



Endangered Bird Sets Up Camp at Wash



Recently banded southwestern willow flycatcher.

For just the second time in the program history of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee, a biologist has banded a southwestern willow flycatcher in the study area. The endangered bird was first identified in June 2013, singing from a tall stand of Goodding willows and cottonwood trees within the Clark County Nature Preserve.

Biologists determined it was a southwestern willow flycatcher after he exhibited territorial behavior over a period of several weeks.

To help with future tracking, a permitted biologist carefully netted the bird, took size and overall health measurements and attached aluminum color bands on each leg before releasing him. Color bands allow the observation of previously captured birds through the use of binoculars, eliminating the need for direct contact, unnecessary stress and potential injury.

Southwestern willow flycatcher surveys are conducted each summer at the Wash as part of the required mitigation efforts for ongoing weir construction projects. The species migrates this time of year from Costa Rica looking for potential nesting locations.

Visually, the endangered southwestern subspecies is indiscernible from the other subspecies of the willow flycatcher. For this reason, biologists must rely on bird behavior to distinguish them. To be considered a resident southwestern willow flycatcher, territorial or nesting behaviors must be observed, or the bird must be present on-site after June 24. With four of the five rounds of surveys already completed this year, biologists have totaled 11 willow flycatchers, one of which was the aforementioned southwestern willow flycatcher.

While this is only the fourth documented southwestern willow flycatcher in 16 years of surveys along the Las Vegas Wash, the increase in detections of the endangered subspecies over the last several years is a good indication that revegetation efforts made throughout the Clark County Wetlands Park continue to be successful and native wildlife is responding positively.

Keep an Eye to the Sky this Summer

It may not rain very often in Las Vegas, but storms can form quickly and unleash a lot of water in a very short amount of time. The likelihood for these storms is especially high in the summer, as monsoon season in our city takes place during the months of July and August.

When a large amount of water comes in contact with the hard desert surface, it tends to run off and create flash floods throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

Being a natural low point of the valley, these flows collect at the Las Vegas Wash and create potentially dangerous conditions.

Whether you're hiking or driving, you should never enter a flooded area. For more information and safety tips, visit lvwash.org or regionalflood.org.



Flash floods can form quickly and create dangerous situations.

Upcoming Meetings

Administrative Study Team

July 10, 2013
8:30 a.m.

Operations Study Team

July 10, 2013
10:30 a.m.

Research and Environmental Monitoring Study Team

July 10, 2013
1:30 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

July 23, 2013
8:30 a.m.

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