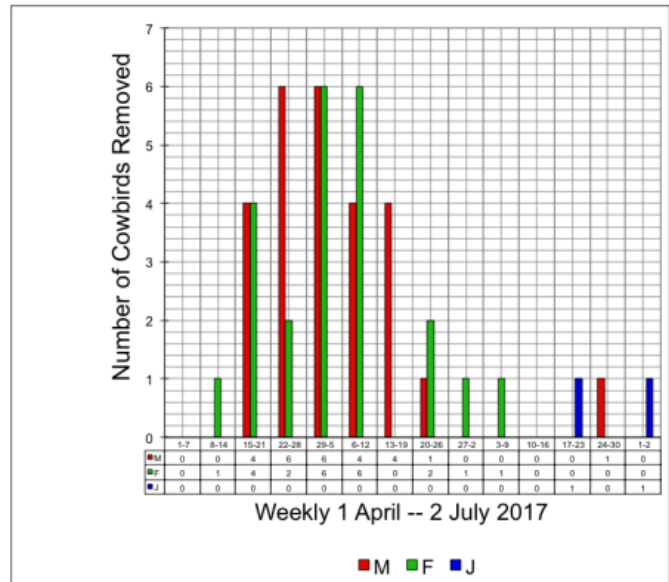


# Ventura Audubon Society Lower Ventura River Cowbird Trapping

Organization: Ventura Audubon Society  
 Project Period: April 2016 – December 2019  
 Amount: \$80,183.60  
 Location: Lower Ventura River, Ventura County

**Project Description:** This project is conducting brown-headed cowbird trapping over an 8 mile segment of the lower Ventura River in support of the state and federally-listed endangered least Bell’s vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. This project aims to help preserve and enhance a viable population of songbirds in the area by controlling brood parasitism caused by the brown-headed cowbird. In addition, professional wildlife biologists are conducting baseline bird surveys over the project area to document the bird species that are using the area.

**Progress:** VAS has completed the second season of brown-headed cowbird trapping along the lower Ventura River, from the estuary upstream to Foster Park. Six traps were operated from April 1<sup>st</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Trapping has resulted in the removal of a total of 104 individual cowbirds over the two seasons of trapping. Baseline bird surveys have also been conducted at 10 survey points along the lower Ventura River. Sixty-seven species have been documented during the surveys, including the least Bell’s vireo.



**Number of cowbirds removed from the Lower Ventura River in 2017**



**Deployed brown-headed cowbird trap**