



# BioMaAS

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May 11, 2023

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UC Berkeley- Capital Strategies

## **Nesting Bird Survey for UC Berkeley Field Station Richmond, CA.**

Time: 0800-1030. May 10, 2023

Conditions: overcast, 55°F, wind 6-8mph NW

The habitat is primarily non-native grasses and forbs, with widely scattered shrubs (toyon and coyote brush) and a grove of large blue gum Eucalyptus along the eastern edge of the project area.

### **Survey Methodology:**

Pedestrian surveys of the entire project area were conducted, concentrating on areas containing suitable nesting habitat for birds. The survey for raptor nests extended 300 feet past the area of disturbance, and all other types of nests were surveyed out to 100 feet past the area of disturbance. Shrubs, trees, and other dense or woody vegetation were visually inspected for the presence of bird nests, and bird behavior was observed for signs of active nesting, including courtship, copulation, carrying of food or nesting materials, and territoriality. Specific signs of active raptor nesting in large trees, such as whitewash, prey remains, pellets, and feathers, were searched for out to 300 feet past the area of disturbance.

### **Results:**

No active nests were observed within the project area or the extended survey areas outside of the project footprint, with the exception of European starlings (an unprotected non-native species) nesting in the surrounding buildings.

An inactive lesser goldfinch nest was observed 5 feet high in a toyon shrub at 37.9158238, -122.3362167, and an inactive 7" stick nest from an unknown species was observed 7 feet high in a eucalyptus at 37.9156741, -122.3349416. The second nest could not be looked into directly, but no birds were observed going near or interacting with the nest at any point during the survey.

No raptor nests or other signs of raptor nesting were observed in any of the trees within the raptor survey area. No adult or nestling raptors were heard vocalizing at any point during the survey. No raptors were seen until 0945, when a red-tailed hawk approached the project area and swooped at the nesting starlings, after which it was driven from the area by a flock of American crows.

There were several female Anna's hummingbirds feeding in the eucalyptus grove, but none were seen coming or going from a nest.

An oak titmouse was observed flying through the project area carrying nesting material, but eventually carried it outside of the survey area.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Remove the vegetation cleared of nests as soon as possible after surveys.

**Photographs**



Photo 1: Eucalyptus grove on eastern edge of project area.



Photo 2: Inactive lesser goldfinch nest.



Map 1: Inactive stick nest.

### Bird species observed during construction surveys on May 10, 2023

Common Name	Scientific Name
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Western gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>
Double-crested cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Anna's hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>

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Oak titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Swainson's thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Cedar waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
California towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>
House finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>
Lesser goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>
Wilson's warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>

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