

San Diego Tracking Team Wildlife Camera Project



Ltl Acorn



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Objectives

- Primary purpose of our camera project is to verify and supplement the track and sign data we are recording on our quarterly wildlife surveys. Our standard data collection method shows presence/apparent absence and a level of activity, but does not allow us to identify individual animals or determine numbers of species.
- A secondary purpose is to document species movement through wildlife tunnels and other pinch points on our transects.

Methods

- Cameras are placed at one end of tunnels & pinch points, or in areas where most of the target species are likely to be moving through. We are using 1 - 2 cameras per transect. We currently have cameras deployed on three of our transects, and expect to deploy on a few more transects soon.
- Current locations are SPP Wildlife Tunnel, MTRP Spring Canyon, Los Penasquitos Lagoon.
- Cameras are Ltl Acorn Model 5210A

Results

- A number of the species whose tracks and sign we record on the transects are showing up on the deployed cameras.
- We have been able to identify multiple individuals of a few of our target species.
- We are seeing animals heading both directions at the ends of our tunnels/pinch points, demonstrating that they are traveling through these points.
- Species list: Mule Deer, Coyote, Grey Fox, Bobcat, Striped Skunk, Roadrunner, California Quail, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Barn Owl

Data Retrieval, Management & Review

- Photos are reviewed manually.
- Photos are retained if they show anything other than the landscape. All others are discarded.
- We have not yet generated data from our photos. We do have a plan, partially implemented, for long-term storage of the photos.

Issues and Recommendations

- We are still experimenting with camera locations and mounting heights. We have learned to be thorough about clearing vegetation from around the cameras.
- We have yet to lose a camera, but have a photo of someone apparently attempting to swipe one!
- Manual review and labeling of photos is a time consuming process.



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