in 1998 was to reduce the numbers of obligate wet riparian species. Thus red-winged blackbirds, which are usually found in cattail marshes, were fewer in number. Some species that nest on gravel bars, such as killdeer and spotted sandpiper were also reduced in numbers as their habitat was flooded in April and May during the nesting season. The lack of change in numbers of most other species between 1997 and 1998 indicates that they accommodated to flooding. For instance, song sparrows, usually common along the wet riparian vegetation, moved into weedy fields and wooded habitat at the sides of the river as did some red-winged blackbirds and blue grosbeaks.

Following are specific comments on the habitat and bird observations in each area.

**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, 3.5 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. Severe flooding and the threat of bank erosion led to the construction of a new river channel to divert water away from the Old Highway (fig. 2). Although this new channel bisected an area where Least Bell's Vireos were found in 1997, it apparently did not affect the vireos as they were regularly observed along the sides of this channel during 1998 (see additional comments in section on Least

Bell's Vireo). The section of river channel bypassed by this diversion was one of the few remaining wet riparian areas along the river and provided nest sites for Spotted Sandpiper and killdeer.

**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. The channel was heavily scoured by spring flooding which eliminated all wet riparian vegetation along the main channel of the river. A small area of wet riparian vegetation remained at the mouth of San Francisquito Creek. As in previous years, this area was impacted by off road vehicles during the study period. However, vehicles remained for the most part in the main channel of the river.

**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. This area was almost completely scoured by spring flooding, leaving only a narrow strip of vegetation along the sides of the river. Species number and the number of individuals seen in this area were reduced from previous years.

**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 in past years has been wet only briefly during spring rains. and due to water release from the DWP aqueduct 2.0 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon Road. This year there was water flowing continuously in this section of the river. However, flood scouring reduced the overall amount of vegetation and deepened the river channel, leaving much vegetation along the sides of the wide channel out of contact with ground water with the result that much of last years new vegetation was dead and wet riparian species were very reduced.

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

Length of section, 1.8 miles. Water was released from upstream dams during most of the study period but not continuously so that at times the river was dry. Noise makers and scarecrows were placed along the upper portion of this section to scare birds away from the vicinity of construction to the east. The result was that nesting by red-winged blackbirds and other wet riparian species near the wet pond in this area was greatly reduced as were the overall numbers of individuals and species.

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

Length of section, 2.5 miles. This section was wet throughout the study period and showed some effects of flooding, especially in the lower portion where a heavy mud deposit covered most wet riparian vegetation.

**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. Flooding removed all vegetation except for a narrow band at each side of the channel.

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

Length of section, 1.4 miles. This section of the river was dry except for damp areas formed by runoff from culverts along the west side of the creek. Flooding was restricted to the central channel of the river and did not affect the well developed cattail and willow areas near these culverts. The result was the continued increase in riparian species along this section of the river.

**Comments on Sensitive Species**

**Cooper's Hawk**

Cooper's Hawk is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Coopers hawks were observed rarely on most sections of the main river in 1998 and also along San Francisquito and Castaic Creek. This species is a resident that nests and hunts in riparian woodland habitat.

**White-tailed Kite**

This species, formerly the Black-shouldered Kite, is considered "Special" by the State of California. Two pair of kites nested along the river in 1998, both in areas where they have been noted in previous years. One pair of kites nested in the dry woodland on the north side of the Santa Clara River near the confluence with Castaic Creek and a second pair of kites nested on the south side of the Santa Clara River about 1/2 mile west of the McBean Bridge.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is listed as a State Endangered Species. Although no individuals of this species were observed by us in 1998, there was a report of an observation along the Santa Clara River above the McBean crossing in July. As these birds could not be found subsequently and as the referred food of this species

(tent caterpillars and tree frogs) is lacking in this area, this sighting was probably of post-breeding birds on their way south during migration. In the past, cuckoos have been rarely observed as migrants passing through the area in June.

#### **Willow Flycatcher**

This species is listed as an Endangered Species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Willow Flycatchers were once widespread in wet riparian woodland in southern California but now only a few individuals exist. The main California breeding populations of this species are along the Kern River and in northern California. Although migrating individuals of this species have been observed in the past in early June, none were observed this year.

#### **California Horned Lark**

This species is a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Horned Larks nest on dry hillsides and agricultural areas and were observed in late summer on plowed fields adjacent to the Castaic Creek and near the main river at Castaic Junction.

#### **Loggerhead Shrike**

This is a California Species of Special Concern. Shrikes are resident in the coastal sage scrub areas adjacent to the Santa Clara River System. This habitat has been nearly completely eliminated along the sides of the upper river. Although shrikes have been observed in the past to enter the riparian area in late summer seeking water, none were observed this year.

#### **Least Bell's Vireo**

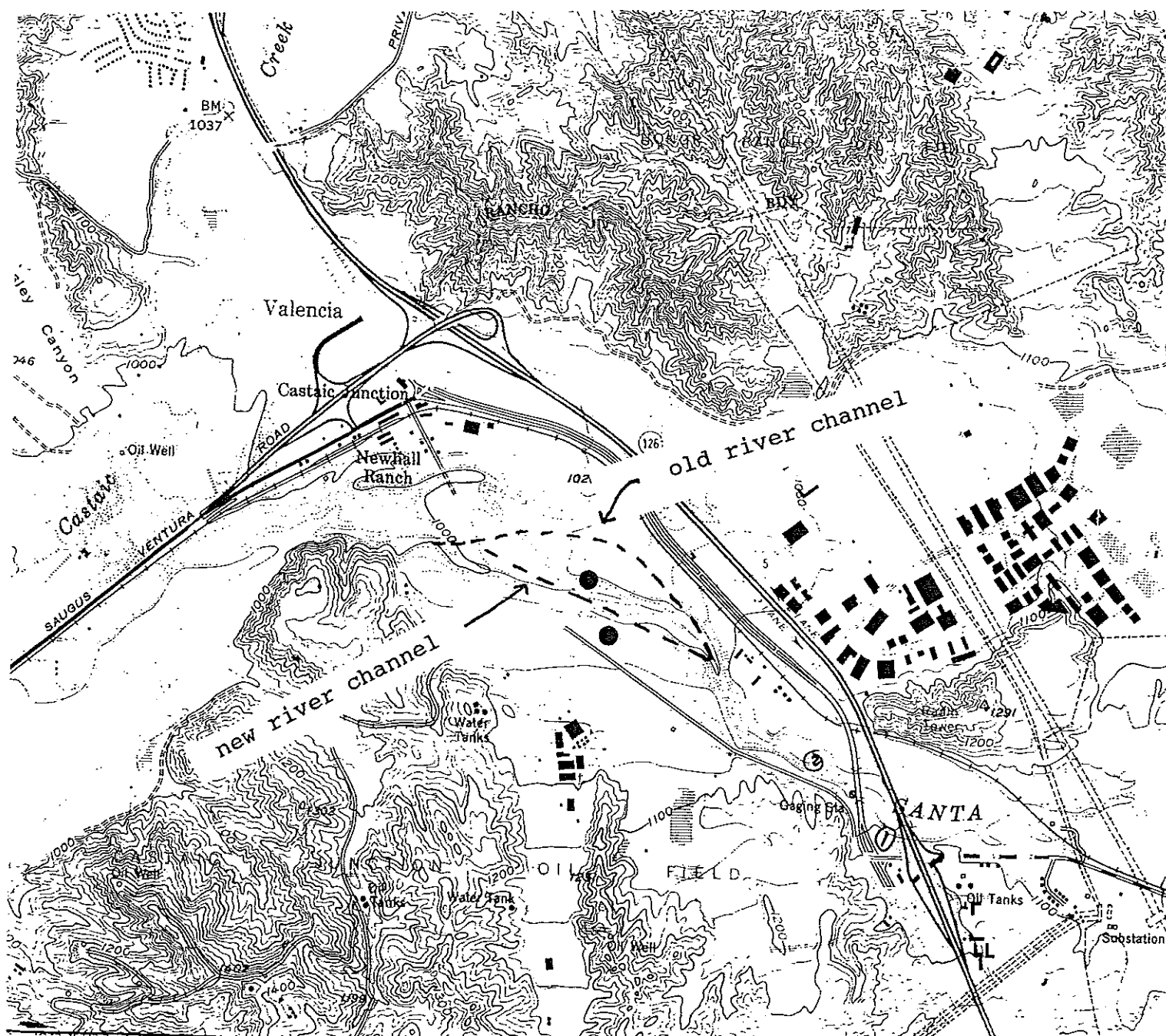
Two singing Least Bell's Vireos were observed near Castaic Junction, one on each side of the newly created channel (Figure 2) and both appeared paired and nesting. Although these birds were in dense willow, the berms along the new channel prevented water from reaching this vegetation and much of it was dying by July. Also, the creation of the new channel created edges through the vireo habitat, thus opening the area to increased cowbird predation. There were two cowbird traps in this area in 1997 but no cowbird traps this year and the number of cowbirds observed was higher than in 1997, when two birds were also observed in this area.

#### **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. The drop in



Figure 2. Location of Least Bell's Vireo sightings in 1998



● - Singing Least Bell's Vireo

numbers observed between May and June indicate that most of the earlier birds observed were migrants passing through the area. The Yellow Warblers that remained in June along wet sections of the Santa Clara river presumably were breeding birds.

#### **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.

#### **Lawrence's Goldfinch**

This species is a highest priority species on the Audubon Birds to Watch list for 1996. A few birds were observed drinking along The Santa Clara River. This species nests in coastal sage and chaparral habitat and visits the river during the dry late summer.

Table 1. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,  
1998: 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: 4/11	4/23	5/8	5/21	6/3	6/13	7/2	7/21	status
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	M
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	M
Snowy Egret	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Green Heron	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	1	R*
Bl.cr. Night Heron	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Mallard	1	-	2	-	1	-	x	3	R*
Turkey Vulture	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	S
White-tailed Kite	-	2	-	2	1	3	-	2	R*
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	2	2	1	-	2	x	1	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	3	-	2	4	x	3	R*
American Kestrel	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Sora Rail	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Ring-n. Pheasant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R
California Quail	-	6	18	17	12	19	x	22	R*
Killdeer	8	5	8	1	13	16	x	10	R*
Spotted Sandpiper	2	-	5	4	-	2	1(1)	-	S*
California Gull	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	M
Domestic Pigeon	2	3	3	13	7	25	x	6	R*
Mourning Dove	6	6	8	2	6	9	x	69	R*
Greater Roadrunner	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	R*
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Vaux's Swift	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
White-th. Swift	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	R
Black-ch. Hummingbird	1	3	-	2	-	2	-	-	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	9	19	6	18	6	8	x	4	R*
Belted Kingfisher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Nuttall's Woodpecker	8	6	6	10	11	6	x	8	R*
Downy Woodpecker	2	3	4	3	-	3	x	3	R*
Hairy Woodpecker	-	3	4	3	3	1	-	-	R*
Northern Flicker	1	1	1	-	-	2(1)	-	1	R*
Black Phoebe	-	1	4	2	7	8	x	7	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	7	13	10	8	12	12	x	9	S*
Western Kingbird	-	-	1	3	-	2	x	2	S*
Violet-green Swallow	8	4	-	-	2	-	-	1	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	79	63	33	21	18	79	x	3	S*
Barn Swallow	4	2	1	5	1	-	-	-	S
Cliff Swallow	22	34	9	21	56	47	x	-	S*
Scrub Jay	10	17	5	22	7	17	x	15	R*
American Crow	14	4	16	2	8	14	x	5	R*
Common Raven	15	1	7	11	34	17	x	8	R*
Plain Titmouse	13	8	6	4	4	1	x	-	R*
Bushtit	6	7	7	22	12	18	x	2	R*
White-br. Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	R?
Bewick's Wren	28	34	33	48	27	23	x	26	R*

Table 1 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1998: 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: 4/11	4/23	5/8	5/21	6/3	6/13	7/2	7/21	status
House Wren	22	15	43	9	12	4	x	4	R*
Western Bluebird	-	2	2	3	1	3	x	6	R*
Mockingbird	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	R*
Wrentit	5	6	4	1	3	4	x	3	R*
Calif. Thrasher	2	2	1	3	1	6	x	2	R*
American Pipit	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	W,M
Phainopepla	-	-	-	1	1	-	x	8	S*
European Starling	11	26	23	26	59	11	x	8	R*
Bell's Vireo	-	2	1	1	3	1	3	-	S*
Warbling Vireo	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	3	6	4	13	6	2	x	1	S*
Yellow-r. Warbler	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Townsend's Warbler	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Common Yellowthroat	13	12	6	11	23	15	x	18	R*
Wilson's Warbler	5	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat	-	-	-	2	2	2	x	1	S*
Western Tanager	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	M
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	2	13	9	9	7	10	x	17	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	4	4	3	1	-	-	-	S*
Lazuli Bunting	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	S*
Spotted Towhee	4	18	10	7	16	9	x	21	R*
California Towhee	11	25	4	19	18	7	x	15	R*
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	3	S*
Song Sparrow	42	90	48	51	67	51	x	76	R*
Red-w. Blackbird	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	S*
Brewer's Blackbird	-	4	4	-	-	-	x	-	R*
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	5	6	20	9	18	x	5	S*
Hooded Oriole	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	S*
Bullock's Oriole	4	3	1	-	1	2	x	3	S*
House Finch	9	29	16	8	4	26	x	125	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	4	6	-	2	3	5	x	16	R*
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	R*
American Goldfinch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	W,R*
Total Species:	50	53	50	47	45	45	42	46	

Total Species on all visits: 79

Total Probable Breeding species: 59 (marked with \*)

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

() = dependent young birds

Censuses of 4/11, 5/8, 6/3, 7/2 on the north side of river,  
Censuses of 4/23, 5/21, 6/13, 7/21 on south side of river.

Table 2. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,  
1998: Santa Clara River from McBean Parkway to Old  
Highway along I-5.

Species	date: 4/11	4/23	5/8	5/21	6/3	6/13	7/2	7/21	status
Snowy Egret	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Mallard	2	4	-	-	7	-	x	-	R*
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	S
White-tailed Kite	-	1	-	-	1	1	x	1(3)	R*
Cooper's Hawk	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	2	2	2	3	x	2	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	R*
American Kestrel	1	-	-	-	1	-	x	1	R*
California Quail	-	4	2	4	6	13	x	6	R*
Killdeer	2	5	4	2	4	5	x	4	R*
Least Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Domestic Pigeon	-	2	-	-	7	1	x	3	R*
Mourning Dove	1	-	2	-	-	4	x	2	R*
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	R*
Black-ch. Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	1	4	x	-	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	2	8	5	3	3	2	x	1	R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	2	1	3	-	3	7	x	5	R*
Downy Woodpecker	-	2	3	2	2	4	x	2	R*
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	2	4	x	-	R*
Black Phoebe	3	-	-	-	1	3	x	3	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	3	7	5	5	2	9	x	4	S*
Western Kingbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S*
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	R*
Tree Swallow	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	16	16	16	9	20	-	-	1	S*
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	S
Cliff Swallow	-	-	2	-	20	19	x	7	S*
Scrub Jay	11	2	4	8	7	6	x	7	R*
American Crow	3	2	3	8	4	21	x	4	R*
Common Raven	2	1	2	1	4	-	x	4	R*
Plain Titmouse	14	4	2	-	-	5	x	1	R*
Bushtit	-	4	-	8	8	3	x	2	R*
White-br. Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	R*
Bewick's Wren	21	20	19	20	15	38	x	7	R*
House Wren	13	10	18	9	15	4	x	3	R*
Western Bluebird	3	-	3	1	2	-	x	4	R*
American Robin	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Wrentit	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Calif. Thrasher	2	3	2	4	4	3	x	1	R*
Phainopepla	-	-	1	2	-	7	x	-	S*
European Starling	21	16	26	13	17	4	x	13	R*
Warbling Vireo	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	-	6	3	7	2	1	x	-	S*
Yellow- r. Warbler	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	W,M

Table 2 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1998: Santa Clara River from McBean Parkway to Old Highway along I-5.

Species	date: 4/11	4/23	5/8	5/21	6/3	6/13	7/2	7/21	status
Black-th. Grey Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	3	1	7	x	1	R*
Wilson's Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	S*
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	5	3	8	8	5	3	x	1	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	S*
Spotted Towhee	1	4	3	5	4	19	x	2	R*
California Towhee	8	6	2	4	8	9	x	2	R*
Song Sparrow	26	38	12	15	11	41	x	4	R*
White-cr. Sparrow	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Brown-headed Cowbird	9	1	2	7	-	7	x	2	S*
Bullock's Oriole	2	1	1	1	-	-	x	-	S*
House Finch	13	10	6	8	8	26	x	38	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	-	10	4	4	6	9	x	5	R*
American Goldfinch	14	40	-	-	2	2	-	-	W,R*
Total Species:	35	36	33	33	36	36	37	33	

Total Species on all visits: 60

Total Probable Breeding species: 50 (marked with \*)

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

() = dependent young birds

Censuses of 4/11, 5/8, 6/3, 7/2 on the north side of river,  
Censuses of 4/23, 5/2, 6/13, 7/21 on south side of river.

**Table 3. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,  
1998: Santa Clara River from Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean  
Parkway.**

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>5/14</u>	<u>6/5</u>	<u>status</u>
Mallard	3	1		R*
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1		R*
California Quail	5	2		R*
Killdeer	4	4		R*
Spotted Sandpiper	2	-		S*
Domestic Pigeon	2	-		R*
Mourning Dove	5	8		R*
Greater Roadrunner	-	1		R*
Barn Owl	-	1		R*
Anna's Hummingbird	2	3		R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	1	3		R*
Northern Flicker	2	-		R*
Black Phoebe	3	5		R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	2	4		S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	7	11		S*
Barn Swallow	2	-		S
Cliff Swallow	11	25		S*
Scrub Jay	7	9		R*
American Crow	15	33		R*
Common Raven	45	15		R*
Plain Titmouse	2	1		R*
Bushtit	-	2		R*
Bewick's Wren	5	9		R*
Western Bluebird	-	2		R*
Wrentit	2	-		R*
Calif. Thrasher	-	1		R*
European Starling	5	6		R*
Common Yellowthroat	2	1		R*
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	5	1		S*
Spotted Towhee	4	2		R*
California Towhee	3	2		R*
Song Sparrow	5	7		R*
Red-w. Blackbird	-	2		S*
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	6		S*
Bullock's Oriole	2	-		S*
House Finch	7	5		R*
Lesser Goldfinch	2	2		R*
House Sparrow	-	2		R*
Total Species:	31	32		

Total Species on all visits: 38

Total Probable Breeding species: 37 (marked with \*)

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

**Table 4. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,  
1998: Santa Clara River from Power Line 2.5 miles upstream  
from Boquet Canyon Rd. to Boquet Canyon Road Crossing.**

<u>Species</u>	<u>date: 5/14 6/5</u>		<u>status</u>
Mallard	-	2	R*
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	1	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	4	2	R*
California Quail	42	23	R*
Killdeer	12	9	R*
Domestic Pigeon	1	-	R*
Mourning Dove	13	9	R*
Anna's Hummingbird	5	1	R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	2	4	R*
Northern Flicker	4	-	R*
Pac. slope Flycatcher	1	-	M
Black Phoebe	2	2	R*
Say's Phoebe	-	1	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	2	4	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	7	2	S*
Cliff Swallow	6	1	S*
Scrub Jay	19	12	R*
American Crow	9	-	R*
Common Raven	8	25	R*
Plain Titmouse	2	-	R*
Bushtit	14	-	R*
Bewick's Wren	18	19	R*
House Wren	-	3	R*
Mockingbird	3	6	R*
Wrentit	2	2	R*
Calif. Thrasher	8	1	R*
Cedar Waxwing	6	-	W, M
Phainopepla	11	2	S*
European Starling	23	2	R*
Yellow Warbler	1	-	S*
Common Yellowthroat	-	2	R*
Western Tanager	1	-	M
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	10	-	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	1	S*
Spotted Towhee	15	12	R*
California Towhee	21	13	R*



Table 4 (cont.) Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1998: Santa Clara River from Power Line 2.5 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon Rd. to Boquet Canyon Road Crossing.

Species	date:		status
	5/14	6/5	
Song Sparrow	18	10	R*
Red-w. Blackbird	-	2	S*
Brown-headed Cowbird	8	3	S*
Hooded Oriole	2	-	S*
Bullock's Oriole	4	1	S*
House Finch	13	32	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	2	4	R*
Total Species:	38	31	

Total Species on all visits: 44

Total Probable Breeding species: 41 (marked with \*)

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

Table 5. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,  
1998: Castaic Creek from Old Road west to Rte. 126.

Species	date: 4/11	4/23	5/8	5/25	6/3	6/15	7/3	7/21	status
Great Blue Heron	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Great Egret	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Green Heron	-	1	3	-	-	2	x	1	R*
Bl. cr. Night Heron	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	M
Canada Goose	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Mallard	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	R*
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	2	2	2	3	3	2	x	2	R*
American Kestrel	-	-	1	-	2	1	x	-	R*
California Quail	11	11	7	19	9	11	x	12	R*
Killdeer	-	-	2	7	2	4	x	4	R*
Domestic Pigeon	9	2	200	8	2	2	x	2	R*
Mourning Dove	4	7	5	10	5	11	x	5	R*
Black-ch. Hummingbird	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	4	4	5	6	3	2	x	4	R*
Belted Kingfisher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	M
Nuttall's Woodpecker	3	2	1	2	2	5	x	3	R*
Downy Woodpecker	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	R*
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	R*
Northern Flicker	2	1	-	-	-	-	x	4	R*
Black Phoebe	2	2	2	2	1	2	x	7	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	1	2	1	2	2	4	x	2	S*
Cassin's Kingbird	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	R
Western Kingbird	-	4	3	1	2	3	-	2	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	20	65	120	8	75	90	x	-	S*
Barn Swallow	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	S
Cliff Swallow	6	90	200	200	150	190	x	-	S*
Scrub Jay	9	11	5	14	11	17	x	15	R*
American Crow	4	2	15	1	2	9	x	5	R*
Common Raven	2	6	5	2	5	5	x	2	R*
Plain Titmouse	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	R*
Bushtit	7	-	-	16	-	16	x	10	R*
Bewick's Wren	8	8	5	17	6	9	x	12	R*
House Wren	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R*
American Robin	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	R*
N. Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	R*
Wrentit	3	1	2	-	1	3	-	2	R*
Calif. Thrasher	6	3	2	9	2	5	x	2	R*
European Starling	-	2	50	-	4	3	x	3	R*
Yellow Warbler	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	S*
Yellow- r. Warbler	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W,M

Table 5 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1998: Castaic Creek from Old Road west to Rte.126.

Species	date: 4/11	4/23	5/8	5/25	6/3	6/15	7/3	7/21	status
Common Yellowthroat	1	2	3	9	2	3	x	-	R*
Wilson's Warbler	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	S*
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	3	9	7	10	7	12	x	2	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	1	1	1	2	2	-	-	S*
Spotted Towhee	4	7	2	17	3	6	x	5	R*
California Towhee	2	5	4	10	2	4	x	5	R*
Savannah Sparrow	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W
Song Sparrow	13	5	7	44	9	6	x	15	R*
White-cr. Sparrow	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Red-w. Blackbird	49	5	50	-	2	15	-	-	S*
Brewer's Blackbird	-	13	5	1	4	-	x	-	R*
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	3	3	10	3	4	x	5	S*
Hooded Oriole	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	S*
Bullock's Oriole	3	6	8	2	5	5	x	7	S*
House Finch	7	9	6	4	3	13	x	16	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	4	7	3	5	2	2	-	2	R*
American Goldfinch	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	W,R*
Total Species:	41	36	39	34	36	36	30	30	

Total Species on all visits: 60

Total Probable Breeding species: 49 (marked with \*)

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

Table 6. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,  
1998: San Francisquito Creek for 2 Miles above Main  
Channel.

Species	date: 5/18 6/2		status
Mallard	8	-	R*
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	R*
California Quail	15	7	R*
Killdeer	6	16	R*
Mourning Dove	16	32	R*
Black-ch. Hummingbird	1	-	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	3	5	R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	4	3	R*
Northern Flicker	1	-	R*
Black Phoebe	1	4	R*
Say's Phoebe	1	-	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	4	5	S*
Western Kingbird	4	4	S*
Horned Lark	12	1	R*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	4	6	S*
Cliff Swallow	16	2	S*
Scrub Jay	3	4	R*
American Crow	-	2	R*
Common Raven	3	4	R*
Plain Titmouse	-	2	R*
Bushtit	2	-	R*
Bewick's Wren	8	5	R*
House Wren	-	1	R*
Western Bluebird	1	2	R*
Wrentit	1	-	R*
Calif. Thrasher	2	2	R*
European Starling	4	16	R*
Plumbeous Vireo	1	-	M
Yellow Warbler	2	-	S*
Common Yellowthroat	4	2	R*
Wilson's Warbler	4	-	M
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	3	1	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	2	S*
Lazuli Bunting	2	-	S*
Spotted Towhee	2	2	R*
California Towhee	10	4	R*
Lark Sparrow	-	2	S*
Song Sparrow	21	10	R*

Table 6 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1998: San Francisquito Creek for 2 Miles above Main Channel.

Species	date: 5/18 6/2		status
Red-w. Blackbird	-	28	S*
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	11	S*
Bullock's Oriole	3	2	S*
House Finch	10	12	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	8	4	R*
American Goldfinch	4	-	W,R*
Total Species:	39	34	

Total Species on all visits: 45

Total Probable Breeding species: 43 (marked with \*)

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

**Table 7. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,  
1998: South Fork from Rte. 126 to McBean Parkway.**

<u>Species</u>	<u>date:</u>	<u>5/18</u>	<u>6/2</u>	<u>status</u>
Mallard	-	7		R*
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	1		R*
Prairie Falcon	1	-		M
California Quail	6	6		R*
Killdeer	-	4		R*
Domestic Pigeon	-	4		R*
Mourning Dove	6	6		R*
Anna's Hummingbird	3	6		R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	-	1		R*
Black Phoebe	1	2		R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	3	1		S*
Western Kingbird	2	2		S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	14	4		S*
Cliff Swallow	8	6		S*
Scrub Jay	13	7		R*
American Crow	2	-		R*
Common Raven	32	80		R*
Plain Titmouse	2	-		R*
Bushtit	8	10		R*
Bewick's Wren	12	7		R*
Western Bluebird	-	2		R*
Mockingbird	4	4		R*
Calif. Thrasher	2	3		R*
Phainopepla	-	2		S*
European Starling	14	100		R*
Yellow Warbler	8	1		S*
Wilson's Warbler	1	-		M
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	1	-		S*
Spotted Towhee	3	2		R*
California Towhee	7	8		R*
Song Sparrow	9	2		R*
Brewer's Blackbird	7	6		R*
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	2		S*
Bullock's Oriole	1	3		S*
House Finch	22	15		R*
Lesser Goldfinch	2	3		R*
House Sparrow	-	4		R*
Total Species:	28	32		

Total Species on all visits: 36

Total Probable Breeding species: 34 (marked with \*)

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

**Table 8. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,  
1998: South Fork from Newhall Creek to Rte. 126.**

Species	date: 5/18 6/2		status
Red-tailed Hawk	-	1	R*
American Kestrel	-	2	R*
California Quail	-	12	R*
Killdeer	3	3	R*
Domestic Pigeon	12	40	R*
Mourning Dove	10	3	R*
Black-ch. Hummingbird	-	2	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	10	8	R*
Black Phoebe	1	1	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	4	2	S*
Western Kingbird	2	2	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	5	7	S*
Cliff Swallow	6	2	S*
Scrub Jay	2	1	R*
American Crow	5	2	R*
Common Raven	12	3	R*
Bushtit	6	16	R*
Bewick's Wren	3	10	R*
Western Bluebird	-	2	R*
N. Mockingbird	5	4	R*
Wrentit	1	-	R*
Calif. Thrasher	7	3	R*
European Starling	18	2	R*
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	-	M
Yellow Warbler	10	1	S*
Common Yellowthroat	1	-	R*
Wilson's Warbler	3	-	M
Western Tanager	3	-	M
Bl.-headed Grosbeak	2	-	S*
Blue Grosbeak	1	-	S*
Spotted Towhee	3	-	R*
California Towhee	7	10	R*
Song Sparrow	8	3	R*
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	-	S*
Bullock's Oriole	4	2	S*
House Finch	52	16	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	6	8	R*
House Sparrow	2	4	R*
Total Species:	33	29	

Total Species on all visits: 38

Total Probable Breeding species: 35 (marked with \*)

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

## 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.