



# HAMILTON BIOLOGICAL

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July 5, 2023

Daniel Ruelas  
Great Scott Tree Care  
10761 Court Avenue #2435  
Stanton, CA 90680

## **SUBJECT: SECOND NESTING BIRD SURVEY REPORT WARDLOW PARK, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

Dear Daniel,

At your request, Hamilton Biological, Inc., has conducted a second survey for any birds potentially nesting in trees planned for pruning or removal in Wardlow Park in Long Beach (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** The survey area consisted of Wardlow Park, located north of East Wardlow Road in Long Beach. Trees within 300 feet of this area were surveyed for the potential presence of nesting raptors.

This report discusses relevant federal and state regulations protecting nesting birds, provides the methods and results of my survey, and provides recommendations for completing the project.

## **REVIEW OF REGULATIONS PROTECTING NESTING BIRDS**

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 implemented the 1916 Convention between the U.S. and Great Britain (for Canada) for the protection of migratory birds. Later amendments implemented treaties between the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and the Soviet Union (now Russia). At the heart of the MBTA is this language:

Establishment of a Federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to “pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention . . . for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird.” (16 U.S.C. 703).

## **California Fish and Game Code**

Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code states, “It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto.” Thus, in California, it remains a potential State offense to knowingly disrupt an active nest of virtually any native bird species. The term “active nest” is not clearly defined in the Fish and Game Code, and in some circumstances may be left to the discretion of the biologist in the field.

## **SURVEY METHODS**

Biologist Robert A. Hamilton conducted the initial nesting bird survey on June 28, 2023. The second survey was conducted on July 5, 2023, from 11:05 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. Skies were hazy; winds were in the range of 3–6 miles per hour; and the temperature was 73–75° F. The area was surveyed by walking slowly through the survey area, looking for nests in the trees above, observing the behavior of the birds in the area and listening to their vocalizations, and inspecting the ground for guano or “pellets” of undigested fur and bone often deposited beneath the nests of owls and other raptors. Trees within 300 feet of the pine were inspected for the potential presence of nesting raptors.

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

During the initial survey, I did not observe any evidence of birds nesting in the park, or any other nearby trees. During the second survey, I observed adult male and adult female Western Bluebirds entering a nesting cavity approximately 25 feet up in a Chinese Elm in the western-central part of the park. I pointed out the nest location to a Great Scott tree crew member, and he pointed out that the crew had wrapped yellow caution tape around the trunk, indicating that the tree would not be trimmed or removed.

No inactive nests of colonial waterbirds or raptors were observed in the survey area or elsewhere in the nearby vicinity.

I observed the following birds during the survey.

### **List of Bird Species Detected**

Black-chinned Hummingbird .....	1	European Starling .....	2
Anna's Hummingbird .....	1	Northern Mockingbird .....	1
Allen's Hummingbird .....	5	Western Bluebird .....	6
Mitred Parakeet .....	2	House Sparrow .....	20
Black Phoebe .....	2	House Finch .....	10
Bushtit .....	18	American Goldfinch .....	2
Swinhoe's White-eye .....	12	California Towhee .....	2

### **DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION**

The active nest of a pair of Western Bluebirds was observed in a tree that will not be trimmed or removed as part of Great Scott's work in the park. Otherwise, the survey found no indication of active nesting, and no inactive nests of colonial waterbirds or raptors that require preservation. Hamilton Biological therefore recommends that tree work may proceed in the area without a biological monitor being present.

As a general disclaimer, this field review represents a good-faith effort to find and document bird nests, and to recommend actions intended to ensure compliance with applicable regulations as landscape trees are pruned and removed. Birds may initiate new nests at any time, and it is possible that unfound nests existed in or near the survey area at the time of the survey. The recommendations provided represent my best understanding of state and federal regulations, and the steps needed to achieve compliance. If work crews encounter an active nest not reported here, they should avoid disturbing the nest. If crews intend to work near the nest, Hamilton Biological should be notified so that the nest may be properly identified and appropriate protective measures taken.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this project. Please call me at 562-477-2181 if you have questions or wish to further discuss any matters; you may send e-mail to [robb@hamiltonbiological.com](mailto:robb@hamiltonbiological.com).

Sincerely,



Robert A. Hamilton, President  
Hamilton Biological, Inc.