

**2004 AVIAN SURVEYS OF CIENEGA CREEK NATURAL  
PRESERVE,  
PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Prepared by  
Kenneth J. Kingsley, Ph.D.  
646 N Hayden Drive  
Tucson, AZ 85710  
520.870.8766

Prepared for

Pima County Flood Control District  
201 North Stone  
Tucson, AZ 85701 and

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation  
3500 W. River Road  
Tucson, AZ 85741

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## Introduction

This study was conducted as a volunteer project under Permit No. 010703A. It began with the intention of locating raptor nests within Cienega Creek County Park in 2004. It became apparent early in this study that it was not practical to cover the entire reach of the park on a regular basis, and that raptor nests were rare. Therefore, the study purpose evolved to become a general bird survey of short reaches of the park over repeated visits to the same reaches, combined with recording locations and other information on raptors and raptor nests observed.

## Methods

The study team consisted of two observers, Kenneth J. Kingsley and Amy J. Gaiennie. Other people accompanied us on several trips. The itinerary and members of the field party are listed in Table 1. Reaches are identified in Figure 1.

Date	Reach	Personnel
19 January	2	K.J. Kingsley and A.J. Gaiennie
2 May	2	K.J. Kingsley and A.J. Gaiennie
13 June	2	K.J. Kingsley and A.J. Gaiennie
4 July	2	K.J. Kingsley and A.J. Gaiennie
6 August	2	K.J. Kingsley and A.J. Gaiennie
8 August	3	.J. Kingsley, A.J. Gaiennie, D. Turner, J. Fonseca
15 August	1	K.J. Kingsley, A.J. Gaiennie, R. Llewellyn, S. Zender
12 September	2	K.J. Kingsley
25 September	3	K.J. Kingsley and A.J. Gaiennie
30 October	1	K.J. Kingsley, A.J. Gaiennie, L. Liberti, M. Liberti

Consistent records of all birds observed by sight or sound were kept for all trips beginning with the 2 May trip. Observers walked along the creek bed, close to or in the water, and attempted to identify all birds detected to species. Raptor observations including nests were noted and UTM locations on nests found were recorded. On field trips in July and August, a tape-recorded locator call of a yellow-billed cuckoo was played in patches deemed likely to be suitable habitat for this species to elicit responses

## Results

The list of species observed on each date is presented in Table 2. Raptor observations are indicated on Figure 1.

Table 1. Birds Observed at Cienega Creek Preserve, 2004

Species	Date							
	2-May	13-Jun	4-Jul	6-Aug	8-Aug	15-Aug	12-Sep	30-Oct
Mallard				X				
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cooper's Hawk		X					X	X
Red-tailed Hawk					X			X
Ferruginous Hawk	X							
Gray Hawk			X	X	X	X		
Swainson's Hawk								
Rough-legged Hawk								
American Kestrel			X			X		
Gambel's Quail		X	X					X
White-winged Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Inca Dove								
Common Ground Dove		X	X	X	X			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		X	X					
Greater Roadrunner			X					X
Barn Owl					X	X		
Western Screech Owl								
Great Horned Owl							X	
Lesser Nighthawk		X	X				X	
White-throated Swift								
Black-chinned Hummingbird		X	X					
Anna's Hummingbird	X							
Gila Woodpecker		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	X	X	X	X		X		X
Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	X							
Western Wood-Pewee	X			X		X		
Black Phoebe		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Say's Phoebe								X
Vermilion Flycatcher	X		X					
Ash-throated Flycatcher	X	X	X	X				
Brown-crested Flycatcher	X			X				
Cassin's Kingbird			X					
Western Kingbird		X	X					
Violet-green Swallow								
N. Rough-winged Swallow	X	X				X		X
Purple Martin		X	X	X		X		
Barn Swallow								
Chihuahuan Raven	X							
Common Raven						X		X

Table 1. Birds Observed at Cienega Creek Preserve, 2004 continued

Species	Date							
	2-May	13-Jun	4-Jul	6-Aug	8-Aug	15-Aug	12-Sep	30-Oct
Bridled Titmouse								
Verdin	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
White-breasted Nuthatch								
Cactus Wren				X				
Rock Wren								X
Canyon Wren						X		
Bewick's Wren	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								X
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher						X		X
Northern Mockingbird		X	X	X				
Curve-billed Thrasher		X	X			X		X
Phainopepla	X		X					
Loggerhead Shrike						X		
Bell's Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Plumbeous vireo								
Lucy's Warbler	X	X	X					
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-throated gray warbler								X
Yellow-rumped Warbler				X				X
Common Yellowthroat		X	X		X			
Wilson's Warbler								X
Yellow-breasted Chat	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Summer Tanager	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Western Tanager					X	X		
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X		X	X		
Pyrrhuloxia		X				X		
Black-headed Grosbeak		X						
Blue Grosbeak		X	X	X		X		
Abert's Towhee	X	X	X			X	X	X
Canyon towhee								X
Chipping Sparrow								
Lark Sparrow	X							
Black-throated Sparrow								
Song Sparrow			X					
Brown-headed Cowbird	X		X					
Hooded Oriole			X					
House Finch	X	X	X	X		X		X
Lesser Goldfinch	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<b>TOTAL SPECIES OBSERVED</b>	28	33	30	25	17	28	14	23

## Observations of Interest

Where numbers are presented, these refer to map points

001 Cooper's Hawk observed in area, in tree, calling and flew away, 19 January 2004. Yellow-billed cuckoo heard, 13 June

002 Ferruginous Hawk flying over. 2 May 2004.

003 Yellow-billed cuckoo heard, 13 June

004 Cooper's Hawk observed flying over, 13 June

005 Gray Hawk Nest with two well-developed young, 4 July

006 Purple Martin colony nesting in saguaro, 4 July

On 5 August a flood occurred, with a peak of 3,890 cubic feet per second at 20:45 hours. We visited the preserve and hiked along Reach 2 beginning at 08:00 hours on 6 August. There was very little bird activity. Flood debris reached a height of 10 feet in some places along the creek. There was a fresh debris line, and abundant evidence that vegetation, including trees and shrubs along the creek had been inundated. Little vegetation was lost to flooding, most just laid down then came back up. Fish were uncommon to rare within the reach surveyed, where they had been abundant on 4 July. The Gray Hawks observed on 4 July had fledged and were heard calling in the general vicinity of the nest. Both adults were present and agitated.

007 Red-tailed Hawk Nest in saguaro on ridge above stream. Adult present and on nest, 8 August

008 Active Gray Hawk nest with two adults very active and making defense calls, 8 August

009 Barn Owl on cliff, 8 August

010 Desert Box Turtle observed in mesquite bosque, 8 August

011 Two Gray Hawks in area, acting defensive, but no nest was found, 15 August.

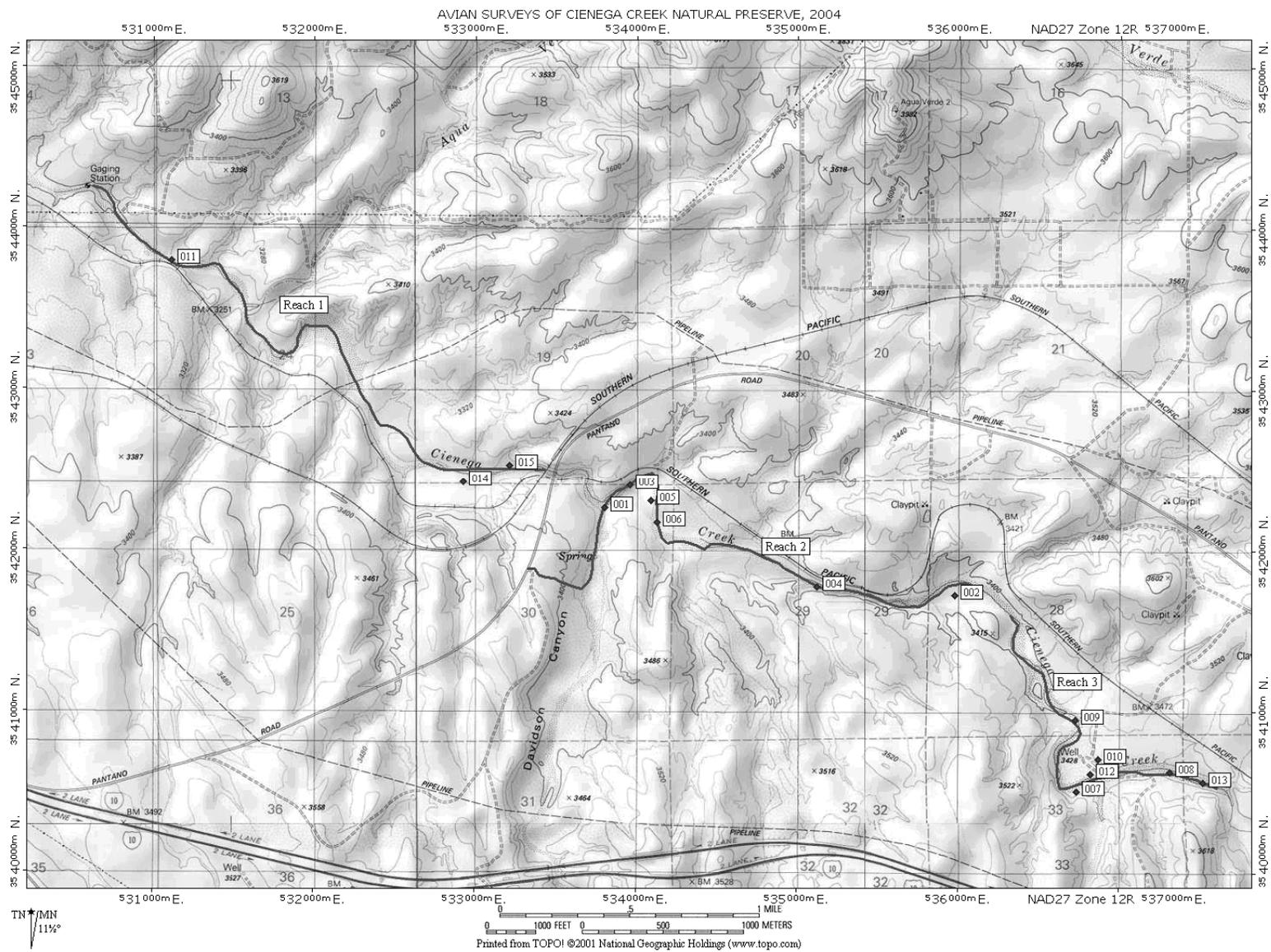
No Gray Hawks observed. Cooper's Hawk and Great Horned Owl were the only raptors seen. Very little bird activity, 12 September

012 Desert Box Turtle observed in mesquite bosque, 25 September

013 unknown large nest about 40 feet up in cottonwood tree over creek, 25 September

014 Red-tailed Hawk observed flying over, 30 October

015 Cooper's Hawk observed foraging, 30 October



**Figure 1. Map of area of Cienega Creek Natural Preserve surveyed in this study.**