Table 6.1 BCVI and GCWA Core and Potential Habitat at CSSA

Species	Habitat Level	TOTAL Installation		East Pasture		North Pasture		Inner Cantonment	
		Acres	%	Acres	%*	Acres	%*	Acres	%*
BCVI	Core	31.1	0.8%	31.1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Non-core	109.9	2.7%	43.5	1.1	41.8	1.0	24.6	0.6
GCWA	Core	463.1	11.2%	82.5	2.1	275.9	6.9	104.7	2.6
	Non-core	778.1	19.5%	160	4.0	507.4	12.7	110.7	2.8

*Percent of total installation acreage (4,004 acres)

6.2.2 Black-capped Vireo

General information on the black-capped vireo and its distribution, life history, and habitat are provided in Subsection 2.8.4 and in the 2005 survey report (Appendix B). Additional detailed information is provided in the *Black-capped Vireo Recovery Plan* (USFWS 1991).

BCVI habitat was divided into two classifications: core habitat and non-core habitat (Figure 6.1). Core habitat was defined by a 200 meter radius circle around bird detections recorded during the 2005 survey. Non-core habitat was defined by vegetation community type and abiotic factors such as slope and canopy structure. Core habitat designations will be valid for three years after initial detection. Table 6.1 shows BCVI core and potential habitat at CSSA.

BCVI habitat is found on the rocky limestone soil of the Edwards Plateau. Although BCVI habitat throughout Texas is highly variable with regard to plant species, soil, temperature, and precipitation, habitat is similar in vertical structure. BCVI require shrubby vegetation reaching to ground level for nesting cover. An occasional higher tree is beneficial to BCVI males for territory defense. Typical shrub cover is between 30-60% of the area, averaging 6-feet in height. Open grassland separates the clumps of trees and shrubs.

A single BCVI, 31 acres of core habitat, and a total of 110 acres of non-core habitat were identified during the 2005 surveys. The non-core habitat consists of four non-contiguous patches (two patches in the East Pasture, one in the North Pasture, and one in the inner cantonment). Despite intensive survey of all four patches of non-core BCVI habitat, only one BCVI was detected during 2005. The low BCVI population on CSSA is likely due to the installation's location at the extreme southeastern extent of BCVIs range and lack of suitable habitat (approximately 2.7 percent of the total installation).

Major threats to BCVI survival include loss of habitat and nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds, neighboring development, over browsing by ungulates, and suppression and alteration of natural disturbance regimes.

BCVI nesting season in Texas lasts from April through July, and winter in interior and coastal areas of the Pacific Coast of southern Mexico. To the maximum extent practicable, CSSA will schedule activities in areas where BCVIs have been identified from August through March, the period when BCVIs are away from Central Texas. This should minimize or eliminate the potential for takings and the need for consultation with USFWS.