

## The Bell's Vireo in California: a preliminary report

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Sanford R. Wilbur

SINCE 1973, THE BELL'S VIREO (*Vireo bellii*) has been included on the *American Birds* "Blue List" of species apparently suffering population declines. Partly as a result of the listing, interest in the species has developed in California and a number of local studies are in progress. My own work has involved an extensive literature review, a check of specimens in museums, and correspondence with birders throughout the State. Information compiled to date suggests a substantial decrease in the species throughout California. It is probably almost extinct in the northern half of its former range.

The accompanying map shows the historic range of the Bell's Vireo in California, as described by Grinnell and Miller (The distribution of the birds of California, *Pacific Coast Avifauna* 27, 1944). Plotted on the map are all the 1950-1976 Bell's Vireo records that I have found. The information is presented in this preliminary form now in hope that it will stimulate further reporting and study. I would appreciate receiving information from anyone observing the species in California.

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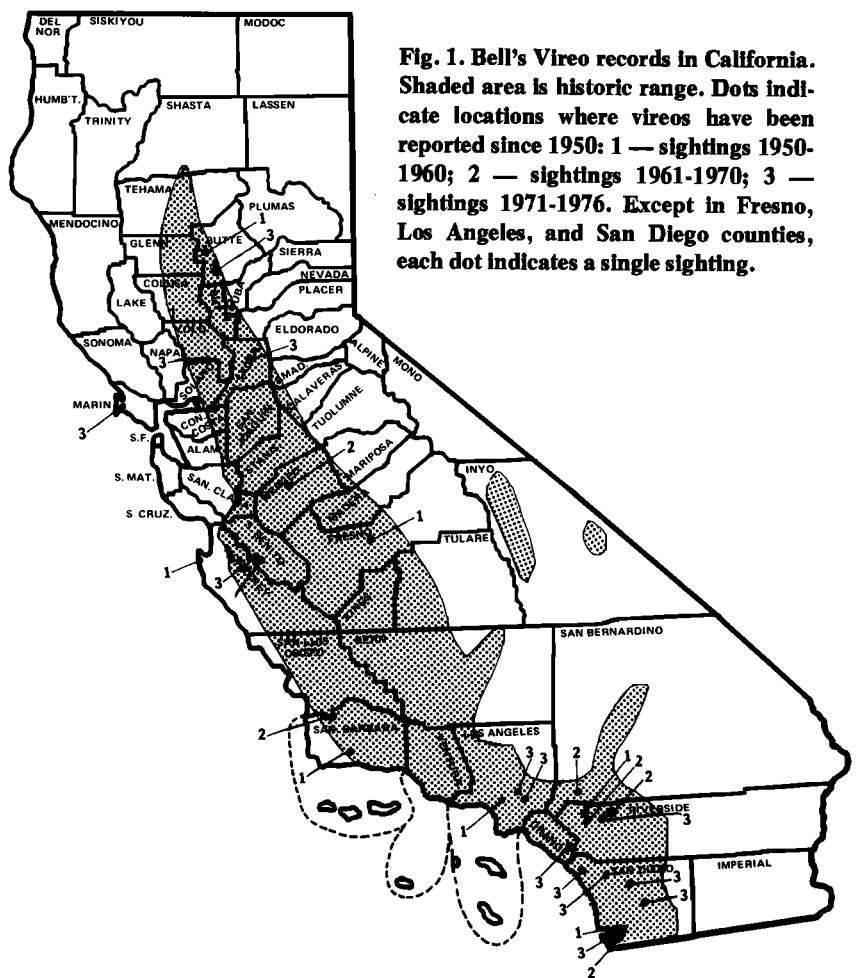


Fig. 1. Bell's Vireo records in California. Shaded area is historic range. Dots indicate locations where vireos have been reported since 1950: 1 — sightings 1950-1960; 2 — sightings 1961-1970; 3 — sightings 1971-1976. Except in Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties, each dot indicates a single sighting.