# **Nesting Raptors of Griffith Park and Surrounding Area**2019

# **Final Report**



[Red-tailed hawk juveniles. Photo courtesy of Gerry Hans.]

## **Prepared for:**

Friends of Griffith Park P.O. Box 27573 Los Angeles, CA 90027

# **Prepared by:**

Daniel S. Cooper and Courtney McCammon Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. 255 Satinwood Avenue Oak Park, CA 91377

August 30, 2019

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS           | 3  |
|----------------------------|----|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY          | 3  |
| 1.0 INTRODUCTION           | 4  |
| 2.0 STUDY AREA and METHODS | 5  |
| 3.0 RESULTS                | 8  |
| 4.0 DISCUSSION             | 16 |
| 5.0 LITERATURE CITED       | 18 |
| APPFNDICFS                 | 20 |

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This project was made possible through the vision and support of Friends of Griffith Park, including Gerry Hans, [VP, Science and Conservation]. Survey volunteers conducted much of the fieldwork, and provided invaluable ecological information that would have been otherwise difficult to obtain. In particular, we wish to thank the volunteers who tracked active nests for 2018, including Carla Alvarado, Adrine Arakelian, Beth Armstrong, Ben Bowes, Brett Boydston, Lisa Brewer, Mary Brooks, Ann Brunner, Carol Brusha, David Cardell, Andrea Cavanaugh, Kali Ciesemier, Chip Clements, Alexander DeBarros, Traci DeWilde, Diane Dickey, Toby Gad, Margaret Gallagher, Kiernan Graves, Stephanie Green, Kat Halsey, Claudia Herrera, Lauren Hill, Molly and Maureen Hill, Jon Hofferman, Patricia Hutchinson, Leigh Jacoby, the Jeffrey Family, Anna Josenhans, Nurit Katz, Richard Krafsur, Kathryn Louyse, Bill Luddy, Alex MacInnis, Richard Magram, Dayna Mauer, John McCoy, Al Moggia, Robert Montalbano, David Mull, Elinor Nissley, Linda Othenin-Girard, Kelly Park, Tracy Park, Shana Rapoport, Dani Rayne, Brenda Rees, Gary Regester, Susana Rinderle, Travis Roe, Larry Russell, Joanna Sintek, Maro Siranosian, Louise Steinman, Beatriz Schwarz, Dessi Sieburth, Susan Streaser, James Strzelinski, Anita Sohus, Judy Taussig, Stan Thompson, Brian Tomikawa, Scott Torres, Lisa Vebber, Lucia Venegas, Jen Wang, Erika Wilder, Cheryl Weinfeld, Jennifer Young, Betty Ys, and Taylor Zagelbaum. Joe Salaices, Griffith Section Superintendent, Department of Recreation and Parks, assisted us with access to several non-public park venues. The Los Angeles Zoo provided access and a group of staff and volunteers provided updates on nests there. In addition, several local birders and bird enthusiasts notified us of local nests and while there are too many to name, we thank them for their information and contribution to this study.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

For the third year of the Griffith Park Nesting Raptor Survey (2019), we increased the number of monitored nests from 54 to 60, and expanded our geographic scope east into Pasadena. Redtailed Hawks were again the most numerous species, with 33 active nests monitored, 29 of which were deemed to have fledged young. Great Horned Owls and Cooper's Hawks were the next-most-common species, with 12 and 11 monitored nests, respectively. Eight (8) Cooper's Hawk nests and 11 Great Horned Owl nests fledged young. Red-shouldered Hawk was represented by 4 nests, all of which fledged young. Again, most of our nests in 2019 were in the Griffith Park area (24, vs. 25 here the prior year). The most common nest substrate was pines (*Pinus* spp.) (32), followed by gums (*Eucalyptus* spp.) and related species (12), and sycamores (*Platanus* spp.) (6). Again, just a single raptor nest was found in an oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), which likely held many raptor nests historically. Nearly 60% of Red-tailed Hawk nests active in 2018 were again active in 2019, vs. 25% of Cooper's Hawk nests.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Raptors are important apex predators in most of the earth's ecosystems, and coastal southern California supports (or once supported) around a dozen breeding species (Garrett and Dunn 1981). Of these, several are known to nest, or formerly nested, in Griffith Park, one of the largest urban parks in the U.S., if not the world. Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. has been conducting surveys on the flora and fauna in Griffith Park since 2007, when the Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan (Cooper and Mathewson 2009) first documented the park's flora and fauna and suggested best management practices for the future, including improved species monitoring.

Based on prior records (e.g., eBird, www.ebird.org), the Griffith Park area provides potentially suitable nesting habitat for nine resident raptors including Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Former nesters include Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), but both are rare today at any season. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is frequently seen through the nesting season (mainly along the Los Angeles River), but does not regularly nest in the study area. A handful of species of raptors occur locally in migration and/or winter (e.g., White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), but nesting has not been suspected as occurring in the study area in modern times. Life-history summaries the more commonly encountered nesting raptors in the study area are provided in Appendix A.

Our "Griffith Park Raptor Survey", launched in 2017 (Cooper et al. 2017), is an attempt to build our ecological understanding of the park and to encourage public stewardship of its resources. By documenting and tracking each raptor nest in the park and surrounding landscape, we hope to understand how ecological dynamics change from year to year in the park, and how human activity may be impacting wildlife here. While a handful of Los Angeles-area raptor nesting sites had been documented by prior work (e.g., Allen et al. 2017) and individual nests are generally afforded protection when found during utility line replacement and other agency activities, the data contained in our annual summary reports from the Griffith Park area represent the first comprehensive dataset of an entire raptor community in the urban core of Los Angeles.

#### 2.0 STUDY AREA AND METHODS

#### 2.1 Location

The "Study Area" in for 2019 centers on Griffith Park, and extends west roughly to the 405 Freeway/Sepulveda Pass in the west, north to Victory Blvd, south to Interstate 10, and east to the Arroyo Seco/Pasadena. This area includes the entire eastern Santa Monica Mountains, as well as Elysian Park, the Los Angeles River, Silver Lake Reservoir, Echo Park, Debs Park, Eagle Rock, and surrounding neighborhoods. A handful of raptor nests outside this area were monitored opportunistically, but are excluded from certain analyses. The City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation manages Griffith, Elysian, Echo, and Debs Park; the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power manages Silver Lake Reservoir, and various other agencies operate in the remaining open space of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains (e.g., Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority). Importantly, the study area – and many nesting sites – are dominated by private land, mainly occupied by single-family homes and yards.

Griffith Park itself contains over 4,000-acres of rugged wilderness and is one of the largest municipal parks in the United States. It sits at the eastern-most end of the Santa Monica Mountain range and is surrounded by three major freeways on its western, northern and eastern borders, and by dense urban development (Hollywood) to the south. Still, the park boasts a large and vibrant wildlife population that includes both diurnal and nocturnal birds of prey. The climate is Mediterranean, with low or no summer precipitation and cool winters, and periods of drought. February receives the highest levels of precipitation with annual average rainfall of 14". Fairly regular El Niño effects once or twice per decade can result in much higher annual rainfall amounts, and regular droughts can reduce rainfall to half the normal amount (or less in exceptional years). Of note, the year of the project launch (2017) followed an exceptional four-year drought in the Los Angeles area; however, the 2018 – 2019 rainy season (i.e., just prior to this year's survey) saw a total of 18.82 inches in the downtown Los Angeles area, which is 4.09 inches (>20%) above the seasonal average for the area.

Habitats within the Study Area vary considerably from manicured parks to dense urban neighborhoods, to rugged, deep canyons in isolated, "wilderness-like" areas. Griffith Park has irrigated parkland on its perimeter, with most of the native habitat dominating the inner portions of the park. Two large golf courses, Wilson & Harding and the Roosevelt golf course, border the park with open grass and large native and non-native trees. Other developed portions of the park area include the Los Angeles Zoo, Crystal Springs picnic area, the Old Zoo area, Forest Lawn Cemetery, the Greek Theater, and the Griffith Observatory. The predominant habitat of the park is chaparral, but also includes areas of coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, and limited riparian areas in the canyon bottoms. Large planted trees, mainly pines and eucalyptus, are found throughout the park's eastern and southern portions, and along roads through the park. The Los Angeles River borders the northeastern portion of the park, with large transmission towers along its course. Finally, there are several large rock outcrops in

Griffith Park such as Bee Rock that could potentially support raptor nests, and which were checked as part of this study.

The other parks in the study area (Elysian Park, Debs Park) support a similar mix of native and manicured habitats, albeit on a much smaller scale than Griffith Park. Franklin Canyon and other open space areas in the Santa Monica Mountains to the west support largely native chaparral and oak woodland habitat, some of which has been "augmented" by planted trees (notably conifers). We were denied access to the large protected habitat area around Stone Canyon Reservoir (Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power), which has been closed to birders/researchers for many years. We also did not monitor Sepulveda Basin, located west of the 405 Fwy., which supports several nesting raptor territories, but may include this area in future years.

### 2.2 Survey Methods

Cooper and McCammon conducted opportunistic surveys in the Study Area during late winter 2019 to document the status of existing and potential raptor nests. Additional visits by the project leads and certain volunteers were completed throughout the spring as time allowed. Our surveys were performed mostly by foot through the entirety of the park and within selected residential areas where pairs of target species had been noted in prior years, and were conducted using 8-10x binoculars and 20x spotting scopes to determine nest activity and the presence or absence of raptors. Surveys were timed to avoid undue disturbance to nesting raptors and other birds during the most critical breeding periods later in spring.

For our third year (2019), we again held two training sessions attended by 40+ volunteer "community-scientists" in late winter (Jan. 27, Feb. 10), and by the end of June, we had roughly 100 potential raptor nests/territories located, with 60 of them active at some point during the spring. As in 2018, we then assigned nests to one or more volunteers based on their location preferences and birding ability. Volunteers were asked to visit their assigned nests twice per month (and no more than weekly) to identify nesting stages throughout the season, and were asked to send back completed data sheets at least monthly. Each active nest was confirmed (by photograph if possible) by Cooper, McCammon, or Gerry Hans to ensure data reliability. Completed data sheets were kept in a central location for easy access and may be provided upon request. GPS coordinates of nests were collected with ArcCollector app in the field, or later using volunteers' written descriptions and Google Earth Pro. Coordinates were taken as close to the nest tree as possible, but the accuracy of nest coordinates may vary due to access issues, proximity of the edge of a tree to the nest, or the inability to obtain accurate readings under dense tree canopy.

#### 2.3 Classifying Nest Structures

The following designations were used to classify nesting success for this survey. These categories refer to physical nests, rather than to suspected nesting territories where no nest structure was observed:

- Inactive A likely or historical raptor nest in which no current nesting activity was observed;
- Active A territory with two adult birds in which nest-building, incubation, and/or brooding was observed in prior years;
- Failed An active nest that produced no young, but where nesting activity had been observed in the current year;
- Successful A known nest where one or more young reached at least 3 weeks of age
  (cases where recently-fledged juveniles were observed without a physical nest were
  considered on a case-by-case basis, but were generally omitted from the analysis since
  juveniles quickly disperse of natal territories).
- Unknown Ambiguous observations, such as one or both adults lingering near the nest
  with no indication of eggs or young; or where we did not have enough observations to
  make a determination of success due to scheduling/access issues.

For 2019, we maintained an additional category, "Territory", to indicate the presence of a pair of raptors exhibiting breeding behavior (tandem flights, copulation, stick-carrying). Some of these territories were confirmed as active when birds were eventually seen at a nest. However, in several cases, a nest was never found (or a potential nest was found, but the birds were never seen using it). For now, we have termed these cases "Non-breeding Territories", and regard them as important to track since they likely indicate attempted nesting where conditions are not conducive for nesting success, for various reasons.

#### 3.0 RESULTS

## 3.1 Species Patterns

Our 2019 survey documented 60 raptor nests within the study area that were active at some point during spring (February-June) 2019<sup>1</sup> (vs. 55 found and monitored in the study area in 2018<sup>2</sup>), and 30 likely raptor nests (or non-breeding territories) that were deemed inactive for 2019 (vs. 39 in 2018). Some of the inactive nests may have been active earlier in the season, but were found too late to determine the species (or prior status).

Looking only at active raptor nests, Tables 1a and 1b provide a breakdown of species and outcome for both 2017, 2018, and 2019:

Table 1a. Nesting species documented, and outcome of nests, 2017.

| Species             | # Active | # Fledged  | # Failed       | # Unknown |
|---------------------|----------|------------|----------------|-----------|
|                     | nests    |            |                | outcome   |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 22       | 16 (72%)   | 5 <sup>3</sup> | -         |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 5        | 4 (80%)    | -              | 1         |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 17       | 12 (70.5%) | 1              | 4         |
| Great Horned Owl    | 5        | 5 (100%)   | -              | -         |
| Total               | 49       | 37 (75.5%) | 6              | 5         |

Table 1b. Nesting species documented, and outcome of nests, 2018.

| Species             | # Active | # Fledged <sup>4</sup> | # Failed | # Unknown |
|---------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|-----------|
|                     | nests    |                        |          | outcome   |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 29       | 25 (86%)               | -        | 4         |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 6        | 3 (50%)                | -        | 3         |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 16       | 14 (87.5%)             | -        | 2         |
| Great Horned Owl    | 4        | 3 (75%)                | 1        | 0         |
| Total               | 55       | 45 (82%)               | 1        | 9         |

<sup>3</sup> Of the failed nests, one was cut down (tree removed) during incubation (reported to authorities), and four were apparently abandoned.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This does not include four nests located outside the study area that were nonetheless monitored by project volunteers, but does include several nests found after the volunteer monitoring ended in June that were identified as active owing to physical nest evidence (whitewash around nest) and the presence of young juveniles in or near

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This figure includes nests active in 2017 that were not "discovered" until 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> We consider nests where young were observed outside the nest (i.e., "branching" or flying independently) to have "fledged".

Table 1c. Nesting species documented, and outcome of nests, 2019.

| Species             | # Active | # Fledged | # Failed | # Unknown |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                     | nests    |           |          | outcome   |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 33       | 29 (88%)  | 1        | 3         |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 4        | 4 (100%)  | -        | -         |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 11       | 8 (73%)   | 1        | 2         |
| Great Horned Owl    | 12       | 11 (92%)  | -        | 1         |
| Total               | 60       | 51 (87%)  | 2        | 6         |

Phenology data were gathered mainly by volunteers, so this information is somewhat incomplete for both years, owing to variation in data-gathering abilities and timing of visits. Since we only asked volunteers to visit the nests every two weeks, certain gaps became apparent particularly with respect to start dates of the nesting phenomena. Due to a low sample size, we have elected to combine survey years for this analysis, which shows that Redshouldered Hawk nestlings have appeared nearly a full month after those of the first Red-tailed Hawk chicks, and that Cooper's Hawk nestlings appeared c. 6 weeks after Red-tails (Table 2). This obviously pushed fledging dates into mid-summer for Cooper's Hawks (first noted June 14), with the first fledgling by Red-tails and Red-shouldereds occurring in mid-spring (May).

Table 2. Phenology by species, first date of each nesting stage (2017-2019, combined).

| Species          | Incubating  | Nestlings Visible | Branching | Fledging |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| Red-tailed Hawk  | February 13 | March 25          | April 22  | May 9    |
| Red-shouldered   | March 6     | April 20          | May 18    | May 26   |
| Hawk             |             |                   |           |          |
| Cooper's Hawk    | March 16    | May 10            | June 6    | June 14  |
| Great Horned Owl | February 10 | April 3           | April 26  | April 30 |

We did not document 2019 nesting or potential nesting by Western Screech-owl and American Kestrel<sup>5</sup> as in prior years. Little is known about the exact nesting and habitat requirements of these two species in the local area (except that they are apparently very scarce), and neither is discussed further here (though we hope to find and track more screech-owl and kestrel nests in

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Incidental observations of likely-nesting American Kestrel were obtained along the Los Angeles River north of downtown Los Angeles, in an area that includes a large, abandoned railroad yard. Scattered palm trees likely provide nesting sites for this species, but difficulty in accessing this area made volunteer monitoring impossible.

future years). We likewise did not detect any potential nesting by Turkey Vulture; we did not make a special effort to locate their nests. Turkey Vultures, including potential pairs, were observed within the study area through the survey period, particularly near large blocks of open space (e.g., Griffith Park, D. Cooper, pers. obs.).

#### 3.2 Geographic and Habitat Patterns

We provide the geographic setting of these nests, and the nesting substrate (tree type) below. Griffith Park had more nests found in 2019 (and 2018) than in 2017, with fewer nests discovered in the other subregions of the study area in each year (Tables 3a-3d). There was a jump in the number of nests found and monitored in both the Elysian Park area and Northeast L.A. in 2019, perhaps owing to a larger volunteer presence in those areas.

Nesting substrate continues to be dominated by pine (*Pinus*) species, especially with Red-tailed Hawks (Tables 3a-3d). This is likely because pines are often the oldest and tallest trees around, and Red-tailed Hawks favor high nest sites with expansive views of the landscape/foraging area. Eucalyptus/Gum (*Eucalyptus* spp.) trees are also widely used, and appear to be favored by Red-shouldered hawks, while Great Horned Owls show no real pattern, probably since they use the old nests of other hawk species. Notably, non-native trees continue to make up the majority of nesting substrate (described in Discussion, below).

Table 3a. Geographic distribution, by species, 2017.

| Species             | Griffith<br>Park <sup>6</sup> | Eastern<br>SMM | Elysian<br>Park<br>area <sup>7</sup> | Northeast<br>L.A. <sup>8</sup> | San<br>Fernando<br>Valley (floor) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 8                             | 5              | 4                                    | 2                              | 3                                 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 0                             | 1              | 0                                    | 3                              | 1                                 |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 1                             | 5              | 6                                    | 4                              | 1                                 |
| Great Horned Owl    | 1                             | 2              | 1                                    | 1                              | 0                                 |
| TOTAL               | 10                            | 13             | 11                                   | 10                             | 5                                 |

<sup>8</sup> Includes Mt. Washington, Eagle Rock, Debs Park area

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Includes all area between 101 Fwy. and I-5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Includes Silver Lake and Echo Park

Table 3b. Geographic distribution, by species, 2018<sup>9</sup>.

| Species             | Griffith<br>Park | Eastern<br>SMM  | Elysian<br>Park area | Northeast<br>L.A. | San<br>Fernando |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                     |                  |                 |                      |                   | Valley (floor)  |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 13               | 4 <sup>10</sup> | 6                    | 3                 | 2               |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 2                | 4               | 0                    | 0                 | 0               |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 7                | 1               | 2                    | 3                 | 1               |
| Great Horned Owl    | 3                | 1               | 0                    | 0                 | 0               |
| TOTAL               | 25               | 10              | 8                    | 6                 | 3               |

Table 3c. Geographic distribution, by species, 2019.

| Species             | Griffith<br>Park | Eastern<br>SMM | Elysian<br>Park area | Northeast<br>L.A. | San<br>Fernando<br>Valley (floor) |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 13               | 7              | 8                    | 5                 | 1                                 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1                | 1              | 1                    | 1                 | 1                                 |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 4                | 1              | 3                    | 3                 | 1                                 |
| Great Horned Owl    | 6                | 2              | 2                    | 2                 | 1                                 |
| TOTAL               | 24               | 11             | 14                   | 11                | 5                                 |

Table 3d. Geographic distribution, all species, 2017-19.

| Species             | 2017 | 2018 | 2019             | Total |
|---------------------|------|------|------------------|-------|
| Griffith Park       | 10   | 25   | 24               | 59    |
| Eastern SMM         | 13   | 10   | 11               | 34    |
| Elysian Park area   | 11   | 8    | 14               | 33    |
| Northeast L.A.      | 10   | 6    | 11               | 27    |
| San Fernando Valley | 5    | 3    | 5                | 13    |
| TOTAL               | 49   | 52   | 65 <sup>11</sup> | 5     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Three nests were monitored in the Pasadena area (two Cooper's Hawks, one Red-tailed Hawk). <sup>10</sup> Includes one nest where a pair was observed early in the season but that was not diligently checked later. <sup>11</sup> Includes five nests just outside study area.

Table 4a. Substrate (tree) usage, by species (active nests only), 2017.

| Species             | Pine             | Eucalyptus | Sycamore <sup>12</sup> | Oak <sup>13</sup> | Other/Unk. 14 |
|---------------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 12 <sup>15</sup> | 3          | 4                      | 0                 | 3             |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 2                | 2          | 0                      | 0                 | 1             |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 4                | 4          | 2                      | 0                 | 7             |
| Great Horned Owl    | 4                | 0          | 0                      | 1                 | 0             |
| TOTAL               | 22               | 9          | 6                      | 1                 | 11            |

Table 4b. Substrate (tree) usage, by species (active nests only), 2018.

| Species             | Pine | Eucalyptus | Sycamore | Oak | Other/Unk.             |
|---------------------|------|------------|----------|-----|------------------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 15   | 6          | 4        | 0   | <b>4</b> <sup>16</sup> |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1    | 4          | 1        | 0   | 0                      |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 4    | 2          | 5        | 1   | 4 <sup>17</sup>        |
| Great Horned Owl    | 3    | 0          | 0        | 0   | 1 <sup>18</sup>        |
| TOTAL               | 23   | 12         | 10       | 1   | 9                      |

Table 4c. Substrate (tree) usage, by species (active nests only), 2019.

| Species             | Pine | Eucalyptus | Sycamore | Oak | Other/Unk. |
|---------------------|------|------------|----------|-----|------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 20   | 5          | 5        | 0   | 3          |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1    | 3          | 0        | 0   | 0          |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 2    | 2          | 1        | 1   | 4          |
| Great Horned Owl    | 8    | 2          | 0        | 0   | 2          |
| TOTAL               | 32   | 12         | 6        | 1   | 9          |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Includes the native western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) as well as non-native/hybrid plane trees (*Platanus* sp.), which are planted as street trees.

13 Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) unless noted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Incl. Palm (*Washingtonia* sp.), fig (*Ficus* spp.) and several other (non-native) species.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Incl. several *Pinus* spp. and one nest in a deodar (*Deodorus* sp.).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> One on rock ledge (Bee Rock), one in palm (*Washingtonia* sp.), and one in a power tower (Eaton Canyon), with a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Three nests in Ficus trees, one in a large Acacia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Building ledge

Table 4d. Substrate (tree) usage, by species (active nests only), 2017-19.

| Species    | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Total |
|------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Pine       | 22   | 23   | 32   | 77    |
| Eucalyptus | 9    | 12   | 12   | 33    |
| Sycamore   | 6    | 10   | 6    | 22    |
| Oak        | 1    | 1    | 1    | 3     |
| Other      | 11   | 9    | 9    | 29    |
| TOTAL      | 12   | 32   | 6    | 1     |

#### 3.3 Nest Re-usage

Our resurvey in 2019 allowed us to investigate patterns of nest re-use, both by geographical area and by species (Table 3a and 3b). Calculating re-usage is complicated by the fact that we had incomplete information for several nests during both survey years (e.g., in cases where a nest was discovered in 2018, we rarely knew if it had been active the year prior). In other cases, we learned of the location or fate of a nest after that season had ended, though some of these were documented by photographs.

We calculated a 47% re-usage rate across all species in 2019 (26 of 55 of the 2018 nests were re-used in 2019), and found that Red-tailed Hawks maintain a higher-than-average re-usage rate (59%), meaning that more than half of Red-tailed Hawk nests found the first survey were also active the following year. The lowest fidelity of the four species was found in Cooper's Hawk (25% re-usage rate), meaning that a quarter of Cooper's Hawks nests were re-used the following year. While the sample sizes were small, 3 of the 4 Great Horned Owl nests found in 2018 were active in 2019 (75%), and just 2 of the 6 Red-shouldered Hawk nests from 2018 were active in 2019 (33%).

Table 5. Patterns of nest re-use, 2017-2019.

| Species          | Nests active in 2017 <sup>19</sup> | Nests re-used (2018) | Total active nests (2018) | Nests re-used<br>(2019) | Total active nests (2019) |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk  | 22                                 | 13 (59%)             | 29                        | 17 (59%)                | 33                        |
| Red-shouldered   | 4                                  | 1 (25%)              | 6                         | 2 (33%)                 | 4                         |
| Hawk             |                                    |                      |                           |                         |                           |
| Cooper's Hawk    | 21                                 | 6 (29%)              | 16                        | 4 (25%)                 | 11                        |
| Great Horned Owl | 7                                  | 2 (29%)              | 4                         | 3 (75%)                 | 12                        |
| TOTAL            | 54                                 | 22 (41%)             | 55                        | 26 (47%)                | 60                        |

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> These numbers are higher than in the above tables since we learned about several 2017 nests in 2018, so could not include them in the monitoring effort that year.

A summary spreadsheet is provided in Appendix B (without precise spatial information). As in prior years, the full spreadsheet with location information will be provided to the Friends of Griffith Park separately due to the sensitive nature of the data.

Table 6. Fate of "lost" Red-tailed Hawk nests, 2019. These are nests that were active either in 2017 or 2018, but not in 2019. Active nests are greyed out.

| Nest       | Location                           | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       | Tree        | Possible fate   |
|------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|---|
| RTHA-LA-01 | Mineral Wells                      | Successful | Successful | Successful | Sycamore    | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-03 | Pony Rides                         | Inactive   | Successful | Successful | Sycamore    | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-08 | Lake Hollywood                     | Successful | Successful | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-10 | Griffith Observatory               | Successful | Successful | Successful | Pine (dead) | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-15 | Griffith Park                      | Inactive   | Inactive   | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-17 | Wilson & Harding GC                | Failed     | Inactive   | Successful | Sycamore    | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-18 | Wilson & Harding GC                | Successful | Successful | Inactive   | Sycamore    | Two Wilson & Harding nests (17 and 18), both in sycamores, may be alternating each year.                  |
| RTHA-LA-27 | Allesandro                         | Inactive   | Successful | Inactive   | Eucalyptus  | Pair possibly nesting in remote area of Elysian Park/Silver Lake  |
| RTHA-LA-28 | Greek Theatre                      | Successful | Inactive   | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-37 | Moonstone Drive                    | Failed     | Inactive   | Inactive   | Pine        | Apparently a "bad" location (never successful)  |
| RTHA-LA-43 | (Boys) Camp Dr.                    | Unknown    | Successful | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-IA-45 | Lake Hollywood (Tahoe<br>Dr.)      | Inactive   | Successful | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-53 | Hollywood Bowl                     | Successful | Inactive   | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-55 | Mt. Washington Dr.                 | Successful | Successful | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-58 | Echo Park                          | Unknown    | Successful | Successful | Eucalyptus  | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-59 | "Live Steamers" (Griffith<br>Park) | Successful | Successful | Inactive   | Pine        | Pair possibly inactive in 2019, or nesting elsewhere in area (e.g., 15)                                   |
| RTHA-LA-60 | Elysian Park                       | Successful | Successful | Successful | Eucalyptus  | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-65 | Meadow Valley Terrance             | Inactive   | Successful | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-66 | Elysian Tennis Courts              | Successful | Inactive   | Successful | Silk Oak    | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-70 | Coldwater Canyon                   | Successful | Active     | Unknown    | Eucalyptus  | Nest possibly active (didn't check)   |
| RTHA-LA-74 | Bel Air                            | Successful | Unknown    | Successful | Pine        | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-75 | Erwin Street, Van Nuys             | Successful | Unknown    | Unknown    | Pine        | Nest possibly active (didn't check)   |
| RTHA-LA-77 | 405/101 freeway                    | Successful | Successful | Inactive   | Pine        | Nest disintegrated; pair may<br>have nested in Sepulveda Basin<br>to north, or in Sepulveda Pass<br>(211) |
| RTHA-LA-78 | 101/Sunset                         | N/A        | Successful | Successful | Sycamore    | N/A   |
| RTHA-LA-84 | Franklin Canyon                    | Successful | Unknown    | Unknown    | Deodar      | Nest possibly active (didn't check)   |
| RTHA-LA-89 | Echo Park (Bard)                   | Inactive   | Successful | Inactive   | Eucalyptus  | Possibly using an alternate nest<br>that has not been located. Pair<br>active mid-spring, though.         |
| RTHA-LA-98 | Hobart St., Los Feliz              | Successful | Successful | Inactive   | Pine        | Possibly nesting elsewhere in Griffith Park (e.g., 195)   |

# 2019 Nesting Raptor Report

| RTHA-LA-105 | Bellevue Park            | Successful | Unknown    | Successful | Pine       | N/A  |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| RTHA-LA-109 | Roosevelt Café           | Inactive   | Successful | Inactive   | Pine       | Active construction under nest in 2019, so possibly moved (e.g., 195?)                 |
| RTHA-LA-117 | Highland Park            | Successful | Successful | Successful | Eucalyptus | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-125 | Mt. Washington           | Successful | Inactive   | Inactive   | Pine       | Volunteer reported an abundance of ravens. Pair may be using alternate nest.           |
| RTHA-LA-131 | Montecito Rec. Center    | Unknown    | Successful | Failed     | Pine       | Nest blown down in a wind<br>storm and eggs found on the<br>ground (volunteer report). |
| RTHA-LA-133 | Lake Hollywood (Dam)     | Unknown    | Successful | Inactive   | Pine       | Possibly nesting in Brush<br>Canyon (201) or other area of<br>Griffith Park (15)       |
| RTHA-LA-150 | Runyon Canyon            | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Pine       | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-154 | Sherman Oaks (Longridge) | Unknown    | Successful | Unknown    | Palm       | Nest possibly active (didn't check)  |
| RTHA-LA-159 | LA Zoo                   | Unknown    | Successful | Inactive   | Pine       | Possibly nesting elsewhere in<br>Griffith Park area (e.g., 195,<br>198)                |
| RTHA-LA-167 | Bee Rock                 | Unknown    | Successful | Successful | Cliff      | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-181 | Stone Canyon I           | Unknown    | Unknown    | Unknown    | Unknown    | Nest possibly active (couldn't check)  |
| RTHA-LA-182 | Stone Canyon II          | Unknown    | Successful | Unknown    | Unknown    | Nest possibly active (couldn't check)  |
| RTHA-LA-184 | Elysian Park             | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Pine       | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-195 | Vermont Canyon           | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Pine       | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-198 | Warner Brothers Studios  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Pine       | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-200 | Silver Lake Reservoir    | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Eucalyptus | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-201 | Brush Canyon             | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Pine       | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-205 | Woodley Park             | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Pine       | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-206 | 2 Freeway – Silver Lake  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Eucalyptus | N/A  |
| RTHA-LA-211 | Sepulveda Pass           | Unknown    | Unknown    | Successful | Sycamore   | N/A  |

#### 4.0 DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Species Patterns

All three survey years yielded roughly 100 confirmed and potential raptor nests in and around Griffith Park each year. We were able to locate and monitor more active nests each subsequent year (49 in 2017, 55 in 2018, 65 in 2019); of these, a large proportion were confirmed or suspected as having fledged in both years, with more in 2019 (87%) than in prior years (Table 1c).

The order of abundance of each species was also nearly identical in both years, though 2019 had more Red-tails and Great Horned Owls, and fewer Cooper's Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks, than in the previous two years (Tables 1a-1c). However, as noted in prior years, given that Cooper's Hawk nests are much more difficult to locate than Red-tailed Hawk nests, it is likely that there were more Cooper's Hawk nests in the study area that will simply need to be found (and monitored) to get an accurate tally of each. Still, the consistency of much of the results, including the most common/least common species, the rough number of Red-tailed Hawk nests, and the rate of fledging, suggests that we have adequately sampled the actual nesting raptor community year to year within our study area.

#### 4.2 Geographic and Habitat Patterns

Unlike the species breakdown, the geographic pattern of where nests were located (or more accurately, where we found them) changed dramatically between 2017 and 2019 (see Figure 3d). While the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains subregion remained fairly stable with nest numbers, the number of nests found in Griffith Park roughly doubled in 2018 and 2019 vs. 2017, and counts in the other subregions fluctuated without a clear pattern. Obviously these are small sample sizes and arbitrary geographical breaks, but the patterns are intriguing nonetheless.

It is possible that the raptors in the study area maintain fairly stable populations by shifting nesting sites from year to year and moving around, hence the variability in number of nests per subregion. Or, certain pairs may "pause" breeding for a year (or more) if conditions become unfavorable in a given area, and then resume the following year. And different species may employ different strategies to different effect, depending on the location of their territories (assuming these are the same pairs nesting in the same general area year after year, which we suspect, but don't know for sure).

We again observed that the "native" interior of Griffith Park had relatively few raptor nests, yet we found multiple nests of various species in the "edge habitats" at the park's periphery in 2019, in places like lower Brush Canyon and the two golf courses (exact locations undisclosed here). As in prior years, just a *single* raptor nest in the entire study was located in a native oak tree (a Cooper's Hawk in Fern Dell), confirming our suspicion in prior years that this tree species

is now simply little-used by our local urban-dwelling raptors; six nests (10%) were in (probably native) sycamores (vs. ten in 2018), still a low percentage. By contrast, pines and eucalyptus, accounted for a relatively large proportion of our local nests, highlighting the importance of the very large, non-native trees in and around the park, many of which have matured – and are now the tallest trees around – since they were planted decades ago. While non-native, they clearly provide excellent nesting opportunities to the local raptor community, and have essentially outpaced native substrates locally, perhaps enabling native raptors to continue using the habitats.

As in prior years, few raptor nests were among many stick nests observed on transmission towers, signs, and other structures during the study; these seem to (now) be the exclusive domain of the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), and while these were not specifically tracked, this seems to not vary from year-to-year.

#### 4.3 Nest Re-usage Patterns

The finding that site fidelity varied across species, with Red-tailed Hawk showing a much higher-than-average rate of re-use is not surprising. This is the largest species, and it constructs the largest, most elaborate nests, and is well-known for re-using these nests. The lower rates of re-use found in the other species, in particular the Cooper's hawk, may either be an adaptation to varying conditions of "urban life", or it may indicate the opposite — a vulnerability to loss of nest sites. Given how common Cooper's Hawks remain in the Study Area, we suspect it to be the former, that flexibility in nest site choice is one factor that enables this species to thrive in the area.

While additional years of monitoring are probably needed to assess this, preliminary analysis suggests that while Cooper's Hawk is increasing in the region, Red-shouldered Hawk may be declining (D. Cooper, unpubl. data), suggesting that the "flexibility strategy" may be working for one species (Cooper's Hawk) and not the other (Red-shouldered Hawk). Anecdotally, two of the four Red-shouldered Hawk nests (and three of seven Great Horned Owl nests) from 2017 appear to have been blown out of their trees by high winds. And while Great Horned Owl is still relatively common across the study area (the low numbers of nests reflect the difficulty of observing this largely nocturnal species), the Red-shouldered Hawk is rather scarce, with few nests found, and few individuals suspected of actively nesting. Based on casual observation in 2019, neither these unused Red-shouldered Hawk nests, nor unused nests of other raptor species, are used by other species once abandoned; in one case a lone Red-shouldered Hawk was still present in spring 2019 in the vicinity of a 2018 nest in the Beachwood Canyon area (G. Hans, unpub. data), but the nest appeared dilapidated and unused in 2019. In this same area, a volunteer reported a territorial fight between a Red-tailed Hawk pair (either from lower Brush Canyon, or from Western Canyon) and a local Red-shouldered Hawk pair, leading us to speculate that the extreme territorial behavior by the top raptor species may be causing at least one potential competitor to become scarce. Given these results, it would be helpful to learn if the various "lost" nesting species of the region, such as American Kestrel, were similarly pushed from nest site to nest site until none remained.

#### 5.0 LITERATURE CITED

- Allen , L.W., K.L. Garrett, and M.C. Wimer. 2017. <u>Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas</u>. Los Angeles Audubon Society.
- Artuso, Christian, C. Stuart Houston, Dwight G. Smith and Christoph Rohner.(2013).Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), The Birds of North America (P. G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America: <a href="https://birdsna-org.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/SpeciesAccount/bna/species/grhowl">https://birdsna-org.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/SpeciesAccount/bna/species/grhowl</a>
- Beebe, F.L. 1974. Field studies of the falconiformes of British Columbia: vultures, hawks, falcons, eagles. British College Proceedings Museum Occasional Paper No. 17. Victoria, BC, Canada.
- Bennett, J.R. and P.H. Bloom. 2005. Home range and habitat use by great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) in southern California. Journal of Raptor Research. 39 (2):119-126.
- Bloom, P.H. 1985. Raptor movements in California. pp. 99 123. In Harwood, M. ed. Proceedings of Hawk Migration Conference IV. Rochester, NY.
- Bloom, P.H., M.D. McCrary, and M.J. Gibson. 1993. Red-shouldered Hawk home range and habitat use in southern California. J. of Wildlife Manage. 57:258-265.
- Bloom, P.H. and J. Catino. 2016. Nesting Raptors of the Irvine Ranch Wildlands and Associated Environs. Unpublished.
- Boarman, W.I. and B. Heinrich. 1999. Common Raven (Corvus Corax), The Birds of North America (P.G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America: <a href="https://birdsna-org.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/Species-Account/bna/species/comrav">https://birdsna-org.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/Species-Account/bna/species/comrav</a>
- Chiang, S.N., P.H. Bloom, A.M. Bartuszevige, and S.E. Thomas. 2012. Home Range and habitat use of Cooper's Hawks in urban and natural areas. Urban bird ecology and conservation. Studies in Avian Ecology (no. 45).
- Clark, R.J. 1977. Cooper's Hawk hunting in the city. Auk 94:142-143.
- Cooper, D.S. and P. Mathewson. 2009. Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan. Retrieved from the Friends of Griffith Park: <a href="http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GP-WMP-Final.pdf">http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GP-WMP-Final.pdf</a>
- Cooper, D.S., C. Aiken and A. Spyrka. 2017. Nesting raptors of Griffith Park and the surrounding area, 2017. Report to Friends of Griffith Park, July 15, 2017.

Garrett, K. and J. Dunn. 1981. <u>Birds of Los Angeles County: Status and Distribution</u>. Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Preston, C. R. and R. D. Beane.(2009).Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), The Birds of North America (P. G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America: <a href="https://birdsna-org.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/Species-Account/bna/species/rethaw">https://birdsna-org.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/Species-Account/bna/species/rethaw</a>

#### APPENDIX A. Life History Information on Locally-nesting Raptors

#### 1.1.1 Red-tailed Hawk

One of the most common large raptor species in North America, Red-tailed Hawks are abundant nesters in Los Angeles. They can nest in almost any habitat and on a variety of structures including buildings, cliffs and rock outcrops, native and non-native trees, and power line towers, but prefer very high sites, often somewhat protected from the elements (e.g., along a canyon bottom or toe of a slope, but with a broad/unobstructed view of the surrounding landscape. Breeding populations in Southern California are comprised primarily of resident birds that migrate only during their first few years (Bloom and Catino 2016).

Mating for life, pairs typically visit two or more nests from previous years before rebuilding one for the current season. Nest building can begin as early as December in some cases, and the female begins incubation once the first egg is laid. Usually a clutch of 2-3 eggs but Red-tailed Hawks can sometimes have a clutch of 4. Incubation lasts about 30 days with young fledging at 7 weeks of age. Young hawks may disperse up to 1,000 miles from their nest site, however studies indicate most return to breed within 50 miles of where they fledge (Bloom 1985; this distance may be much smaller in urban populations). They primarily feed of small mammals, but they have also been known to forage on small birds and snakes. They seem particularly affected by rodenticide, with poisoned, "tame" individuals appearing around golf courses and parks.

#### 1.1.2 Red-shouldered Hawk

In California, the Red-shouldered Hawk is strongly associated with riparian and forested habitat (Dixon 1928, Bloom et al. 1993). While they continue to nest locally in lush residential areas with large, old trees, increased development has likely affected its distribution. The Red-shouldered Hawk has one of the smallest average home ranges of any diurnal raptor in North America, 0.25 square miles or less (Bloom et al. 1993). In Los Angeles, they are becoming less common than their larger cousin, the Red-tailed Hawk. Normally a very vocal species, especially during breeding season, the Red-shouldered Hawks encountered thus far in Los Angeles are quieter and less vocal.

#### 1.1.3 Cooper's Hawk

Over past decades, Cooper's Hawk populations have increased in urban and suburban habitats such as Los Angeles. Because of the apparent "boom" in urban populations, researchers have found their home ranges to be smaller than that of non-urban habitat. These species could also be benefitting greatly from their urban nesting pattern because there are fewer natural nest predators. The presence of domestic dogs and the lack of natural predators, such as the raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), might have enabled Cooper's Hawks to have high nesting success (Chiang et al., 2012), but certainly the decline in shooting hawks and taking

their young for falconry (prevalent into the 1980s) has resulted in local increases as well. Cooper's Hawks use a combination of prey-capture methods that include brief perch-and-scan episodes to locate prey, followed by a sudden burst of speed in addition to hunting from higher flight (Beebe 1974, Clark 1977, Fischer 1986). They primarily prey on smaller bird species but it is not uncommon for them to forage on small mammals and reptiles.

#### 1.1.4 Great Horned Owl

A large owl species, Great Horned Owls are habitat generalists allowing them to have the most flexibility in nesting sites of any American owl (Houston et al., 2013). They often nest in abandoned hawk or raven nests, as well as cliff ledges and manmade structures. Great Horned Owl nesting season begins earlier than other diurnal or nocturnal raptors, laying 2-4 eggs per clutch, often initiating nesting in fall. The Great Horned Owl diet consists primarily (90%) of small mammals, but can include rabbits, gophers, squirrels, and other bird species. Their home ranges in California can range from 135 ha (0.6 square miles) to as high as 1198 ha (4.5 square miles) depending on the sex of the bird and the surrounding habitat (Bennett and Bloom 2005).

#### 1.1.5 Common Raven

Note: While we noted Common Raven nests where we found them, and monitored a handful, they were not a target species in the study, and are not considered "raptors".

The Common Raven is one of the most widespread (naturally-occurring) birds in the world. It is a scavenger of animal carcasses and human garbage, providing an important ecological service to urban areas and wildlands alike. Ravens are generalist species and can also predate fledgling birds, hunt for small mammals and reptiles, and steal food from other birds. Present throughout much of North America, the Common Raven is believed to have been historically associated with the Great Plains and the American bison (*Bison bison*); today, they occupy of a broad range of habitats. They traditionally preferred heavily contoured landscape, which provides thermals for long-distance foraging (Boarman and Heinrich 1999), but are now totally urban-adapted and are resident throughout the Los Angeles Basin floor. Nest site can vary but can include trees, buildings, cliffs, and power towers.

# APPENDIX B. Survey Results, 2019 update

| Nest         | Species                            | General Location         | Status in 2017           | Status in 2018       | Status in<br>2019    | Tree Species             |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| COHA-LA-21   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Elysian Park             | Successful               | Inactive             | Inactive             | Eucalyptus               |
| COHA-LA-30   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Van Nuys                 | Successful               | Inactive             | Successful           | Liquidambar              |
| COHA-LA-31   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Hollywood Bowl           | Successful               | Inactive             | Inactive             | Pine                     |
| COHA-LA-34   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Los Feliz                | Unknown                  | Inactive             | Inactive             | Ficus                    |
| COHA-LA-52   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Silver Lake Neighborhood | Successful               | Unknown              | Unknown              | Ficus                    |
| COHA-LA-57   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Hollywood area           | Successful               | Inactive             | Unknown              | Sycamore                 |
| COHA-LA-63   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Occidental College       | Unknown                  | Inactive             | Inactive             | Eucalyptus               |
| COHA-LA-64   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Silver Lake Neighborhood | Failed                   | Inactive             | Inactive             | Eucalyptus               |
| COHA-LA-64A  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Silver Lake Neighborhood | Inactive                 | Inactive             | Successful           | Deodar                   |
| COHA-LA-67   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Eagle Rock               | Inactive                 | Inactive             | Inactive             | Pine                     |
| COHA-LA-73   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Beverly Glen Terrace     | Unknown                  | Inactive             | Unknown              | Pittosporum<br>undulatum |
| COHA-LA-78   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | 101/Sunset               | Successful               | [usurped<br>by RTHA] | [usurped<br>by RTHA] | Sycamore                 |
| COHA-LA-79   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | 101/Silver Lake          | Successful               | Successful           | Inactive             | Acacia                   |
| COHA-LA-79A  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | 101/Silver Lake          | Inactive                 | Inactive             | Successful           | Unknown                  |
| COHA-LA-83   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | West Hollywood           | Successful               | Inactive             | Successful           | Ficus                    |
| COHA-LA-85   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Beverly Hills            | Unknown                  | Inactive             | Inactive             | Pine                     |
| COHA-LA-94   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Debs Park                | Successful               | Inactive             | Inactive             | Pine                     |
| COHA-LA-95   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Highland Park            | Successful               | Successful           | Successful           | Eucalyptus               |
| COHA-LA-96   | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Merry-go-Round           | Successful               | Successful           | Inactive             | Aleppo Pine              |
| COHA-LA-102  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Los Feliz                | Successful <sup>20</sup> | Inactive             | Inactive             | Ficus                    |
| COHA-LA-102A | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Los Feliz                | Inactive                 | Inactive             | Successful           | Ficus                    |
| COHA-LA-104  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Glendale                 | Successful <sup>15</sup> | Inactive             | Inactive             | Sycamore                 |
| COHA-LA-106  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Lake Hollywood           | Inactive                 | Successful           | [usurped<br>by GHOW] | Pine                     |
| COHA-LA-110  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | La Canada                | Successful <sup>15</sup> | Inactive             | Inactive             | Pine                     |
| COHA-LA-120  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Glassell Park            | Successful               | Successful           | Unknown              | Pine                     |
| COHA-LA-135  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Glendale                 | Unknown                  | Successful           | Successful           | Sycamore                 |
| COHA-LA-138  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Fern Dell                | Unknown                  | Successful           | Successful           | Coast live<br>oak        |
| COHA-LA-151  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Van Nuys                 | Unknown                  | Successful           | Inactive             | Sycamore                 |
| COHA-LA-155  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | UCLA                     | Unknown                  | Unknown              | Inactive             | Eucalyptus               |
| COHA-LA-157  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | East Pasadena            | Unknown                  | Successful           | Unknown              | Sycamore                 |
| COHA-LA-161  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Atwater Village          | Successful               | Successful           | Inactive             | Sycamore                 |
| COHA-LA-168  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Pasadena                 | Unknown                  | Successful           | Inactive             | Sycamore                 |
| COHA-LA-173  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Los Feliz                | Unknown                  | Successful           | Inactive             | Ficus                    |
| COHA-LA-180  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Griffith Park            | Unknown                  | Successful           | Inactive             | Ficus                    |
| COHA-LA-183  | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Griffith Park            | Unknown                  | Successful           | Inactive             | Pine                     |
| COHA-LA-183A | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) | Griffith Park            | Unknown                  | Unknown              | Successful           | Pine                     |

Nest "discovered" following 2017 season (via email sent by resident).

| COHA-LA-189 | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)   | Glendale Community College | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Failed     | Indian<br>Laurel  |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| COHA-LA-204 | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)   | Stone Canyon               | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Unknown           |
| COHA-LA-207 | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)   | Silver Lake                | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Pine              |
| COHA-LA-208 | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)   | Griffith Park              | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Successful | Eucalyptus        |
| COHA-LA-209 | Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)   | Van Nuys                   | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Sweetgum          |
| GHOW-LA-09  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Hollywood Bowl             | Successful               | Inactive   | Successful | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-14  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Observatory Drive          | Successful               | Inactive   | Inactive   | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-23  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Debs Park                  | Successful               | Inactive   | Inactive   | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-24  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Lake Hollywood             | Successful <sup>15</sup> | Successful | Successful | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-33  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Franklin Canyon            | Successful               | Inactive   | Unknown    | Oak               |
| GHOW-LA-38  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Silver Lake                | Successful               | Unknown    | Successful | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-40  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Boys Camp                  | Inactive                 | Successful | Inactive   | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-41  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Royce Canyon               | Inactive                 | Successful | Successful | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-99  | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Elysian Park               | Successful <sup>21</sup> | Unknown    | Successful | Unknown           |
| GHOW-LA-101 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | UCLA                       | Successful               | Failed     | Successful | Building<br>ledge |
| GHOW-LA-106 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Lake Hollywood             | N/A                      | N/A        | Successful | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-114 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Mt. Washington             | Successful <sup>15</sup> | Inactive   | Inactive   | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-175 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Griffith Park              | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Successful | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-178 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Griffith Park              | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Successful | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-186 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Deb's Park                 | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Pine              |
| GHOW-LA-202 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Mt. Washington             | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Successful | Eucalyptus        |
| GHOW-LA-203 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Studio City                | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Successful | Unknown           |
| GHOW-LA-210 | Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)  | Griffith Park              | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Successful | Unknown           |
| RSHA-LA-61  | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Johnny Carson Park         | Successful               | Inactive   | Successful | Pine              |
| RSHA-LA-62  | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Occidental College         | Successful               | Inactive   | Inactive   | Eucalyptus        |
| RSHA-LA-68  | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Mt. Washington             | Inactive                 | Inactive   | Successful | Pine              |
| RSHA-LA-69  | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Rose Hills                 | Successful               | Inactive   | Inactive   | Palm Tree         |
| RSHA-LA-76  | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Cahuenga Pass I            | Successful               | Successful | Inactive   | Eucalyptus        |
| RSHA-LA-143 | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | UCLA                       | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Eucalyptus        |
| RSHA-LA-158 | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | LA Zoo                     | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Successful | Eucalyptus        |
| RSHA-LA-162 | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Beachwood Canyon           | Unknown                  | Successful | Inactive   | Pine              |
| RSHA-LA-165 | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Encino <sup>22</sup>       | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Sycamore          |
| RSHA-LA-169 | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Cahuenga Pass II           | Unknown                  | Successful | Successful | Eucalyptus        |
| RSHA-LA-171 | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Laurel Canyon              | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Unknown           |
| RSHA-LA-193 | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Pasadena                   | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Unknown    | Eucalyptus        |
| RSHA-LA-194 | Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) | Silver Lake                | Unknown                  | Unknown    | Successful | Eucalyptus        |
| RTHA-LA-01  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)  | Mineral Wells              | Successful               | Successful | Successful | Sycamore          |
| RTHA-LA-03  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)  | Pony Rides                 | Inactive                 | Successful | Successful | Sycamore          |
| RTHA-LA-08  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)  | Lake Hollywood             | Successful               | Successful | Successful | Pine              |
| RTHA-LA-10  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)  | Griffith Observatory       | Successful               | Successful | Successful | Pine (dead)       |

Listed as "Successful" based on repeated sightings of adults and then of fledglings; nest never found.
Nest located just west of 405 Fwy., but still within Sepulveda Pass, so included here.

# 2019 Nesting Raptor Report

| DTIIA IA 15 | Ded telled Head (Date in mains and  | Cuiffiale Deut                         | la a ati va | la a ati . a     | Cussessiul | Di             |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| RTHA-LA-15  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Griffith Park                          | Inactive    | Inactive         | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-17  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Wilson & Harding GC                    | Failed      | Inactive         | Successful | Sycamore       |
| RTHA-LA-18  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Wilson & Harding GC                    | Successful  | Successful       | Inactive   | Sycamore       |
| RTHA-LA-27  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Allesandro                             | Inactive    | Successful       | Inactive   | Eucalyptus     |
| RTHA-LA-28  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Greek Theatre                          | Successful  | Inactive         | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-37  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Moonstone Drive                        | Failed      | Inactive         | Inactive   | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-43  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | (Boys) Camp Dr.  Lake Hollywood (Tahoe | Unknown     | Successful       | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-IA-45  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Dr.)                                   | Inactive    | Successful       | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-51  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Hansen Dam Equestrian<br>Center        | Successful  | Successful<br>23 | Inactive   | Sycamore       |
| RTHA-LA-53  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Hollywood Bowl                         | Successful  | Inactive         | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-55  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Mt. Washington Dr.                     | Successful  | Successful       | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-58  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Echo Park                              | Unknown     | Successful       | Successful | Eucalyptus     |
| RTHA-LA-59  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | "Live Steamers" (Griffith Park)        | Successful  | Successful       | Inactive   | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-60  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Elysian Park                           | Successful  | Successful       | Successful | Eucalyptus     |
| RTHA-LA-65  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Meadow Valley Terrance                 | Inactive    | Successful       | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-66  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Elysian Tennis Courts                  | Successful  | Inactive         | Successful | Silk Oak       |
| RTHA-LA-70  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Coldwater Canyon                       | Successful  | Xx?              | Unknown    | Eucalyptus     |
| RTHA-LA-74  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Bel Air                                | Successful  | Unknown          | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-75  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Erwin Street, Van Nuys                 | Successful  | Unknown          | Unknown    | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-77  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | 405/101 freeway                        | Successful  | Successful       | Inactive   | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-78  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | 101/Sunset                             | N/A         | Successful       | Successful | Sycamore       |
| RTHA-LA-84  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Franklin Canyon                        | Successful  | Unknown          | Unknown    | Deodar         |
| RTHA-LA-89  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Echo Park (Bard)                       | Inactive    | Successful       | Inactive   | Eucalyptus     |
| RTHA-LA-98  | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Hobart St., Los Feliz                  | Successful  | Successful       | Inactive   | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-105 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Bellevue Park                          | Successful  | Unknown          | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-109 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Roosevelt Café                         | Inactive    | Successful       | Inactive   | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-112 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Pasadena-Eaton Cyn. Dr.                | Unknown     | Successful       | Successful | Power<br>tower |
| RTHA-LA-117 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Highland Park                          | Successful  | Successful       | Successful | Eucalyptus     |
| RTHA-LA-125 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Mt. Washington                         | Successful  | Inactive         | Inactive   | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-131 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Montecito Rec. Center                  | Unknown     | Successful       | Failed     | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-133 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Lake Hollywood (Dam)                   | Unknown     | Successful       | Inactive   | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-141 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Nicada Dr.                             | Unknown     | Unknown          | Unknown    | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-150 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Runyon Canyon                          | Unknown     | Unknown          | Successful | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-154 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Sherman Oaks (Longridge)               | Unknown     | Successful       | Unknown    | Palm           |
| RTHA-LA-159 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | LA Zoo                                 | Unknown     | Successful       | Inactive   | Pine           |
| RTHA-LA-167 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Bee Rock                               | Unknown     | Successful       | Successful | Cliff          |
| RTHA-LA-179 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Glenoaks                               | Unknown     | Unknown          | Successful | Unknown        |
| RTHA-LA-181 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Stone Canyon I                         | Unknown     | Unknown          | Unknown    | Unknown        |
| RTHA-LA-182 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Stone Canyon II                        | Unknown     | Successful       | Unknown    | Unknown        |
|             |                                     |  |             |                  |            |                |

.

<sup>23</sup> Not included in analysis (out of range)

# 2019 Nesting Raptor Report

| RTHA-LA-187 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Laurel Canyon           | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown    | Pine       |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|------------|------------|
| RTHA-LA-195 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Vermont Canyon          | Unknown | Unknown | Successful | Pine       |
| RTHA-LA-198 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Warner Brothers Studios | Unknown | Unknown | Successful | Pine       |
| RTHA-LA-200 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Silver Lake Reservoir   | Unknown | Unknown | Successful | Eucalyptus |
| RTHA-LA-201 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Brush Canyon            | Unknown | Unknown | Successful | Pine       |
| RTHA-LA-205 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Woodley Park            | Unknown | Unknown | Successful | Pine       |
| RTHA-LA-206 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | 2 Freeway – Silver Lake | Unknown | Unknown | Successful | Eucalyptus |
| RTHA-LA-211 | Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) | Sepulveda Pass          | Unknown | Unknown | Successful | Sycamore   |