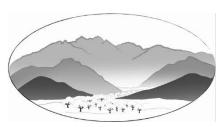


### Survey Protocol for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo Western Distinct Population Segment

Halterman, MD, MJ Johnson, JA Holmes, and SA Laymon. 2016. A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo: US Fish and Wildlife Techniques and Methods, 45 pp.

### Presented by Jenna and John Stanek



Southern Sierra Research Station

Research for Conservation of Biological Diversity



based on material from the USFWS, Southern Sierra Research Station, Bureau of Reclamation Boulder City Office, Albuquerque Area Office & Denver Technical Service Center, and USGS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



### Objectives of this protocol

- ✓ Determine <u>presence</u> of YBCUs at a site
  - Using standardized call-playback surveys
  - Estimate breeding status
  - Facilitate uniform reporting
- Not designed to measure exact distribution, abundance, breeding status, habitat use/quality
  - Require many more visits and observation





- Attend a USFWS-approved workshop ✓ ☺
- Permits and permissions required: Federal,
   State, Tribal, BLM, USFS, Private
- Review site-specific data/reports
- Equipment (e.g. mp3, speaker, GPS, etc.)
- Study field guides, photos, drawings, calls –
   be familiar with appearance, behavior
- Visit known breeding sites if possible
- Visit survey sites before first survey

Internet Resources: Reclamation LCR MSCP SSRS USFWS USGS





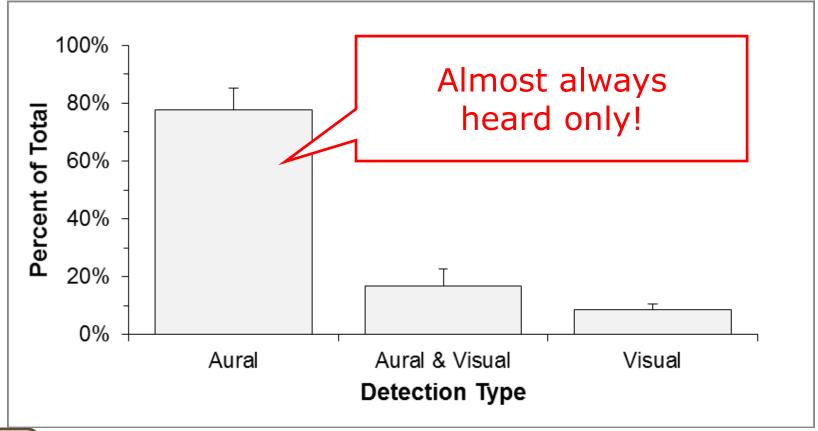
- Protocol based on visual or aural ID
- Must be able to hear and recognize all calls: contact, coo, alarm
- Very likely to hear, but not see a cuckoo during surveys







### Survey Detections by type 2008–2012 LCR (n=1,052) - SSRS







### Required Equipment

- Maps/Aerial Photos
- Broadcast Equipment
  - MP3 with contact calls
  - Speakers (70 db)
  - Back up player + batteries
- Survey Forms
- **Binoculars**
- **GPS** Unit
- Compass
- Pens, pencils
- Time Device (watch, GPS, phone)
- Clipboard or Electronic Device

### Optional Equipment

- Range Finder Flagging/Marker
- Cell phone Rite-in-rain
- Radio
- Camera







- Identify suitable habitat to survey
  - Patches of early to mature native or mixed native/exotic riparian forest ≥5 ha / 12.5 acres
  - ≥20 ha / 50 ac more suitable
- Riparian forest can change quickly







- Map survey area
- Identify access points
- Determine transect spacing, start and stop locations
  - Import to GPS or Phone
- Can skip unsuitable areas







- Determine order to survey sites
- Survey adjacent sites same day



- Determine travel time to reach transect start by car / foot
- Don't survey other species during YBCU survey





Conduct surveys from edge or within habitat?

- From within:
  - Responsiveness/detectability related to distance
  - If patch width >200 m
- From edge:
  - Easier: walk further in a morning
  - Greater visibility: easier to detect
  - ≥200 m: survey entire perimeter





### Survey Schedule, Timing

Four required surveys, every 12 – 15 days

Survey Period	Required?	Dates (+/- 3 days)
Pre-season	Optional	Late May - June 14
1	Required	June 15 - June 30
2	Required	7b. 4 7b. 24
2	Required	July 1 - July 31
3	Required	August 1 - August 15
Post-season	Optional	August 16 - September

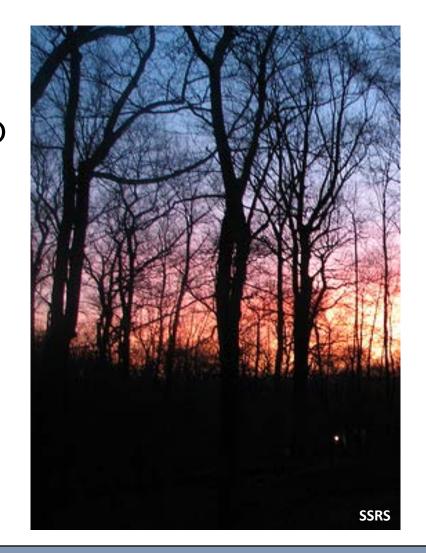




### Survey Methods

- Survey from ~dawn
  - As soon as safe to walk and can see enough to ID a YBCU
- Until 11:00 am
  - Or 40°C (104°F)
- Stop if too windy (>16 mph), noisy, or raining

\*\* Use Common Sense \*\*







### Survey Methods

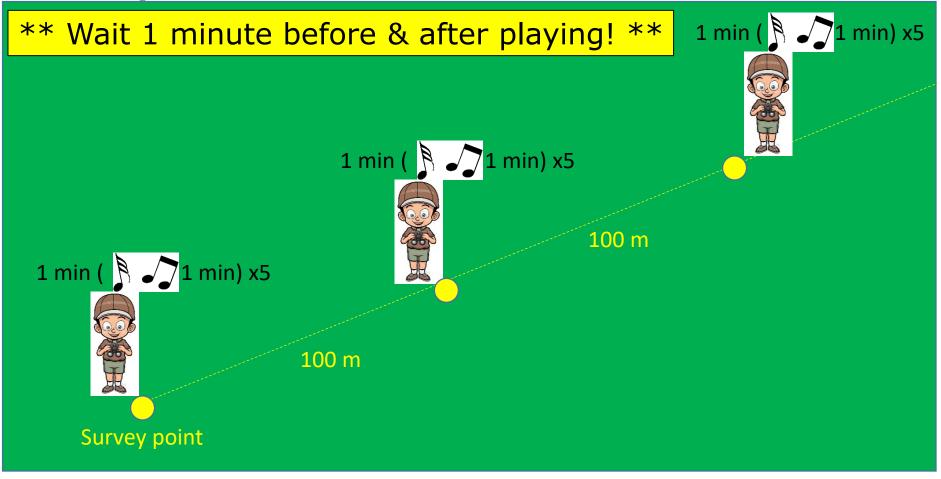
- Arrival to site: listen/watch silently a few minutes start filling out data sheet
- 2) Arrival to each point: listen/watch silently 1 minute
- 3) Broadcast 5 contact calls, each spaced 1 minute apart; listen/watch for YBCUs during/after each broadcast
- 4) No detection → Continue 100 m along transect, repeat







### Survey Methods: No detection







### Survey Methods

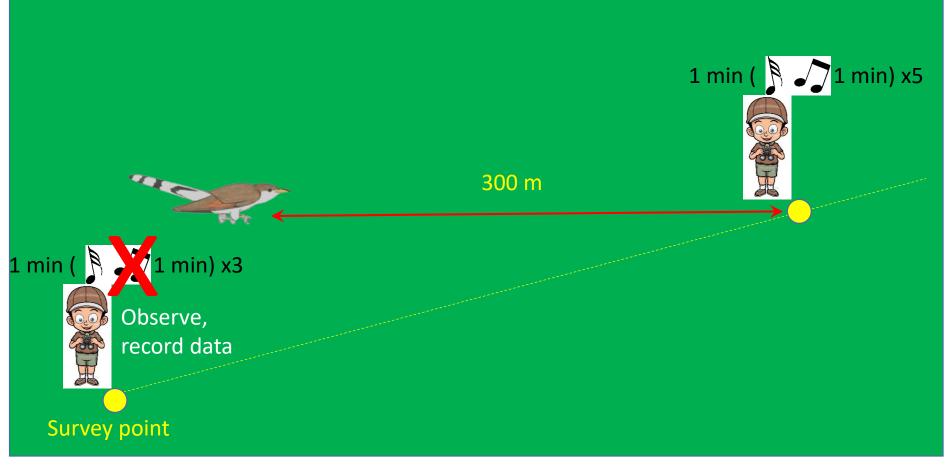
- 5) YBCU detected:
- Stop broadcast, try to see it if possible, then record data:
  - Waypoint (UTMs), time
  - Bearing / distance to bird
  - Bird #: Detections >300 m apart ~ separate individuals
  - Broadcast # when detected (0-5)
  - Detection type, call, behavior, comments
- 6) Move 300 m from bird along transect and continue
  - limit duplicate detections and harassment







### Survey Methods: Detection







### **Survey Methods**

- 7) YBCU encountered between survey points:
  - Stop and record same info as for a survey point detection
  - No broadcast calls!
  - Move 300 m from bird along transect
  - Continue with survey

\*\* Note: unmated females may follow surveyors great distances \*\*







### Survey Methods: Detection between points









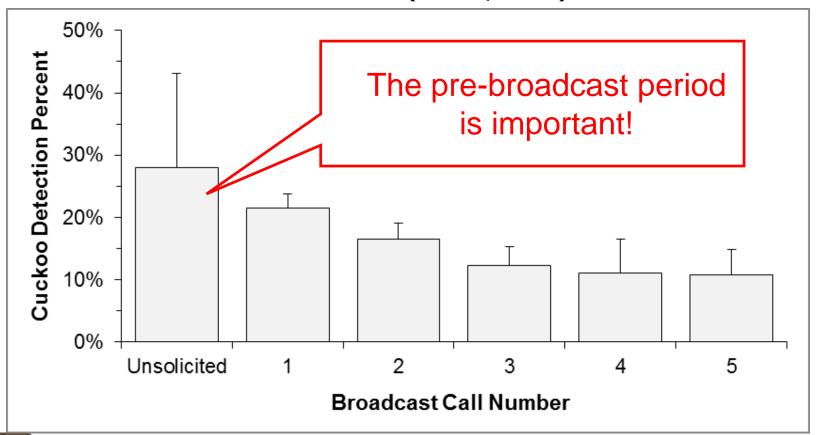
100 m

Observe, record data





### Survey Detections by Broadcast # 2008 – 2012 LCR (n=1,052) - SSRS







### Survey Methods

- Generally 8-15 minutes to listen for 1 minute, play 5 calls, record data, travel to next point 100 m away
- One surveyor can survey up to 20-25 points per morning







### Survey Methods

- 8) Ensure **full coverage** of habitat
- 9) Complete Survey Form before leaving site!
  - Detections > 300 m apart during same survey usually considered separate individuals







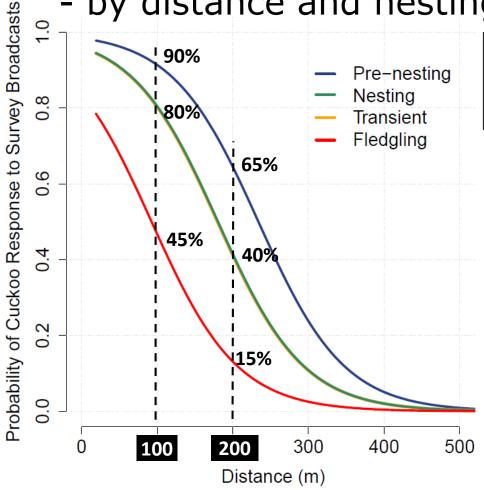
### SSRS radio bird study 2011-2012 LCR

N =

- 27 YBCUs
- 11 surveyors
- 301 response observations

### Probability of Response

- by distance and nesting stage



The probability a YBCU responds to call-playback





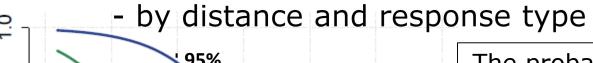


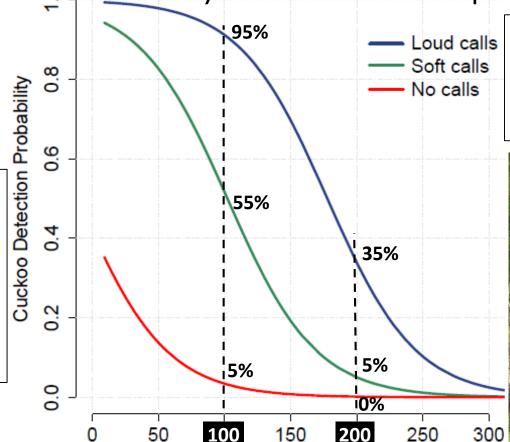
### SSRS radio bird study 2011-2012 LCR

N =

- 27 YBCUs
- 11 surveyors
- 149 responses







Distance (m)

The probability a surveyor detects a responding YBCU

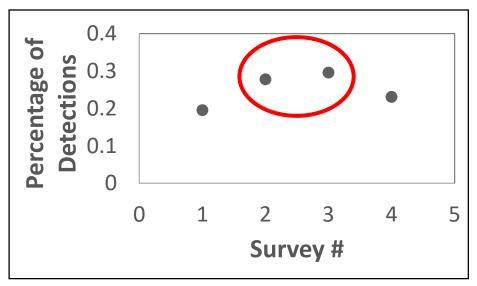






### Seasonal Detection Patterns

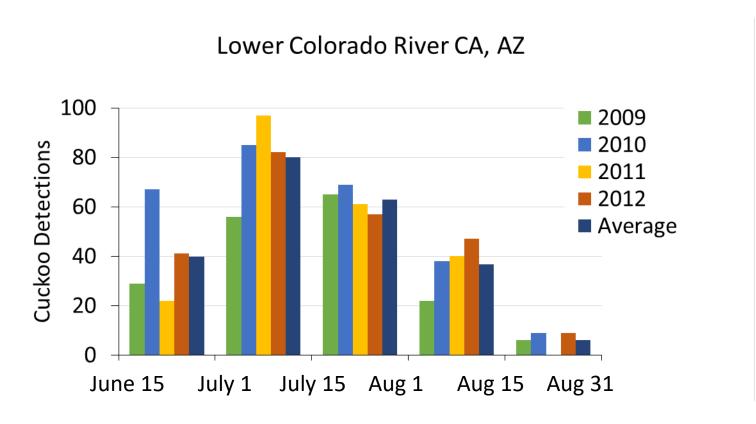
**Detection Percentage by Survey, New Mexico 2009-2013 (n=1,076 detections)** 



BOR, Albuquerque Area Office and Denver Technical Service Center





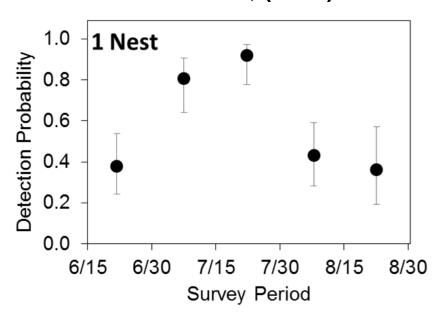




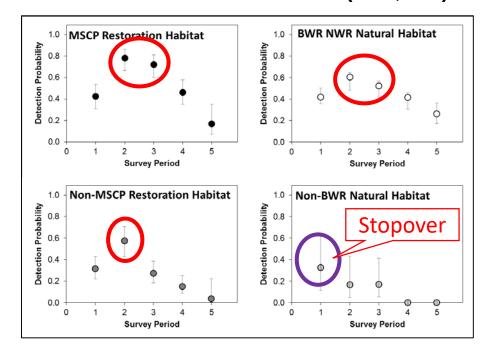


### Seasonal Detection Patterns

Detection Probability by Survey, LCR 2008-2012, (n=26)



Detection Probability by Survey, Lower Colorado River 2008-2012 (n=1,052)





Southern Sierra Research Station/LCR MSCP



### **Avoiding Adverse Impacts**

- No unnecessary playback
- No excessive flagging
- Move cautiously within habitat
- Avoid known or suspected nests
  - Only nest-search/monitor as part of focused research activity
  - Nest monitoring permit required federal and state
  - Leave area if "knocking" etc.







### **Avoiding Adverse Impacts**

- No playback in presence of predators
  - E.g. accipiters, ravens, crows, jays, magpies, owls ...
  - Wait until they leave, or move on toward next point
- Don't spread invasive plants and animals



Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, NY, June 19 2016





### **Avoiding Adverse Impacts**

### If you find a nest:

- Move away slowly, carefully
- When a safe distance away, note the nest and general location
- Flag inconspicuously >10 m from nest, remove by end of season
- Don't create a "dead end" trail
- Avoid the area







- Accurate abundance, breeding status difficult without additional monitoring
  - Easy to over-count, under-count territories
- Plot detections on a map (GIS), evaluate 'clumps' to estimate breeding territories
- Individual territories usually ≥300 m apart
- "Best biological opinion"





### Possible Breeding Territory (PO)

- Detections in an area during 2 surveys (at least 12 days apart)
- No other evidence of breeding







### Probable Breeding Territory (PR)

Detections in an area on at least 3 surveys (all at least 12 days apart)

- Or POssible territory + observation of:
  - Food or stick carry
  - Traveling as a pair
  - Exchanging contact calls





### d Cuckoo

### **Interpreting Survey Results**

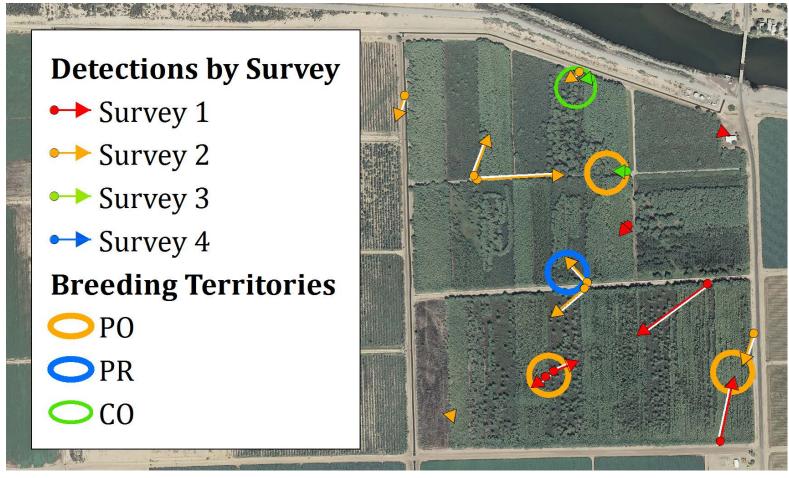
### Confirmed Breeding Territory (CO)

- Copulation
- Multiple food or stick carries
- Distraction display
- Fledgling
- Nest













### Reporting

- Permit requirement
  - Maps, detections, estimated territories, site descriptions

### **Benefits**

- Shows population trends
- May avoid project-related impacts
- Provides historical record
- Assists species recovery





### Required: Site Description Form - 1

### Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Survey Site Description Form for Electronic submission This form is intended to provide a general descrition of the habitat surveyed at a site. More detailed vegetation analysis requires precise measurements, and is outside the scope of this survey protocol. Please check your permit for additional requirements. Fill in the following information completely Date Report completed: Site Name: State: County: Name of Reporting Individual Affiliation Phone # Email: State Permit # USFWS Permit # Site Coordinates: UTM Zone: Start: E Stop: E NAD. USGS Quad Name(s): Length of area surveyed (in kilometers) Elevation: Name of nearest Creek, River, Wetland, or Lake: Ownership: BLM Reclamation NPS USFWS USFS Tribal State Private Other (Municipal/County) Was site surveyed in previous year? Yes No Unknown If ves, what site name was used? Did you survey the same general area during each visit this year? Yes / No If no, summarize in comments below If "Yes", was the same general area surveyed this year? Yes / No If no, summarize in comments below Native/Exotic: The species in tree/shrub layer at this site are comprised predominantly of (check one): Native broadleaf plants (>75% native) Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly native 51%-75%) Exotic/introduced plants (>75% exotic) Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly exotic 51%-75%) List up to 5 species of overstory vegetation and percent canopy cover of each species. Use scientific names. For percent cover, please use <1%; 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%. % cover: % cover: % cover: % cover: % cover: Average height of overstory (m)(do not include a range) Estimated Overall Canopy Cover (percent) List up to 5 species of understory/shrub vegetation (not all sites will have a separate understory) and estimate percent understory cover of each species. Use scientific names. For percent cover, please use <1%; 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%. % cover: % cover: % cover: % cover: % cover: Average height of understory (m)(do not include a range) Estimated Overall Cover (percent)





### Required: Site Description Form - 2

Average height of	of overstory (m)(do not includ	e a range	:)		Estimated Overall Car	nopy Co	over (percer	nt)							
	ecies of understory/shrub v ver, please use <1%; 10%	_	•	-	nderstory) and estin	nate pe	rcent unde	erstory cover of	each species. Use scientific names.						
1.	% cove		2.	70.	% cover:	3			% cover:						
4.	% cove		5.		% cover:	Ť	•		70 COVET:						
	of understory (m)(do not inclu				Estimated Overall Co	over (pe	rcent)								
	escribe adjacent habitat (e.g. upland vegetation; desert scrub; urban/residential; agriculture/orchard; oak woodland)  st up to five categories of adjacent habitat, and estimate percent cover. Use <1%; 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%.  % cover:  % cover:  3. % cover:														
<u> </u>	% cover: 2. % cover: 3. % cover:														
1.	% cover:       2.       % cover:       3.       % cover:         % cover:       5.       % cover:														
4.	. % cover: 5. % cover:														
Was surface was  Comments. P but within one	_	or adjac regardin ease no	ent to all patches surve g differences betwe te. Also, please not	yed? en the survey pa e significant di	fferences between d	te. For	nt oversto	ry and understo	anopy for this site is 30% cover, ry vegetation among the patches.						
Site Name: Phone #					Name of Reporting	g Indivi	idual								
Phone #					Email										

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SERVICE

Attach the following: 1) Copy of USGS 7.5 minute quad/topographical map(s) of survey area, outlining survey site and location of YBCU detection; 2) Sketch or aerial photo showing site location, patch shape, openings, survey route, and location of any detected YBCU or their nests; 3) Photos of the interior of the patch, exterior of the patch, and overall site. Describe any unique habitat features in Comments. Check your permits for required documentation.

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



### Required: Seasonal Survey Summary Form

				Y	ellow-bill	ed Cucko	o Survey	For	m						
Site Name:						County:				State:					
USGS Quad I	Vame:									Elevation:					
Creek, River,	Wetland, or L	ake Name													
Site	Coordinates:	Start:	Е			N				UTM Zone:					
		Stop:	Е			N				Datum:					
Ownership:															
Was site surv	Vas site surveyed in previous year					If yes, what si	te name was u	sed?							
Survey#	Date (m/d/y)	Total Number of	Tin Deter		Detect Type: I=Incidental P=Playback	Voc. Type: CN=Contact CO=coo	Playback #: Number of times	Behavior code		Detection dinates	Distance (m)	Bearing	Cuckoo#	Corrected	Coordinates
(Last Name, First Initial)	Time, Total Hours	YBCUs detected.		M):	A=aural V=visual B=both	AL=alarm OT=other (describe)	'Kowlp' call played prior to response	r code	UTME	UTMN	æ (m)	ing	00#	UTME	UTMN
Survey	Date:														
Period #1															
Observer(s):	Start:														
	Stop:														
	Total hrs:	Total:													
	I 5.														

\*\* Report survey data even if no detections! \*\*





### Required: Seasonal Survey Summary Form

### Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey Form **PVER Phase 07** Riverside CA Site Name: County: State: Blythe NE 86 USGS Quad Name: Elevation: Creek, River, Wetland, or Lake Name Lower Colorado River 731,861 3,731,804 11 Site Coordinates: Start: E Ν UTM Zone: 733,102 3,733,665 Datum: NAD83 Ν Stop: E CDFW Ownership: If yes, what site name was used? **PVER Phase 07** Was site surveyed in previous year? Detect Type: Voc. Type: Playback #: Surveyor Detection Total Distance (m) Corrected Coordinates Survey# Date: I=Incidental CN=Contact Number of Coordinates Cuckoo# Number Time Observer(s) (m/ďv) P=Playback CO=coo times of Detected (Last Name, Time, Total A=aural AL=alarm 'Kowlo' call YBCUs. (AM): First Initial) Hours V=visual OT=other played prior UTME UTM N UTME UTM N detected. B=both (describe) to response Survey #1 Date: Observer(s): Start: Stop: Total hrs: Total:





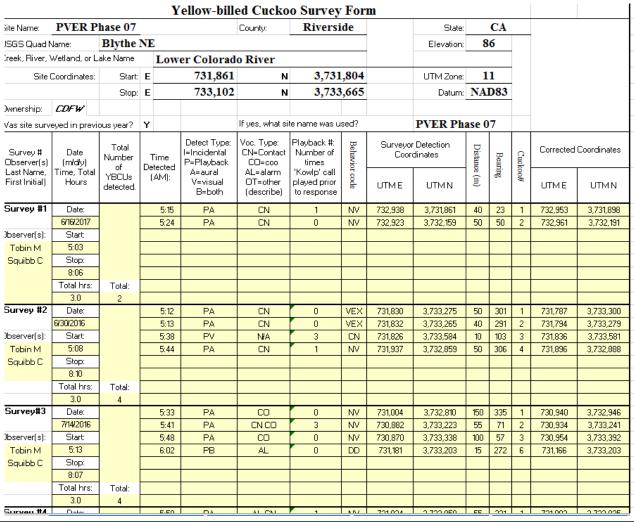
### Required: Seasonal Survey Summary Form

				Y	ellow-bill	ed Cucko	o Survey	For	m						
Site Name:	PVER P	hase 07				County:	Riversi	de		State:		CA			
USGS Quad I	Name:	Blythe	NE	C						Elevation:	8	6			
Creek, River,	Wetland, or L	ake Name		Low	er Colorad	o River									
Site	Coordinates:	Start:	Ε		731,861	N	3,731	,804		UTM Zone:	1	1			
		Stop:	Ε		733,102	N	3,733	,665		Datum:	NA	D83			
Ownership:	CDFW														
Was site surv	eyed in previ	ous year?	Υ			If yes, what si	te name was u	sed?		PVER Ph	ase 0	7			
Survey# Observer(s)	Date (m/d/y)	Total Number of	1 '	Firme	Detect Type: I=Incidental P=Playback	Voc. Type: CN=Contact CO=coo	Playback #: Number of times	Behavior code		r Detection dinates	Distance (m)	Bearing	Cuckoo#	Corrected	Coordinates
(Last Name, First Initial)	Time, Total Hours	YBCUs detected.		(AM):	A=aural V=visual B=both	AL=alarm OT=other (describe)	'Kowlp' call played prior to response	r code	UTME	UTMN	e (m)	ing	00#	UTME	UTMN
Survey #1	Date:			5:15	PA	CN	1	NV	732,938	3,731,861	40	23	1	732,953	3,731,89
	6/16/2017			5:24	PA	CN	0	NV	732,923	3,732,159	50	50	2	732,961	3,732,19
Observer(s):	Start:														
Tobin M	5:03	]													
Squibb C	Stop:														
	8:06														
	Total hrs:	Total:													
	3.0	2													



### Survey Forms Required

### Required: Seasonal Survey Summary Form





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



### Required: Seasonal Survey Summary Form

Survey	Date:												
Period #4													
Observer(s):	Start:												
	Stop:												
	Total hrs:	Total:											
	urvey Summary:		#PO	#PR	#0	co	#Ne	ests found	Total	Surve	y Hou	гs:	
Total YBCUs	*												
Notes (re	for to												
Cuckoo # ass	sociated —												
with indivi	idual 🕌												
detectio	ns)												
*Include justi	fication for th	ese design	ations										
include justi													

Behavior Codes: AN = at nest, BI = brooding or incubating, CF = adult carrying food, CN = carrying nest material, COP = copulation, CP = catches prey, DD = distraction displays/defense of nesting area, EF = eats food, FL = recently fledged young of species incapable of flight, FLY = flying, FO = foraging, FS = adult carrying a fecal sac, FY = adults feeding nestlings, JUV = juvenile, NB = nest building, NE = active nest with unbroken eggs in it, NY = nest with young seen or heard in it, ON = occupied nest, PR = preening, SI = sitting, US = used, inactive nest with blue-green eggshells.

Survey Summary Codes: PO = Possible Breeding Territory/PR = Probable Breeding Territory/CO = Confirmed Breeding Territory





### Required: Seasonal Survey Summary Form

	3.0		4												
Survey #4	Date:			5:50	PA	AL CN	1	NV	731,934	3,732,859	55	231	1	731,892	3,732,825
	7/29/201	16		6:30	PA	co	0	NV	731,556	3,733,243	60	228	2	731,511	3,733,203
Observer(s):	Start:			7:18	PB	AL	1	NY	731,200	3,732,944	15	181	3	731,199	3,732,929
	5:35														
	Stop:														
	9:00														
	Total hr:	s:	Total:												
	3.5		3												
Survey Sum	тагу:		# Det	#PO	#PR	#0	Ö	#Ne	ests found	Total	Surve	y Hour	s:		
Total YBCUs*			13	1	1	2	2		1	1	2.50				
		Surv	ey 4, Det#	3: foundine	st after hearing .	AL call from are	a. In 10 m high	Goodd	ing willow, ne	stis 3 m high				]	
Notes (ref		PO: [	Detections	in northeas	t corner during :	surveys 2 and 3	}							1	
Cuckoo # ass with indivi		PR:	Though I s	aw stick ca	rry in central sou	th patch plus d	letections in ar	ea surve	eys 1-3					1	
detection		CO1:	Distraction	n display di	uring survey 3, a	rea of high acti	vity							1	
30,000,101	,	CO2:	: Survey 4,	Det #3: fou	nd nest after hea	aring AL call fro	om area. In 10 n	n high G	ioodding willo	ow, nest is 3 m	high			1	
*Include justif	ication for	these	e designati	ions.										1	

Behavior Codes: AN = at nest, BI = brooding or incubating, CF = adult carrying food, CN = carrying nest material, COP = copulation, CP = catches prey, DD = distraction displays/defense of nesting area, EF = eats food, FL = recently fledged young of species incapable of flight, FLY = flying, FO = foraging, FS = adult carrying a fecal sac, FY = adults feeding nestlings, JUV = juvenile, NB = nest building, NE = active nest with unbroken eggs in it, NY = nest with young seen or heard in it, ON = occupied nest, PR = preening, SI = sitting, US = used, inactive nest with blue-green eggshells.

Survey Summary Codes: PO = Possible Breeding Territory/PR = Probable Breeding Territory/CO = Confirmed Breeding Territory



Page\_\_1\_ of

## **Optional Survey Forms**

### Optional: Daily Datasheet — Front

**OPTIONAL Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Daily Datasheet** 

			veyor name: Surveyor email: Surveyor Phone:																									
Surveyor	nan	ne:									Su	ırveyor e	mail:									Survey	or Phone:					
Site Code	2:			9	ite Na	me:							Surv	ey Perio	od:			٧	isit#:		Da	te (mm/dd	/yy):		Additional obse	ervers:		
Drainage	:						Sta	te:				County																
Survey St	art		Time	e:			Wi	nd:			CI	oud cove	r:		F	Preci	ip:			Noise:			Temp:					
Survey E	nd		Time	2:			Wi	nd:			CI	oud cove	r:		F	Preci	ip:			Noise:			Temp:					
NAD:			Start	Nor	thing			П			$\neg$	Start Ea	sting					T	Star	t GPS Ac	cura	acy (m):						
Zone:					thing						$\top$	Stop Ea						T		GPS Acc								
<u> </u>						_	•		_	_						_	_	_					a information halow			$\overline{}$	$\overline{}$	$\overline{}$
Call Point Start Time	Survey Call Point UTM Coordinates  Northing  Easting  Northing  Northing  Northing  Northing  Survey Call Point UTM Coordinates  Northing  Northin														Behavior/ Breeding Code (you can use more	Note #	*	*										
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																_		Ļ										
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																⊐		1										
Notes:																												

Total YBCU Detections



## Optional Survey Forms



### Optional: Daily Datasheet — Back

		Date	Initials
	Data Entry:		
	Data Proof:		
* Blanks provided for region-specific or project-specific data. Please define these fields in "Notes" or the space provided.	Data Scan:		
ORTIONAL Valleys Billed Cycles Daily Datechast ng 3			

Site Code:		Site Name:						Survey Period:			Visit #:	Date (	mm/dd/yy):		Pageo	of	
Wind		Precipitation	1	Noise code	s	D	ist Acc.	VOCALIZATION	CODE	BEH/	AVIOR	CODE	BEHAVIOR	CODE	BREEDING	CODE	CLOUD
Calm	0	None	0	Quiet	0	1	exact	Contact	CON	No v	isual	NV	Catches Prey	CP	Copulation	COP	COVER
Smoke drifts	1	Mist	1	Faint noise	1	2	estimate	Соо	coo	Sittir	ng	ST	Carry Food	CF	Feeds Mate	FM	C < 25%
Felt on face	2	Drizle	2	Moderate:		3	±25m	Knock/Alarm	ALA	Fora	ging	FO	Eats Food	EF	Carry Nest Material	CN	PO 25-49%
Leaves move	3	Rain	3	detection $_{ m radius}$ $\downarrow$	2	4	±50m	Juvenile Calls	JUVC	Pree	ning	PRE	At Nest	AN	Brooding/Incubating	ВІ	MO 50-75%
Small branches move	4	Heavy rain	4	Loud: Only		5	±100m	Other Vocaliz.	ov	Flyin	g	FLY	Juvenile	JUV	Feeds Nestling	FN	O > 75%
Small trees move	5	Snow	5	closest birds detected	3	6	guess			Distra	action Display	DD	Vocal Exchange	VEX	Feeds Fledgling	FF	

																		If a YBC	U is detected, pl	ease provide the	information below					
Point Start Time				vey (		Poin	t UT	мс		linat East			Waypoint Number	Detection #	line for each	Time of Detection	I=Incidental <b>P</b> =Playback	A=auralV =visual B=both	Compass Bearing°	Estimated Distance (m)	Est. Dist. Acc.	Vocal Code (can use more than one)	Behavior/ Breeding Code -can use more than	Note #	*	*
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* Blanks	prov	rideo	for	reg	ion-	spec	ific c	or pr	ojec	t-sp	ecific	data.	Please d	efine	these	fields in	"Notes"	or the sp	ace provide	d.			(revise	06/03/	2016)	
Surveyor															Survey	or email	:				Surveyor I					
Surveyor	Affi	liati	on (	e.g.	AGF	D, B	LM, e	etc.)	:										Please che	ck your peri	mits for report	ng requirem	ents and timing			



### Survey Protocol for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo





