

56. COASTAL PRAIRIE

PRADERA COSTANERA

JOHN P. KELLY

*Audubon Cypress Grove Preserve**P.O. Box 753**Marshall, CA 94940*

Location: California; Marin Co.; Marshall; 38°10'N, 122°54'; Tomales Quadrangle, USGS.
Continuity: New. **Size:** 31.0 ha. **Description of Plot:** Marine terrace grasslands. The study

area is divided by a freshwater marsh not included in the study plot. A quantitative vegetation survey was completed. **Edge:** The plot is bordered on the SW by deep-water coastal bay, on the SE by a horse ranch and pasture, on the NE by State Highway One and dairy pasture, and on the NW by similar marine-terrace, coastal prairie vegetation. **Topography and Elevation:** Approximately half of the study area occurs on flat, gently SW-sloping marine terrace (elevation 1.5–4.5 m). The remaining half occurs on a low SW-sloping hillside (elevation 27 m). **Weather:** Generally mild, temperatures 10–18°C; wind 0–40 kph; cloud cover 0–100% stratus clouds. **Coverage:** 7 visits; 9 study-hours; 12, 15, 22, 27, 28 April; 5, 18 May; 0700–1030. **Census:** Song Sparrow, 13.0 (41); American Goldfinch, 9.0 (29); Mourning Dove, 1.0; White-crowned Sparrow, 1.0; Red-winged Blackbird, 1.0; House Finch, 1.0; Western Meadowlark, 0.5. **Total:** 7 species; 26.5 territorial males (85/km²). **Visitors:** Great Egret, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Common Barn-Owl, Allen's Hummingbird, Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, European Starling, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin. **Acknowledgments:** This work was supported by Audubon Canyon Ranch, Stinson Beach, California.