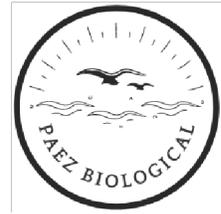


Paez Biological Consulting
1103 E Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, California 91104
(626) 513-5230



Zoe Witt
Friends of the Los Angeles River
570 W. Avenue 26, Suite 250
Los Angeles, CA 90065

July 7, 2022

Re: Nesting Migratory Bird and Raptor Surveys, Lewis MacAdams Los Angeles River Clean-up Site.

At The Friends of the LA River's (FoLAR) request, biologist Taylor Paez conducted a pre-event nesting bird survey along an approximately 3,434-foot reach of the Los Angeles River downstream of the Lewis MacAdams Riverside Park on July 7th, 2022. The goal of the survey was to locate nests, observe nesting behavior, and/or delineate sensitive habitat to avoid impacts to nesting birds and sensitive species during the nesting season (February – September) by volunteer clean-up activities among vegetation in the Los Angeles Riverbed. During the event volunteers will walk among the vegetation in and adjacent to the riverbed while removing trash by hand. No vegetation removal is planned. Volunteers will be instructed to avoid dense shrubs, trees, and other vegetation as well as to avoid any nests.

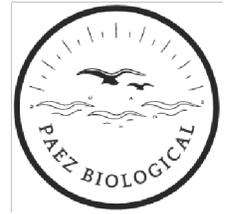
Methods: Due to the heightened pedestrian activity in the river expected to occur due to the clean-up events, the biologist concentrated their efforts towards detecting ground nesting birds, species that nest low in shrubs and herbaceous vegetation that could be inadvertently destroyed by volunteers, and species that may be more sensitive to disturbance such as heron rookeries and raptor nests.

The study area was inspected between 05:30 and 07:30 the morning of July 7th, 2022. The clean-up event is scheduled for July 9th, 2022. Conditions were clear and cool, with a temperature of 65-66° F, a light breeze at 1-2 mph and cloud cover of approximately 25% throughout. The biologist walked throughout the clean-up area and inspected all vegetation and structures where volunteers are likely to work. Areas not directly inspected were scanned. The survey was conducted by visually inspecting vegetation using 8x42 binoculars, concentrating on the underside of the canopy and branch forks and looking for cavities on the surface of the trunks and major branches. Additionally, the biologist observed all birds in the vicinity and watched for signs of nesting behaviors such as carrying food or nesting material.

Results: The site is bordered by a popular bike path and is heavily disturbed. People were observed recreating in the riverbed. Common yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*) and song sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) were heard singing from the cattails, suggesting territories or nesting in the dense vegetation. Yellowthroat, song sparrow, red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), and green heron (*Butorides virescens*) fledglings/juveniles were observed in areas where the survey on April 19th, 2022 had resulted in the observation of nests of these species. This suggests that these nesting attempts were successful and undisturbed by the prior clean-up event in April.

No nesting raptors were detected. No least Bell's vireos were detected. Non-native bullfrogs and brown-headed cowbirds (a known nest parasite of native passerine birds) were detected. Inactive nests were observed along the site and mapped (Figure 1). These inactive nests do not need to be avoided.

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Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the following occur:

1. Provide guidance to volunteers prior to beginning clean-up activities to avoid stands of cattails, willows, and other dense vegetation that may contain nesting birds. Have staff monitor volunteers to prevent entry into dense vegetation.
2. Use cones and/or signage to enforce the boundaries of the clean-up site.
3. Due to the timing of the event, it is possible that nests may be established between the time this survey was completed and the final date of clean up at this location. Encourage volunteers to take note of any bird behavior that may indicate the presence of a nest (broken wing display, alarm calls, dive-bombing). If volunteers observe this behavior, it is recommended that they avoid the area and alert staff monitoring the site. If an active nest is found, provide the nest with a 150-foot buffer and do not allow anyone to enter the area.

It is my professional opinion that these measures are sufficient to prevent the inadvertent destruction of nests and avoid disturbing raptors, heron rookeries, and nesting birds by clean-up activities.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Paez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Taylor Paez, Biologist
tdpaez@gmail.com
(626) 513-5230

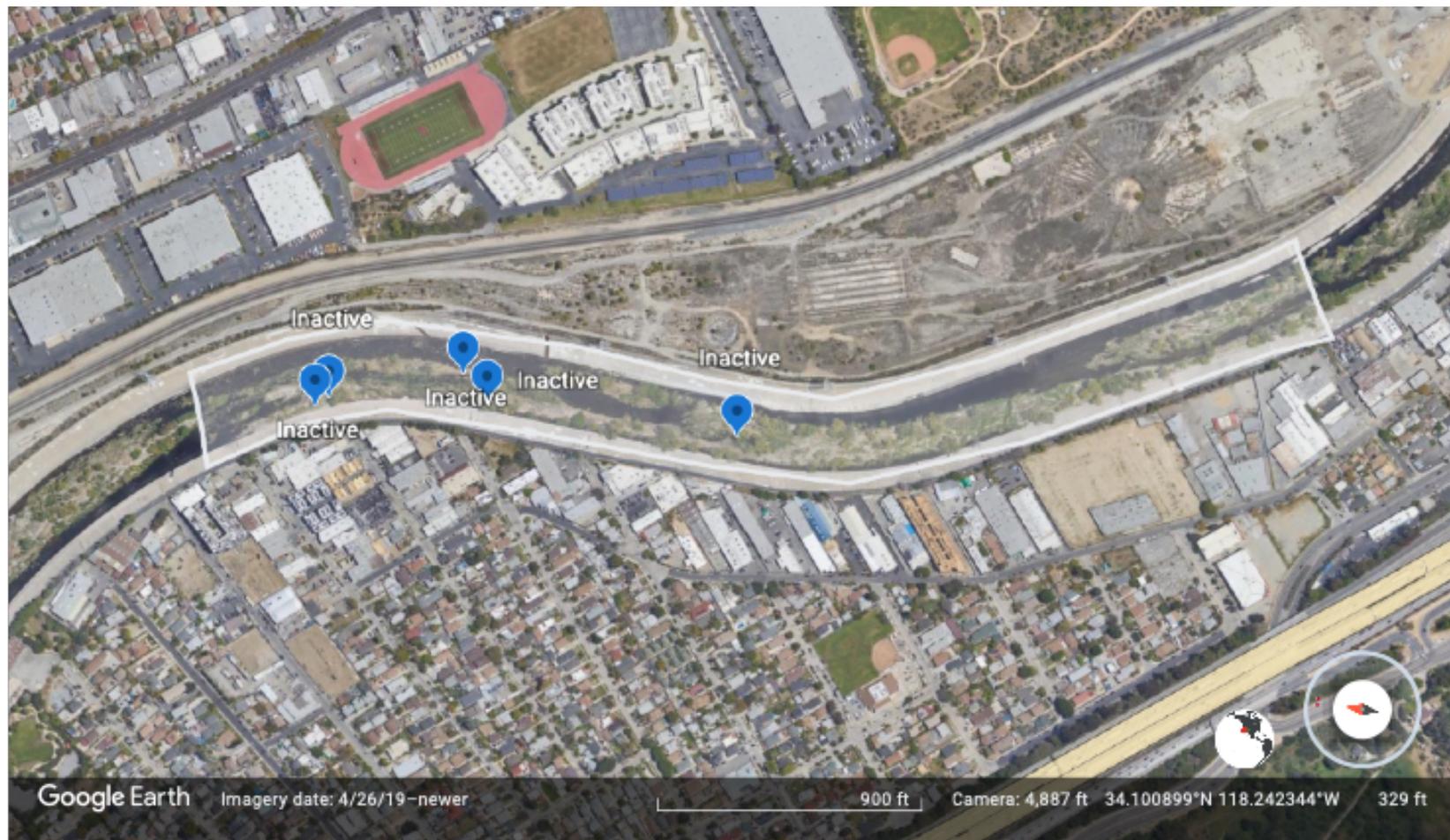


Figure 1. Map of Nests within the Lewis MacAdams Clean-up Site. Inactive nests were observed and mapped. These nests do not need to be avoided.