

Appendix C-2  
Nesting Bird Survey



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Rincon Project Number: 14-00929

Glassell Park, LLC

Attn: Nancy Johns

23622 Calabasas Road, Suite 220

Calabasas, California 91302

Via Email: [wildflowerdevelopment@yahoo.com](mailto:wildflowerdevelopment@yahoo.com)

**Subject: Nesting Bird Survey for the Haverhill-Glassell Park Project, Los Angeles, California**

Dear Ms. Johns,

This report documents the findings of a nesting bird survey conducted by Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) for the Haverhill-Glassell Park Project (project) located in the City of Los Angeles (City), California. The purpose of this report is to determine the presence/absence of nesting birds on or in the vicinity of the project site prior to annual brush clearance activities. The survey was conducted to ensure project compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and California Fish and Game (CFG) Code §3503.

## **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The approximate 5-acre project site occurs within northeast Los Angeles, which is bordered to the north by the cities of Glendale and Pasadena, to the south by downtown Los Angeles, to the west by the Los Angeles River, and to the east by several cities of the San Gabriel Valley. Specifically, the project site is located in the neighborhood of Glassell Park east and north of Division Street at the southern terminus of Haverhill Drive, Sundown Drive, and Brilliant Drive. The site is depicted in Sections 2 and 3, Township 1 South, Range 13 West of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) *Los Angeles, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

The proposed project site encompasses 32 vacant parcels proposed for single-family residential development. Adjacent land uses include residential development on all sides. The site is currently undeveloped.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The nesting bird survey was conducted by Rincon biologist Lindsay Griffin on April 24, 2015, between 0800 and 1200 hours. The survey area included the vegetation within



the proposed project boundary, and a buffer of up to 300 feet for native birds and 500 feet for raptor species, where appropriate. The biologists made observations from the ground, surveying for existing nests and breeding/nesting behavior such as courtship displays, copulation, vegetation or food carries, presence of fledglings, and territorial displays (e.g. singing or aggression). Where nests or young were suspected, physical inspection of the shrub, tree, or ground were conducted to confirm presence or absence of nests or birds. Binoculars (10 x 42) were used to aid in the identification of observed birds.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Weather conditions during the surveys were overcast, with temperatures ranging between approximately 59 and 62 degrees Fahrenheit, with 90% cloud cover or less, and winds of 3 to 5 miles per hour or less.

Avian species observed/detected on or in the vicinity of the project site during the nesting survey are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Avian Species Observed During Nesting Survey**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Behavior/Comments
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning dove	Two adults perched on an overhead wire west of Haverhill Drive. No nests or nesting behavior observed.
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird	Several adults observed flying around the project site and adjacent hillsides. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Allen's hummingbird	Several adults observed flying around the project site, in between walnut trees. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	Western scrub-jay	One adult observed perched in an oak tree onsite. The individual flew out of view. Several other individuals heard calling from adjacent trees within the project site. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow	Several individuals observed flying overhead. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree swallow	Several individuals observed flying overhead. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Wrentit	Several individuals were visually detected foraging in vegetation onsite. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.



Scientific Name	Common Name	Behavior/Comments
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern mockingbird	Five individuals were visually detected foraging and perching on ornamental trees on adjacent private properties. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped warbler	Two individuals were visually detected in ornamental trees on adjacent private properties. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	Western tanager	One individual detected in a large walnut tree east of Brilliant Drive. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	Black-headed grosbeak	One male was visually detected foraging in an ornamental tree south of the end of Haverhill Drive (paved road). No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	California towhee	Ten to fifteen individuals were seen foraging on the ground in the brush and vegetation at various locations surrounding the project site. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song sparrow	Several individuals were visually detected in walnut trees onsite and in shrubs and ornamental trees on adjacent private properties. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	House finch	Several individuals were visually detected foraging in brush and native trees onsite. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	Lesser goldfinch	Two individuals were visually detected flying overhead toward an ornamental tree on adjacent private property. No nests or nesting behavior were observed.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall avian activity was relatively moderate during the nesting survey and common species expected to occur in suburban areas were observed. Three nest structures were observed within the 300 foot buffer in eucalyptus and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees bordering the project site. The biologist determined that all stick nests observed were inactive. Based on the vegetation communities present (grassland, open canopy walnut woodland), and the species observed, it is likely that birds may prefer to nest in surrounding landscape trees on adjacent private property, given the species' nesting requirements. Routine brush clearance activities are not expected to impact the trees on private property.



No sign of breeding/nesting behavior (e.g., courtship displays, copulation, vegetation or food carries, territorial displays including singing or aggression, etc.) was observed within the project site or buffer area. The potential for birds to initiate a nest remains until the end of the breeding season. If brush clearance activities are delayed or continue beyond a two-week timeframe, additional surveys are recommended to confirm the absence of nesting birds. Rincon will be able to provide additional surveys to ensure compliance with the MBTA if needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Glassell Park, LLC with this important project. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

Sincerely,  
**RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.**

Lindsay D. Griffin  
Biologist/Project Manager

Steven J. Hongola  
Biological Program Manager