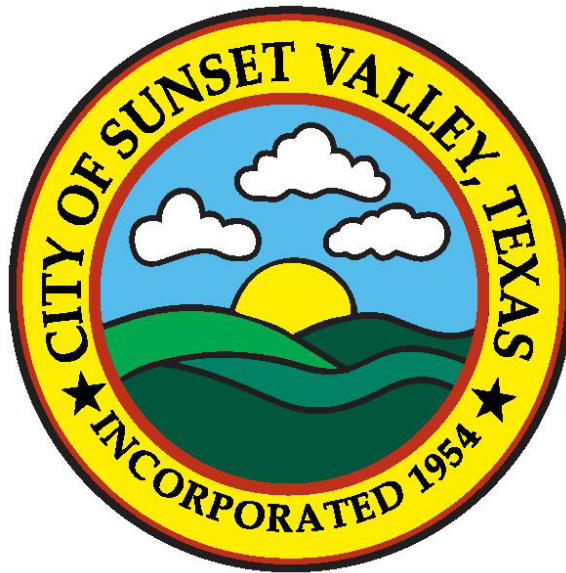




**Gaines Greenbelt
2020 Annual Report**

Submitted by the City of Sunset Valley

Introduction

The Gaines Greenbelt is owned and managed by the City of Sunset Valley as part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). The Gaines Greenbelt provides habitat for the federally endangered Golden-Cheeked Warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*, GCWA) and a portion contains a public use hike and bike trail. Sunset Valley has signed a Managing Partner Agreement with the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP), The Sunset Valley – BCCP Managing Partner Agreement adds the Sunset Valley Gaines Greenbelt to the BCP Barton Creek Macrosite. The Managing Partner Agreement was officially filed in 2014.

The Gaines Greenbelt parcel is approximately 21.9 acres located in Travis County, Texas, at the northern edge of the City of Sunset Valley. The parcel's south side borders the back lot lines of residential sites, a hotel, and a Texas Department of Transportation stormwater pollution prevention facility located along US Highway 71/State Highway 290 West; east of the tract lies a larger-lot residential area; and, the remaining parcel borders the City of Austin's Barton Creek Greenbelt trail system (Appendix A).

Golden-cheeked Warbler Surveys

Between March and May of this year presence/absence surveys were conducted in the Gaines Greenbelt consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocols. No Golden-cheeked Warblers were recorded on these visits. However, one male Golden-cheeked Warbler was heard on the adjacent property. The survey does note that the Gaines Greenbelt is suitable habitat for Golden-cheeked Warblers. Complete results of the presence/absence survey can be found in Appendix B.

Trail Management Activities

Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) oversees the operation and maintenance of the Violet Crown Trail within the Gaines Greenbelt. HCC will generate a separate report that details all trail management activities within the area of the Violet Crown Trail. The City routinely checks the trail for hazards and other concerns.

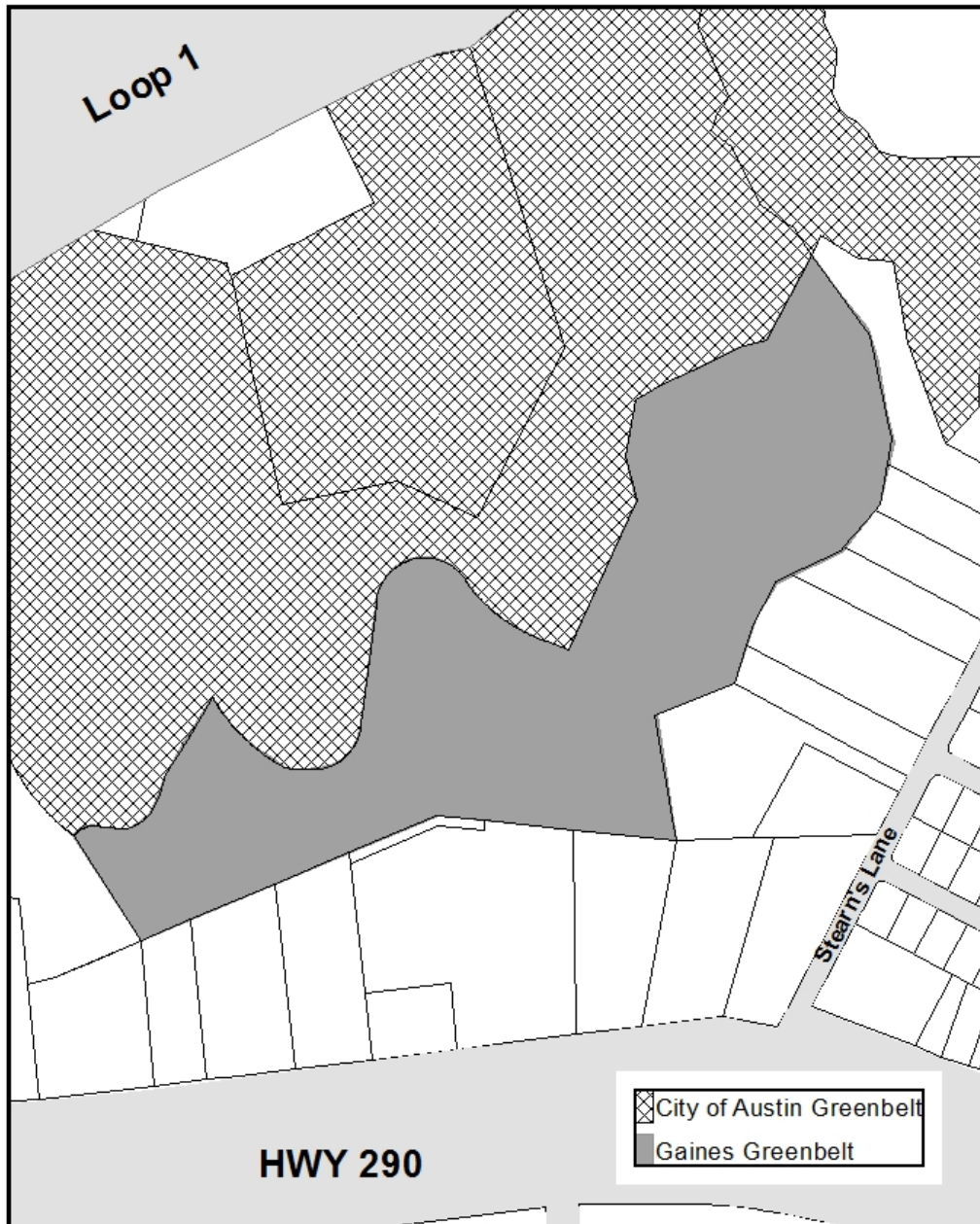
Budget

The budget for the Gaines Greenbelt is attached in Appendix C. Budgetary expenditures only reflect the cost of consultants. The City of Sunset Valley does not track staff time in regards to open space management.

Appendix A Map of Gaines Greenbelt



1 inch = 0.06 miles



Appendix B

ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY SUMMARY FOR GAINES GREENBELT, IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY SUMMARY

FOR GAINES GREENBELT, IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BOWMAN PROJECT NO. 009935-01-003

JUNE 16, 2020

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: Gaines Greenbelt Golden-cheeked Warbler Survey

COUNTY: Travis County, Texas

LOCATION: Approximately 0.5 mile north of the City of Sunset Valley between Mopac (Loop 1) and U.S. 290

USGS 7.5-QUAD: Oak Hill, Texas

PROPERTY SIZE: Approximately 21 acres

CLIENT: City of Sunset Valley
Public Works Department – Environmental Programs
Attn: Carolyn Meredith
3205 Jones Road
Sunset Valley, Texas 78745

SUBJECT SPECIES: Golden-cheeked warbler (GCWA, *Setophaga chrysoparia*)

HABITAT AREA: GCWA – Approx. 21 acres of potential suitable habitat

SURVEY PERSONNEL: Sarah Weber

SURVEY DATES: March 28– May 28, 2020 (Table 1)

TOTAL SURVEY TIME: Approximately seven hours (Table 1)

NUMBER OF VISITS: 5

2.0 METHODS

This endangered species survey summary report documents the Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) presence/absence (p/a) surveys for the above-mentioned project. This summary report covers the approximately 21-acre City of Sunset Valley Gaines Greenbelt in south-central Travis County, Texas (Figure 1). Survey methods were consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocol for GCWA p/a surveys (USFWS 2010).

As shown in Table 1 and Appendix I, five visits were made to each survey area, with all visits at least 5 days apart. Survey hours exceeded the minimum requirement of one hour per survey visit for 25 acres of potential habitat required for a complete survey. Weather conditions were acceptable for completing field surveys. Survey visits began within 30 minutes of sunrise or within 7 hours after sunrise.

Field observations and track logs (Figure 2) were recorded with Avenza Maps Software. On the final visit, audio playback recordings were used to confirm absence of golden-cheeked warblers on-site. One male GCWA was heard on the adjacent property during the first and third survey and did not respond to play back recordings. Sarah Weber, of BCG is covered by USFWS permit number and TE78959A-1.

3.0 HABITAT ASSESSMENT

The entire approximately 21-acre Gaines Greenbelt contains potentially suitable habitat for the GCWA. Ashe juniper woodlands occurred along the slopes and riparian hardwood woodlands occurred within and adjacent to the tributaries to Barton Creek. Field observations of habitat in the study area were generally consistent with the descriptions of suitable GCWA habitat provided in Campbell (2003). A list of plant species observed during the 2018 surveys is shown in Table 3. This list is not comprehensive in nature and reflects vegetation that had identifiable characteristics present during the 2018 survey.

4.0 RESULTS

Two heard only documented occurrences of GCWA were made during the 2020 presence/absence surveys (See Figure 2). Playback recordings elicited no responses of GCWA throughout the Project Site. The 2018 survey resulted in zero observations. Prior surveys in 2014 made 13 detections over 5 site visits. Although no detections were made during the 2018 surveys GCWA breeding and foraging habitat does exist on Gaines Greenbelt. The documented occurrence of 1 breeding male (heard-only during two occurrences) was heard on the BCP property to the west. Much of the site consists of Mature Ashe Juniper/ Mixed Hardwood Forest growing on slopes in mesic conditions, which is ideal GCWA breeding habitat.

Other bird species observed during the 2020 GCWA survey are listed in Table 2.

Plant species identified during the 2018 survey are listed in Table 3.

5.0 REFERENCES

Campbell, L. 2003. Endangered and threatened animals of Texas – Their life history and management. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Division. Austin, Texas. 127 pp.

USFWS Section 10(a)(1)(A) Scientific Permit Requirements for Conducting Presence/Absence Survey and Habitat Assessments for the Endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler (2010).
https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Documents/R2ES/GCWA_Survey_Guidelines_20100113.pdf

6.0 ATTACHMENTS

FIGURE 1.	Gaines Greenbelt Study Area
FIGURE 2.	Route walked during the 2020 GCWA survey.
TABLE 1.	Survey dates, duration, personnel, and weather conditions for the 2020 Gaines Greenbelt GCWA P/A survey.
TABLE 2.	Birds observed on Gaines Greenbelt (Spring 2020).
TABLE 3.	Plants observed on Gaines Greenbelt (Spring 2018).
APPENDIX I	Field Notes

7.0 SIGNATURES

This report was prepared by professional biologists at the consulting firm of Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd. in conformance with the methods and limitations described herein. The findings of this submittal are completely and accurately documented in this application package.

PREPARED BY:



SIGNATURE

SARAH A. WEBER,
CERTIFIED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

PRINTED NAME

JUNE 20, 2020

DATE

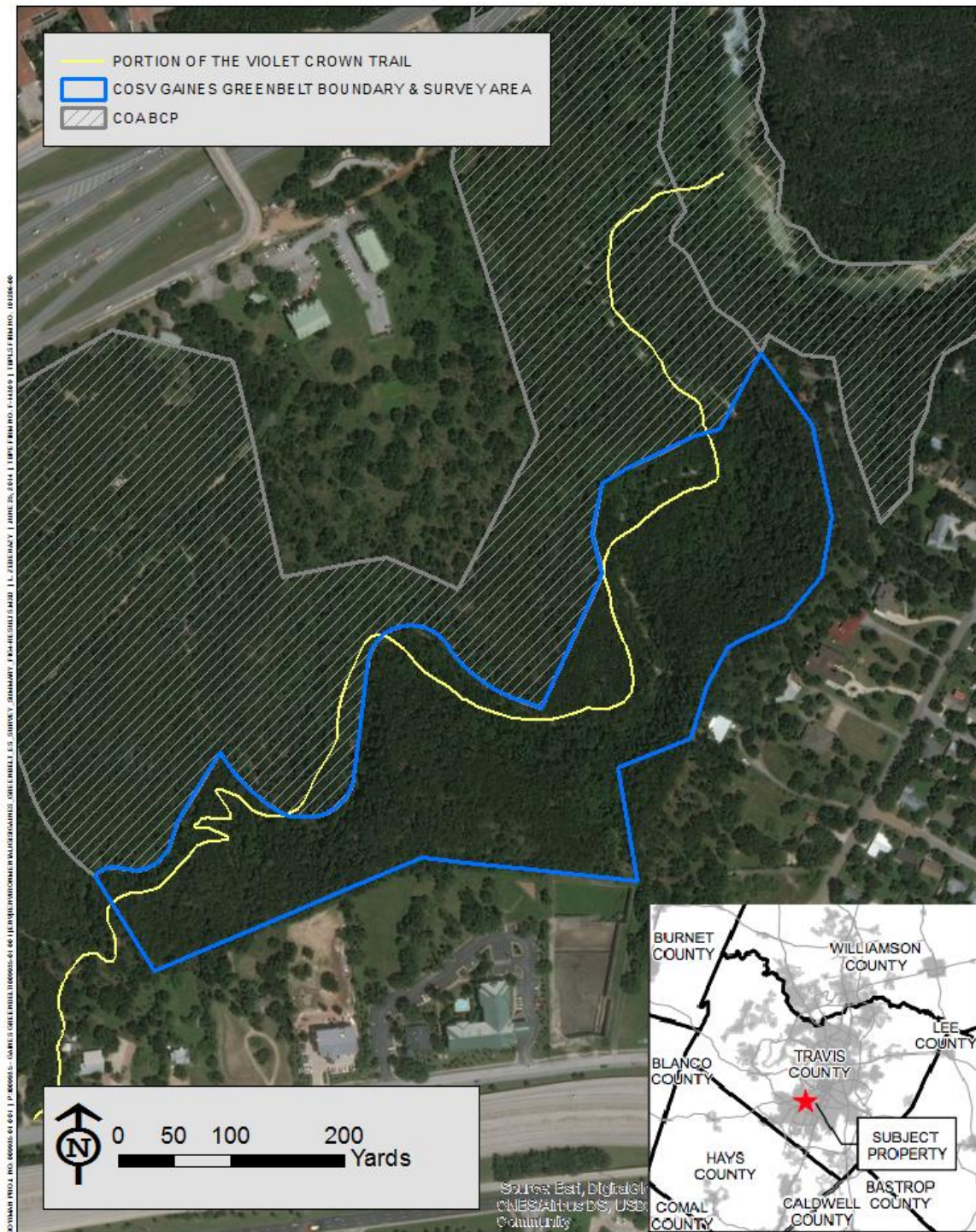


FIGURE 1

STUDY AREA

CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY GAINES GREENBELT, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Bowman
CONSULTING

Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd.
3101 Bee Cave Road • Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78746
TEL: 512.327.1180 • FAX: 512.327.4062 • BOWMANCONSULTING.COM

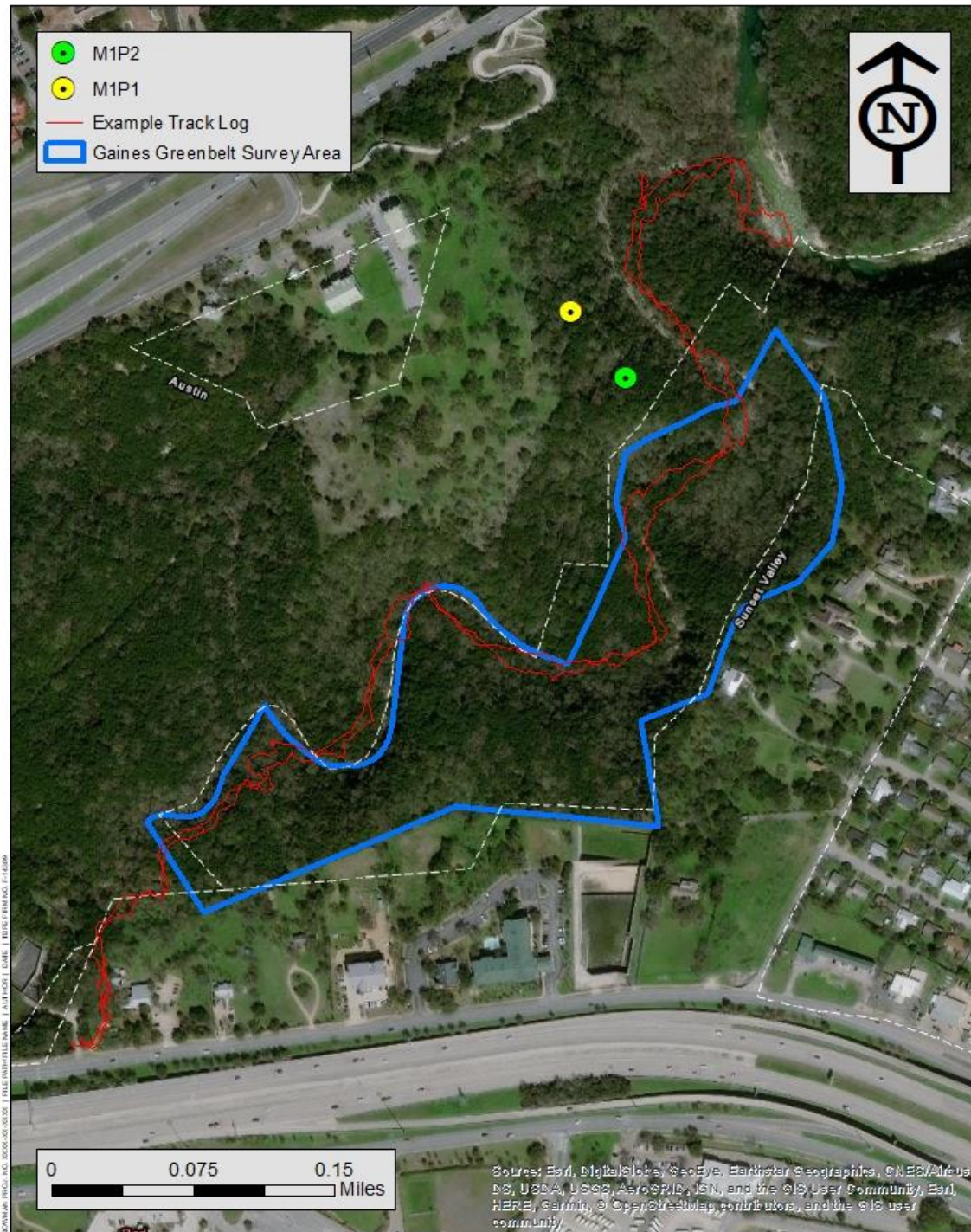


FIGURE 2

GCWA OBSERVATIONS

CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY, GAINES GREENBELT, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Bowman
CONSULTING

Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd.
3101 Bee Cave Road • Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78746
TEL: 512.327.1180 • FAX: 512.327.4062 • BOWMANCONSULTING.COM

TABLE 1. SURVEY DATES, DURATION, PERSONNEL, & WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR THE 2018 JOHNSON COUNTY GCWA P/A SURVEY.

Date	Time			Temperature (°F)		Wind Direction		Wind Speed (mph)		Cloud Cover (percent)		Personnel	Comments
	Start	End	Total Hrs	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
3/28/2020	9:40	11:00	1 hr 20 mins	74	68	NNW	NNW	8	3	70	70	S. Weber	GCWA Male Heard Only off property @ 30.23881, -97.81205
4/16/2020	7:45	9:15	1 hr 30 mins	47	54	SSE	SSE	2	3	10	10	S. Weber	No GCWA's
4/26/2020	11:20	13:00	1 hr 40 mins	55	76	ESE	ESE	5	5	0	0	S. Weber	
5/9/2020	9:45	11:00	1 hr 15 mins	75	74	SSE	SSE	6	9	50	50	S. Weber	GCWA Male Heard only off property @ 30.23916, -97.81250
5/28/2020	9:30	11:00	1 hr 30 mins	70	76	N	N	0	0	50	80	S. Weber	
Total Survey Time:			7 hrs 15 mins										

TABLE 2. BIRDS OBSERVED ON GAINES GREENBELT (SPRING 2020).

Common Name	Scientific Name
Birds	
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Bewick's wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Black-chinned hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>
Black-crested titmouse	<i>Baeolophus atricristatus</i>
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>
Brown-headed cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
Canyon wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>
Carolina chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>
Carolina wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
Cedar waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Common Grackle	<i>Wuiscaulus quisula</i>
Eastern phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
Golden-cheeked Warbler	<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>
Great-tailed grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>
Ladder-backed woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>
Lark sparrow	<i>Chonedestes grammacus</i>
Lesser goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>
Red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Ruby-crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>

Spotted towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>
Summer tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>
White-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>
White-throated sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
White-winged dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>
Yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>

Other Wildlife Species

Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>
Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>

TABLE 3. PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED ON GAINES GREENBELT (SPRING 2018).

Common Name	Scientific Name
Trees	
Ashe Juniper	<i>Juniperus ashei</i>
Deciduous Holly	<i>Ilex decidua</i>
Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>
Chinese Tallow	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>
Texas Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Live Oak	<i>Quercus fusiformis</i>
Spanish Oak	<i>Quercus texana</i>
Shin Oak	<i>Quercus sinuata</i>
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>
Red Mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>
Japanese Ligustrum	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>
Texas Ash	<i>Fraxinus texensis</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Escarpment Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Western Soapberry	<i>Sapindus saponaria</i>
Gum Bumelia	<i>Sideroxylon lanuginosum</i>
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
Cedar Elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>
Sugar Hackberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
Shrubs	
Evergreen Sumac	<i>Rhus virens</i>
Shrubby Bonsett	<i>Eupatorium havanense</i>
Agarita	<i>Berberis trifoliolata</i>
Heavenly Bamboo	<i>Nandina domestica</i>
Rough Leaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>
Texas Persimmon	<i>Diospyros texana</i>
Bush Croton	<i>Croton fruticosus</i>
Eve's Necklace	<i>Sophora affinis</i>

Moutain Laurel
Kidney Wood
Lindheimer's Silktassle
Elbowbush
Brazil
Mexican Plum
Red Buckeye
Engelmann's Prickly Pear
Twist-Leaf Yucca

Sophora secundiflora
Eysenhardtia texana
Garrya ovata
Forestiera pubescens
Condalia hookeri
Prunus mexicana
Aesculus pavia
Opuntia engelmannii
Yucca rupicola

Vines

Poison Ivy
Green Milkweed
Japanese Honeysuckle
Carolina Snailseed
Bracted Passion Flower
Rattan
Dewberry
Winter Grape
Virginia Creeper
Sevenleaf Creeper

Toxicodendron radicans
Matela reticulata
Lonicera japonica
Cocculus carolinus
Passiflora affinis
Berchemia scandens
Rubus trivialis
Vitis cinerea
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Parthenocissus heptaphylla

Forbs

Beggar's Tick
Venus's Comb
Dandelion
Straggler Daisy
Giant Ragweed
Yarrow
Frostweed
Chickweed
Texas Poinsettia
Nettleleaf Noseburn
Deer Pea Vetch
Bur Clover
Bluebonnet
Baby Blue-Eyes
Blue Curls
Cedar Sage
Turk's Cap Mallow
Four O'clock
Columbine
Pennsylvannia Pellyotry
Corn-Salad
Missouri Violet

Torilis arvensis
Scandex pecten-veneris
Taraxacum officinale
Calyptocarpus vialis
Ambrosia trifida
Acillea millefolium
Verbesina virginica
Stellaria media
Poinsettia cyathophora
Tragia urticifolia
Vicia ludoviciana
Medicago polymorpha
Lupinus texensis
Nemophila phacelioides
Phacelia congesta
Salvia roemeriana
Malvaviscus arboreus
Mirabilis jalapa
Aquilegia canadensis
Parietaria pensylvanica
Valerianella amarella
Viola missouriensis

Grass and allies

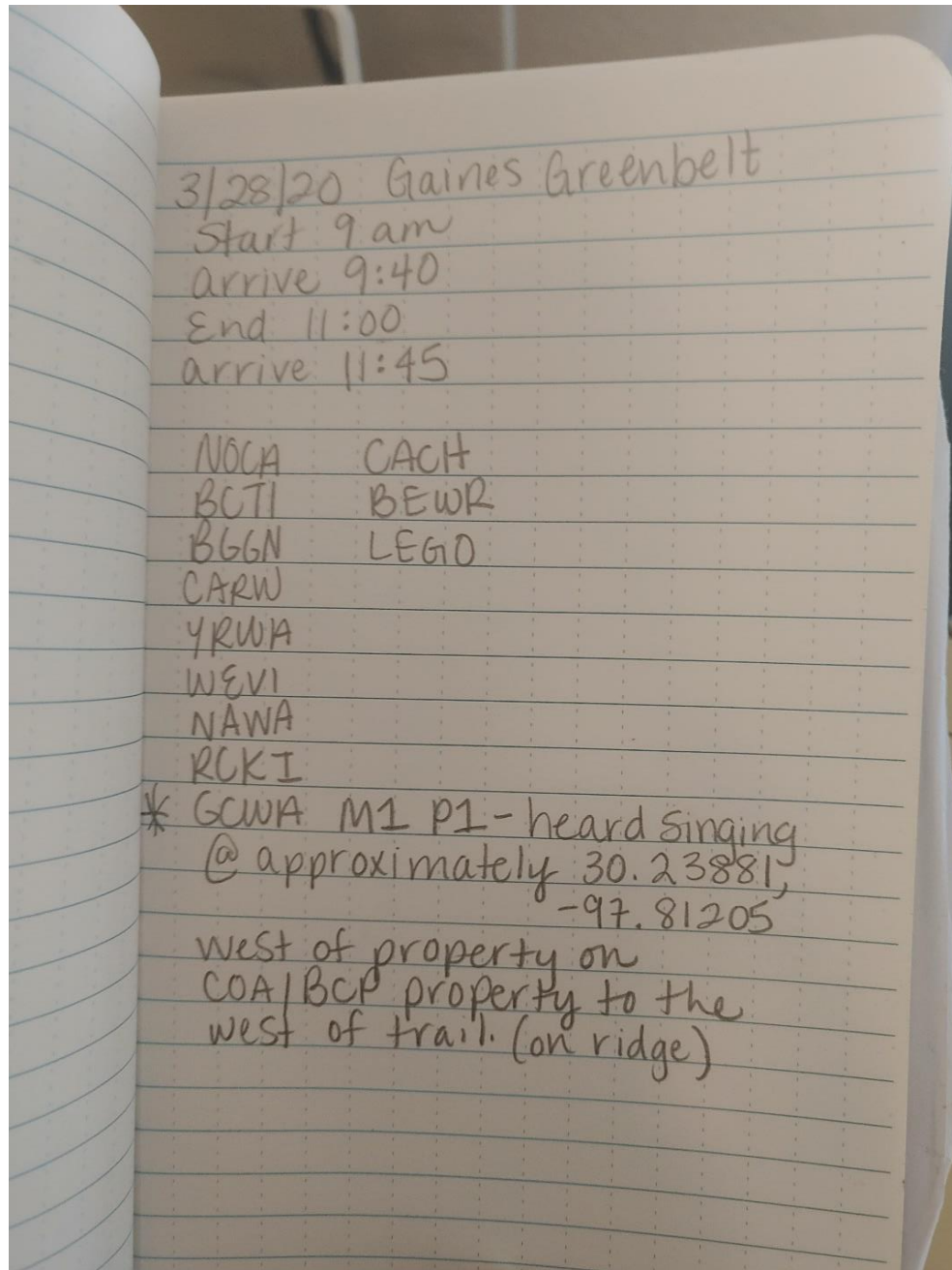
Broadleaf Woodoats
Virginia Wildrye
Ozarkgrass
Rescue Grass
Wooly Rosettegrass
Cedar Sedge

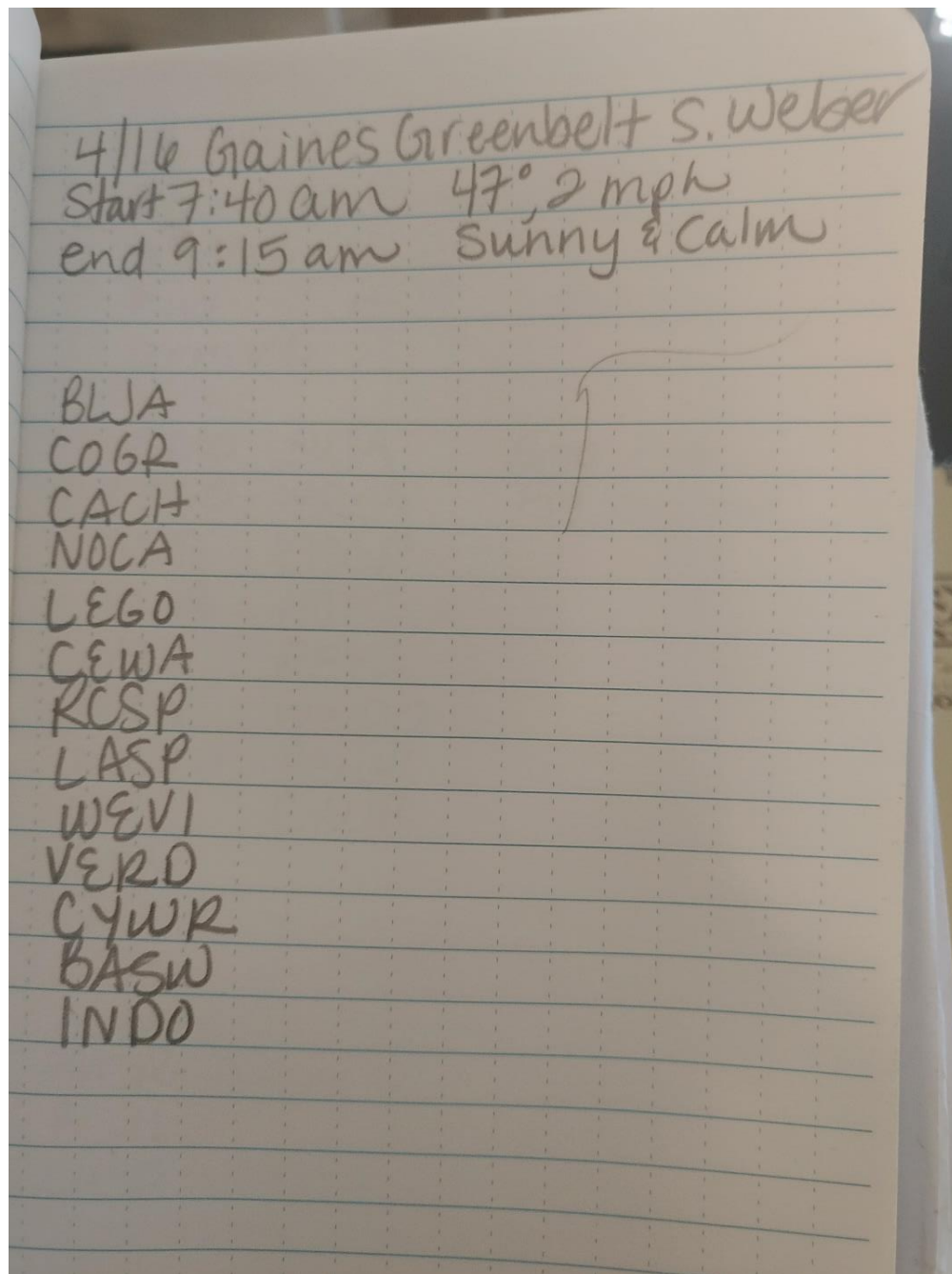
Chasmanthium latifolium
Elymus virginicus
Limmodea arkansana
Bromus catharticus
Dichanthelium acuminatum
Carex planostachys

Giant Spiderwort
Blue-eyed Grass
Wild Garlic

Tradescantia gigantea
Sisyrinchium ensigerum
Allium drummondii

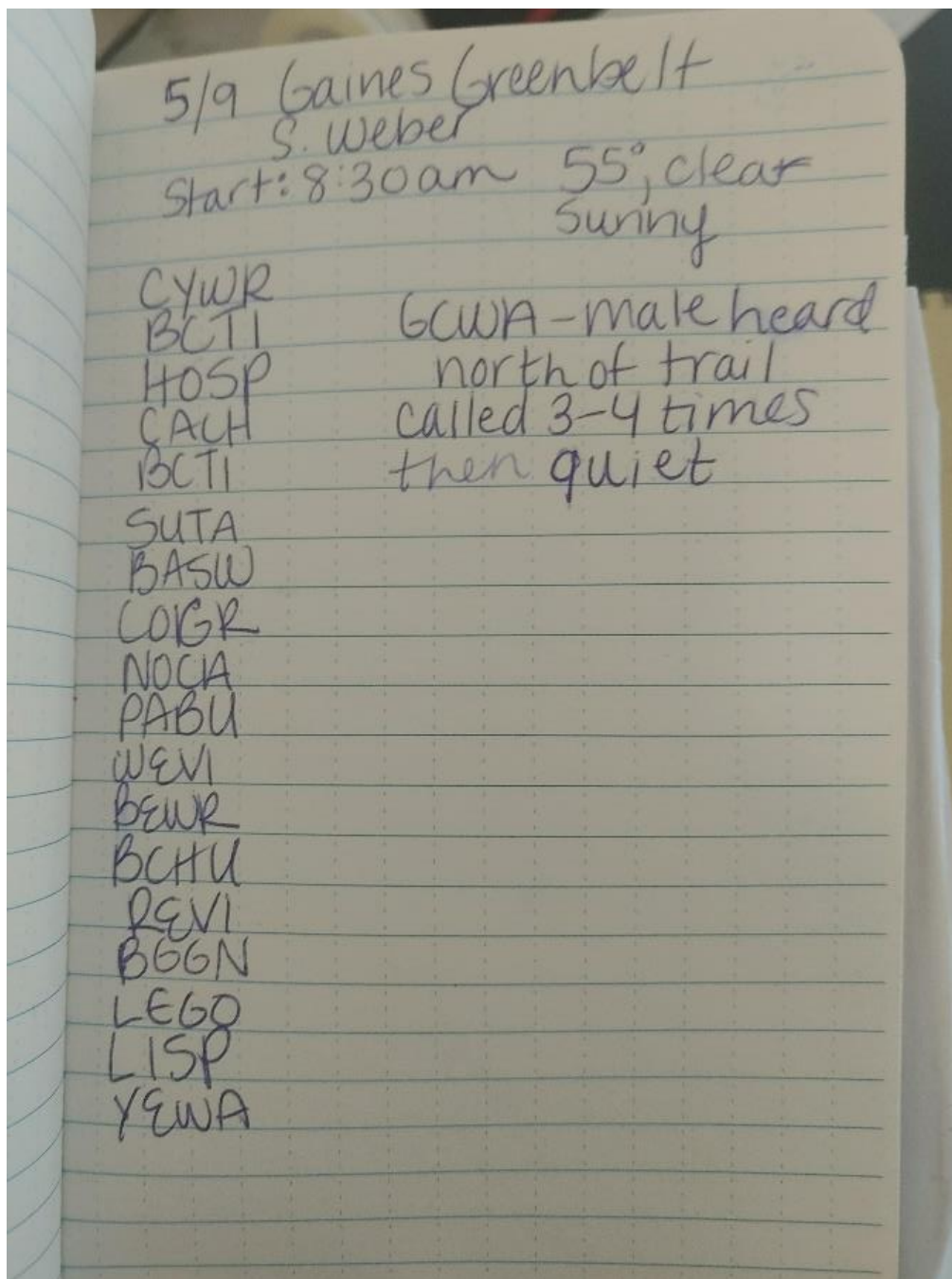
APPENDIX I. FIELD NOTES





4/26 Gaines Greenbelt
start 10:45 am
arrive 11:20 am 55° Sunny
end 2:00 76° Sunny
arrive 2:30 clear

NOMO	SUTA	Green Anole
LEGO	YRWA	Fox Squirrel
BCTI	COGR	
BLWA	HOFI	
WEVI	REVI	
BGGN	WWDO	
NOCA	BEWR	
WTSP	CYWR	
CARW		
CACH		
SPTO		
BCHU		
AMCR		
BLVU		
CHSP		



46 Gaines Greenbelt
Start 9am 3hrs total, 1.5 Survey
Start 9:41 (arrive)
End 11:00 (end)
arrive 11:45

NCA
BLTI
BGGN
CARW
YRWA
WEVI
LEGO
RCKI
GCWA on western ridge

Appendix C

Project/Program	Cost
Surveys	3,200.00
Total	3,200.00