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BIRD SURVEYS ALONG A PORTION OF THE SANTA CLARA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES UPSTREAM FROM THE CASTAIC CREEK CONFLUENCE, NEAR VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA, 2000

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Nature and Scope of Surveys

During the spring and early summer of 2000 surveys were conducted along a section of the Santa Clara River and its tributaries near Valencia, California (Figure 1). Surveys were focused on determining presence or absence of , yellow-billed cuckoo, least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher, and followed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Guidelines for the latter two species. Numbers of all species observed were noted, and, in addition to the three species noted above, special attention was placed on locating species considered rare and endangered or of Special Concern, and on determining numbers of brown-headed cowbirds.

Each survey was conducted on foot by observers well acquainted with visual, auditory and behavioral characteristics of southern California birds. 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. All surveys occurred between 5:30 and 10:00 a.m. If focus species (yellow-billed cuckoo, least Bell's vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher), were not visually observed, tapes of their calls were played in an attempt to elicit a response. Personnel for all surveys were Daniel A. Guthrie and Judith A. Sugden, both working under Federal Fish and Wildlife Service Permit number TE810394-1, issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act.

To facilitate surveys and observe the coverage guidelines for focus species, 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) were conducted twice during the nesting season. Although the habitat in these sections, due to dryness, was not considered suitable for focus species, the two surveys were conducted in June to insure that late arriving species such as yellow-billed cuckoo and willow flycatcher, if present, would not be missed. Surveys of the remaining sections of the Santa Clara River (Areas 1-3,5) were conducted according to the least Bell's vireo protocol outlined by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and consisted of 8 surveys between April 10 and July 31st, approximately 2 weeks apart, except when interrupted by periods of poor weather. Surveys in late May and during June also followed Fish and Wildlife Service protocol for southwestern willow flycatcher.

Habitat Condition and Bird Observations.

The riparian zone of the Santa Clara River, as described here, consists of two major habitat types, a wet riparian zone and a dry riparian woodland. The wet riparian zone consists of obligatory wet plants such as cattail and watercress found in continually moist soils along the active river channel and some willow, tamarisk and Baccharis shrubs also found in this zone. This zone is usually flooded during winter rains with the removal of much of the annual vegetation. Although this results in bare areas in April and early May, by June and July, most of this wet riparian vegetation has been reestablished. The dry riparian woodland consists of larger willow and cottonwood forests along the margins of the wet riparian zone and occurring on soils above the flood plain that are normally not damaged in winter floods. The winter of 1999-2000 was fairly mild, with the result that there was little scouring of the river channel and little removal of vegetation. The result was continued development of streamside wet riparian vegetation that was also not damaged during the mild winter of 1998-1999. Except for one cold spell in April, there was little spring rain, with the result that in the dry riparian woodlands smaller trees died and there was little development of annual plants.

Observations of all birds are shown in Tables 1-8. The numbers shown are of birds seen and heard, with heard individuals forming the majority of the observations. Numbers vary between censuses for several reasons. First, there was fog on some censuses which decreased bird activity. Secondly, some censuses were not complete but, rather, were focused on particular places or areas. Thirdly, bird activity varies with season. 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 may 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 of some nesting species, such as yellow warbler may be higher than normal in May due to migratory birds passing through the area. Numbers may also increase in late June and July when young birds leave the nest.

The following sections contain specific comments on the habitat and bird observations in each area.

Area 1 (Table 1). Santa Clara River; Old Highway to the mouth of Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence upstream 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 and by some irrigation runoff from Magic Mountain and agricultural fields along the north side. Extensive dry

riparian forests occur near the Valencia Waste water outfall, near Magic mountain, and near the Valencia Travel Village. Cooper's hawk and white-tailed kite nested in these areas as did many wrens and towhees.

Along most of this section, wet riparian vegetation forms a narrow strip along the main channel of the Santa Clara River. This vegetation was unaffected by flooding this year. In order to prevent damage to the Old road, the main channel of the river was moved south at Castaic Junction during the spring of 1998 by the creation of a new channel by bulldozer. This new channel has moved the active river channel away from the road edge and has created a zone of low lying land along the north side of the riparian zone at Castaic Junction that is protected from erosion and scouring by spring floods. This protected section is wet from seepage from the main channel and from agricultural and urban runoff, with the result that a dense stand of willows has developed along the north edge of the riparian zone. These willows are now three years old and are prime habitat for both willow flycatchers and least Bell's vireo. Willow flycatchers were observed in migration (Figure 2) and at least two pair of least Bell's vireo nested (Figure 3).

The section of Castaic Creek between the Santa Clara River and Route 126, which is included in this section consists of a wide dry wash. This section was dry throughout the survey period and contains almost exclusively dry riparian vegetation plus some remnants of coastal sage scrub habitat.

The river between the Old Road and Castaic Creek is bounded on the nouth side by agricultural fields and developed land. On the forth side, the river is bounded by coastal sage, which contributes such species as wrentit and Lawrence's goldfinch to the avifauna. A red-tailed hawk, ravens, and cliff swallows nested on cliffs along the south side of the river near the mouth of Castaic Creek.

The surveys on this section of the river includes the proposed river crossing area formed by the extension of Commerce Center Drive. This area was carefully searched for focus species and other species of concern. None of the focus species were found in this section. Yellow-breasted chat and yellow warbler, two species of concern, were heard in this section.

Area 2 (Table 2). Santa Clara River; McBean Parkway downstream to the Old Road.

Length of section, 1.4 miles. The Santa Clara River flows continuously in this section and additional water is provided by irrigation runoff from industrial parks along the north side.

The channel was received little scouring during the winter of 1999-2000 with the result that wet riparian vegetation was well developed. Noisemakers along the both sides of the river just west of McBean were active during April and May censuses. A small area of coastal sage scrub borders the river just east of Interstate 5, but along the rest of this section the river is now bordered by commercial development.

The wet willow forest near the mouth of San Francisquito Creek was carefully surveyed for

focus species as migrating willow flycatcher have been seen here in previous years. None were found this year. White-tailed kite, Cooper's hawk and many woodpeckers nested in dry riparian woodlands along this section of the river while other species of concern, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, were rarely encountered. Horned larks were observed in dirt fields along the sides of the river.

Area 3 (Table 3). Santa Clara River; Bouquet Canyon Road downstream to McBean Parkway

Length of section, 1.2 miles. Water, supplied by the Saugus wastewater outfall at the Bouquet Canyon Bridge, is continuous in this section of the Santa Clara River. A small amount of additional water is provided from irrigation runoff coming from Bouquet Canyon. Flooding in 1997-98 removed all wet riparian vegetation from this section of the river. Today dry riparian vegetation is restricted to a narrow zone on the north side of the river near McBean Parkway, to some islands of vegetation within the river channel, and a more extensive forest near the athletic park on the south side. Wet riparian vegetation consists of a narrow zone along the outflow from the Saugus outfall, a willow forest in the mouth of Bouquet Canyon Creek, and an extensive flat of cattail, baccharis and willow just upstream from the McBean Bridge.

Cowbird traps were operated in the section just above the McBean Bridge throughout the census period, The cattail flat just east of the McBean Bridge attracted a colony of red-winged blackbirds and other wet riparian species. Tricolored redwing, a California Species of Concern, has nested in this area in previous years but was only observed during migration this year. Barn owls, cliff swallows and a black phoebe nested under the McBean Bridge.

Area 4 (Table 4). Santa Clara River; Bouquet Canyon Road upstream to DWP transmission lines.

Length of section, 2.3 miles. The river channel in this section consists of a broad, flat, dry wash with narrow margins of dry riparian woodland. Within the channel are areas of coastal sage scrub habitat. This section of the Santa Clara River in past years has been wet only briefly during spring rains and due to water release from pumps one mile upstream from Bouquet Canyon Road. This year water flowed only in early April. By the time of the two census dates, water was completely absent. This resulted in very small numbers of riparian species such as song sparrow and yellowthroat. Most birds observed in this section are characteristic of coastal sage and dry riparian woodlands.

Area 5 (Table 5). Castaic Creek; Route 126 to Old Road next to Interstate 5.

Length of section, 1.8 miles. Water was released from upstream dams during April through June but not continuously. Except for pockets of wet vegetation formed near irrigation runoff

channels, and remnant puddles near the middle of this section, the creek was dry much of this spring. Despite this lack of permanent water flow, many wet riparian species (song sparrow, yellowthroat, nested successfully. Construction along both sides of the upper portion of this section has removed most of the coastal sage and ruderal vegetation that once bordered both sides of the riparian zone, eliminating some coastal sage species that visited this area in earlier years. Swallows nested again under the bridge across Route 126 and began nesting under the new bridge during July. The extensive willow forest on this section where least Bell's vireo once nested has matured and was dry much of this year. No vireos have been seen here the last four years and the area no longer seems suitable habitat due to its age and lack of permanent water. Two willow flycatchers were observed in this section on May 24th (Figure 2) but could not be relocated on subsequent visits and are, therefore, considered migrant birds passing through the area.

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

Length of section, 2.5 miles. Along most of this section the riparian zone consists of a broad sandy channel. Once bordered by coastal sage scrub habitat, the channel is now bordered by developed areas. In the upper part of this section, however, coastal sage scrub plants still occur within the channel as do sections of dry riparian woodland consisting mostly of cottonwoods. *Arundo* and tamarisk are common along this section along the stream channel. A single wet area exists near power transmission lines in the upper section of this stream, which was dry during surveys, but showed some effects of flow earlier in the spring. The lower ½ mile of San Francisquito Creek is wet due to runoff from adjacent development. Construction activity and noisemakers were present along the lower section downstream from Newhall Ranch Road during April and May.

Area 7 (Table 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. Along most of this section vegetation is restricted to a narrow band of dry woodland and at each side of the channel and a few pockets of wet vegetation supported by runoff from adjacent development. Near the confluence with the main channel of the Santa Clara River a more extensive area of woodland exists on the north side of this section.

Area 8 (Table 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 consists of a wide sandy channel intersected by several concrete sills designed to restrict sand movement and flood damage. The river is entirely bordered by developed areas but contains small islands of dry riparian vegetation and some wet riparian areas formed by runoff from culverts along the sides of the creek. No flooding has occurred on this section of the river in recent years and riparian vegetation around

these culverts continues to develop the well develop into areas of cottonwood and willow woodland, resulting in the continued increase in riparian species along this section of the river.

Comments on Threatened and Endangered Species

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is listed as a State Endangered Species. Despite playing taped calls of this species during June and July surveys, no individuals of this species were observed in 2000.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

This subspecies is listed 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 north of Santa Barbara.

Following the Protocol outlined by Sogge (Technical Report NPS/NAUCPRS/NRTR-97/12) four surveys were conducted specifically for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher in Areas 1-3 and 5 (see dates on tables 1-3, 5). All surveys occurred between 5:30 and 10:00 am. and used taped calls to elicit a response if flycatchers were not first observed. Other sections of the river (Areas 4 and 6-8)were dry during the nesting season for this species, and, therefore, were not considered suitable habitat. However, the two surveys that were conducted of these areas were timed so as to be within the time frame recommended for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

Four willow flycatchers were observed at locations shown on Figure 2. Two were observed along Castaic Creek on May 24th, and two others were observed along the Santa Clara River at Castaic Junction, one on May 18th and one on June 6th. Although these birds were in suitable nesting habitat for this species, none could be relocated on subsequent visits. Also, all observations were of single birds that call sporadically, not actively as is expected of territorial birds. For these reasons all four observed birds are considered migrants passing through the area. The report forms required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Protocol for this species are attached to this report.

Least Bell's Vireo

Surveys of the wet riparian areas (Areas 1-3,5) followed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Guidelines for least Bell's vireo. Eight surveys were conducted between April 10 and July 31 (see Tables 1-3,5 for dates). All surveys occurred between 5:30 and 10:00 am. and taped vireo calls were played if no vireos were heard or seen. The only vireos observed were on the Santa

Clara River at Castaic Junction in an extensive stand of willows. Vireos were heard in four places, but at two locations were present for only a limited time period (Figure 3, loc 1,3). These two observations were probably of unpaired birds. At two other locations (Figure 3, loc. 2,4), birds were present throughout most of the study period and nested.

The willow forest in which all four vireo sightings occurred is along the north side of the Santa Clara River in an area cut off from the main channel of the river by a dike created during the spring of 1998. The dike was designed to redirect the river away from the Old Road along the northeastern edge of the river channel, thus protecting it from further erosion. The willows that have developed in this section are now three years old and form an ideal habitat for least Bell's vireo. However, the dike protects this area from flooding and the result is that these willows will continue to mature, eventually forming a forest of older age than preferred by vireos.

Comments on Sensitive Species

Great Blue Heron

Great Blue Herons are listed on the California Natural Diversity Data Base as a species that warrants monitoring. Individuals of this species was observed sparingly along the river after the breeding season and along other sections of the river during migration. No nesting was observed and herons were absent during the nesting season.

Great Egret

The Great egret is listed on the California Natural Diversity Data Base as a species that warrents monitoring. A few individuals were observed along the river during migration and after the breeding season.

White-tailed Kite

This species, formerly the Black-shouldered Kite, is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. A pair of kites nested successfully at Castaic Junction. A second attempted nesting in the area apparently failed due to harassment by the large number of ravens.

Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's Hawk is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Cooper's Hawks were observed rarely along the main river in 2000, with several observations just east of Interstate 5.

California Horned Lark

This is a California Special Concern species. Although none were observed nesting on the study site, horned larks are ground nesters that prefer bare hillsides and abandoned fields. A few were observed in late summer feeding on bare fields and construction areas along Castaic Creek, along the north side of the Santa Clara River both between Boquet Canyon crossing and McBean Parkway and at Castaic Junction.

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 the continuously wet sections of the survey area during nesting season, but were observed in other dry sections of the river only during migration.

Yellow-breasted Chat

The Yellow-breasted Chat is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. A few chats nested along the wet sections of the Santa Clara River.

Tricolored Blackbird

The Tricolored Blackbird is a California Special Concern species and a Bird of Management Concern for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A few individuals, probably wintering birds, were observed in early April.

Lawrence's Goldfinch

This species is a highest priority species on the Audubon Birds to Watch list for 1996 and is a Bird of Management Concern for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This species nests in chaparral vegetation and small flocks of this species were observed drinking along the Santa Clara River and its tributaries both before and after the breeding season.

Comments of Brown-headed Cowbirds

Although not a Species of Concern, comments about this species are warranted due to its influence on several endangered species. Cowbirds were regularly observed along all sections of the Santa Clara River, usually flying along the riparian corridor searching for either mates or potential nests to parasitize. Cowbird females often responded to taped calls of Least Bell's Vireo. Cowbird numbers showed a marked decrease after mid July between Bouquet Canyon and McBean Bridges, probably due to the operation of cowbird traps just upstream from the

McBean Bridge during late May and June. These traps also caught large numbers of red-winged blackbirds, which may have affected the breeding of this species.

Summary

No yellow-billed cuckoos were observed in 2000. Four individuals of Southwestern willow flycatcher were observed but could not be relocated on subsequent surveys. This failure, and their behavior suggests that these were migrant birds passing through the area. Least Bell's vireos nested at Castaic Junction. Although this nesting occurred in a newly created habitat, this general area has been the site of nesting by small numbers of this species in previous years. Other riparian species, including yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat and white-tailed kite nested in small numbers along wet sections of the river while coastal sage species, namely Lawrence's goldfinch and grassland species, namely horned lark, visited the river sporadically from nearby areas of habitat suitable for these species. Cowbirds were numerous along the river and probably contributed to the small numbers of yellow warblers and least Bell's vireos observed.

Table 1. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; 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:	4/12	4/28	5/10	5/23	6/16	6/28	7/17	7/26	Status
Great Blue Heron	2	1	_	_	1	_	_	_	W,M
Great Egret	2	2	_	1	-	_	_	_	M
Snowy Egret	3	2	_	1	~	_	_	_	W
Green Heron	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	w R*
Bl-cr.NightHeron	_	→	-	1		<i>-</i> .	1	_	R*?
Mallard	8	2		4		_		_	
White-tailed Kite			- 1	4	2		-		R*
Cooper's Hawk	_	1		_		-	_	_	R*
Red-sh. Hawk			2	-	3	1	-	_	R*
	1 3	1		1		1	1	2	R*
Red-tailed Hawk		1	-	1	1	1.0	1	1	R*
California Quail	8	8	32	6	12	10	4	2	R*
Virginia Rail	_		2	_	 A	-	_		M
Killdeer	9	11	8	11	14	8	5	_	R*
Spotted Sandpiper	-	_	2	3	6	4	1	2	S*
Western Sandpiper		1	-	_		-	_	-	M
Common Snipe	3		_	-		_	_	-	M
Domestic Pigeon	_	_	3	_	-	_	_	_	R*
Mourning Dove	6	13	12	7	9	11	8	10	R*
Gr. Roadrunner	1	-	_	-	~	_	_	-	R*
White-thr. Swift	_	-	6	_	-	-	-	-	R*
Vaux Swift	-	10	_	_	-	_	-		R*
Anna's Humm-bird	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	8	R*
Costa's Humm-bird		- ·	**	_	-	-	1	1	S*
Belted Kingfisher		1	-	-	-			-	W,M
Nutt. Woodpecker	4	4	5	6	7	4	5	4	R*
Downy Woodpecker	1		-	2	3	-	1	1	R*
Hairy Woodpecker	-	1	-	-	_	-	_	-	R*
Northern Flicker	2	1	1	1	1	-	_		R*
Pac-sl.Flycatcher	-	-		_	1	-	_		M
Willow Flycatcher	_	-	-	2#	-	-	-		M
Black Phoebe		-	_	5	3	_	4	6	R*
Ash-th.Flycatcher	6	3	7	6	5	3	8	13	S*
Western Kingbird	1	2	-	-	1	- 2	_	3 .	S*
Horned Lark		-	-	-	-	15	-	_	R*
Violet-gr.Swallow	1	3	_	-	-	-	-	_	S*
N.Row. Swallow		22	10	8	24	8	4	1	S*
Cliff Swallow		10	30	40	16	40	2	11	S*
Barn Swallow	_	_	-	3	1		1	2	S*
	1.5	6	1	6	8	1	11	4	R*
American Crow	6	6	6	4	6	2	2	2	R*
Common Raven	5	4	4	6	12	6	2	3	R*
Oak Titmouse	4	-	_	1	2		2	1	R*
Bushtit	2	2	_	18	10	_	_	4	R*
			18	23	3	11	10	9	R*

Table 1. (cont.) Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; 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:	4/12	4/28	5/10	5/23	6/16	6/28	7/17	7/26	Status
		_	_	_		_				
House Wren	_	7	6	6	3	1	-	-	-	R*
Bgr.Gnato			-	-	-		-	-	1	R*
Western Blu		8	2	4	-	2	4	_	2	R*
American Ro	bin	-	-	-	_	-	1	1	_	R*
Wrentit		4	1	3	3	5	3	3	2	R*
Calif. Thra		3	1	-	1	4	_	2	-	R*
Phainopepla		-	_		2	2	_	1	_	S*
European St		g 5	_	8	5	1	16	2	_	R*
Bell's Vire		-	_	3	1	_	2	1	3	s *
Yellow Warb	ler	-	1	1	2	2	1	1	-	S*
Yellow-r.Wa	ırbler	9	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	W,M
Com.Yellowt		23	3	33	17	28	18	9	6	R*
Wilson's Wa	rbler	_	4	2	_	-	-		-	М
Yellow-br.	Chat	_	-	2	1	6	9	-	-	S*
Western Tan	ager	-	-	1	-	-	_		-	M
Blh.Grosb	eak	4	3	7	1	10	4	2	2	S*
Blue Grosbe	ak	_	1	6	2	2	-	7	8	S*
Lazuli Bunt	ing	-	_		-	-	-	9	24	S*
Spotted Tow	hee	10	6	5	5	5	4	-	4	R*
Calif. Towh	.ee	6	6	10	8	4	2	6	8	R*
Lark Sparro	W	_	-	-	-	_	-	1	3	S*
Song Sparro	W	52	31	54	50	45	38	54	30	R*
Lincoln's S	parrow	1 1		_	-	-			_	W,M
White-cr.Sp	arrow	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Red-w.Black	bird	6	-	50	2	3	37	-	22	S*
Tricol. Red	wing		-	_	-	-		-	1	M
Yelh. Bla	ckbird	1 -	-	1		-	- .		-	M
Brewer's Bl	kbird	-	_		20	-	6	_	-	R*
Brown-h. Co	wbird	23	12	22	12	13	6	12	3	S*
Bullock's O	riole		4	1	2	1	3	2	_	S*
House Finch		12	8	22	6	2	22	8	16	R*
Lesser Gold	finch	16	8	6	12	3	10	10	2	R*
Lawr. Goldf	inch	5		-	-	_		_	_	R*
Amer. Goldf		-	-	18	-	-	3	6	1	W,R*
Total Speci	es:	45	43	42	46	45	36	41	41	

Total Potential Breeding species: 62 (marked with *)

Status: M- Migrant; R- Resident; S- Summer Only; W- Winter only # - birds observed on May 18th and June 6th (one each date)

Table 2. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; Santa Clara River from McBean Parkway to Old Highway along I-5.

Species	date:	4/12	4/28	5/10	5/23	6/15	6/29	7/19	7/26	Status
Great Blue	Heron	1		1.	1	_	_	_	1	WM
Great Egre	t	-	-	-	1	_	_	_	-	W
Green Hero	n	-	2	-		1	-	_	2	R*
Bl-cr.Nigh	t Hero	n -	<u> </u>	_	-	_	1	-	-	M
Mallard		2	_	_	2	_	-	-	_	R*
Turkey Vult	ture	-		3	1		-	_	_	R*
White-taile	ed Kite	e -	-		_	-	1	_	-	R*
Cooper's Ha	awk		~	_	-	-	-	1	-	R*
Red-sh. Hav	wk	1	-	1	2	_	-		_	R*
Red-tailed	Hawk	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	R*
California	Quail	12	6	8	9	6	8	9	65	R*
Killdeer		9	14	4	15	7	10	-	1	R*
Spotted Sar	ndpipe	r 1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	S*
Domestic P:			-	2	_	-	_		_	R*
Mourning Do		14	21	16	34	9	6	22	42	R*
White-thr.		_		_	_	2	2		-	R*
Blch.Humm		_	_	_	-	_	1	_	_	S*
Anna's Humr	n-bird	3	4	7	3	3	3	4	7	R*
. Costa's Hur	nm-biro	d –	_	1	2	_	1	1	1	S*
Nutt. Woodp		7	6	5	5	2	3	7	5	R*
Downy Wood		3	2	2	4		3	5	2	R*
Hairy Woodp		_	_	_	-	2	_	_	_	R*
Northern Fl		1	_	_	_	1	_	1	_	R*
West. Wood			1	-		_		_		M
Black Phoek		4	1	-	7	3	5	2	4	R*
Ash-th.Flyo			5	6	10	5	5	3	5	S*
Western Kir		_		2	_	~	_	_	5	S*
N.Row Swa		30	33	4	6	41	17	14	3	S*
Cliff Swall		40	80		100	10	40	4	6	S*
Barn Swallo		_	_	_	_	_	2	_	_	S*
Scrub Jay	•	6	8	1	11	8	5	7	7	R*
American Cr	`WO`	2	_	3	2	6	_	<i>.</i>	2	R*
Common Rave		8	8	7	17	9	5	4	5	R*
Oak Titmous		4	4	2	3	1	_	3	1	R*
Bushtit		4	10	6	14	5	5	_	6	R*
White-br.Nu	thatch		_	1	<u> </u>	_	1	_	_	R*
Bewick's Wr		44	19	23	21	25	11	10	10	R*
House Wren	611	6	6	3	~ <u>_</u>	13	5	10	3	R*
Western Blu	ahd ad	2	O	J	3	15	6	3	J	R* .
			_	_	3	1	_	3 1	-	R*
N. Mockingb Wrentit	ıııu	_	_		_	5			-	
Calif. Thra	aham	6	2	1 3	4	3	_	1 1	_ 0	R* R*
				3	1	3 4	6		9	K* S*
Phainopepla		_ 1 E	_				6	4 1	2 3	
Europ. Star	•	15		48	24	104	0	Т	3	R*
Warbling Vi	тео	1	3	2		-	_	~-	_	М

Table 2(cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; Santa Clara River from McBean Parkway to Old Highway along I-5.

Species	date:	4/12	4/28	5/10	5/23	6/15	6/29	7/19	7/26	Status
			_			_				
Orange-cr.			5		_	1	_	_	-	М
Yellow War		4	-	3	2	1	-	_	-	M,S*
Yellow-r.W		15	-	-	-	-	_	_	-	W,M
Com.Yellow		-	2	11	11	10	4	4	12	R*
Wilson's W	arbler	3	7	5	-		-	-	-	M
Yellow-br.	Chat	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	S*
Western Ta	nager	-	_	1		-	-	_	-	M
Blh. Gro	sbeak	-	3	4	3	2	1	1	12	S*
Blue Grosb	eak	-		-	-	1 .	-	2	11	S*
Lazuli Bun	ting	-	-	_	-	_	_		50	S*
Spotted To	whee	5	3	12	4	11	1	3	3 .	R*
California	Towhee	∍ 5	10	16	14	33	7	4	5	R*
Lark Sparr	OW	-	-	_	_	-		-	-	R*
Song Sparr		49	22	30	36	25	14	30	36	R*
White-cr.S	parrow	18	-	_		-	-	_		W,M
Red-w. Bla		_	6	_	2	3	-	_	20	s*
Brown-h. C	owbird	29	18	6	15	12	4	5	20	S*
Bullock's	Oriole	2	2	1	_	2	2	1	_	S*
House Finc	h	9	5	_	39	112	59	54	160	R*
Lesser Gol	dfinch	6	7		6	2	6	14	6	R*
Lawr-ce's	G-finch	n –	1	-	_	_		-	_	R*
Amer. Gold			2	_		-	_	_		W,R*
House Spar		2	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	R*
Total Spec	ies:	42	36	39	38	40	35	34	38	

Total Potential Breeding species: 58 (marked with *)

Table 3. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; Santa Clara River from Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean Parkway.

Species	date:	4/12	4/28	5/10	5/23	6/15	6/28	7/18	7/26	Status
Green Heron	1	_	1	_		_	-	_	_	R*
Mallard	•	9	_	3	4	2	1	_	_	R*
Blue-w. Tea	11	_	_	_		1	_	_	_	R
Cinnamon Te		_	_	_	2	_	_		_	R
Cooper's Ha		_	_	_	_		1	_		R*
Red-sh. Hav		1	_	_	-		-	2	_	R*
Red-tailed		3	→	2	1	-	2	1	3	R*
California		10	9	_	14	8	2	6	3	R*
Killdeer	~	4	6	10	9	16	8	7	13	R*
Spotted Sar	dpiper	c –	_	1	1	_	1	1	2	S*
Domestic Pi		2	2	_	_		_	_	2	R*
Spotted Dov		_	_	-	_	_	2	_	_	R*
Mourning Do		21	24	24	57	30	34	39	50	R*
Gr. Roadrur		_	_	_	· -	-	_	_	1	R*
Barn Owl		_	_	_	_	1	_	-	_	R*
Blch.Humn	n-bird	-	1	-		_		1		S*
Anna's Humm		4	3	1	3	1	2	9	25	R*
Costa's Hum		1 -	_	_	_	_		1	1	S*
Nutt. Woodp		7	2	2	2	2	3	4	6	R*
Downy Woodp		2	1	2	_	2	1	1	4	R*
Hairy Woodp		_	_	2	_	_	_	-	_	R*
Northern Fl		-	1	1		2	_	-		R*
West. Wood		-	_	-	_	2	_	_		M
Pasl.Flyc		-	_	2	_	· _		_	_	M
Black Phoeb			4	2	2	9	1	1	10	R*
Ash-th.Flyc		-	2	6	3	8	1	1	5	S*
Western Kin		-		5	4	1		_	_	S*
Horned Lark			-	4	2	13	_	_	_	R*
N.Row. Sw	allow		2	6	6	11	4	4	4	S*
Cliff Swall			_	10	7	70	60	11	18	S*
Barn Swallo		_	_	-	_	-	1	_	-	S*
Scrub Jay		8	2	4	5	7	7	3	4	R*
American Cr	OW	-	-	3	-	5	4	_	_	R*
Common Rave		28	13	12	57	36	25	40	9	R*
Oak Titmous		2	3	3	2	1	_	_	5	R*
Bushtit		4	6	10	10	5	_	4	6	R*
Bewick's Wr	en	27	13	14	14	16	9	3	5	R*
House Wren		1	_	1	_		_	_	_	R*
Western Blu	ebird	_	_	_	-	_	1	-		R*
Swainson's		_	_	1	_	1	_	_	_	M
Wrentit		1	-	4	3	ĩ	_	-	_	R*
N. Mockingb	ird	_	_	_	_	_		_	1	R*
Calif. Thra		5	3	_	4	3	2	5	5	R*
Europ. Star		11	7	4	43	2		86	6	R*
Warbling Vi	_		2	2	_	_		_	_	M
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				_						

Table 3 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; Santa Clara River from Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean Parkway.

Species date:	4/12	4/28	5/10	5/23	6/15	6/28	7/18	7/26	Status
						•			
Orange-cr.Warble		3	-	-	2	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	1	1	7	2	1	2	-		MS*
Yellow-r.Warble		1	_		-		-	-	W,M
Com.Yellowthroat		8	2	13	8	11	5	12	R*
Wilson's Warbler	. –	5	5	1	-	-	_	-	М
Yellow-br. Chat	-	-	-	1	-	-	_	_	S*
Western Tanager	_	3	2	-	-	_	-	-	Μ.
Blh. Grosbeak	-	12	3	5	1	1	1	2	S*
Blue Grosbeak	_	3	3	-	-	3	5	_	S*
Lazuli Bunting	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	5	S*
Spotted Towhee	3	7	5	11	-	1	1	1	R*
Calif. Towhee	10	8	12	22	13	8	4	2	R*
Chipping Sparrow	1 –	-	1	-	-	_	-		M
Lark Sparrow	-	-		2		-	_	-	R*
Song Sparrow	40	22	28	20	25	9	9	45	R*
White-cr.Sparrow		-	-		_	-	-	-	W,M
Red-w. Blackbird		4	15	50	6	87	40	233	S*
Tricol. Redwing	2	-		_	-	-	_	_	M
Yellh.Blackbir		-	_	-	_	-	-	-	M
Brewer's Blkbird		6	-	2	-	_	-	3	R*
Brhead.Cowbird		4	10	20	11	5	34	21	S*
Bullock's Oriole		5		-	4	-	-	-	S*
House Finch	6	10	10	18	56	85	16	57	R*
Lesser Goldfinch		14	5	17	2	_	2	4	R*
Lawrenc. G-finch		_	-	-	_	-	_	_	R*
Amer. Goldfinch	25	2	-	2	-		_	-	W,R*
House Sparrow	-	-	-	_	-	-	1	_	R*
Total Species:	34	39	42	38	38	32	31	34	

Total Potential Breeding species: 58 (marked with *)

Table 4. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; Santa Clara River from Power Line 2.5 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon Rd. to Boquet Canyon Road Crossing.

Species date:	5/31	7/10	Status
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk		1	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	3	4	R*
California Quail	42	26	R*
Killdeer	5	8	R*
Domestic Pigeon	_	2	R*
Mourning Dove	55	49	R*
Blch.Hummingbird	5	1	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	10	14	R*
Costa's Hummingbird	1	1	S*
_			
Nuttall's Woodpecke		9	R*
Northern Flicker	2	2	R*
Black Phoebe	_	4	R*
Say's Phoebe	3	_	R*
Ash-thr.Flycatcher	8	6	S*
Western Kingbird	8		S*
N.Rough-w. Swallow	28	1	S*
Cliff Swallow	18	2	S*
Barn Swallow	1	-	S*
Scrub Jay	32	27	R*
American Crow	6	1	R*
Common Raven	32	18	R*
Oak Titmouse	3	12	R*
Bushtit	28	26	R*
Bewick's Wren	28 37	15	R*
House Wren	8		R*
Western Bluebird	9	13	R*
N. Mockingbird	7	10	R*
Wrentit	11	5	R*
California Thrasher	11	11	R*
Phainopepla	33	9	S*
European Starling	19	1	R*
Com. Yellowthroat	2	_	R*
Blheaded Grosbeak	_	5	S*
Blue Grosbeak	2	_	S*
Lazuli Bunting	1	1	S*
		27	
Spotted Towhee	36		R*
California Towhee	41	24	R*
Rufous-cr.Sparrow	6	1	R*
Lark Sparrow	5	_	S*
Song Sparrow	6	_	R*
Red-winged Blackbird		-	S*
Brown-headed Cowbird		1	S*
Hooded Oriole	5	_	S*
Bullock's Oriole	14	3	S*

Table 4 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; Santa Clara River from Power Line 2.5 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon Rd. to Boquet Canyon Road Crossing.

Species	date:	5/31	7/10	Status
House Fin	ch	68	53	R*
Lesser Go	ldfinch	22	2	R*
American	Goldfinch	2	-	R*
House Spa	rrow	5	-	R*
Total Spe	cies:	45	36	

Total Potential Breeding species: 49 (marked with *)

Table 5. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; Castaic Creek from I-5 west to Rte. 126.

_										-
Species	date:4	/14	4/26	5/12	5/24	6/10	6/30	7/15	7/28	Status
Great Blue H	eron	1	1	1	1	_	-		. <u> </u>	WM
Great Egret		1	_	_	-		_	-	-	W
Green Heron		_		2	1	_	-	-	-	R*
Bl-cr.Night	Heron	_	_	-	1	_	-	_		R*
Mallard		-	-	2	2	-	-	_	-	R*
Red-should.	Hawk	-	-	1	-	_	_	-	1	R*
Red-tailed H	awk	2	_	1	-	3	2	1	1	R*
American Kes		-	_	1	1	1		-	-	R*
California Q	uail 9	8	49	18	14	29	13	60	112	R*
Killdeer		_	-	-	7	1	2	-	-	R*
Domestic Pige	eon 4	0	40	6	-	-	-	26	1	R*
Spotted Dove		-	1	-	-	_	-	-		R*
Mourning Dove	e 1	9	13	30	24	11	8	13	12	R*
Barn Owl		_	-	-	_	-	-	-	1	R*
Great horned	Owl ·	_	-	_	_	1	- ·	-	_	R*
Blch.Humm-		-		-	2	2	4	3	2	S*
Anna's Humm-l		1	5	6	3	3	12	30	25	R*
Costa's Humm-		-	-	_	-	-	1	6	3	S*
Belted Kingf:		Ĺ	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	WM
Nutt. Woodpe			4	3	5	4	9	3	3	R*
Downy Woodpe		2	1	2	4	1	7	3	3	R*
Hairy Woodpe		-	-	-		-	2	-	-	R*
Northern Flic		-	1	-	1	2	2	2	1	R*
West. Wood Pe		-	-	4	· -	1	-	-	-	M
Willow Flycat			-	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Black Phoebe	-	L	1	_	1	6	2	2	2	R*
Say's Phoebe	-	-	-	_	-	2		-	-	R*
Ash-th.Flycat)	-	- 8	6	7	8	4	1	S*
Cassin's King		-	-	-	_	1	1		_	S*
Western Kingb			1	-	1	2	_	2	-	S*
Horned Lark	2		_		~-	9	_	_		R*
N.Row.Swall			64	32	32	29	37	6	3	S*
Cliff Swallow			00	22	28	54	49	8	31	S*
Barn Swallow	1		-	_	_	_	3	. -	1	S*
Scrub Jay	8		9	11	6	18	9	13	10	R*
American Crow			_	-	_	-		_	_	R*
Common Raven	22		L4	_	32	4	5	53	9	R*
Oak Titmouse	11		4	1	25	8	2	10	8	R*
Bushtit	18		8	14	40	96		24		R*
Bewick's Wren				26	29	16	20	18	11	R*
House Wren	2		_	1	4	4	_	-	-	R*
Western Blueb			-	_	1	_	3	-	-	R*
Swainson's Th			-	1	-	-	_	_	_	M
Wrentit	6			10	1	5	7	5	-	R*
Calif. Thrash			6	8	7	13	2	2	3	R*
Phainopepla	_		-	3	5	1	3 -	2	1	S*

Table 5 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; Castaic Creek from I-5 west to Rte. 126.

Species date	:4/14	4/26	5/12	5/24	6/10	6/30	7/15	7/28	Status
Europ. Starling	12	7	2	22	6	6	1	-	R*
Cassin's Vireo	-	-	1	_	-	-		_	M
Warbling Vireo	_	-	5	-			1	-	M
Orange-cr.Warble		5	-	_	1	_	-	_	M
Yellow Warbler	3	2	10	1	2	5	-	-	S*
Yellow-r.Warbler		7	-	_	-	-		-	W,M
Com.Yellowthroat		8	7	6	17	15	12	2	R*
Wilson's Warbler	7	10	22	_	_	-	-	_	М
Yellow-br. Chat	-	_	-	1	2	_	-	-	S*
Western Tanager		1	_	-		-	-	-	M
Black-h. Grosbea	k 5	21	15	3	6	6	8	2	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	_	2	-	4	1	11	3	S*
Lazuli Bunting	-	-	1	-	5	3	1	1	S*
Spotted Towhee	20	8	12	4	31	18	9	5	R*
Calif. Towhee	20	12	14	22	51	29	12	12	R*
Lark Sparrow	_	2	_	-		1	_		R*
Song Sparrow	37	8	22	21	46	23	5	4	R*
White-cr.Sparrow		-	-			_	_	-	W,M
Red-w. Blackbird		4	31	38	36	4	12	10	S*
Brewer's Bl-bird		_	-	-	-	-	-	2	R*
Brown-h.Cowbird	33	8	6	12	8	16	5	-	S*
Bullock's Oriole	3	2	3	10	5	11	2	1	S*
House Finch	40	4	8	64	12	16	30	59	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	9	10	8	3	3	24	8	22	R*
Lawr. Goldfinch	-	2	-	-	-	4	2	-	R*
Amer. Goldfinch		-		_	-	-	3	4	W,R*
House Sparrow	-	4	-	6	_	_	-	1	R*
Total Species:	40	38	43	42	45	42	39	37	

Total Potential Breeding species: 60 (marked with *)

Table 6. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; San Francisquito Creek for 2 Miles above Main Channel.

Species	date:	6/16	7/1	Status
Cooper's H	awk	_	1	R*
Red-tailed		1	1	R*
California		23	10	R*
Killdeer	~	6	2	R*
Domestic P	igeon	18	-	R*
Mourning D	-	35	13	R*
Black-ch.H	ummingbird	1	1	S*
Anna's Hum	mingbird	1	4	R*
Nuttall's	Woodpecker	6	6	R*
Say's Phoe		-	1	R*
Ash-thr.Fl	ycatcher	7	8	S*
Cassin's K		1	-	S*
N.Rough-w.	Swallow	10	-	S*
Cliff Swal	low	-	5	S*
Scrub Jay		7	9	R*
American C	row	2	2	R*
Common Rav	en	13	5	R*
Oak Titmou	se	2	2	R*
Bushtit		-	17	R*
Bewick's W	ren	9	8	R*
House Wren		-	1	R*
Western Bl	uebird	4	2	R*
N. Mockingl	oird	-	1	R* ·
Wrentit		2	1	R*
California	Thrasher	2	1	R*
Phainopepla	3	4	-	S*
European St	tarling	1		R*
Common Yell	lowthroat	2	1	R*
Blheaded	Grosbeak	2	3	S*
Blue Grosbe	eak	_	1	S*
Spotted Tov	vhee	37	9	R*
California	Towhee	15	16	R*
Song Sparro	₩	1	2	R*
Bullock's (1	1	s*
House Finch	ı	52	62	R*
Lesser Gold	dfinch	12	13	R*
Total Speci	les:	29	31	

Total Potential Breeding species: 36 (marked with *)

Table 7. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000; South Fork from Rte. 126 to McBean Parkway.

Species	date:	6/7	7/1	Status
Red-tailed Hav	wk	1	_	R*
California Qua		_	3	R*
Killdeer		3	ĺ	R*
Mourning Dove		28	12	R*
Black-ch.Humm	inabird	1	3	s*
Anna's Humming	_	2	3	R*
Costa's Hummin	-	-	3 2	S*
Nuttall's Wood		2	6	R*
Downy Woodpecl		4	_	R*
Black Phoebe		1	1	R*
Say's Phoebe		-	1	R*
Ash-thr.Flycat	cher	2 2	-	S*
Western Kingbi		2	5	S*
N.Rough-w. Swa		18	6	S*
Cliff Swallow		9	~	S*
Scrub Jay		6	7	R*
Common Raven		10	5	R*
Oak Titmouse		6	4	R*
Bushtit		5	8	R*
Bewick's Wren		10	7	R*
N. Mockingbird	l	5	3	R*
California Thr	asher	-	2	R*
Loggerhead Shr	rike	1	1	R*
European Starl	.ing	46	41	R*
Spotted Towhee	:	2	1	R*
California Tow	hee	5	5	R*
Song Sparrow		5	-	R*
Red-winged Bla		-	6	S*
Brewer's Black	bird	-	8	R*
Brown-headed C	owbird	2	2	S*
Bullock's Orio	le	2	4	S*
House Finch		34	12	R*
Lesser Goldfin	ch	9		R*
House Sparrow		-	5	. R*
Total Species:		27	20	

Total Species: 27 28

Total Species on all visits: 34

Total Potential Breeding species: 34 (marked with *)

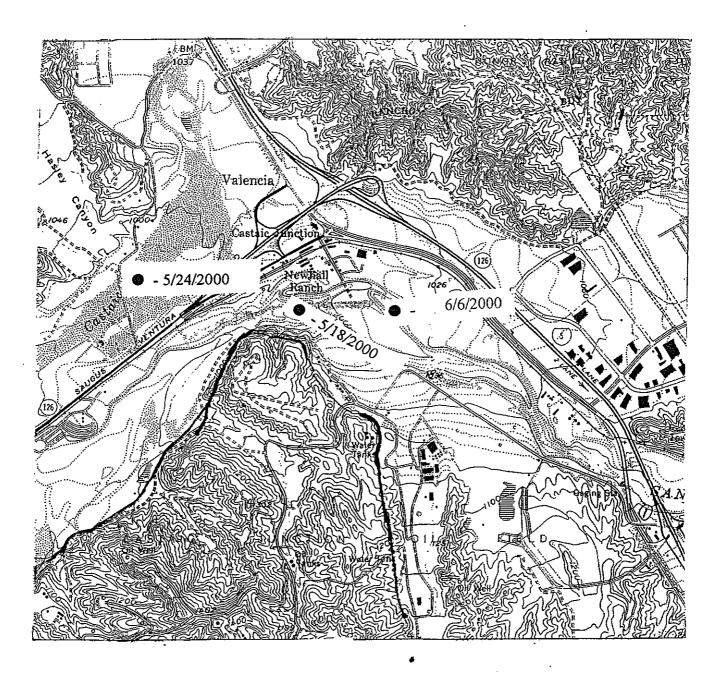
Table 8. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 2000: South Fork from Newhall Creek to Rte. 126.

Species	date	6/7	7/1	Status
Red-tailed	Hawk	1	-	R*
California		$\frac{1}{4}$	5	R*
Killdeer	~	·3	7	R*
Mourning Do	ove	20	37	R*
Black-ch.Hu		1	1	S*
Anna's Humn		3	6	R*
Costa's Hum		_	2	S*
Nuttall's W	loodpecker	3	1	R*
Downy Woodp	ecker	2	_	R*
Black Phoeb	e	-	3	R*
Ash-thr.Fly	catcher	1	-	S*
Western Kin	ıgbird	2 ·	-	S*
Barn Swallo	W	1	•	S*
Scrub Jay		7	4	R*
Common Rave	n	4	40	R*
Oak Titmous	е	6	3	R*
Bushtit		13	22	R*
White-br. N		1	-	R*
Bewick's Wr	en	8	12	R*
N. Mockingb	ird	2	7	R*
California	Thrasher	7	8	R*
Phainopepla		2	1	S*
European St	arling	11	10	R*
Summer Tana		1	_	SM
Spotted Tow		-	7	R*
California	Towhee	14	18	R*
Song Sparro		2	5	R*
Brewer's Bl		6	-	R*
Brown-heade		4	10	S*
Bullock's O	riole	14	3	S*
House Finch		27	31	R*
Lesser Gold	finch	6	25	R*
House Sparr	OW	20	10	R*
Total Specie	es:	30	25	

Total Potential Breeding species: 32 (marked with *)

Figure 1. Survey Areas along the Santa Clara River and Tributaries.

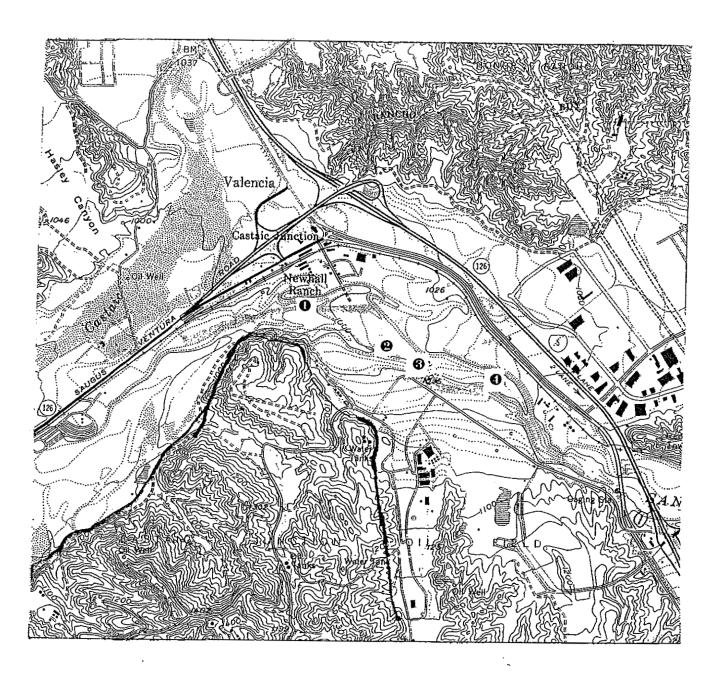
Figure 2. Survey Area at Castaic Junction, California., with observations of Willow Flycatcher during 2000.



Willow flycatcher sighting, with date

Base Map: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic map for Newhall, California, 1952, photorevised 1988.

Figure 3. Survey Area at Castaic Junction, California., with observations of Least Bell's Vireo during 2000.



0 - Location of Least Bell's Vireo sighting.

Base Map: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic map for Newhall, California, 1952, photorevised 1988.

Willow Flycatcher Survey and Detection Form (rev. 4/97)

MITHEN MISS	CASTAIC JE	UNCTION	Was site surveyed in previous year? (Tes) No
If yes, what	Site name was used?	SAME	
County	LUS ANGERES	State_CA	USGS Quad Name NEWNILL
		rked with survey area and	d WIFL sightings attached (as required)? Yes No
Coordinates	T4N	R 16 W	Lat Long / Township-Range / UTM (circle one)
Elevation_	1000 FT	feet / meters (circle on	e)

** Fill in additional site information on back of this page **

Survey# Observer(s)	Des: (m/d/y) Survey time	Number of WIFLs Found	Estimated Number of Pairs	Estimated Number of Tecrisories	Nest(s) Possi7 Y or N	Combints Detected? Y or N	Comments about this survey (a.g., evidence of paint or breeding, number of metts, next contexts, potential threats, combined abandance, presence of livestock, etc.)
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Overall Summ Total survey hr	•	4	0	0	N		Were any WIFLx enfor-banded? Yes No. If yes, report color combination(s) in the communit section on back of form

Name of Reporting Individual	DAN	CUTHA16	Date Report Completed _	NUG	2,2000
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Submit the original of this form. Retain a copy for your records.

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