

## BREEDING BIRD CENSUS: 2002

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

SACHA K. HEATH, CHRIS MCCREEDY AND TIA ADAMS  
*PRBO Conservation Science*  
3820 Cypress Drive # 11  
Petaluma, CA 94954

**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

SACHA K. HEATH, QURESH S. LATIF AND  
ROBIN HIRSCH-JACOBSON  
*PRBO Conservation Science*  
3820 Cypress Drive # 11  
Petaluma, CA 94954

**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).