

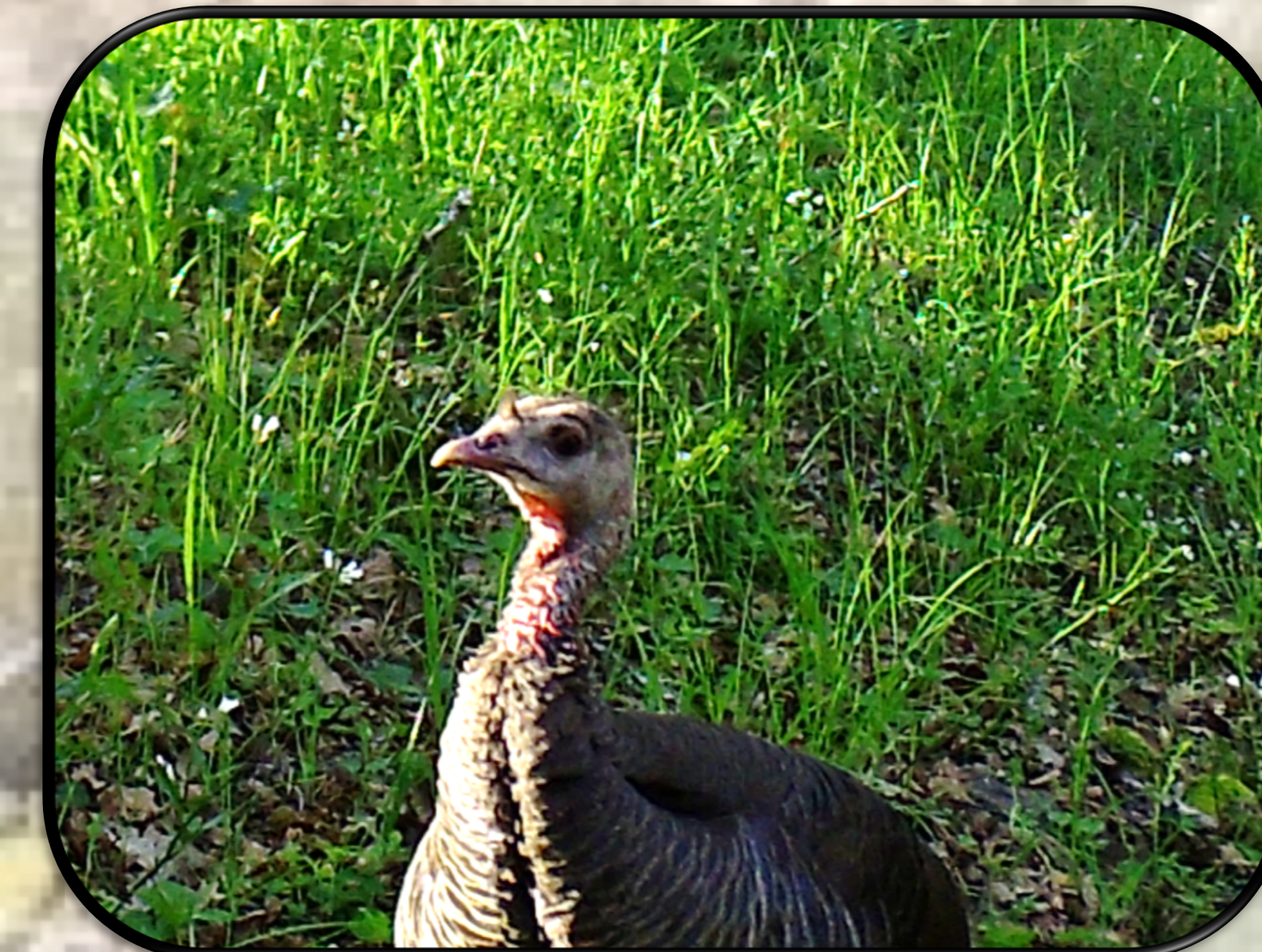
Comparative Wildlife Diversity in Urban and Non-Urban Habitats

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The purpose of this study was to assess the diversity of wildlife occurring in two locations within the riparian habitat present near Copeland Creek. One of these locations being within an urbanized site at Sonoma State University and the other occurring rurally on Sonoma Mountain at Fairfield Osborn Preserve.

Background

Copeland Creek is a part of the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed that occurs as a natural feature of the Fairfield Osborn Preserve, but becomes channelized as it flows through the Sonoma State University campus. Previous studies have shown that wildlife has been attracted to the riparian habitats occurring along Copeland creek in both locations.



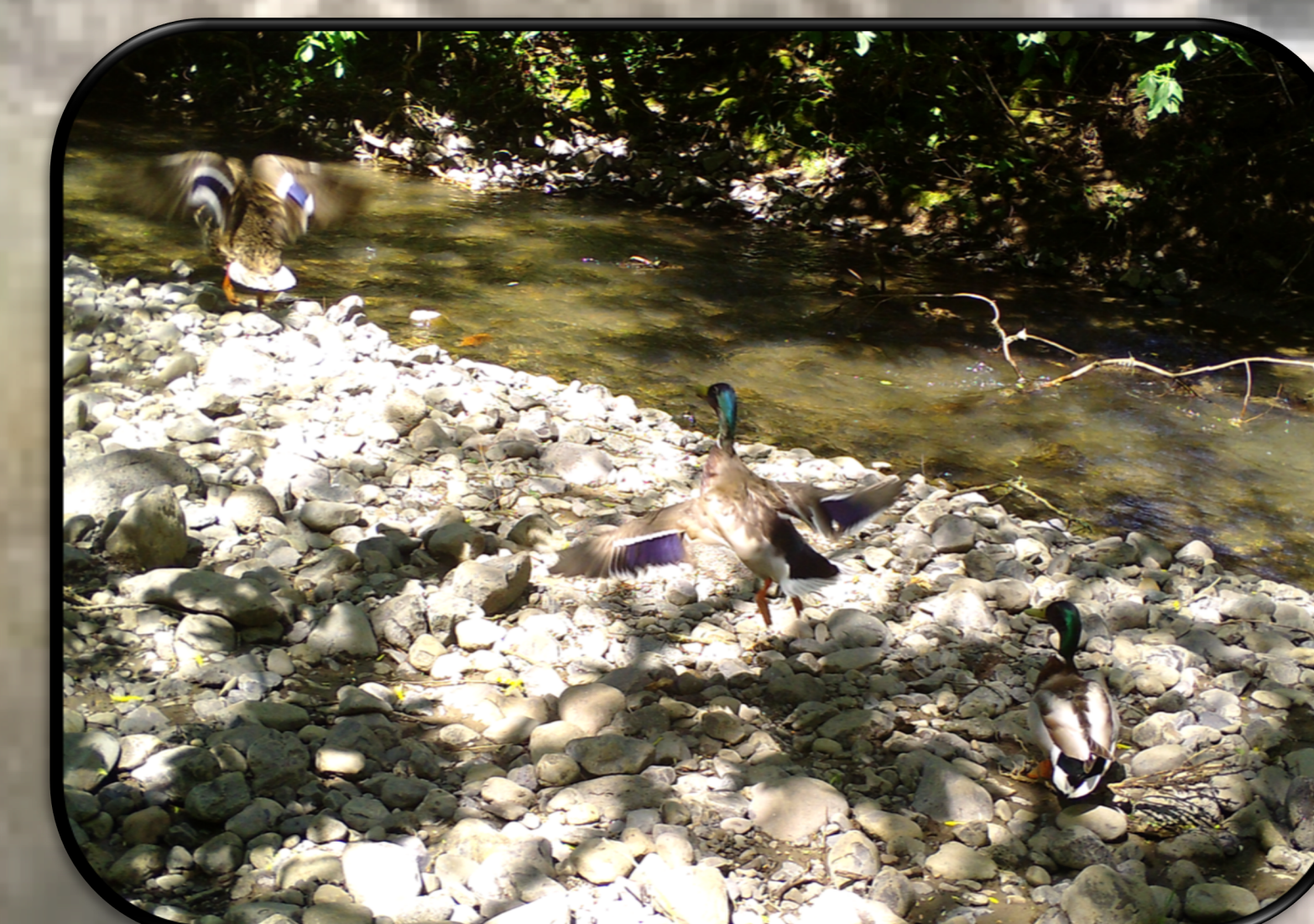
Methods

We installed four wildlife cameras total, two at Sonoma State University and two at Fairfield Osborn Preserve. For each study area one camera was placed adjacent to the creek and the other was placed near man-made structures. The cameras were left up for two weeks in 2019 beginning on April 7th and ending on April 21st. The photos were then downloaded and analyzed for species identification and the overall diversity of both sites.



Results

Species	FOP	SSU
Deer	X	X
Fox		X
Turkey	X	X
Squirrel	X	X
Opossum		X
Duck		X
Raccoon		X



Discussion

The initial data showed that the riparian habitat at SSU is far more diverse in wildlife species than FOP. This may be due in part to the constriction of passage through the urban environment surrounding SSU. Wildlife may be attracted to the ease of access and cover that Copeland Creek provides. In contrast FOP is open habitat where passage is unrestricted.

