



Breeding Burrowing Owl Survey for California

SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER

FINAL SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

It required literally thousands of volunteer hours, but you did it! During the 2006 and 2007 breeding seasons, 396 volunteer surveyors contributed their time and effort to **The Institute for Bird Populations'** California Burrowing Owl survey, bringing the total number of 5km x 5km survey blocks visited to 860! We at IBP are very pleased with these results, and extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated.

The table at the right provides some summary results. As expected, the highest concentrations of Burrowing Owls occurred in the Imperial Valley and Southern Central Valley regions; perhaps more surprising was the relatively large number of owls in the Western Mojave region, particularly around Antelope Valley. More disappointing were the results from the Bay Area Interior region (112 pairs counted, down substantially from our count in the early 1990s) and the Modoc Plateau/Great Basin region, where we were unable to find *any* Burrowing Owls. Note that the numbers presented here

Survey Region	No. of Blocks Surveyed (2006-2007)	Pairs of Burrowing Owls Detected
Bay Area Interior	89	112
Middle Central Valley	200	382
Northern Central Valley	48	10
Southern Central Valley	164	236
Central-western Interior	44	21
Southwestern Interior	68	150
Coachella Valley	20	49
Imperial Valley	15	521
Eastern Mojave	46	1
Western Mojave	67	94
Northern Mojave/ Eastern Sierra Nevada	38	1
Sonoran Desert	46	179
Modoc Plateau/ Great Basin	15	0
Total	860	1,756

are the actual numbers of owl pairs counted in each region, pooling results across both random and historical 'owl' blocks. We are now using statistical techniques to estimate regional population sizes based on these survey counts, and to compare the new regional and statewide estimates with results from our similar survey in the early 1990s.

Preliminary results suggest that Burrowing Owl distribution across the state may have contracted slightly since the early 1990s, particularly in the northern half of the state. Abundance appears to have declined slightly in many regions, though observed declines generally do not reach the threshold of statistical significance. Burrowing Owl numbers in a couple of metropolitan areas, particularly the San Francisco Bay Area and Bakersfield, have dropped substantially since the early 1990s. However, one bright spot is the Coachella Valley, where we detected no Burrowing Owls in the early 1990s, but where 49 pairs were observed during 2006-2007—many on the same individual census blocks that were found not to have owls in the 1990s.



Photo by Dave Herr

Recent, current and future activities...

Since the 2007 field season, IBP Biologist Bob Wilkerson has presented our preliminary results at two statewide meetings: a joint meeting of the California Burrowing Owl Consortium (CBOC) and California Partners in Flight in Davis, and another CBOC meeting in Brawley. More recently we have begun work on our Final Report to our funders (including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the California Department of Fish and Game) as well as a manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal. We also intend to post detailed results on our website (www.birdpop.org).

Finally, many survey volunteers have asked about opportunities to participate in Burrowing Owl monitoring during 2008 and future years. We are grateful to everyone who has expressed interest. Although we think California's Burrowing Owls would be well-served by a long-term, volunteer-based monitoring program, we have not yet succeeded in securing funding to coordinate such an effort. Should funding become available in the future, we hope many of our 2006-2007 surveyors will heed the call to participate!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT!

The following individuals served as volunteer coordinators for their county or area in 2006, in 2007, or in both years: Marie Barrett, Rich Cimino, Chris Conard, Jeff Davis, Jimm Edgar, Mike Fisher, Dawn Garcia, Dan Guthrie, Darrell Hutchinson, Cheryl Johnson, Robin Leong, Krista Maney, Jessica Martini, Catherine Portman, Tom Ryan, Debra Shearwater, Ginny Short, Ian Taylor, Ruth Troetschler, Dave Wagner, and Carie Wingert.

The following individuals participated in censusing one or more survey blocks during either or both of the two survey years: Jennifer Albright, Chris Alderete, Diana Alleman, Lisa Allen, Russell Almaraz, Jerry W. Ambrose, Mary Ann Ambrose, Sundeep Amin, Chloe Anderson, Simon Avery, Joellyn Avery, Patricia Bacchetti, Jason Bachiero, Valerie Baldwin, Jack Barclay, Marie Barrett, Margaret Barson, Peggy Bartels, Candice Basham, Jeff Beauchamp, David Bell, Joyce Bender, Judy Bendix, Debbie Benham, Vern Benhart, Nicola Bennert, Josh Bennett, Murray Berner, Linda Bernhart, Milton Blatt, Diane Bodwin, Anita K. Booth, Brian Botham, Dawn Bradley, Steve Brady, Tricia Bratcher, Theresa Brennan, Craig Breon, Beverly Brock, Charles R.

Brown, Philip Brown, Debbi Brusco, Julie Bryson, Virginia Buchholz, Maureen Buffington Santo, Cheri Buskirk, Dotty Calabrese, Karlene Campo, David Carr, David W. Carr, Chuck Carroll, Randi Cassellius, Joyce Chang, Tony Chapelle, Sophie Chiang, David Chilton, Kirsten Christopherson, Jeff Church, Rich

...Burrowing Owl Survey Hall of Fame...

Who found the greatest number of Burrowing Owls on a single block in 2007?

Bruce Wilcox, with 52 pairs on block # 3650-645 in the Imperial Valley

Cimino, Mareyn Clements, Richard Clements, Neil Clipperton, Wendy Cole, Barbara Coley, Roger Coley, James M. Collier, Judith A Collier, Chris Conard, David Cook, Mary Coolidge, Daniel S. Cooper, Curt Cotner, Erica Craven, Anne Crealock, Lori Cuesta, Cindy Curtis, Ken

Curtis, Kirsten Dahl, Virginia L. Dallas-Dull, Ilma Dancourt, Larry Davidson, Jeff N. Davis, Karen DeMello, Susan Dieterich, Joan Dodson, Jim Dodson, Jed Douglas, Peter Drumer, Doug Drynan, Jim Dunn, Natasha Dvorak, R. Eckland, Jimm Edgar, Arthur L. Edwards, Linda Edwards, Lorna Elness, Mark Elness, Madi Elsea, Kevin Enus-Rempel, Laura Erickson, Janeann Erickson, Jake Estis, Mary Fajekers, Jonathan Feenstra, Stacey Feigeikonwiesr, Hank Feilen, Jane Fielder, Megan Fisher, Mike Fisher, Tim Fitzer, Kasey Foley, Joel Forty, Bennie Fouch, Scott Frazer, Linda Freeman, Mary Freeman, Nick Freeman, Parker Fritch, Lillian Fuji, Harold Fukuma, Barry Furst, Dawn Garcia, Melisa Garcia, Maureen Geiger, Harriet Gerson, Brian Gibson, Neil Gilbert, Steven Glover, Dave Goodward, David Goodward, Debbie Green, John F. Green, Richard Greene, Linda Greene, Christina Greutink, Dan Guthrie, Samantha Hafter, Portia Halbert, Catherine Halley, Devon Hammond, Lindsay Harman, Kristey Harrington, Carmen Hashagen, Ken Hashagen, Cole Hawkins, Priscilla Hawkins, Steve Hayashi, Ursula Heffernon, Lynn Hemink, J. Herman, Philip Higgins, Jon Hilbert, Carolyn Hinshaw, Allan Hollander, Lindsay Holt, Amber Holt, Kathryn Hood, Scott Huber, Liam Huber, Sherry Hudson, Bobby Huss, Darrell Hutchinson, Meighan Jackson, Sue James, Tim Jenkins, Phil Johnson, Vernon Johnson, Dave Johnston, Jennifer Jones, Douglas Joo, Linda Jordan, Corey Kaleshnik, Ginny Kaminski, Jerry Kaminski, Martin Karsch, M. Karsch, Lola Kashyap, Maral Kasparian, Guy Kay,

**...Burrowing Owl Survey Hall of Fame...
Top Ten Block Surveyors for 2007**

Name	Blocks Surveyed
Crispin Rendon	9
Bill Lydecker	7
Mike Fisher	6
John Luther and Susanne Methvin	6
Darrell Hutchinson	6
Chris Conard and Kimya Lambert	5
Dan Guthrie	5
Pam Williams	4
Ginny Short	4
Russell Almaraz	4

David Keeling, Elena Keeling, Mary Keitelman, Lazan Keitelman, Ruth Kennedy, Stephen King, Judy Klink, Oliver Klink, Joanna Koob, Eva Kristofik, Nathan Krumm, Tim LaFlame, Kimya Lambert, Aleatha W. Landry, Steve Laymon, Cathie LaZier, Amanda LeClerc, Rod Lee, Sara Lee, Lora Leerskov, Robin Leong, John Lewis, Phyllis Lindley, Inna Litvin, Ivette Loreda, Kent D. Lou, Calvin D. Lou, Raymond Lukens, John Luther, Bill Lydecker, Greta Lydecker, Sarah Lydecker, Betty MacDonald, John MacDonald, Chris Macintosh, Jeanne Macneil, Shelly Magier, Ernie Maier, Colleen Martin, Cheryl McCloskey, Tim McClung, Kally McCormick, Walter J. McInnis, Gregory Meissner, Mary Beth Metcalf, Susanne Methvin, Jay Milee, Ashley Miller, Mel Miller, Karen Mitchell, Allison Mohoric, Richard Montijo, Alan Moore, Kris Moore, Richard

Moore, Nancy Mori, Suzanne Morron, Gerald Mugele, Jerre Murphy, Gordon Murphy, Sue Murphy, Ted Murphy, Jean Myers, George Nash, Kelley Nelson, Nancy Nelson, Wallace Neville, Renee New, Maggie Nunes, Michelle Ocken, D. O'Keefe, Rodney Olsen, Jennifer O'neal, Regena Orr, William Orr, Ed Pandolfino, Becky Parsons, Kay Partelow, Warren Patten, Jennifer Patten, Janna Pauser, Mark Paxton, Fraser Pembeiton, Barbara Pendergrass, David Perrin, Sarah Perrin, Marilynn Perry, Dawn Peterka, Paula Peterson, Randall Peterson, Susan Peterson, Carole Petrash, Shawn Petrash, David G. Philled, Sarah Pitzer, Ken Poerner, Kathy Porter, Marian Porter, Catherine Portman, Bob Power, Ted Raczek, Corina Rahmig, Troy Rahmig, Siddharthan Ramachandramurthi, Art Ramirez, George Rawley, Tricia Reed, Crispin Rendon, Virginia Rhodas, Michael Richard, Bob Richmond, Mike Richter, Matt Ritchie, Michael Robertson, Caroline Rodgers, Tobias Rohmer, Ann Romer, Sarah Ross, Patricia Rouzer, Jim Rowoth, Suzanne Ruckle, Tim Ruckle Jr., Tim Ruckle Sr., Ruth Rudesill, Michael Ruffino, Heather Ryan, Jeff Ryan, Thomas Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Donna Sadowy, Nancy Sage, John Santo, Fran Scarlett, Diana Scheel, Lexie Scheel, John Schick, Paul Schorr, Nancy Schorr, Mauricio Schrader, Steve Schwartz, Katie Schwartz, Steve Scott, Jeff Seav, Norman Self, Tracey Sharp, Kathy Sharum, Jackson Shedd, Kathy Shick, Robert Shields, Carolyn Short, Ginny Short, Rodney Siegel, Matthew Simes, Mike Skram, Dale M. Smith, Greg Smith, Michael W. Smith, Curtis Snyder, Tate Snyder, Susan Stanton, Jim Steinert, Sarah Stier, Steve Stocking, Mike Stockton, Brad Stovall, Bruce Strang, Nancy Strang, Linda Swanson, Dan Tankersley, Ian Taylor, Lynn R Thomas, Jennifer Thompson, Christine Tischen, Christine Tisher, Gene Troetschler, Ruth Troetschler, Jeff Trow, Lisa Twiford, Linda Vallee, Ann Verdi, Chuck Verturri, Chantal Villeneuve, Jamie Visinoni, Jim Waddell, Lisa Wadley, Dave Wagner, Annette Waite, Lucy Waite, Zach Wallace, Dee Warenycia, Dean Webb, Daniela Wersin, Kimberly West, Liz West, V. Wheeler, Jonathan Widdicombe, Bruce Wilcox, Bob Wilkerson, Anne Williams, Dan Williams, James Williams, M. Williams, Pam Williams, Bruce Williford, Michael Wilson, Carrie Wingert, Gary Woods, Aaron Works, Lois Wren, Rick Wulbern, Faith Yamane, Chad Young, Ryan Young, and Bill Zachman.

*** Please let us know if your name is missing from this list!***



The Proceedings of the 2003 California Burrowing Owl Symposium, including 20 scientific papers about Burrowing Owls in California, have been published as Bird Populations Monograph No. 1 by The Institute for Bird Populations and Albion Environmental. To learn more about the monograph or to purchase a copy, please visit:

<http://www.albionenvironmental.com/>



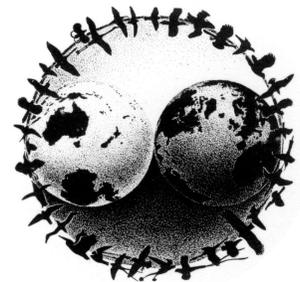
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