# APPENDIX A BIRD SURVEY MEMORANDUM, 2000





# **URS**

# Memorandum

Date: December 19, 2000

To: Ralph G. Stahl, Jr., Ph.D.

Copies to: Chuck Orwig and Brian Johnson

From: Francesca Demgen

Subject: Transmittal, Bird Survey Data

Attached you will find the Bird Survey Memorandum. The work was conducted by myself and Corinna Lu. The Memorandum includes sections on our methodology and results as well as summary data tables, a figure displaying the observation locations and an appendix with the field data recording sheets. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

#### Bird Survey Memorandum

#### Methodology

Surveys for all bird species were conducted on October 12, November 9, and November 17, 2000. Notes were taken regarding the weather and the time of the survey. One high-tide survey and two low-tide surveys were conducted on the site in order to ensure that potential species in all habitats could be counted. The survey included 3 general locations: the tidal areas of Little Break, including the levees, Central Slough, and terrestrial areas. Birds were identified to species whenever possible. Unidentified birds were grouped as Gull species, Dabbling duck species, Yellowlegs species (Greater or Lesser), Medium shorebird species and Woodpecker species. In addition to the number of birds present, habitat and behavior were recorded. Foraging guilds for each species have also been assigned.

#### Little Break

To survey Little Break, a 15-foot boat with a 45 horsepower engine was rented, with an operator, from Lauritzen's Boat Harbor. While there were designated survey locations in the middle of the tidal basin, Figure I, birds were surveyed from the boat during the entire trip. One stop was made on the eastern levee to identify any birds that may be in the vicinity, and to obtain a count of any waterbirds that were not seen from the boat. The perspective from the levee improved visibility by reducing the glare from the morning sun. Little Break surveys were scheduled in the morning in an attempt to lessen opportunities for human disturbance of the habitat, however, there were fishermen in boats in Little Break when we arrived for all 3 surveys. Our first survey was timed to coincide with low tide to identify locations of tidal flats where shorebird feeding might occur. No intertidal mud or sand flats were exposed on the 0.8 foot tide of October 12.

#### Central Slough

The Central Slough survey was conducted from the northeast and north sides. The open water and fringe of wetland vegetation were surveyed using binoculars and a spotting scope.

#### Terrestrial Areas

For the terrestrial portions of the survey, a specified location was used as an observation point, although we also walked around the area in order to identify birds that were more concealed. Birds were also surveyed from the car while driving to these points. Figure 1 identifies the survey location points. The sites were selected in areas where birds were seen to congregate during past site visits and in to include a diverse set of habitat types. The grassland immediately north of Central Slough and the riparian corridor north of it were surveyed. We made auto stops to survey the willows in the Red Pipe area and the small stand of tall trees east Central Slough to look for owl pellets. The large stand of pines, eucalyptus and shrubs in the southwest corner of the Little Break area was surveyed and the trees to the south were scanned.

#### Results

There were 44 species of birds identified in the 3 surveys, Table 1. In addition, a ring-necked pheasant was observed on a non-bird survey trip to the plant site. The birds were assigned to foraging guilds, Table 2, including the following:

- 4 species of dabbling water birds,
- 3 species of diving water birds,
- 2 species of granivores/frugivores (seed/fruit eaters),
- 9 species of insectivores.
- 3 species of insectivores/frugivores,
- 5 species of insectivores/granivores,
- 1 species of nectivores,
- 3 types of omnivores,
- 8 species of piscivores,
- 6 species of raptors, and
- 1 scavenger.-

This scheme mixes feeding styles (dabblers and divers) with diet preferences (e.g. insectivores). Insectivores and piscivores are the 2 largest guilds, based on the number of species. Three species had over 50 individuals at any given time: American coot, mallard and tree swallows. The tree swallows were resting and feeding in the bulrush in Little Break. The following species were observed feeding: mallard, great egret, great blue heron, belted kingfisher, killdeer, northern harrier, red-shafted flicker, snowy egret, American coot, common moorhen, cliff swallow, pied-billed grebe, black phoebe, western meadowlark, yellowlegs, dabbling duck species and gull species.

The habitat use observations are summarized as follows:

- 10 species in Central Slough,
- 4 species in the eucalyptus grove,
- 13 species in the grassland, and
- 30 species in Little Break.

Birds were observed feeding, resting, hunting, flying over, perched and one species, the woodpecker was recorded despite only being heard and not seen. The data sheets are included as an appendix. Worthy of note are the muskrat, beaver and 5 river otters observed at the Central Slough.

This was not an exhaustive avian survey. It included only one season of year, however it can be considered as a baseline survey of avian use at the plant during the fall migratory season and demonstrates the diversity of avian use at the site.

### Table 1 Bird Species Observed at the DuPont Oakley Plant

Common Species Name	Latin Species Name	Guilds
Amercian Crow	<del></del>	
<del></del>	Corvus brachyrhynchos	0
American Coot	Fulica americana	D
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	R
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	l/F
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	R
Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	Р
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	Р
Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	1
White-tailed Kite	Elans leucurus	R
Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola	Di
Cliff Swallow	Hirundo pyrrhonota	[
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	Di
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	D
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	
Double-crested Comorant	Phalacrocrax auritus	Р
Eared Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	Di
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri	Р
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	Р
Great Egret	Andea alba	Р
Green Winged Teal	Anas crecca	D
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	1
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius excubitor	R
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	D
Marsh Wren	Cistothorus palustris	I/G
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	G/F
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	R ·
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	I/F
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	0.
Red-shafted Flicker	Colaptes auratus	
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	R
Ring-necked pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	G/F
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula	VF
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubns	N
Savannah or Song Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	
Scrub Jay	Aphelocoma californica	0
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	Ρ
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	I/G
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	1
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	S
Western Meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta	I/G
White-crowned Sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys	I/G
Yellow headed Blackbird	Xanthocephalus xanthocep	1/G
Yellowlegs species	Tringa species	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata	
	·	

Guilds
Dabblers=D
Divers=Di
Granivores/Frugivores=G/F
Insectivores=I
Insectivores/Frugivores=I/F
Insectivores/Granivores=I/G
Nectivores=N
Omnivores=0
Piscivores=P
Raptors=R
Scavangers=S

### Table 2 Bird Species by Foraging Guild

### DABBLERS

American Coot	Fulica americana	
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	
Green Winged Teal	Anas crecca	
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	

#### **DIVERS**

Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula
Eared Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis

#### GRANIVORES/FRUGIVORES

Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura
Ring-necked pheasant	Phasianus colchicus

#### INSECTIVORES

Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans
Cliff Swallow	Hirundo pyrrhonota
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus
Red-shafted Flicker	Colaptes auratus
Savannah or Song Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor
Yellowlegs species	Tringa species
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata

#### INSECTIVORES/FRUGIVORES

American Robin	Turdus migratorius
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula

#### INSECTIVORES/GRANIVORES

Marsh Wren	Cistothorus palustris
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia
Western Meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta
White-crowned Sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys
Yellow headed Blackbird	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

#### **NECTIVORES**

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Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris
proby andated naminingsing	parentoenus colubris
<u> </u>	

#### **OMNIVORES**

Amercian Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos
Gull species	

icrub Jay   A <sub>l</sub>	phelocoma californica

### **PISCIVORES**

Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon
Black crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
Double-crested Comorant	Phalacrocrax auritus
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias
Great Egret	Andea alba
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula

### RAPTORS

American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	
Black shouldered/White tailed Kite	Elans leucurus	
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius excubitor	
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	

### SCAVENGERS

Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura

# Appendix

Bird Survey Field Data Sheets

October 12, 2000 November 9, 2000 November 17, 2000

# DuPont Oakley Avian Survey and Species Database

Date: 10/12/00

Field Personnel: Francesca Demgen, Corinna Lu

Weather: Overcast

Start Time: 9:20am

End Time: 11:15am

Common Species Name	Latin Species Name	No. of Individuals	Behavior	Habitat	Guilds
			<u> </u>	<del>                                     </del>	
Black crowned night heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	3	R	EM	Р
Yellow headed blackbird	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus	17	R	LB ,	I/G
Song sparrow	Melospiza melodia	1	R	EM	I/G
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	66	R	LB	D
Snowy egret	Egretta thula	3	F	LB	Р
Tree swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	90+	F	LB	ı
Cliff swallow	Hirundo pyrrhonota	10	F	LB ,	l.
Double-crested comorant	Phalacrocrax auritus	. 1	R	LB	Р
American coot	Fulica americana	48		LB	D
Great blue heron	Ardea herodias	1	F	LB	Р
Great egret	Andea alba	2	F	LB	Р
Gull species		18	FO	LB+SJR	0
Dabbling duck species		25	F	LB	D
Pied-billed grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	7	F	LB	Р
American crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	4	FO	LB	0
Marsh wren	Cistothorus palustris	1	НО	SJR	I/G
Red-tailed hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	1	R	LB trees	R
Yellowlegs species	Tringa species	1	F	LB	1
Belled kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	1	F	LB	Р
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	2	F	LB	1
Common moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	2	F	LB	D

Behavior
F= feeding
FO = flying over
R = resting
C = courtship
HO = heard only
P = perched
H = hunting
Habitat
G = grassland/upland
LB = aquatic/mudflat in Little
EM = emergent marsh
CS = Central Slough
SJR = San Joaquin River
Euc. = eucalyptus grove
W = willow
RPA= Red Pipe Area
PG=Paved Grass

<u> </u>
Guilds
Dabblers=D
Divers=Di
Granivores/Frugivores=G/F
Insectivores=I
Insectivores/Frugivores=I/F
Insectivores/Granivores=I/g
Nectivores=N
Omnivores=O
Piscivores=P
Raptors=R
Scavangers=S

#### DuPont Oakley Avian Survey and Species Database

Date: 10/12/00

Field Personnel: Francesca Demgen, Corinna. Lu

Weather: Partly Cloudy

Start Time: 12:10pm

End Time: 1:30pm

Common Species Name	Latin Species Name	No. of Individuals	Behavior	Habitat	Guilds
Mourning dove	Zenaida macroura	21	R	CS	G/F
American crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	2	FO	G	0
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	15.	C.	CS	D
Pied-billed grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	2	F	CS	Ра
White-crowned sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys	1	R	CS/EM	I/G
Western meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta	10	F	G	I/G
Northern harrier	Circus cyaneus	1	Н	G	R
Loggerhead shrike	Lanius excubitor	1	Н	G	R
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	7	F	Channel	D
Scrub jay	Aphelocoma californica	2	Р	G	0
Yellow-rumped warbler	Dendroica coronata	4	Р	Euc. Grove	1
Red-shafted flicker	Colaptes auratus	1	F	Euc. Grove	1
American kestrel	Falco sparverius	2	Р	Euc. Grove	R

Guilds	٦
Dabblers=D	
Divers=Di	
Granivores/Frugivores=	=Ġ≀
Insectivores=I	
Insectivores/Frugivores	;=1/
Insectivores/Granivores	s=1.
Nectivores=N	1

Omnivores=O Piscivores=P Raptors=R Scavangers=S

F= feeding
FO = flying over
R = resting
C = courtship
HO = heard only
P = perched
H = hunting

Behavior

Habitat
G = grassland/upland
LB=Little Break
EM = emergent marsh
CS = Central Slough
SJR = San Joaquin River's
edge/intertidal
Euc. = eucalyptus grove
W = willòw
RPA= Red Pipe Area
PG=Paved Grass

### DuPont Oakley Avian Survey and Species Database

Date: 11/09/00

Field Personnel: Francesca Demgen, Corinna Lu

Weather: Clear Cold/5-10mph Winds

Start Time: 8:30am

End Time: 9:50am

Common Species Name	Latin Species Name	No. of	Behavior	Habitat	Guilds
		Individuals			
Great blue heron	Ardea herodias	1 1	nesting	Willow tree on Levee	Р
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos (	10	R	LB	D
Black crowned night heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	3	FO	OW/LB	Р
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	28	FO	LB	D .
Gull species		4	FO&R	LB	0
Dabbling duck species		7	FO	LB	D
Great Egret	Andea alba	1	R	LB	P
Dabbling duck species		16	R	LB	D
Black phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	1	F	LB	1
Pied-billed grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	10	R	LB	Р
Snowy egret	Egretta thula	1	F	LB	Р
American coot	Fulica americana	181	F	LB	D
Medium shorebird species		2	FO	LB	1
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	25	FO	LB	D
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	3	R	LB	D
Forster's tern	Sterna forsteri	7	FO	LB	Р
Amercan crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	2	FO	LB	0
Dabbling duck species		30	F	LB	D
Tree swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	3	FO	LB	1
Barn owl	Tyto alba	1	Р	LB levee	R
Belted kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	1	F	LB/BB/levee	P

Behavior
F= feeding
FO = flying over
R = resting
C = courtship
HO = heard only
P = perched
H = hunting

Habitat	
EB_ard&SasyAnglandu Fittle	3
Break	
EM = emergent marsh	
CS = Central Slough	
SJR = San Joaquin River's	
Euc. = eucalyptus grove	
W = willow	
RPA= Red Pipe Area	
PG=Paved Grass	

Guilds
Dabblers=D
Divers=Di
Granivores/Frugivores=G/F
Insectivores=I
Insectivores/Frugivores=I/F
Insectivores/Granivores=I/g
Nectivores=N
Omnivores=O
Piscivores=P
Raptors=R

### Dupont Oakley Avian Survey aird Species Database

Date: 11/09/00

Field Personnel: Francesca Demgen, Corinna Lu

Weather: Clear Windy

Start Time: 10:15am

End Time: 9: 11:00AM

Common Species Name	Latin Species Name	No. of	Behavior	Habitat	Guilds
		Individuals			
American kestrel	Falco sparverius	2	H	Ģ	R
Red-tailed hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	1	Н	G	R
Common snipe	Gallinago gallinago	9	FO	G	1
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	21	R	CS	D
Northern harrier	Circus cyaneus	1	Н	G	R
Great blue heron	Andea herodias	1	F.	CS	Р
Western meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta	2	R	CS	I/G
Westerm meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta	12	R	G	I/G
Northern mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	1	R	G	I/F
Savannah or Song sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	8	R	G	11
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	2	FO	G	1
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	2	FO	cs	D
White tailed kite	Elanus leucurus	1	Р	G	R
Loggerhead shrike	Lanius Iudovicianus	1	Р	G	R
Red-shafted flicker	Colaptes auratus	1	F	G	ı
Woodpecker species	(heard pecking)	1	НО	Evcs	1

Behavior
F= feeding
FO = flying over
R = resting
C = courtship
HO = heard only
P = perched
H = hunting

_	
	Habitat
	G = grassland/upland
	Little Break
	EM = emergent marsh
1	CS = Central Slough
1	SJR = San Joaquin River's
	Euc. = eµcalyptus grove
,	VV = willow
	RPA= Red Pipe Area
	PG=Paved Grass

Guilds
Dabblers=D
Divers=Di
Granivores/Frugivores=G/F
Insectivores=I/F
Insectivores/Frugivores=I/F
Insectivores/Granivores=I/g
Nectivores=N
Omnivores=O
Piscivores=R
Raptors=R

### DuPont Oakley Avian Survey bird Species Database

Date: 11/17/00

Field Personnel: Francesca Demgen, Corinna Lu

Weather: Clear, cold

Start Time: 8:20am

End Time: 9:55am

Common Species Name	Latin Species Name	No. of Individuals	Behavior	Habitat	Guilds
Great blue heron	Andea herodias	1	Р		Р
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	2	FO	LB	D .
Green-winged teal	Anas crecca	4	R	LB	D
Amercian coot	Fulica americana	298	R;F	LB	0
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	7	R	LB	D
Eared grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	10			Di
Black crowned night heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	1	Р	LB/EM	P
Pied-billed grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	7	R	LB	P
Common goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	12	R	LB	Di
Common moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	13	FO	LB	D
Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola	8	R	LB	Di
Double-crested cormorant	Phalacroxorax auritus	5	FO	LB	Р
Gull species		8	F	LB	0
American kestrel	Falco sparverius	1	, FO	LB	R
Black phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	. 1	FO	LB	1
Double-crested cormorant	Phalacroxorax auritus	. 1	P(on log)	LB	Р
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	1	F	LB	R
Great blue heron	Andea herodias	1	Ρ	EM	P :
Black crowned night heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	1	FO	LB	P ,
Red-tailed hawk	Buteo jamaicenisis	1	Н	LB/SJR levee	R

Behavior
F= feeding
FO = flying over
R = resting
C = courtship
HO = heard only
P = perched
H = hunting

	Habitat
	G = grassland/upland
	LB = aquatic/mudflat in Little
	Break
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	edge/intertidat .
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Guilds
Dabblers=D
Divers=Di
Granivores/Frugivores=G/F
Insectivores=I
Insectivores/Frugivores=I/F
Insectivores/Granivores=I/g
Nectivores=N
Omnivores=O
Piscivores=P

## DuPont Oakley Avian Survey dird Species Database

Date: 11/17/00

Field Personnel: Francesca Demgen, Corinna Lu

Weather: Clear, cool, sunny almost no wind

Start Time: 10:15am

End Time: 11:55am

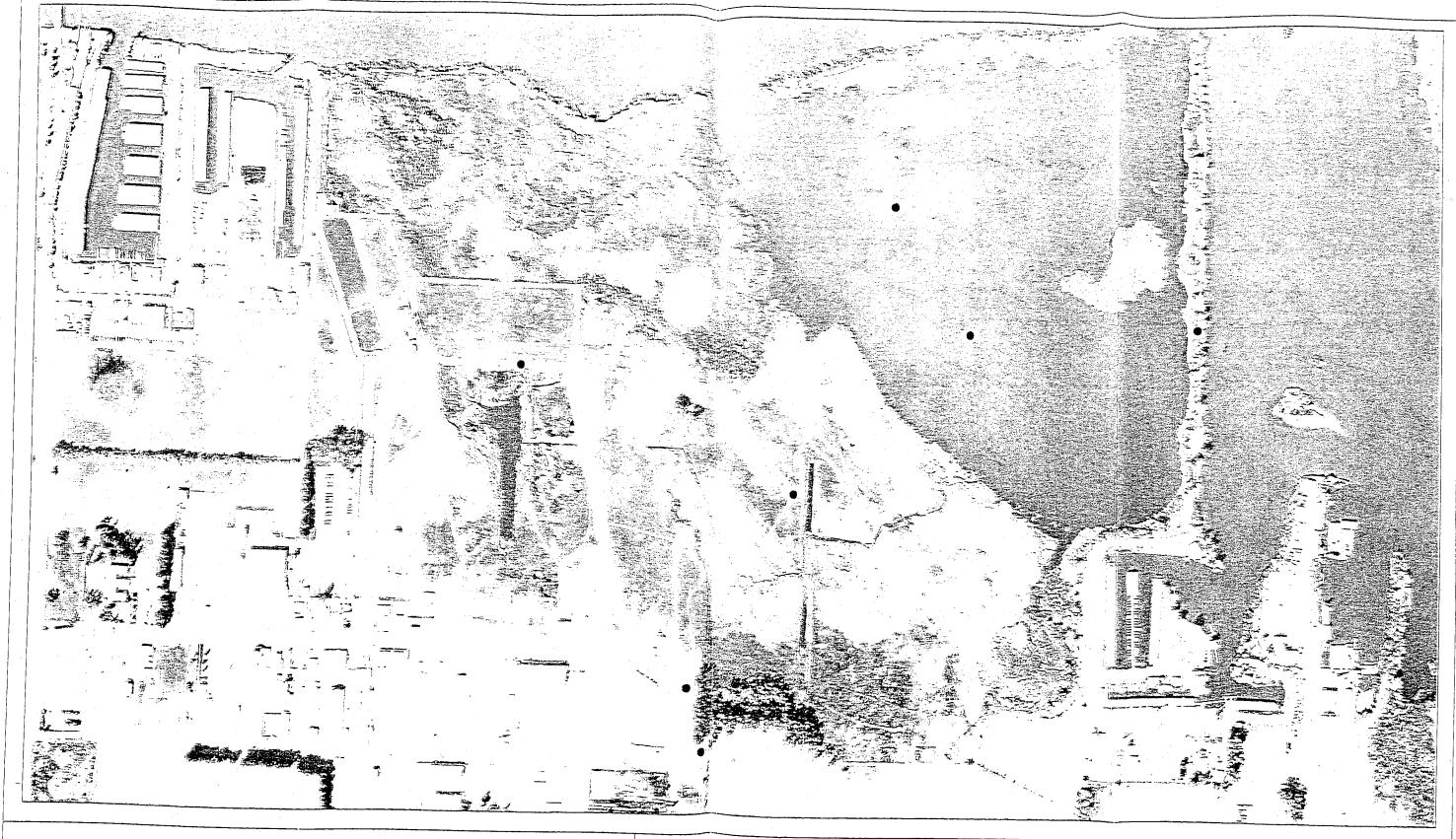
Common Species Name	Latin Species Name	No. of	Behavior	Habitat	Guilds
		Individuals			
NorthernMockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	2	Р	G	1/F
White tailed kite	Elans leucurus	1	H	G	R
Red-tailed hawk	Buteo jámaicenisis	1	FO .	G	R
Great blue heron	Andea herodias	1	R	CS	P
Mourning dove	Zenaida macroura	· 1	Р	G	G/F
Turkey vulture	Cathartes aura	1	Н	CS	S
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	15	FO	G	
Ruby-crowned kinglet	Regulus calendula	1	Р	G	I/F
Common snipe	Gallinago gallinago	9	R	cs	-
Pied-billed grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	2	F	CS	P
Mallard	Anas plathrhynchos	14	F	CS	D
Amercian Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	1	НО	G	0
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	2	F	CS	
Black phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	1	Р	CS	
Great blue heron	Andea herodias	3	Р	LB/G	P
Western scrub jay	Aphelocoma californica	1	Р	RPA/W	0
Ruby-throated hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	1	Р	w	- N
Red-shafted flicker	Colaptes auratus	1	Р	W	<del>-  </del>
Yellow-rumped warbler	Dendroica coronata	>10*	F	W	
American robin	Turdus migratorius	1	Р	W	: I/F
White-crowned sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys	14	Р	PG	· I/G

<sup>\*</sup> The warblers were hidden in the tree branches.

Behavior
F= feeding
FO = flying over
R = resting
C = courtship
HO = heard only
P = perched
H = hunting

Habitat
CD - gaqeelmon/welmondn Little
Break
EM = emergent marsh
CS = Central Slough
edge/intertidal
Euc. = eucalyptus grove
W = willow
RPA= Red Pipe Area
PG=Paved Grass

Guilds
Dabblers=D
Divers=Di
Granivores/Frugivores=G/F
nsectivores=I
nsectivores/Frugivores=I/F
nsectivores/Granivores=I/g
Nectivores=N
Omnivores=O
Piscivores=P
Raptors=R
Scavangers=S



LEGEND

• - Survey Location Points

1:5000

URS

DuPont Oakley Bird Surveys

Project No. 40-D6AN4228.2K

Survey Locations

Figure