

## 94. COASTAL RIPARIAN MARSH

### ANEGADO RIVEREÑO 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; 3 yr. **Size:** 17.5 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *J. Field Ornithol.* 62 (Suppl.):75 (1991). The increase in coverage of the marsh by willows, reported in 1991, continues. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 14.4°C (range 11–19°C). Precipitation was near the annual mean (91 cm) for only the second time in six years. Rainfall was generally later in the season than normal with exceptionally late storms in early May and late June. Wind was unusually light during April and May. **Source:** Point Reyes National Seashore. **Coverage:** 23.7 h; 8 visits (6 sunrise); 16, 28 March; 15 April; 6, 8, 22, 30 May; 14 June. **Census:** Red-winged Blackbird, 40.0 (91); Marsh Wren, 35.0 (80); Song Sparrow, 34.0 (78); Virginia Rail, 11.0 (25); American Goldfinch, 10.5 (24); Wilson's Warbler, 8.5 (19); Common Yellowthroat, 8.0 (18); Warbling Vireo, 7.0 (16); Pacific-slope Flycatcher, 6.0 (14); Swainson's Thrush, 5.0 (11); Black-headed Grosbeak, 4.0 (9); Western Wood-Pewee, 3.0 (7); Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3.0; Orange-crowned Warbler, 3.0; Bushtit, 2.5; California Quail, 2.0; Allen's Hummingbird, 2.0; Bewick's Wren, 2.0; Wrentit, 2.0; California Towhee, 2.0; Tree Swallow, 1.5; Scrub Jay,

1.5; Purple Finch, 1.5; Pied-billed Grebe, 1.0; Mallard, 1.0; Black Rail, 1.0; American Coot, 1.0; Anna's Hummingbird, 1.0; Acorn Woodpecker, 1.0; Nuttall's Woodpecker, 1.0; Downy Woodpecker, 1.0; Black Phoebe, 1.0; Violet-green Swallow, 1.0; Plain Titmouse, 1.0; European Starling, 1.0; Hairy Woodpecker, 0.5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 0.5; Red-shouldered Hawk, +; Ash-throated Flycatcher, +; Steller's Jay, +; Western Bluebird, +; American Robin, +; House Finch, +; Pine Siskin, +. **Total:** 44 species; 208.0 territories (475/40 ha). **Visitors:** Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sora, Mourning Dove, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Flicker, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Hutton's Vireo, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird. **Remarks:** The downward trend in populations of marsh dependent species that we noted in 1991 was reversed in 1992. Most significantly, Marsh Wren territories rebounded more than threefold over their 1991 levels, returning to their 7-yr mean (35.2 territories). Population increases over the 7-yr mean were also detected for Song Sparrow (+51%), Red-winged Blackbird (+18%), and Virginia Rail (+16%). Common Yellowthroat returned to pre-drought numbers. Other riparian insectivores increased, most notably Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Wilson's Warbler. Substantial increases were recorded for American Goldfinch (5.0 territories in 1991 to 10.5 in 1992) and Black-headed Grosbeak (1.5 to 4.0). The increases in various passerine populations probably result from the increase in the broadleaf overstory (mostly willows). The late rains may have affected survivorship of fledglings, however no data are available. The reduced wind made detection of quiet species easier. A Cliff Swallow colony that used an old barn adjacent to the study plot was burned by the National Park Service in April 1992. **Other Observers:** Terry Nordbye and Chris Wood. **Acknowledgments:** John Kelly, Maurice Schwartz, and Audubon Canyon Ranch, Inc. for encouragement, consultation, and logistical support.