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July 12, 2017

Mr. Patrick Daniels
Caprock Partners
2050 Main Street, Suite 240
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Subject: Results of Focused Burrowing Owl Surveys for the Caprock-Colony Commerce Center East Specific Plan Project, City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Mr. Daniels:

This letter report summarizes the methodology and findings of focused burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) (BUOW) surveys conducted by **ESA** biologists Amy Lee, Daryl Koutnik, Karla Flores, Lauren Singleton and Maile Tanaka for the approximately 103-acre Colony Commerce Center East Specific Plan (project) located in the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. The surveys encompassed the project site and a 500-foot survey buffer surrounding the perimeter of the project site (study area), where suitable habitat is present. The surveys were conducted in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (2012).¹ No BUOW or sign were observed within the survey area during the four focused breeding season surveys conducted in spring 2017.

Project Site Location

The study area is generally located approximately 2.5 miles to the west of Interstate (I) 15 and 3.3 miles to the south of State Route (SR) 60 (**Figure 1**, *Regional Map*). Specifically, the project site is located south of Merrill Avenue, north of County Line Channel, west of South Archibald Avenue, and east of Cucamonga Creek Channel. The study area can be found on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Corona North topographic quadrangle map² within Section 22, Township 2 South, Range 7 West, as shown in **Figure 2**, *Vicinity Map* (USGS 1967, Earth Survey 2017). The study area is also shown on an aerial as **Figure 3**, *Study Area Map*.

Plant Communities

Plant communities found within the project site include agriculture, eucalyptus grove, developed, and non-native herbaceous. Of the four plant communities found within the project site, agriculture and non-native herbaceous were the only communities with potentially suitable BUOW habitat. A brief summary of each vegetation community within the project site in which surveys were conducted is presented below.

¹ California Fish and Wildlife. March 7, 2012. *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation*. State of California Natural Resources Agency.

² U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 1967 (Photorevised in 1981). *Corona North, California*. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map.



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Agriculture

Agricultural areas consist of land that is actively being used for agricultural operations and do not support natural plant communities. Active agricultural areas occupied the majority of the project site and include a dairy farm in the northern portion and crop fields in the southern portion. The dairy farm is primarily unvegetated due to the disturbance from the cows, although some scattered non-native herbaceous vegetation, such as prickly Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) and cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), occurs. The field is planted with crops in addition to some scattered non-native herbaceous species, such as barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), cheeseweed, curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), nettle-leaved goosefoot (*Chenopodium murale*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), dwarf nettle (*Urtica urens*), and water speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*).

Non-native herbaceous

Non-native herbaceous vegetation is found in areas heavily disturbed by human activities, such as roadsides, graded fields, and manufactured slopes and frequently weedy, non-native plants are introduced as a consequence. Non-native species observed within this community on the project site include Australian saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*), cheeseweed, and golden crownbeard (*Verbesina encelioides*). Native species observed include Jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*) and a few mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) sprouts. Non-native herbaceous areas were primarily found along the western boundary of the project site, adjacent to Cucamonga Creek Channel.

Methodology

No formal habitat assessment was completed for the project site prior to conducting the BUOW surveys due to the known presence of suitable habitat based on recent surveys conducted by ESA in the vicinity of the project site. Moreover, the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), a CDFW species account database, was reviewed for known observations of BUOW within the vicinity of the project site. Surveys were conducted in accordance with the CDFW's *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (2012) during the breeding season within the project site plus a 150-meter (approximately 500 feet) buffer zone around the project site.

Breeding season surveys were conducted by ESA biologists Amy Lee, Daryl Koutnik, Karla Flores, Lauren Singleton and Maile Tanaka.³ The transect surveys consisted of four (4) site visits, on four separate days, at least three weeks apart. During the surveys, focus was placed on the detection of small fossorial mammal burrows potentially suitable for burrowing owl, burrowing owl burrows, individual burrowing owls, and any diagnostic sign of their occurrence (e.g., molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, or excrement at or near a burrow entrance). Pedestrian transects were spaced 7 m to 20 m apart, to allow for 100 percent visibility. In addition, binoculars were utilized to scan the survey area at the start and end of each transect as well as

³ As required under the 2012 CDFW staff report guidelines, each of the biologists are 1) familiar with the species and its local ecology, 2) have experience with conducting habitat assessments, non-breeding and breeding season protocol and pre-construction burrowing owl surveys, 3) are familiar with the state and federal statutes pertaining to this species, and 4) have experience with analyzing the impacts of development on burrowing owls and their habitat.



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inaccessible offsite areas. All surveys were conducted between morning civil twilight and 10:00 AM during suitable weather conditions. Surveys were conducted on February 24, April 27, June 2, and June 30, 2017. Weather conditions generally consisted of clear to overcast skies with winds between 0 and 4 miles per hour (mph) and air temperatures ranging from 38° to 69° Fahrenheit.

**TABLE 1
SURVEY DATA**

Date	Time	Wind (mph) (start/end)	Temperature (F) (start/end)	Weather (%cover) (start-end)	Results	Surveyor
02/24/17	0630-0900	0-2/0-2	38°/50°	10-5	No BUOW or sign	Singleton, Tanaka
04/27/17	0615-0800	0-1/0-1	54°/61°	30-20	No BUOW or sign	Lee, Singleton
06/02/17	0615-0800	0-1/1-2	57°/63°	0-0	No BUOW or sign	Lee, Koutnik
06/30/17	0600-0816	3-4/1-2	61°/69°	100-100	No BUOW or sign	Flores, Lee

Source: ESA, 2017.



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Results

No BUOW of sign of active nesting was observed within the survey area during the four breeding season surveys conducted. Therefore, the survey area is currently considered absent of BUOW.

The CDFW's *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (2012) recommends a pre-construction take avoidance survey for burrowing owls no less than 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities to determine the presence of burrowing owls and avoid potential direct take of burrowing owls.

Should you have any questions regarding the methodology or findings in this report, please do not hesitate to contact Daryl Koutnik (dkoutnik@esassoc.com) at (949) 753-7001.

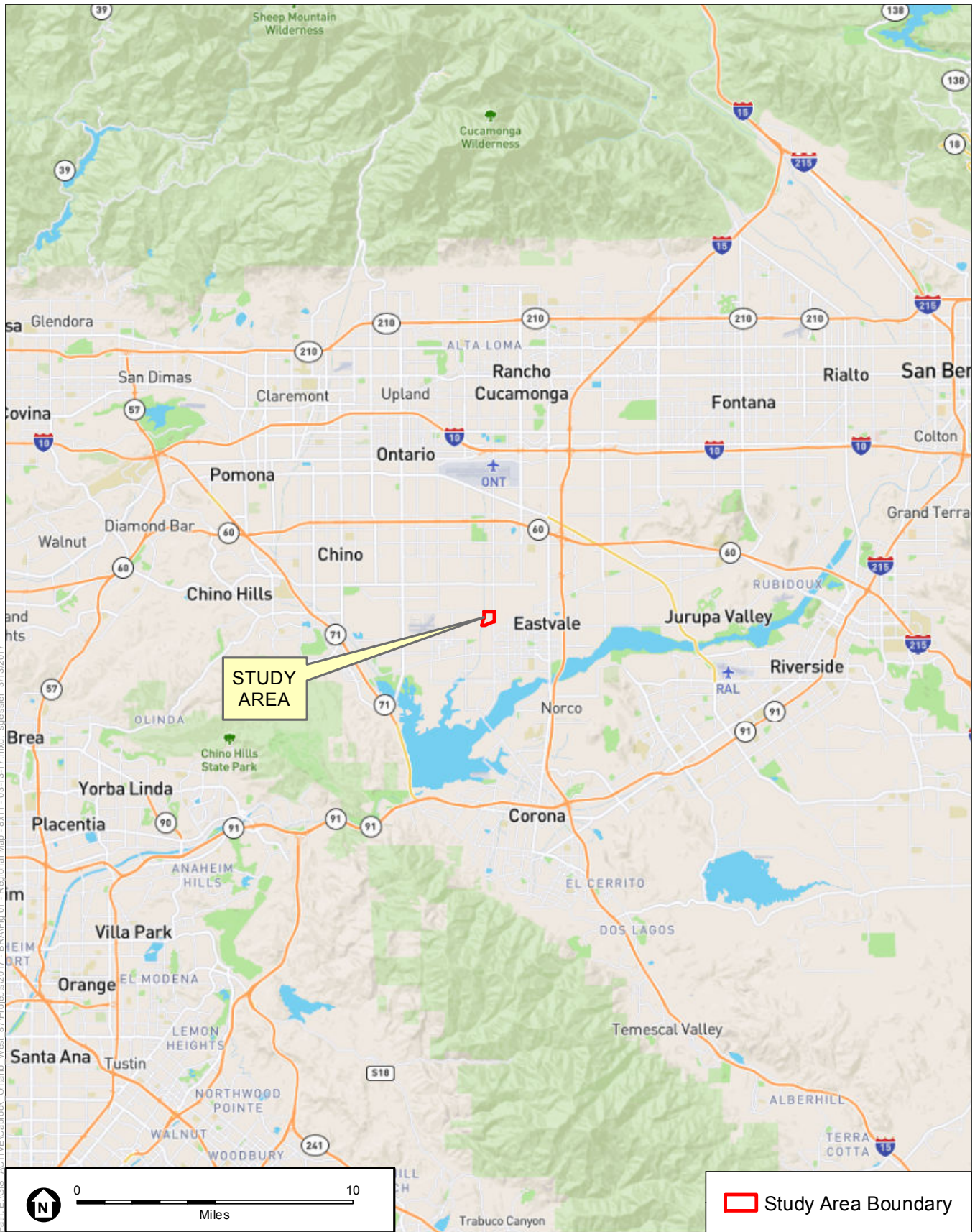
SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daryl Koutnik'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daryl Koutnik
Principal, Biological and Environmental Compliance

Attachments:

- Figure 1 - Regional Map
- Figure 2 - Vicinity Map
- Figure 3 - Study Area Map
- Appendix A: Avian Compendium

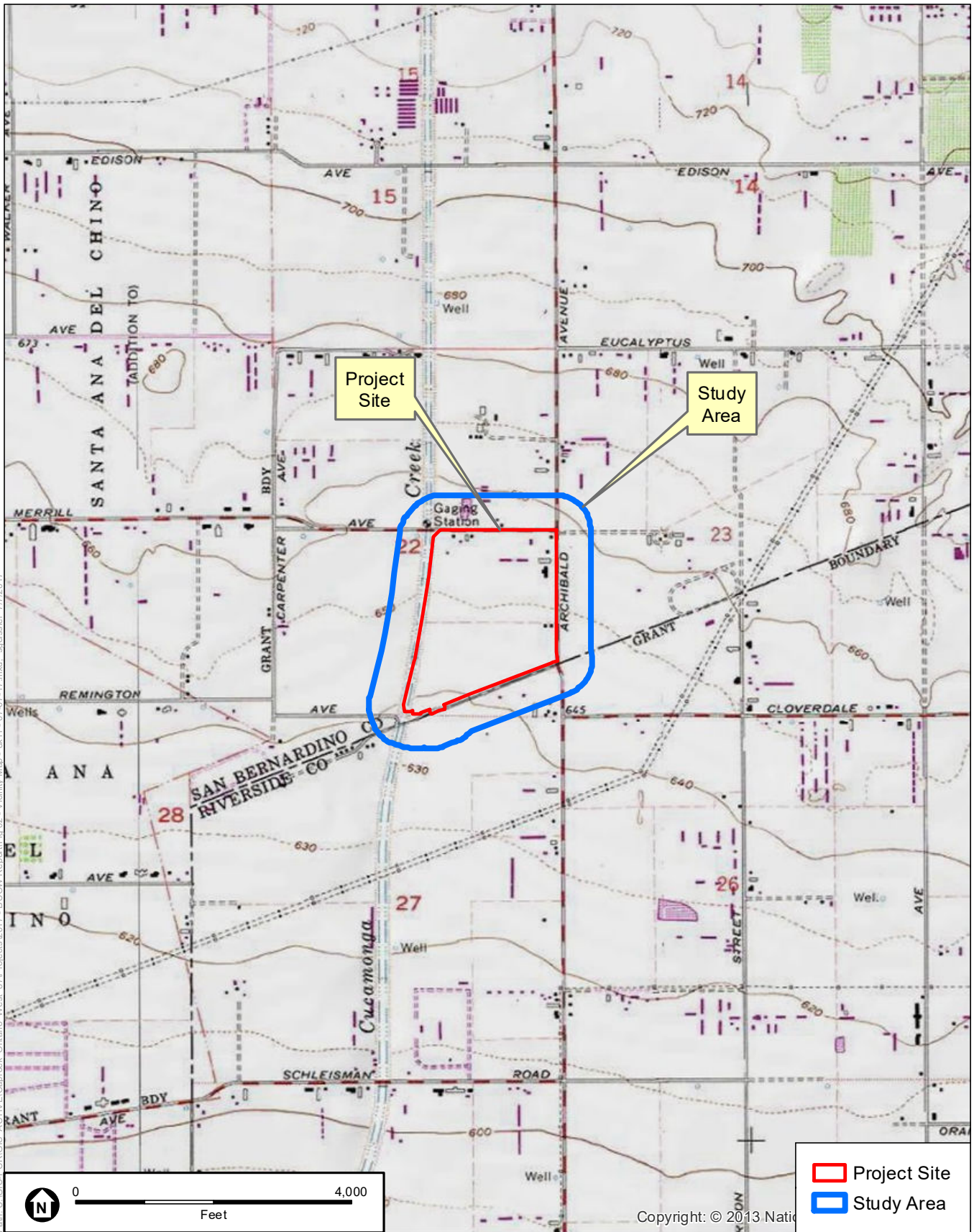


SOURCE: Open Street Map, 2017.

Colony Commerce Center East Specific Plan

Figure 1
Regional Map





SOURCE: USGS Topographic Series (Corona North, CA).

Colony Commerce Center East Specific Plan

Figure 2
Vicinity Map





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SOURCE: NAIP, 2016 (Aerial).

Colony Commerce Center East Specific Plan

Figure 3
Study Area Map

Appendix A – Avian Compendium

Scientific Name	Common Name
Anatidae	Waterfowl
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose
Threskiornithidae	Ibises
<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	white-faced ibis
Cathartidae	New World Vultures
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture
Accipitridae	Hawks
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
Falconidae	Falcons
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon
Rallidae	Rails and Gallinules
<i>Fulica americana</i>	American coot
Charadriidae	Plovers
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	killdeer
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocets
<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	black-necked stilt
<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	American avocet
Strigidae	True Owls
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	great-horned owl
Columbidae	Pigeons and Doves
* <i>Columba livia</i>	rock pigeon
* <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian collared-dove
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
Trochilidae	Hummingbirds
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
Tyrannidae	Tyrant Flycatchers
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Cassin's kingbird
Corvidae	Jays and Crows
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven

* non-native

Scientific Name	Common Name
Alaudidae	Larks
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	horned lark
Hirundinidae	Swallows
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	cliff swallow
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	barn swallow
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	northern rough-winged swallow
Aegithalidae	Bushtits
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	bushtit
Troglodytidae	Wrens
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren
Mimidae	Thrashers
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird
Sturnidae	Starlings
* <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European starling
Motacillidae	Pipits
<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	American pipit
Parulidae	Wood Warblers
<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	Wilson's warbler
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	common yellowthroat
<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>	orange-crowned warbler
<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	yellow-rumped warbler
Emberizidae	Emberizine Sparrows and Allies
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	song sparrow
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	savannah sparrow
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	white-crowned sparrow
Cardinalidae	Buntings, Grosbeaks, and Tanagers
<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	blue grosbeak
Icteridae	Blackbirds
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	red-winged blackbird
<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Brewer's blackbird
<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	Bullock's oriole
<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	hooded oriole
* <i>Molothrus ater</i>	brown-headed cowbird
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	western meadowlark

* non-native

Scientific Name	Common Name
Fringillidae	Finches
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American goldfinch
Passeridae	Old World Sparrows
* <i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow

* non-native