

## BREEDING BIRD CENSUS: 2002

### 1. IRRIGATED MIXED WILLOW RIPARIAN BOSQUE RIBEREÑO DE SAUCE, IRRIGADO

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**Location:** California; Mono Co.; Mono City; Wilson Creek; 38°03'N, 119°09'W; Lundy & Negit Island Quadrangles, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 2000; 3 yr. **Size:** 15 ha. **Description of Plot:** See 2001 report (this volume). **Weather:** Mean temp., 16°C (range -6–37°C). Mean monthly (May–August) high and low temperatures (derived on site for June–August and from <http://www.monobasinresearch.org/> for May) were respectively higher and lower than long-term averages (1950–1988, NOAA Western Regional Climate Center data for Lee Vining, CA). Mean monthly precipitation was above average in May, just below average in June, just above average in July, and well below average in August. **Coverage:** 370.6 h; 70 visits (64 sunrise, 6 sunset). **Census:** Spotted Towhee, 17.5 (47); Song Sparrow, 15.0 (40; 25N,27FL); Yellow Warbler, 7.0 (19; 7N,6FL); Green-tailed Towhee, 5.0 (13; 1N); Northern Flicker, 2.5 (3N); Brewer's Sparrow, 2.5 (3N,5FL); American Kestrel, 2.0 (1N,3FL); American Robin, 2.0 (2N); Bewick's Wren, 1.5; Bushtit, 1.0; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1.0; Vesper Sparrow, 1.0 (1N,2FL); Belted Kingfisher, 0.5; Sage Thrasher, 0.5; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, col; Cliff Swallow, col. (3N,1FL); Red-winged Blackbird, col. (7N,8FL); Mallard, unk. (1N); Green-winged Teal, unk. (2N,3FL); Mourning Dove, unk. (1N,2FL); Long-eared Owl, unk. (1N); Black-billed Magpie, unk. (13N,12FL); Savannah Sparrow, unk. (2N,3FL); Western Meadowlark, unk. (3N,3FL); Brown-headed Cowbird, unk. (23N,6FL). **Total:** 25 species; 59.0 territories (157/40ha). **Visitors:** Greater Sage-Grouse, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Nighthawk, Gray Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Sage Thrasher, European Starling, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Brewer's Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole. **Remarks:** Common Yellowthroat now absent as a nester (single pair in 2001). A single Long-eared Owl pair nested atop an old magpie nest; fledglings were observed in previous years. Greater Sage-Grouse females and broods were

observed in late July; likely dispersing from nearby upland breeding areas to consume forbs and grasses found in wetter areas. Cowbirds parasitized 61% of host species' (Green-tailed Towhee, Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird) nests. Predation accounted for 60% of all nest failures. The magpie colony (at least 13 pairs) likely contributes to nest predation; individuals were observed harassing birds whose nests then failed. We did not determine territorial densities for colonial species, nor for species difficult to document with the spot-mapping method due to their lack of vocalization or loosely held territory boundaries. We also did not map species that primarily used the irrigated pasture next to our study plots (Savannah Sparrow, Western Meadowlark), though their territories encompassed the riparian somewhat. These species' territories are indicated as "col" (colonial) or "unk." (unknown) above; nest numbers provide some indication of their prevalence. **Acknowledgements:** Financial and logistical support was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service Partners in Flight – Region 5, Inyo National Forest, California Department of Fish and Game, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, White Mountain Research Station – Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education, Mono Lake Committee, Cornell University – Golondrinas de Las Americas project, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, Joel Ellis, and Jan Simis. This is PRBO contribution # 1529.

### 2. RECOVERING MIXED WILLOW-BLACK COTTONWOOD RIPARIAN I BOSQUE RIBEREÑO DE ÁLAMO Y SAUCES, EN RECUPERACIÓN I

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**Location:** California; Mono Co.; Lee Vining; Rush Creek; 37°56'N, 119°04'W; Lee Vining Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 2000; 3 yr. **Size:** 39 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Western Birds* 35:197–209 (2004). **Weather:** Mean temp., 18°C (range -5°–36°C).

Mean monthly (May–August) high and low temperatures were respectively higher and lower than long-term averages (1950–1988, NOAA Western Regional Climate Center data for Lee Vining, CA). Mean monthly precipitation ([www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)) was above average in May, just below average in June, just above average in July, and well below average in August. **Coverage:** 521 h; 82 visits (77 sunrise, 5 sunset). **Census:** Yellow Warbler, 93.5 (96; 93N,91FL); Song Sparrow, 22.5 (23; 11N,2FL); Spotted Towhee, 21.0 (22; 7N,7FL); Bewick's Wren, 9.0 (9); Green-tailed Towhee, 7.0 (7); American Robin, 5.0 (5; 3N,4FL); Black-headed Grosbeak, 5.0 (3N,3FL); Bushtit, 4.0 (4; 4N); Brewer's Sparrow, 3.5 (4; 1N,2FL); Northern Flicker, 3.0 (3; 3N,13FL); Willow Flycatcher, 3.0 (4N,2FL); MacGillivray's Warbler, 3.0; Savannah Sparrow, 2.0; Warbling Vireo, 1.0 (1N); American Kestrel, 0.5 (1N,2FL); Black-billed Magpie, col. (2N); Violet-green Swallow, col.; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, col. (2N); Red-winged Blackbird, col. (4N,2FL); Brewer's Blackbird, col. (11N); Gadwall, unk. (1N,12FL); Mallard, unk. (1N); Green-winged Teal, unk. (1N); Killdeer, unk. (1N); Spotted Sandpiper, unk. (3N,10FL); Mourning Dove, unk. (8N,8FL); Brown-headed Cowbird, unk. (63N,27FL). **Total:** 27 species; 183.0 territories (188/40ha). **Visitors:** California Quail, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Gray Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Scrub-Jay, Pinyon Jay, Common Raven, Cliff Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Sage Thrasher, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Western Tanager, Brewer's Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Cassin's Finch, House Finch. **Remarks:** Warbling Vireo and Bushtit were new to the plot this year, potentially responding to vegetation growth in this recovering system. Yellow Warblers and Black-headed Grosbeaks increased slightly. Cowbirds parasitized 51% of host species' (Warbling Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Brewer's Blackbird, and Red-winged Blackbird) nests. Predation accounted for 57% of all nest failures. We did not determine territorial densities for colonial species, nor for species difficult to document with the spot-mapping method due to their lack of vocalization or loosely held territory boundaries. These species' are indicated as "col" (colonial) or "unk." (unknown) above; nest numbers provide some indication of their prevalence. **Acknowledgements:** Financial and logistical support was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service Partners in Flight – Region 5, Inyo National Forest, California

Department of Fish and Game, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, White Mountain Research Station – Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education, Mono Lake Committee, Cornell University – Golondrinas de Las Americas project, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, Joel Ellis, and Jan Simis. This is PRBO contribution No. 1526.

### 3. RECOVERING MIXED WILLOW–BLACK COTTONWOOD RIPARIAN II

#### BOSQUE RIBERENO DE ÁLAMO Y SAUCES, EN RECUPERACIÓN II

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**Location:** California; Mono Co.; Lee Vining; Lee Vining Creek; 37°58'N, 119°06'W; Lee Vining Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 2000; 3 yr. **Size:** 29.5 ha. **Description of Plot:** Added since 2001: 0.5 ha of mature aspen stand and 4.5 ha of deltaic shrub willow on Mono Lake's edge; otherwise unchanged from 2001 report (this volume). **Weather:** Mean temp., 17°C (range -3°–33°C). Mean monthly (May–August) high and low temperatures were respectively higher and lower than long-term averages (1950–1988, NOAA Western Regional Climate Center data for Lee Vining, CA). Mean monthly precipitation ([www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)) was above average in May, just below average in June, just above average in July, and well below average in August. **Coverage:** 483.2 h; 91 visits (89 sunrise, 2 sunset). **Census:** Yellow Warbler, 41.0 (56; 75N,60FL); Song Sparrow, 29.0 (39; 40N,54FL); Spotted Towhee, 22.5 (31; 5N,10FL); Green-tailed Towhee, 14.0 (19; 3N,3FL); American Robin, 6.0 (8; 9N,6FL); Lazuli Bunting, 6.0 (2N,2FL); Western Wood-Pewee, 4.0 (5; 3N,3FL); European Starling, 4.0 (4N); Brewer's Sparrow, 3.5 (5); American Kestrel, 3.0 (4; 1N,3FL); Bullock's Oriole, 3.0 (3N); Northern Flicker, 2.5 (3N,2FL); Steller's Jay, 2.0 (1N); Bushtit, 2.0 (3N,4FL); Bewick's Wren, 2.0 (2N); House Wren, 2.0 (3N,3FL); Belted Kingfisher, 1.0; Red-breasted/Red-naped Sapsucker hybrid, 1.0 (1N,3FL); Warbling Vireo, 1.0 (2N); American Dipper, 1.0 (1N,3FL); Lesser Goldfinch, 1.0 (1N); Black-billed Magpie, col. (2N); Violet-green Swallow, col. (1N); Northern Rough-winged Swallow, col.; Red-winged Blackbird, col. (78N,38FL); Brewer's Blackbird, col.; Mallard, unk. (5N,9FL); Green-winged Teal, unk. (1N); California Quail, unk.; Killdeer, unk. (4N,8FL); Spotted Sandpiper, unk. (11N,38FL); Brown-headed Cowbird, unk. (42N,16FL). **Total:** 32 species; 151.5 territories (205/40ha). **Visitors:** Black-crowned Night-Heron, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher,

Western Scrub-Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven, Cliff Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-throated Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch. **Remarks:** Changes unrelated to the plot additions include the following: Warbling Vireo, Bushtit, and Western Wood-Pewee were new to the plot this year. The later species is potentially responding to vegetation growth in this recovering system, the former nested in a patch of remnant exotic white poplars. Lesser Goldfinch was also a new breeder this year, and Lazuli Buntings increased. Cowbirds parasitized 24% of host species' (Lazuli Bunting, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird) nests. Predation accounted for 64% of all nest failures. Infrared video cameras recorded a garter snake devouring a cowbird nestling and a Bewick's Wren puncturing a Lazuli Bunting egg. We often observed Steller's Jays harassing other birds and nest failures within jay territories were high. We did not determine territorial densities for colonial species, nor for species difficult to document with the spot-mapping method due to their lack of vocalization or loosely held territory boundaries. These species' are indicated as "col" (colonial) or "unk." (unknown) above; nest numbers provide some indication of their prevalence. **Acknowledgements:** Financial and logistical support was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service Partners in Flight – Region 5, Inyo National Forest, California Department of Fish and Game, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, White Mountain Research Station – Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education, Mono Lake Committee, Cornell University – Golondrinas de Las Americas project, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, Joel Ellis, and Jan Simis. This is PRBO contribution No. 1527.

#### 4. REMNANT BLACK COTTONWOOD RIPARIAN FOREST

REMANENTES DE BOSQUE RIBEREÑO DE ÁLAMO

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**Location:** California; Mono Co.; Mono City; Mill Creek; 38°03'N, 119°08'W; Lundy Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 2000; 3 yr. **Size:** 15 ha. **Description of Plot:** See 2001 report (this volume). **Weather:** Mean temp., 19°C (range -5°–36°C). Mean monthly (May–August) high and low temperatures were respectively higher and lower than long-term averages (1950–1988, NOAA Western Regional

Climate Center data for Lee Vining, CA). Mean monthly precipitation ([www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)) was above average in May, just below average in June, just above average in July, and well below average in August. **Coverage:** 426.5 h; 73 visits (70 sunrise, 3 sunset). **Census:** Spotted Towhee, 21.5 (57; 7N,7FL); Yellow Warbler, 10.0 (27; 8N,16FL); Green-tailed Towhee, 9.0 (24; 2N); Song Sparrow, 8.0 (21; 8N,9FL); Northern Flicker, 7.0 (19; 7N,4FL); Bewick's Wren, 7.0 (2N); Bushtit, 6.0 (16; 8N,5FL); American Robin, 6.0 (6N,2FL); House Wren, 5.0 (13; 6N,2FL); Brewer's Sparrow, 5.0; American Kestrel, 4.0 (11; 4N,8FL); Bullock's Oriole, 4.0 (2N); Western Wood-Pewee, 3.0 (8; 1N); Juniper Titmouse, 3.0 (3N,4FL); Hairy Woodpecker, 2.0; Belted Kingfisher, 1.0 (1N); Steller's Jay, 1.0; American Dipper, 1.0; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1.0 (1N); European Starling, 1.0 (1N); Lazuli Bunting, 1.0; Black-billed Magpie, col. (4N,3FL); Violet-green Swallow, col.; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, col.; Brewer's Blackbird, col. (22N,33FL); Mallard, unk. (1N,3FL); California Quail, unk.; Killdeer, unk.; Brown-headed Cowbird, unk. (14N,6FL). **Total:** 29 species; 106.5 territories (284/40ha). **Visitors:** Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Sage Thrasher, Orange-crowned Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Western Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cassin's Finch, House Finch. **Remarks:** Yellow Warblers expanded into the lower half of the plot and occupied 3 territories there. Cassin's Finches did not hold territories as in previous years. Screens were placed over holes in the adjacent subdivision, likely responsible for fewer European Starling territories along Mill Creek. Cowbirds parasitized 58% of host species' (Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Yellow Warbler, and Song Sparrow) nests. Predation accounted for 58% of all nest failures. We did not determine territorial densities for colonial species, nor for species difficult to document with the spot-mapping method due to their lack of vocalization or loosely held territory boundaries. These species' are indicated as "col" (colonial) or "unk." (unknown) above; nest numbers provide some indication of their prevalence. **Acknowledgements:** Financial and logistical support was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service Partners in Flight – Region 5, Inyo National Forest, California

Department of Fish and Game, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, White Mountain Research Station – Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education, Mono Lake Committee, Cornell University – Golondrinas de Las Americas project, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, Joel Ellis, and Jan Simis. This is PRBO contribution # 1528.

## 5. MIXED HARDWOOD POLETIMBER

### BOSQUE MIXTO MADERERO

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**Site Number:** CT1265009. **Location:** Connecticut; Litchfield Co.; Litchfield; White Memorial Foundation–Wheeler Hill; 41°42'N, 73°13'W; Litchfield Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1965; 36 yr. **Size:** 8.5 ha. **Description of Plot:** See Aud. Field Notes 19:609–610 (1965) and J. Field Ornithol. 64 (Suppl.):36 (1993). The shrub layer is continuing to thicken and expand, especially on the east side of the plot. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 21.7°C (range 17–26°C). May was much colder and wetter than normal, including some snow that fell but did not stick on the 18th and seven nights with temperatures below 0°C. These conditions proved disastrous for most early-nesting birds. May had a total of 15.4 cm of rainfall, which is 4.7 cm above average. Nineteen days were wet this month. May's average temperature was 12°C, which is 2.2°C below normal. June's weather was much better for birds. Rainfall totaled 12.1 cm spread out over 12 days. This is about 2 cm more than average. June's mean temperature was 17.9°C, which is very close to average (18.5°C). July's total rainfall measured 10.7 cm, which is somewhat less than the average of 13 cm. Only six days had any rainfall. It was a hot month, with a mean temperature of 21.3°C, which is normal. **Source:** White Memorial Foundation weather station. **Coverage:** 17.5 h; 9 visits (1 sunrise, 2 sunset); 7, 16, 23, 30 May; 7, 17, 24 Jun; 5, 13 Jul. **Census:** Ovenbird, 13.5 (64; 16FL); Red-eyed Vireo, 12.0 (56; 13FL); Veery, 10.0 (47; 1N,17FL); Eastern Towhee, 9.0 (42; 1N,17FL); Gray Catbird, 8.0 (38; 3N,17FL); Northern Cardinal, 6.5 (31; 1N,14FL); Wood Thrush, 6.0 (28; 1N,8FL); Chestnut-sided Warbler, 6.0 (1N,11FL); American Redstart, 6.0 (11FL); Black-capped Chickadee, 4.5 (21; 1N,21FL); American Robin, 4.5 (3N,13FL); Black-and-white Warbler, 4.5 (11FL); Tufted Titmouse, 4.0 (19; 1N,22FL); Common Yellowthroat, 4.0 (10FL); Blue Jay, 3.0 (14; 8FL); Scarlet Tanager, 3.0 (5FL); American Crow, 2.0 (2N,7FL); Blue-winged Warbler, 2.0 (3FL); Yellow Warbler, 2.0 (3FL); Baltimore Oriole, 2.0 (1N,5FL); Wild Turkey, 1.5 (5FL); Mourning Dove, 1.5 (1N,2FL); Downy Woodpecker, 1.5 (5FL); Northern Flicker, 1.5 (2FL); Eastern Wood-

Pewee, 1.5; Eastern Phoebe, 1.5 (2N,8FL); Great Crested Flycatcher, 1.5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1.5 (4FL); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1.5 (2FL); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1.5 (2FL); Barred Owl, 1.0 (2FL); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1.0 (2FL); Cedar Waxwing, 1.0; Chipping Sparrow, 1.0 (3FL); Song Sparrow, 1.0 (3FL); Brown-headed Cowbird, 1.0 (2FL); House Finch, 1.0 (1N,3FL); American Goldfinch, 1.0 (3FL); Cooper's Hawk, 0.5 (2FL); Broad-winged Hawk, 0.5 (2FL); Red-tailed Hawk, 0.5 (2FL); Hairy Woodpecker, 0.5; Yellow-throated Vireo, 0.5; Warbling Vireo, 0.5; House Wren, 0.5; Common Grackle, 0.5; Ruffed Grouse, +; Pileated Woodpecker, +; Hermit Thrush, +; Black-throated Green Warbler, +. **Total:** 50 species; 139.5 territories (656/40 ha). **Visitors:** Least Flycatcher, Fish Crow, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren. **Remarks:** Birds were abundant this year. So much so that new record highs were established for numbers of species and territorial males. The total of 50 species was one more than the previous record set in 2000 and 2001. Species composition was similar to that of the past four years, except for the addition of Red-tailed Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, and Black-throated Green Warbler. Red-winged Blackbird and Purple Finch did not breed in the plot this year. The total of 139.5 territories shattered the previous record-high of 120.5 set in 1983. It also far surpassed the 1992–2001 average of 97.0 territories. Why? It is probably a combination of improved habitat conditions (thicker shrub layer), an abundant food supply, and a loss of suitable nesting habitat due to land development in the nearby village of Bantam. **Other Observers:** John Eykelhoff, Janet Amalavage, John Grabowski, and Paul Fusco.

## 6. SECOND-GROWTH HARDWOOD FOREST

### BOSQUE SECUNDARIO DE MADERAS DURAS

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**Site Number:** CT2765006. **Location:** Connecticut; Litchfield Co.; Morris; White Memorial Foundation–Van Winkle Road; 41°42'N, 73°12'W; Litchfield Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1965; 36 yr. **Size:** 10.1 ha. **Description of Plot:** See Aud. Field Notes 19:590–591 (1965) and J. Field Ornithol. 64 (Suppl.):37–38 (1993). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 21.4°C (range 12–29°C). May was much colder and wetter than normal, including some snow that fell but did not stick on the 18th and seven nights with temperatures below 0°C. These conditions proved disastrous for most early-nesting birds. May had a total of 15.4 cm of rainfall, which is 4.7 cm above average. Nineteen days were wet this month. May's average temperature was 12°C, which is 2.2°C below normal. June's weather was much better for