

30. COASTAL RIPARIAN AND CATTAIL-BULRUSH MARSH

ANIGADO DE ENEAS-"BULRUSH" COSTANERO RIVEREÑO

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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. **De-**

scription of Plot: See *J. Field Ornithol.* 62 (Suppl.):22-23 (1991). **Weather:** Mean temperature 1.8°C (range -2-5°C). Low rainfall and the coldest Dec. on record with over two weeks of sub-freezing temperatures (16 Dec-5 Jan.). **Coverage:** 23.1 hrs; 8 visits (mornings): 15 Nov.; 4, 15 Dec.; 5, 18 Jan.; 2, 15, 26 Feb. **Count:** Red-winged Blackbird, 544 ind./visit, (3 visits); Brewer's Blackbird, 325, (3); Tricolored Blackbird, 146, (3); European Starling, 56.2, (3); Pine Siskin, 55.9, (8); White-crowned Sparrow, 44.2, (7); Golden-crowned Sparrow, 40.4, (8); Song Sparrow, 30.0, (8); Purple Finch, 29.1, (8); Bushtit, 20.8, (8); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 19.5, (8); Marsh Wren, 16.1, (8); Fox Sparrow, 15.4, (8); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 13.1, (7); American Robin, 10.5, (7); Virginia Rail, 9.9, (8); Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 9.0, (8); Mallard, 6.9, (7); House Finch, 6.9, (8); Dark-eyed Junco, 6.5, (8); Scrub Jay, 6.2, (8); Brown Towhee, 5.9, (8); California Quail, 5.6, (7); Acorn Woodpecker, 5.2, (7); American Wigeon, 5.1, (6); Hermit Thrush, 4.1, (7); Steller's Jay, 3.9, (7); Wrentit, 3.9, (8); Brown-headed Cowbird, 3.7, (1); Common Yellowthroat, 3.4, (7); Townsend's Warbler, 3.2, (5); Black Phoebe, 2.9, (8); Bewick's Wren, 2.9, (7); Varied Thrush, 2.9, (7); Green-Winged Teal, 2.7, (4); Winter Wren, 2.6, (5); Turkey Vulture, 2.4, (7); American Coot, 2.4, (7); Tree Swallow, 2.2, (3); Swamp Sparrow, 2.2, (7); Western Bluebird, 2.0, (3); Rufous-sided Towhee, 1.9, (8); Lincoln's Sparrow, 1.9, (8); Plain Titmouse, 1.8, (8); Downy Woodpecker, 1.6, (5); House Sparrow, 1.4, (4); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1.3, (3); Hutton's Vireo, 1.3, (5); Northern Flicker, 1.1, (6); Cinnamon Teal, 1.0, (2); Red-shouldered Hawk, 1.0, (7); Nuttall's Woodpecker, 1.0, (5); Cedar Waxwing, 1.0, (1); Hairy Woodpecker, 0.9, (7); White-throated Sparrow, 0.9, (4); Sora, 0.8, (5); Anna's Hummingbird, 0.8, (5); Allen's Hummingbird, 0.8, (3); Great Blue Heron, 0.6, (5); Gadwall, 0.6, (3); Red-breasted Sapsucker, 0.6, (4); Pied-billed Grebe, 0.5, (4); Bufflehead, 0.5, (3); Black-shouldered Kite, 0.5, (4); Double-crested Cormorant, 0.4, (3); Wood Duck, 0.4, (2); Common Moorhen, 0.4, (1); Common Snipe, 0.4, (2); Savannah Sparrow, 0.4, (3); Ruddy Duck, 0.2, (2); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 0.2, (2); Cooper's Hawk, 0.2, (2); Red-tailed Hawk, 0.2, (2); Killdeer, 0.2, (2); Brown Creeper, 0.2, (2); Orange-crowned Warbler, 0.2, (2); Northern Harrier, 0.1, (1); American Kestrel, 0.1, (1); Belted Kingfisher, 0.1, (1); Violet-green Swallow, 0.1, (1); Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 0.1, (1). **Total:** 81 species; 1509 ind./visit (3449 ind./40 ha). **Remarks:** This study was conducted during the fifth and driest winter of an ongoing drought affecting central California. We suspect this perennial wetland has become more important to local avifauna as other fresh water sources have become less available. Use by waterfowl has increased, but this may be the result of maturation of the fresh water ponds and increasing cover of willow on the pond shores. The anomalous cold spell from mid-Dec. through early Jan. apparently affected small insectivores, with Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Townsend's Warbler all experiencing a noticeable drop in population numbers. These population losses are masked when comparing this year's cumulative results with those from previous years because the numbers of kinglets and Townsend's Warblers, in particular, were higher than usual early in the season. **Acknowledgments:** Audubon Canyon Ranch, Inc. for funding, encouragement, and ongoing support. John Kelly, Phylis Faber, and Sonya Foray provided valuable field assistance and consultation.