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MEMORANDUM

To: Doreen Hansen
Watershed Coordinator
Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

From: Sean E. McAllister
Associate Biologist
Mad River Biologists

Date: June 26, 2012

Re: Avian Point Count Survey – Salt River Restoration Project – Phase I

INTRODUCTION

By agreement between myself, Sean McAllister, and the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD), I performed an avian point count survey associated with Phase I of the Salt River Restoration Project. The methods and location of the survey were previously described in a memorandum by Winzler and Kelly, dated August 26, 2011. Two prior surveys were completed at the same locations, following the same methods on June 30 and July 21, 2011 by me, under contract with Winzler and Kelly. Results from those surveys as well as habitat descriptions of each survey point are included in the aforementioned memorandum.

This brief report summarizes results only from the latest survey to date, performed on May 29, 2012.

SURVEY RESULTS

Overall, a total of 226 individual birds representing 34 species were detected (Table 1). The same three species, American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) were most abundant overall and most prevalent across all survey points (Table 2).

Comparing results at each survey point indicates that Survey Point 3 produced the fewest individual birds (18) as well as the fewest species (8), while Survey Point R2 (reference point 2) had the most individuals (52) and the most species (15), tied with Survey Point 4 (Table 3).

Twelve species which were recorded during 2011 surveys were not detected during this survey (Table 4), while eight species recorded this survey were not previously recorded during 2011 surveys (Table 5), bringing the combined total number of species recorded during 2011 (2 surveys) and 2012 (1 survey) to 46.

Notably, Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii*), a California Endangered Species (CDF&G 2011), which was present during both surveys in 2011 and also in 2010 (G. Lester, pers. comm.), was not detected during this survey of May 29, 2012.

REFERENCES

California Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Special Animals List. January 2011.

Lester, G. 2011. Personal communications.

Winzler and Kelly. 2011. Memorandum. Avian Protocol and Initial 2011 Survey Report to Support Pre and Post- Construction Monitoring. August 26, 2011.

Table 1. Taxonomic list of all species detected during avian point count surveys, May 29, 2012

Common Name	Scientific Name
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>

Table 3. Abundance and species richness for each of seven survey points, May 29, 2012

Survey Point	1	2	3	4	5	R1	R2	Total
Avian Abundance	29	31	18	34	35	27	52	226
Species Richness	14	13	8	15	11	11	15	34

Table 4. Species not detected that were detected during 2011

American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>

Table 5. Species detected on May 29, 2012 which were not detected during previous (2011) surveys)

Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>