



Memorandum

Date June 25, 2002

To Debra Jones, Project Manager

From William Widdowson and Brook Vinnedge, Wildlife Biologists

Subject **Special Status Wildlife (Birds) Survey Report for the BART Warm Springs Extension (WSX), Fremont, CA, June 10, 2002**

Summary

On 10 June 2002, Jones & Stokes biologists William Widdowson and Brook Vinnedge conducted surveys for special-status bird species within the BART Warm Springs Extension (WSX) project area. This survey focussed on special-status bird species with potential to occur in the project area. Biologists surveyed for the following species: Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), White-tailed Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), and nesting raptors. In total, 48 bird species were detected (Table 1). Of these special-status species, biologists detected one Tricolored Blackbird and an abandoned Northern Harrier nest. No nesting raptors were detected in the project corridor during the survey, but suitable habitat exists for nesting raptors. It is recommended that if construction activities are scheduled to take place during the nesting season (February 1–August 1), a pre-construction survey be conducted prior to removal of any trees suitable for nesting raptors.

Methods

On June 10, 2002, an informal bird survey was conducted along the proposed route for the WSX project, to assess the potential for the target species to occur within the area. Biologists began the survey at the Fremont BART station and moved south to the proposed Warm Springs Station parcel. Within this corridor, all suitable habitat for the target species was surveyed and assessed for potential to support special status species. All bird species heard or seen were noted. Survey of the area began at 10:20 a.m., concluding at 13:16 p.m. Pacific Daylight (PDT). Weather conditions were excellent: 5% cloud cover; temperature range 78 to 81 degrees Fahrenheit; wind 1 (Beaufort Scale); no precipitation. Results of the survey are summarized from north to south.

Results

A remnant raptor nest was observed in a large clump of eucalyptus trees located approximately 400-feet east of Tule Pond. The trees are approximately 150 feet tall and are located in a corridor of non-native annual grassland habitat approximately 150 feet wide. This corridor separates two housing developments and connects Walnut Ave with Stevenson Boulevard. The trees and surrounding habitat provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for special status raptors such as White-tailed Kite and Northern Harrier.

A single adult male Tricolored Blackbird was detected during the survey. This individual was observed mingling with a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) at the north end of New Marsh, adjacent to and north of Lake Elizabeth. The GPS coordinates were noted (TRBL 1 - N 37° 33.121, W 121° 57.556).

One Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) was observed foraging over the ruderal field located adjacent to and north of Paseo Padre Parkway. A pair of American Kestrels (*Falco americanus*) was observed in the UP right-of-way approximately 200 feet north of Washington Boulevard.

Two Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) feathers were found in the non-native grassland habitat at the proposed Irvington Station parking lot east of Osgood Road. In addition, one Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo striatus*) was observed roosting in a large conifer at the western boundary of this parcel.

One inactive Northern Harrier nest was observed in the parcel of land south of Grimmer Road and east of the existing UP tracks. The parcel, which is the proposed Warm Springs Station, currently contains facilities for model airplane use (a runway) surrounded by 22.5 acres of non-native annual grassland. The destroyed nest is located approximately 190 feet east of the UP tracks and approximately 600 feet south of Grimmer Boulevard. The nest appeared to be flattened from mowing activity earlier in the season. In the nest were 3 intact eggs and some eggshell fragments.

Table 1. Birds Observed During Survey of Fremont BART Extension, Fremont, CA, June 10, 2002

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy Egret
<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Green Heron
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night-Heron
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Buteo striatus</i>	Red-shouldered Hawk
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove (I)
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove
<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Forster's Tern
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's Hummingbird
<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Woodpecker
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Black Phoebe
<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven
<i>Pica nuttalli</i>	Yellow-billed Magpie
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	Western Scrub-Jay
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	N. Rough-winged Swallow
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Bushtit
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's Wren
<i>Parus inornatus</i>	Oak Titmouse
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	California Thrasher

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling (I)
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Spotted Towhee
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow
<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Brewer's Blackbird
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tricolored Blackbird
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird
<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	Bullock's Oriole
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House Finch
<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	Lesser Goldfinch
<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	American Goldfinch
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow
Total Number of Species	48
(I) = Introduced	