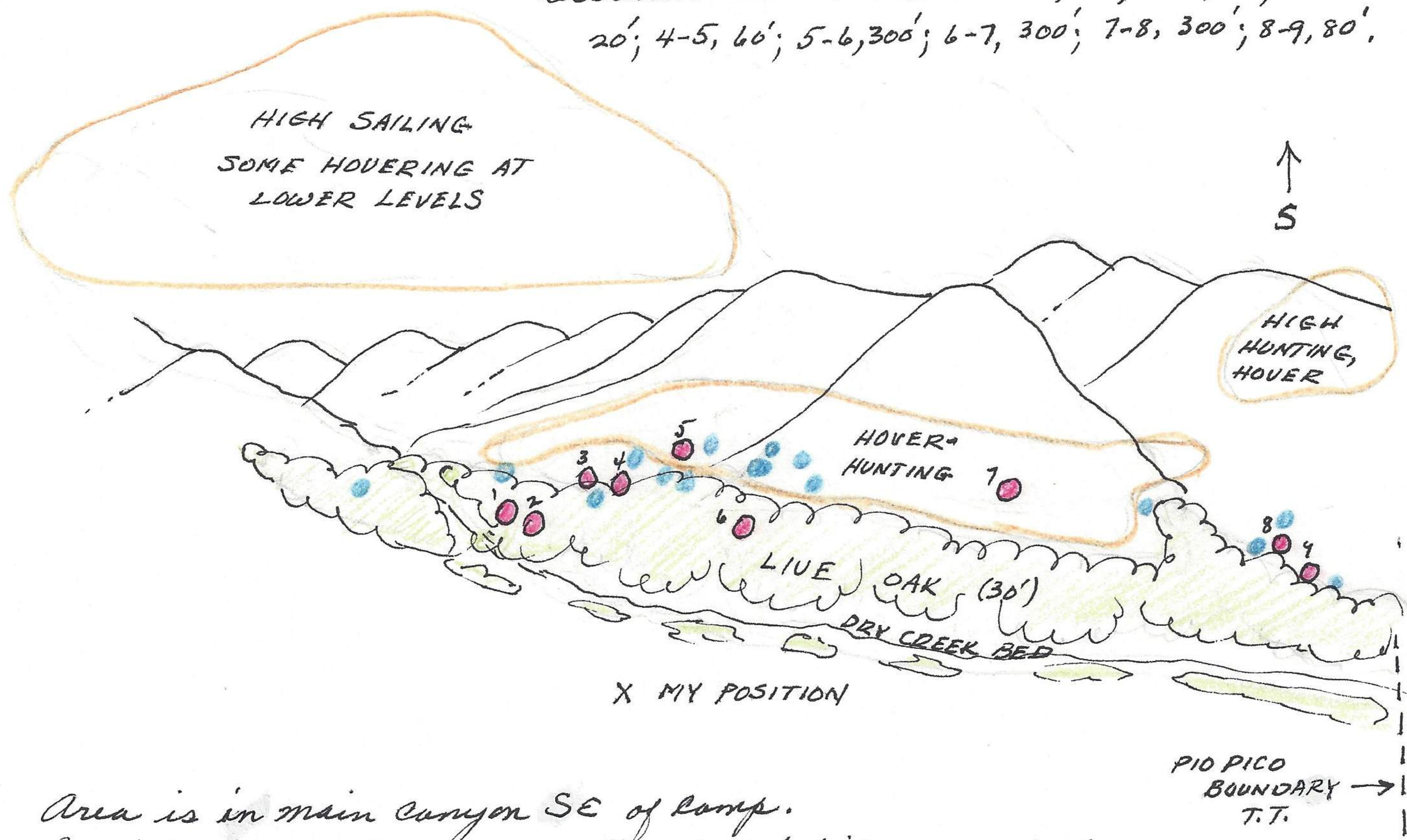


Pio Pico Preserve, T.T., San Diego Co., Calif
June 30, 1983 all adults

830630-198

Observation of 9 white-tailed kites, SE of Pio Pico Thousand Trails Preserve between 20' before sundown to 1 hour later. Some clouds forming on high peaks, temp cool, wind about sundown, then relatively calm. Distance between birds. 1-2, 40'; 2-3, 60'; 3-4, 20'; 4-5, 60'; 5-6, 300'; 6-7, 300'; 7-8, 300'; 8-9, 80'.



Area is in main canyon SE of camp.
 Red dots are position of 9 white-tailed kites, all adults at one moment 20' before sundown.
 Blue dots other positions frequently taken by the kites as they moved around.
 nos. 1, 6 and 7 remained in same position from 20' to sundown to middle of twilight 1 hour later.
 Lowest yellow area used for hunting meerkats (grass runways and burrows in area) with 80% from hovering position. High area to left hunting and hovering. Highest area for sailing and some hovering at lower levels at sundown to 1/2 hr after sundown.
 no use of area from my position to Pio Pico boundary on N side canyon.
 Birds at right moved E as evening advanced
 At sundown 1/2 bird group left for high sailing then returned to same areas observed earlier but moved lower into trees for roosting?. 4 birds were on high tree perches when I left.
 Birds flutter with rapid wing beats, hold position with slight movement of wing from shoulder axis to complete stabilized position.