



Fresno Audubon Society San Joaquin River Restoration Area Bird Surveys

Fresno Audubon Society (FAS) has teamed with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust to survey birds that are using the areas along the San Joaquin River (SJR) that are being restored with native vegetation. FAS has an executed agreement with the San Joaquin River Conservancy that allows our members access to any restricted areas along river for this project.

A committee of FAS members has been designing the protocol for the surveys. Our overarching goals were to 1) create a survey that can be easily repeated by citizen scientists and 2) provides useful data in an accessible database.

For now, we are focused on two areas: the Jensen River Ranch area below Woodward Park and the River West Open Space Area below Riverview Drive. We expect to expand the surveys to other restoration areas as there are a total of seven areas now undergoing restoration.

The surveys will use eBird for data storage. We will perform transect (traveling) surveys using a route that circumscribes the restoration areas. Maps of the areas are attached.

Protocol

1. Surveys shall be performed at least once per month, and must be started within one hour of sunrise and completed within four hours following sunrise.
2. A single surveyor may complete the survey alone, but a small group is preferred.
3. All members of the survey group shall look for birds, but only one member shall record the data in eBird.
4. The mobile eBird app is recommended for data collection, but data may be collected by other apps as long as they are entered into eBird at the end of the survey.
5. We will perform traveling surveys.
6. Surveyors will count all birds within the survey area. Birds flying overhead should be counted, but birds flying outside the silo of the area should not be counted. A map of the survey area is attached for reference.
7. Surveyors will make every effort to count all birds within the area or flying over the area, trying not count any birds twice.
8. After the survey is completed the data collector shall submit the counts to eBird as a Traveling Survey using the associated hotspot for the area (either "Jensen River Ranch" or "River West Open Space Area").
9. In the comment field of the checklist, enter "FAS_SJR_Survey" to make it easier to search for survey checklists in eBird.
10. Share the submitted checklist with others in the party, but also with the Fresno Audubon Society eBird account: fassjrsurvey@fresnoaudubon.org. This way FAS will have a copy of all checklists submitted for this project making it easier to compare surveys and produce reports on the project.



