

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

HUTTON'S VIREO

Vireo huttoni

Family: VIREONIDAE
B417

Order: PASSERIFORMES

Class: AVES

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

A fairly common to common resident of cismontane California. Most abundant in valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, valley foothill riparian, montane hardwood, and closed-cone pine-cypress habitats. Closely associated with live oak woodlands, but also breeds in riparian habitats, locally in mixed chaparral, and in montane hardwood-conifer habitats up to 1800 m (6000 ft). Casual in desert lowlands fall through spring; absent from Great Basin and desert mountain ranges. Rare in Central Valley, but has bred there in recent years (McCaskie et al. 1979, 1988). Resident on Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and Santa Catalina Islands (Garrett and Dunn 1981). There is some upslope movement and wandering after breeding to higher oak-conifer woodlands, and wanderers or migrants have been noted on the Farallon Islands (DeSante and Ainley 1980).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Gleans insects and spiders from twigs and leaves of shrubs and trees; occasionally hawks flying insects and eats berries and other small fruits.

Cover: Trees and shrubs, particularly in live oak woodland, riparian and oak-conifer woodland, coastal closed-cone pine-cypress, and chaparral habitats provide cover.

Reproduction: Builds a cup nest suspended by rim from forks of a twig, usually in live oak, but also in bay, pine, willow, large ceanothus.

Water: No additional information found.

Pattern: Frequents live oak and other woodlands with sparse canopy.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Yearlong, diurnal activity.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Resident in most breeding areas. Also occurs in fall and winter in lowland areas not used for breeding, and in areas upslope from breeding grounds, suggesting local migration (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Gaines 1977b).

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: No data found. Van Fleet (1919) reported 39 pairs per km² (100 pairs per mi²) in Sonoma Co.

Reproduction: Breeds from late February through May. Pair nests solitarily. Lays 3-5 eggs, average 4; incubation 14-16 days. Altricial young tended by both parents and fledge at

approximately 14 days (Harrison 1978).

Niche: Eggs subject to predation by small mammals and corvids, but nest usually well-concealed (Bent 1950). Adults occasionally caught by accipiters. Nests are sometimes parasitized by cowbirds.

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