

99. COASTAL RIPARIAN MARSH

ANEGADO RIVERENO COSTANERO

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Location: California; Marin Co.; Point Reyes Station; Olema Marsh; 38°4'N, 122°49'W; Point Reyes Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1990; 2 yr. **Size:** 17.5 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *J. Field Ornithol.* 62 (Suppl.):75 (1991). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 12.2°C (range 7–16°C). This was the fifth yr of below-normal rainfall and progressive

drought. See also WBPS #30. **Coverage:** 24.5 h; 8 visits (8 sunrise); 3, 12 April; 2, 15, 22, 23 May; 7, 15 June. **Census:** Red-winged Blackbird, 34.0 (78); Song Sparrow, 16.0 (37); Marsh Wren, 10.0 (23); Wilson's Warbler, 6.5 (15); Virginia Rail, 5.0 (11); Common Yellowthroat, 5.0; American Goldfinch, 5.0; Warbling Vireo, 4.5 (10); Swainson's Thrush, 4.0 (9); Bushtit, 3.0 (7); Bewick's Wren, 3.0; Wrentit, 2.5; Orange-crowned Warbler, 2.5; Purple Finch, 2.5; Pacific-slope Flycatcher, 2.0; Downy Woodpecker, 2.0; Black Phoebe, 2.0; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2.0; Plain Titmouse, 2.0; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2.0; California Towhee, 1.5; California Quail, 1.5; Western Wood-Pewee, 1.5; Tree Swallow, 1.5; Black-headed Grosbeak, 1.5; Pied-billed Grebe, 1.0; Mallard, 1.0; American Coot, 1.0; Allen's Hummingbird, 1.0; Acorn Woodpecker, 1.0; Nuttall's Woodpecker, 1.0; Ash-throated Flycatcher, 1.0; Yellow Warbler, 1.0; Red-shouldered Hawk, 0.5; Anna's Hummingbird, 0.5; Hairy Woodpecker, 0.5; Scrub Jay, 0.5; Western Bluebird, 0.5; European Starling, 0.5; House Finch, 0.5; Green-backed Heron, +; Black-crowned Night-Heron, +; Cliff Swallow, +; Barn Swallow, +; Steller's Jay, +; American Robin, +; Pine Siskin, +. **Total:** 47 species; 134.5 territories (307/40 ha). **Visitors:** Great Egret, Black-shouldered Kite, Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Hutton's Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brewer's Blackbird. **Remarks:** There has been a progressive increase in vegetative cover on the marsh by willows, which have colonized the spoils around ponds created by dredging in 1984. A period of extended cold in late December 1990 resulted in high mortality of resident, small passerines and insectivores, and explains the decline in Marsh Wrens (-47% since 1990; -77% compared with 1985-89 mean). The number of territories of other marsh-dependent species has also declined compared with the five-yr mean: Virginia Rail (-37.5%), Common Yellowthroat (-36%), and Song Sparrow (-36%). Concurrent with the increase in willows has been an increase (30.8%) in Red-winged Blackbirds. **Acknowledgments:** John Kelly, Skip Schwartz, and Audubon Canyon Ranch, Inc. for consultation, encouragement, and logistical support, and Chevron, USA for financial support.