

BREEDING BIRD CENSUS: 2008

1. MIXED HARDWOOD POLETIMBER BOSQUE MIXTO MADERERO

DAVID ROSGEN
White Memorial Conservation Center
P.O. Box 368
Litchfield CT 06759

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; 43 yr. **Size:** 8.5 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Aud. Field Notes* 19:609–610 (1965), *J. Field Ornithol.* 64(Suppl.):36 (1993), and *Bird Populations* 8:125 (2007). Non-native shrubs and vines are continuing to take over this plot, and over-browsing of native vegetation by white-tailed deer was very evident again this year. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 22.0°C (range 17–27°C). The weather throughout all of 2008 was much wetter than normal in Connecticut. The months of May and June saw more wet days than dry ones. It was very conducive to vegetation growth, and it helped produce an abundance of seeds, berries, and insects as the season progressed. Rainfall was above average in May with 17 wet days producing a total of 8.4 cm of rain. The number of wet days decreased slightly in June to 16, but the amount of precipitation increased significantly to 14.3 cm. That's well-above average. In July, there were 13 wet days that produced a total of 15.4 cm of rain. That's a little above average. May's mean temperature was 12.3°C, which is a little below average. The mean temperature in June was 19.3°C, which is close to average. In July, the mean temperature was 21.9°C, which is close to average. **Source:** White Memorial Foundation's weather station. **Coverage:** 22.0 h; 10 visits (0 sunrise, 4 sunset); 8, 21, 30 May; 12, 19, 30 June; 11, 18, 25, 31 July; 2008. Maximum number of observers/visit, 3. **Census:** Veery, 14.0 (66; 6FL); Gray Catbird, 13.5 (64; 5N,21FL); Ovenbird, 13.0 (61; 1N,11FL); Red-eyed Vireo, 12.5 (59; 1N,7FL); Common Yellowthroat, 10.0 (47; 10FL); American Redstart, 9.0 (42; 3N,19FL); Eastern Towhee, 9.0 (11FL); Wood Thrush, 4.5 (21; 2FL); Northern Cardinal, 4.5 (1N,10FL); Chestnut-sided Warbler, 4.0 (19; 8FL); Black-capped Chickadee, 3.5 (16; 1N,10FL); Tufted Titmouse, 3.5 (16FL); Yellow Warbler, 3.5 (2N,9FL); American Robin, 3.0 (14; 2N,9FL); Black-

and-white Warbler, 2.5 (3FL); Scarlet Tanager, 2.0; Common Grackle, 2.0 (2N,8FL); Baltimore Oriole, 2.0 (1N,5FL); American Goldfinch, 2.0 (2FL); Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1.5; Blue Jay, 1.5 (1FL); American Crow, 1.5 (2FL); Cedar Waxwing, 1.5 (2FL); Mourning Dove, 1.0 (2FL); Downy Woodpecker, 1.0 (3FL); White-breasted Nuthatch, 1.0 (5FL); House Wren, 1.0 (1N,4FL); Chipping Sparrow, 1.0 (3FL); Song Sparrow, 1.0 (1N,4FL); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1.0 (1FL); House Finch, 1.0 (2FL); Wild Turkey, 0.5; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 0.5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 0.5 (2FL); Great Crested Flycatcher, 0.5; Blue-winged Warbler, 0.5; Red-winged Blackbird, 0.5; Barred Owl, +; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, +; Hairy Woodpecker, +; Northern Flicker, +; Least Flycatcher, +; Eastern Kingbird, +; Yellow-throated Vireo, +; Warbling Vireo, +; Brown-headed Cowbird, +; Purple Finch, +. **Total:** 47 species; 135.0 territories (635/40 ha). **Visitors:** Pileated Woodpecker. **Remarks:** The number of species exhibiting breeding evidence in this plot decreased to 47 this year, from 48 last year, 50 in 2006, and 51 in 2005. This year's number, however, is on par with the average of the previous 10 years. The total number of territories decreased to 135.0 this year. Last year, 141.0 were tallied here. The year before we found 132.0, and in 2005 we found 124.5. The average of the previous 10 years is 119.5 territories, so 2008 remained well-above average. Every year since 2000 has produced more than 108 territories. The most abundant species this year was Veery with 14.0 territories. Last year, they were the second most abundant species but had 14.5 territories. In 2006, they were also in second place with 12.0 territories. The second most abundant species this year was Gray Catbird with 13.5 territories. Last year, they were the most abundant species with 15.5 territories. In 2006, they were the fourth most abundant species with 11.0 territories. Ovenbird has been the third most abundant species here for the past few years, and this year was no exception with 13.0 territories. Last year, it had 13.5, and in 2006, it had 11.5 territories. The recent population fluctuations of these three species are not significant, and they can be considered relatively stable. Least Flycatcher and Chipping Sparrow were found this year but not last year. Species found last year but not this year included Pileated Woodpecker (one-time visitor this year), Eastern Phoebe, and Blue-

gray Gnatcatcher. Nesting success wasn't as good this year as it was last year or the year before. This year, we observed at least 198 fledglings from 30 different species. Last year, we counted 234 fledglings from 28 species. In 2006, we tallied 207 fledglings from 24 species. The most productive species this year were Gray Catbird, American Redstart, and Tufted Titmouse. **Other Observers:** Nathan Cyrus, John Eykelhoff and John Grabowski.

2. SECOND-GROWTH HARDWOOD FOREST BOSQUE SECUNDARIO DE MADERAS DURAS

DAVID ROSGEN

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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; 42 yr. **Size:** 10.1 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Aud. Field Notes* 19:590–591 (1965), *J. Field Ornithol.* 64(Suppl.):37–38 (1993), and *Bird Populations* 8:126 (2007). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 21.9°C (range 17–26°C). The weather throughout all of 2008 was much wetter than normal in Connecticut. The months of May and June saw more wet days than dry ones. It was very conducive to vegetation growth, and it helped produce an abundance of seeds, berries, and insects as the season progressed. Rainfall was above average in May with 17 wet days producing a total of 8.4 cm of rain. The number of wet days decreased slightly in June to 16, but the amount of precipitation increased significantly to 14.3 cm. That's well-above average. In July, there were 13 wet days that produced a total of 15.4 cm of rain. That's a little above average. May's mean temperature was 12.3°C, which is a little below average. The mean temperature in June was 19.3°C, which is close to average. In July, the mean temperature was 21.9°C, which is close to average. **Source:** White Memorial Foundation's weather station. **Coverage:** 22.0 h; 10 visits (0 sunrise, 6 sunset); 15, 22, 29 May; 9, 17, 25 June; 5, 15, 25, 31 July; 2008. **Census:** Veery, 17.5 (69; 8FL); Ovenbird, 15.5 (61; 13FL); Red-eyed Vireo, 15.0 (59; 3N,13FL); Wood Thrush, 5.0 (20; 4FL); Scarlet Tanager, 4.0 (16; 1N,1FL); Eastern Wood-Pewee, 3.5 (14; 4FL); American Robin, 3.5 (3N,12FL); Gray Catbird, 3.5 (1N,8FL); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3.0 (12; 1N,7FL); Black-capped Chickadee, 3.0 (1N,18FL); Tufted Titmouse, 2.5 (12FL); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1.5 (2FL); Eastern Phoebe, 1.5 (6FL); Great Crested Flycatcher, 1.5 (4FL); Blue-headed Vireo, 1.5 (1FL); American Redstart, 1.5 (5FL); Common Yellowthroat, 1.5 (5FL); Northern Cardinal, 1.5 (3FL); American Goldfinch, 1.5; Downy Woodpecker, 1.0 (1N,4FL); Northern Flicker, 1.0

(1N,2FL); Blue Jay, 1.0 (1N,4FL); American Crow, 1.0 (1N,4FL); White-breasted Nuthatch, 1.0 (1N,6FL); Hermit Thrush, 1.0; Cedar Waxwing, 1.0; Song Sparrow, 1.0 (4FL); Wild Turkey, 0.5; Red-tailed Hawk, 0.5; Mourning Dove, 0.5; Hairy Woodpecker, 0.5; Eastern Kingbird, 0.5; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 0.5 (2FL); Pine Warbler, 0.5; Black-and-white Warbler, 0.5; Northern Waterthrush, 0.5 (2FL); Louisiana Waterthrush, 0.5; Chipping Sparrow, 0.5 (4FL); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 0.5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 0.5 (1FL); Baltimore Oriole, 0.5; Pileated Woodpecker, +; Yellow-throated Vireo, +; Magnolia Warbler, +; Yellow-rumped Warbler, +; Black-throated Green Warbler, +; Eastern Towhee, +. **Total:** 47 species; 103.0 territories (408/40 ha). **Visitors:** Brown Creeper, Blue-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler. **Remarks:** The number of species showing territoriality in the plot surged up to 47 this year. That is far more than the 40 found last year, the 39 found in 2006, and the 10-year average of 42 species. What caused this increase is a mystery, but it could be related to food sources. The number of territories increased to 103.0 this year, from 96.0 last year, and a dismal 69.0 in 2006. The 10-year average is 91 territories. The most abundant species this year was Veery with 17.5 territories. Last year, they were in second place with 15.0, and in 2006, they were the most abundant species but with only 11.0 territories. The second most abundant species this year was Ovenbird with 15.5 territories. Last year, they were the third most abundant species with 14.0, and in 2006, they were in second place with only 10.0 territories. The third most abundant species this year was Red-eyed Vireo with 15.0 territories. Last year, they were the most abundant species with 15.0, and in 2006, they were the third most abundant species with only 9.5 territories. These three species are almost always the top three most abundant species in this plot, even though their order switches around. It is good to see that they seem to have recovered from whatever was causing their low numbers in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Species found exhibiting territoriality this year but not last year included Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Eastern Towhee, and Baltimore Oriole. Some of these were non-breeding visitors last year. The only species found on territory last year, but not this year, were Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Blue-winged Warbler. The creeper and warbler were one-time visitors this year. Breeding success was pretty good this year with 28 species fledging a total of at least 159 young. Last year, 131 fledglings of 25 species were observed. In 2006, 107 fledglings from 17 species were seen. This is a positive upward trend. This year, the most productive species were Black-capped Chickadee, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Tufted Titmouse, and American Robin.

3. WHITE OAK SAVANNAH SAVANA DE ROBLE BLANCO

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Site Number: ON2893110. **Location:** Ontario; Municipality of Muskoka; Torrance; Southwood Shield Plateau; 44°56'N, 79°30'W. **Continuity:** Established 1993; 11 yr. **Size:** 10.4 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *J. Field Ornithol.* 65(Suppl.):60–61 (1994) and *Bird Populations* 8:127–128 (2007). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 17.4°C (range 15–19°C). Temperatures were 2.5°C below the 30-year (1971–2000) norm in May but at the norm for the three-month study period. Precipitation totals averaged 35% over the norm from May through July. **Source:** Environment Canada. **Coverage:** 16.4 h; 8 visits (0 sunrise, 2 sunset); 16, 31 May; 21, 23, 24, 25, 26 June; 15 July; 2008. **Census:** Chestnut-sided Warbler, 14.5 (56); American Robin, 12.0 (46); Eastern Towhee, 8.0 (31); Field Sparrow, 7.5 (29); Brown Thrasher, 7.0 (27); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 7.0; Red-eyed Vireo, 6.0 (23); Chipping Sparrow, 6.0; Common Yellowthroat, 5.0 (19); American Redstart, 3.0 (12); Black-and-White Warbler, 2.0; Red-winged Blackbird, 1.5; Northern Flicker, 1.0; Blue Jay, 1.0; Black-capped Chickadee, 1.0; Veery, 1.0; Song Sparrow, 0.5. **Total:** 17 species; 84.0 territories (323/40 ha). **Visitors:** American Woodcock, Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Common Raven, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ovenbird, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch. **Remarks:** Rain abundance may have contributed to the highest number of breeding warblers to date (31.5 territories). Four of the five warbler species set new plot highs. Chestnut-sided Warbler, which supplanted Yellow Warbler in 1998, almost tripled its 11-year breeding territory average this year. For the second year running, breeding warblers have reversed the seedeater dominance on this plot. Flycatchers, in steady decline since their high of 10.5 territories in 1993, were absent for the first time. Overall breeding pairs, however, have gradually increased from the plot low of 56.0 (in 2000) to this year's 84.0, the 11-year average. Of the 47 plot breeding species overall, 10 have bred at least nine years, and six have bred for all 11 years.

4. OAK-MAPLE-POPLAR HOLLOW BOSQUE DE ROBLE-ARCE-ALAMO HUECO

LINDA INGRAM
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Site Number: PA1093123. **Location:** Pennsylvania; Berks Co.; Reading; Nolde Forest, Buck Hollow;

40°16'57"N, 75°57'30"W; Reading Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1993; 16 yr. **Size:** 11.3 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *J. Field Ornithol.* 65(Suppl.):61 (1994). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 12.6°C (range 4–21°C). **Coverage:** 14.8 h; 9 visits (8 sunrise); 24, 26, 27 April; 3, 11, 18, 25, 27 May; 22 June; 2008. **Census:** Wood Thrush, 8.0 (28); Ovenbird, 8.0; Tufted Titmouse, 5.0 (18); Blue Jay, 4.0 (14); Veery, 4.0; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2.0; Hairy Woodpecker, 2.0; American Crow, 2.0; Eastern Towhee, 2.0; Northern Cardinal, 2.0; chickadee sp.; 1.0. **Total:** 11 species; 40.0 territories (142/40 ha). **Visitors:** Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, Worm-eating Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. **Other Observers:** Keith Lutz, Kevin Lutz, Pat Mangas, Phyllis Reynolds, and David Reynolds.

5. HARDWOOD SWAMP FOREST BOSQUE DE MADERAS DURAS PANTANOSO

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Francis Beidler Forest
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Location: South Carolina; Dorchester Co.; Harleyville; Francis Beidler Forest Sanctuary, Four Holes Swamp; 33°11'N, 80°19'W; Pringletown Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1979; 15 yr. **Size:** 8.1 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Am. Birds* 34:50 (1980) and *J. Field Ornithol.* 64 (Suppl.):56 (1993). The plot is continuing to recover from the effects of hurricane Hugo in 1989. The post-hurricane brushiness continues to thin as the understory trees grow up and once again shade the forest floor. The coarse woody debris is mostly broken down and rotting, further opening the forest floor. The plot's vegetation was resurveyed in 1996 (unpublished). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 12.2°C (range 7–18°C). Temperatures and water levels were normal. The 9 May visit was aborted due to a thunderstorm. **Coverage:** 14.4 h; 11 visits (11 sunrise); 21, 29, 30 April; 2, 6, 9, 13, 14, 21, 23, 30 May; 2008. **Census:** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 30.0 (148); Red-eyed Vireo, 7.0 (35); Tufted Titmouse, 6.5 (32); Northern Parula, 6.0 (30); White-eyed Vireo, 5.0 (25); Great Crested Flycatcher, 4.0 (20); Northern Cardinal, 4.0; Prothonotary Warbler, 3.5 (17); Pileated Woodpecker, 3.0 (15); Acadian Flycatcher, 3.0; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2.5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2.0; Carolina Wren, 2.0; Hooded Warbler, 2.0; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1.0; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1.0; American Crow, 1.0; Carolina Chickadee, 1.0; Gray Catbird, 1.0; Swainson's Warbler, 0.5. **Total:** 20 species; 86.0 territories (425/40 ha). **Visitors:** White Ibis, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky

Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager.
Other Observer: Norman Brunswig.

6. MATURE MAPLE-BEECH-BIRCH FOREST BOSQUE MADURO DE ARCE-HAYA-ABEDUL

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Site Number: TN2392102. **Location:** Tennessee; Monroe Co.; Whigg Ridge, Cherokee National Forest; 35°19'36"N, 84°2'30"W; Big Junction Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1992; 16 yr. **Size:** 10.2 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *J. Field Ornithol.* 64(Suppl.):57-58 (1993) and 66(Suppl.):63 (1995). Hemlock mortality (due to woolly adelgid infestation) continues. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 21.3°C (range 12-36°C). **Coverage:** 18.4 h; 8 visits (4 sunrise, 4 sunset); 29, 30 May; 4, 5, 25, 26 June; 6, 7 July; 2008. **Census:** Veery, 13.0 (51); Blue-headed Vireo, 9.5 (37); Ovenbird, 7.0 (27); Dark-eyed Junco, 6.0 (24); Tufted Titmouse, 1.5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1.0; Blackburnian Warbler, 1.0; Downy Woodpecker, +; Carolina Chickadee, +. **Total:** 9 species; 39.0 territories (153/40 ha). **Visitors:** Common Raven, Winter Wren, Eastern Towhee. **Remarks:** Flyovers: Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, and Cedar Waxwing. **Other Observers:** David F. Vogt and Hayden Wilson. **Acknowledgments:** We wish to acknowledge the financial and logistical support of the Cherokee National Forest.

7. UPLAND CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

FINCAS DE ARBOLES DE NAVIDAD DE ALTURAS

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Site Number: NY2483108. **Location:** New York, Allegany Co., Andover; Kent Christmas Tree Farm; 42°10'N, 77°50'W; Andover Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1983; 26 yr. **Size:** 10.7 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Am. Birds* 38:91(1984). During the previous two years, all the Scotch pine trees in the study area were removed. **Weather:** Mean start temp. 18.6°C (range 12.2-22.2°C). **Coverage:** 13.6 h; 8 visits plus 1 woodcock survey (0 sunrise, 1 sunset); 12 April; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 June; 14, 23, 29 July; 2008. **Census:** Chipping Sparrow, 14.0 (52; 1N); Song Sparrow, 13.0 (49; 6N,5FL); American Robin, 9.0 (34; 1N,2FL); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 6.0 (22); Field Sparrow, 4.0 (15; 1N); Purple Finch, 4.0; Cedar Waxwing, 3.5 (13; 1N); Eastern Towhee, 2.5 (1N); Mourning Dove, 2.0; Magnolia Warbler, 2.0; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2.0 (females); American Goldfinch,

2.0; Prairie Warbler, 1.0; Savannah Sparrow, 1.0; Indigo Bunting, 1.0; Bobolink, 0.5; Red-winged Blackbird, 0.5. **Total:** 17 species; 68.0 territories (254/40 ha). **Visitors:** Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Common Yellowthroat. **Remarks:** The number of territories (68.0) was about average, but lower than in any of the previous eight years. There were no new species recorded on the study area. American Woodcock was missing after being recorded in 21 of the past 24 years. No nests were found parasitized by cowbirds. **Acknowledgments:** Appreciation to Rick Walker and Dennis Smith for weather data and to Tom and Kathy Kent for their continued interest and permission to conduct the study on their land.

8. CLIMAX HEMLOCK-WHITE PINE FOREST WITH TRANSITION HARDWOODS BOSQUE CLIMAX DE PICEA-PINO BLANCO EN TRANSICION A MADERAS DURAS

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Site Number: CT2765008. **Location:** Connecticut; Litchfield Co.; Litchfield; White Memorial Foundation-Catlin Woods; 41°43'N, 73°12'W; Litchfield Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1965; 42 yr. **Size:** 10.5 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Aud. Field Notes* 19:594-595 (1965), *J. Field Ornithol.* 67(Suppl.):60 (1996), and *Bird Populations* 8:129-130 (2007). The vegetation was resurveyed in 1990 and 2004, but the results have not been published. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 20.7°C (range 11-28°C). The weather throughout all of 2008 was much wetter than normal in Connecticut. The months of May and June saw more wet days than dry ones. It was very conducive to vegetation growth, and it helped produce an abundance of seeds, berries, and insects as the season progressed. Rainfall was above average in May with 17 wet days producing a total of 8.4 cm of rain. The number of wet days decreased slightly in June to 16, but the amount of precipitation increased significantly to 14.3 cm. That's well-above average. In July, there were 13 wet days that produced a total of 15.4 cm of rain. That's a little above average. May's mean temperature was 12.3°C, which is a little below average. The mean temperature in June was 19.3°C, which is close to average. In July, the mean temperature was 21.9°C, which is close to average. **Source:** White Memorial Foundation's weather station. **Coverage:** 28.0 h; 11 visits (0 sunrise, 4 sunset); 7, 14, 21, 28 May; 5, 13, 25 June; 3, 10, 18, 28

July; 2008. Maximum number of observers/visit, 3. **Census:** Veery, 17.0 (65; 13FL); Black-throated Green Warbler, 16.5 (63; 4N,24FL); Ovenbird, 16.0 (61; 23FL); Red-eyed Vireo, 10.0 (38; 7FL); Hermit Thrush, 8.0 (30; 2N,14FL); Blackburnian Warbler, 7.5 (29; 1N,11FL); Great Crested Flycatcher, 5.0 (19; 1N,7FL); Wood Thrush, 5.0 (1N,6FL); Pine Warbler, 5.0 (1N,12FL); Black-capped Chickadee, 3.5 (13; 27FL); Scarlet Tanager, 3.5 (5FL); Blue-headed Vireo, 3.0 (11; 3FL); Blue Jay, 3.0 (5FL); Eastern Wood-Pewee, 2.5 (4FL); Mourning Dove, 2.0 (2N,2FL); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2.0; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2.0 (13FL); American Robin, 2.0 (1N,11FL); Hairy Woodpecker, 1.5 (3FL); American Crow, 1.5 (3FL); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1.5 (1N,4FL); Black-and-white Warbler, 1.5 (3FL); Northern Cardinal, 1.5 (1N,5FL); Purple Finch, 1.5 (1N,3FL); Downy Woodpecker, 1.0 (2FL); Pileated Woodpecker, 1.0 (1N,2FL); Tufted Titmouse, 1.0 (8FL); Brown Creeper, 1.0 (4FL); Gray Catbird, 1.0 (1FL); Wild Turkey, 0.5 (6FL); Red-tailed Hawk, 0.5 (2FL); Great Horned Owl, 0.5 (1N,4FL); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 0.5 (1FL); Yellow Warbler, 0.5; Worm-eating Warbler, 0.5; Common Yellowthroat, 0.5 (2FL); Chipping Sparrow, 0.5 (4FL); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 0.5 (1FL); Brown-headed Cowbird, 0.5 (1FL); American Goldfinch, 0.5; Barred Owl, +; Least Flycatcher, +; Cedar Waxwing, +; Chestnut-sided Warbler, +; American Redstart, +; Northern Waterthrush, +. **Total:** 46 species; 133.0 territories (507/40 ha). **Visitors:** Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Dark-eyed Junco, Baltimore Oriole. **Remarks:** A total of 133 birds of 46 species exhibited evidence of territoriality in this plot in 2008. That's the same number of species as were present last year and four more than the 10-year average. There were 24 more individuals found this year than last year. That's 19 more than the 10-year average. The most abundant species this year was Veery, as was the case last year and in 2006. With 17.0 territories this year, it was more abundant than ever before. Last year, and in 2006, there were 14.5 Veery territories. Black-throated Green Warbler with 16.5 territories barely edged-out Ovenbird, with 16.0, as the second most abundant species. Ovenbird, now in third place, had been in second place in 2007 and 2006 and was the most abundant species in 2005. This doesn't mean that they've declined in number, however. In fact, they have steadily increased in number since 2005, just not at the same pace as Veery. Black-throated Green Warbler numbers have fluctuated widely over the past 40 years, and 2008 was an up year. Red-eyed Vireo increased to 10.0 territories this year, but remained in fourth place. The Hermit Thrush population continued its long, steady increase this year to a new record high of 8.0 territories. Blackburnian Warbler numbers rebounded quite nicely this year to 7.5 territories from only 4.5

last year and in 2006. Species found exhibiting territoriality this year but not last year included Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker (first time ever in this plot), Least Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler. Species being territorial here last year but not this year included Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Magnolia Warbler, Canada Warbler, Song Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole. This is the first time in many years that Eastern Phoebes haven't nested on the map board at the main entrance to the trail leading into the plot. Breeding success for most birds was excellent this year with 246 fledglings being counted over the course of the season. Last year, 205 fledglings were counted. Black-capped Chickadee, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Ovenbird seemed to be the most productive species this year. **Other Observers:** John Eykelhoff, Russ Naylor, Margaret Sellers, and Thomas Sellers.

9. YOUNG MIXED HARDWOOD-CONIFER STAND

BOSQUE JOVEN-MIXTO DE MADERAS
DURAS/RODAL DE CONIFEROS

DAVID ROSGEN

White Memorial Conservation Center

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Litchfield CT 06759

Site Number: CT2778262. **Location:** Connecticut; Litchfield Co.; Morris; White Memorial Foundation-Pitch Road; 41°42'N, 73°10'W; Litchfield Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1978; 31 yr. **Size:** 8.5 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Am. Birds* 33:72 (1979). Degradation of the plot's habitats by ATVs, dirt bikes, and other off-road vehicles continued this year, to the detriment of the birds. Law enforcement efforts were sporadic and futile. Erosion of the land and roads, with resultant siltation of the brook and wetland has become a major problem. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 20.5°C (range 16–25°C). The weather throughout all of 2008 was much wetter than normal in Connecticut. The months of May and June saw more wet days than dry ones. It was very conducive to vegetation growth, and it helped produce an abundance of seeds, berries, and insects as the season progressed. Rainfall was above average in May with 17 wet days producing a total of 8.4 cm of rain. The number of wet days decreased slightly in June to 16, but the amount of precipitation increased significantly to 14.3 cm. That's well-above average. In July, there were 13 wet days that produced a total of 15.4 cm of rain. That's a little above average. May's mean temperature was 12.3°C, which is a little below average. The mean temperature in June was 19.3°C, which is close to average. In July, the mean temperature was 21.9°C, which is close to average.

Source: White Memorial Foundation's weather station. **Coverage:** 15.0 h; 8 visits (1 sunrise, 5 sunset); 23, 30 May; 7, 17, 25 June; 5, 16, 29 July; 2008. **Census:** Red-eyed Vireo, 12.0 (56); Ovenbird, 11.5 (54; 2FL); Veery, 11.0 (52; 1FL); Wood Thrush, 4.0 (19); Black-capped Chickadee, 3.5 (16; 1N,16FL); Tufted Titmouse, 3.0 (14; 14FL); Gray Catbird, 3.0 (3FL); Common Yellowthroat, 2.5; Scarlet Tanager, 2.5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2.0; Eastern Wood-Pewee, 2.0; Hermit Thrush, 2.0; American Robin, 2.0 (4FL); Downy Woodpecker, 1.5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1.5 (4FL); Black-throated Green Warbler, 1.5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1.0; Eastern Phoebe, 1.0; Blue-headed Vireo, 1.0; Blue Jay, 1.0; American Crow, 1.0; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1.0; American Redstart, 1.0; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1.0; Northern Cardinal, 1.0; Mourning Dove, 0.5; Great Crested Flycatcher, 0.5; Black-and-white Warbler, 0.5; Chipping Sparrow, 0.5 (3FL); Barred Owl, +; Hairy Woodpecker, +; Blackburnian Warbler, +; Pine Warbler, +; Brown-headed Cowbird, +; American Goldfinch, +. **Total:** 35 species; 76.5 territories (360/40 ha). **Visitors:** Broad-winged Hawk, Northern Flicker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. **Remarks:** The number of species exhibiting breeding evidence in this plot dropped back down to 35 this year, which is the same as in 2006. Otherwise, not since 1984 was the number of species this low. Last year, 41 species were found. The average of the previous 10 years is 43. Surprisingly, the total number of territorial males increased somewhat to 76.5. Last year, this plot produced 69.0 territories, and in 2006 it had 68.5. The average of the previous 10 years is 80.5 territories. The most abundant species this year was Red-eyed Vireo with 12.0 territories. Last year, they were the third most abundant species with 9.5 territories. In 2006, they were also in third place but with only 7.0 territories. They have clearly rebounded. The second most abundant species this year was Ovenbird with 11.5 territories. They were also in second place last year with 10.0 and in 2006 with 9.5 territories. The third most abundant species this year was Veery with 11.0 territories. Last year, they were the most abundant species with the same number of territories, and in 2006, they were also the most abundant species but with 11.5 territories. These three species have consistently been the top three most abundant in this plot for many years, even though their order flip-flops. Overall, Veery numbers have been the most stable. No species were found this year which weren't found here last year. Six species, however, were found here last year but not this year, or at least they weren't exhibiting any breeding evidence this year. They were Cooper's Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Purple Finch. Breeding success seemed to be very low this year. Only 47 fledglings representing only eight

species were detected. Last year, 78 fledglings from 14 species were observed. In 2006, 76 fledglings from 14 species were counted. This year, the only really productive species were Black-capped Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse. Together they accounted for 30 of the fledglings. **Other Observer:** Russ Naylor.

10. RIPARIAN WOODLAND ARBOLADO RIVEREÑO

SCOTT R. ROBINSON
Bureau of Land Management
3815 N. Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene ID 83815

Location: Idaho; Kootenai Co.; Coeur d'Alene; Blackwell Island; 47°41'N, 116°48'W; Coeur d'Alene Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1997; 12 yr. **Size:** 8.9 ha. **Description of Plot:** See 1997 BBC report (unpublished) and *Bird Populations* 7:106 (2006) and 7:123 (2006). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 10.1°C (range 5–16°C). The plot flooded for the first time since 2002 (from 17 May to 26 June). The water level peaked about 2 m above summer normal pool level. Flood stage is 1.5 m above summer normal pool level of Coeur d'Alene Lake. Approximately 70% of the plot was inundated at the peak of the flood. **Coverage:** 10.7 h; 8 visits (8 sunrise); 5, 19, 28 May; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 June; 2008. **Census:** Canada Goose, 5.0 (22; 31FL); Tree Swallow, 4.0 (18); American Robin, 3.5 (16); Mallard, 3.0 (13); Red-winged Blackbird, 3.0; Yellow Warbler, 2.5; Wood Duck, 2.0; Violet-green Swallow, 2.0; Song Sparrow, 2.0; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2.0; Gray Catbird, 1.5; Blue-winged Teal, 1.0; Downy Woodpecker, 1.0; Northern Flicker, 1.0; American Crow, 1.0; European Starling, 1.0; Cedar Waxwing, 1.0; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1.0; Black-headed Grosbeak, 1.0; Osprey, +. **Total:** 20 species; 38.5 territories (173/40 ha). **Visitors:** domestic goose, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Wood-Pewee, Black-capped Chickadee, Veery, House Finch, American Goldfinch.

11. UPLAND MIXED PINE–SPRUCE–HARDWOOD PLANTATION

PLANTACION MIXTA DE PINO–ABETO–MADERAS
DURAS EN ALTURAS

ELIZABETH W. BROOKS
5540 Jericho Hill Road
Alfred Station NY 14803

Site Number: NY2474107. **Location:** New York; Allegany Co., Ward; Phillips Creek State Reforestation Tract; 42°8'N, 77°45'W; Andover Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1974; 35 yr. **Size:** 16.6 ha.

Description of Plot: See *Am. Birds* 28:699–700 (1974), *J. Field Ornithol.* 63(Suppl.):79–80 (1992) and 66(Suppl.):79–80 (1995). Mature red pines (n=381) were harvested from a 1.2-ha section planted in 1935. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 18.3°C (range 12.2–23.9°C). **Coverage:** 12.9 h; 9 visits (0 sunrise, 1 sunset); 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 June; 13, 20, 27 July; 5 August; 2008. **Census:** Black-throated Green Warbler, 9.0 (22); Blackburnian Warbler, 9.0; Magnolia Warbler, 8.0 (19); Dark-eyed Junco, 7.0 (17); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5.0 (12); Blue-headed Vireo, 4.0 (10); Black-capped Chickadee, 4.0; Hermit Thrush, 4.0; American Robin, 4.0; Purple Finch, 4.0; Brown Creeper, 3.0 (7); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 3.0; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2.5; Blue Jay, 2.0; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2.0; Chipping Sparrow, 2.0; Indigo Bunting, 2.0; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2.0 (female); Cedar Waxwing, 1.5; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1.0; Red-eyed Vireo, 1.0; American Crow, 1.0; Winter Wren, 1.0; Ovenbird, 1.0; Mourning Warbler, 1.0; White-throated Sparrow, 1.0; American Goldfinch, 1.0; Song Sparrow, 0.5. **Total:** 28 species; 86.5 territories (208/40 ha). **Visitors:** Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Common Raven, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler, Red Crossbill. **Remarks:** The total number of territories (87.5) was slightly above the 34-year average (84.3). There were no new species recorded on the plot. Wood Thrush was missing after being reported in 30 of the past 34 years; Purple Finch had the highest number of territorial males (4) ever recorded. There was considerable disruption in a portion of the plot due to the selective logging activity conducted during the breeding season. **Acknowledgments:** Appreciation to Rick Walker and Dennis Smith for weather data.

12. RIPARIAN SCRUB MATORRAL RIBEREÑO

JILL COUMOUTSO
Santa Ana Watershed Association
P.O. Box 219
Chino CA 91708

Location: California; Riverside Co.; Norco; Norco Burn; 33°57'29"N, 117°31'56"W; Corona North Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 2006; 3 yr. **Size:** 14.6 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Bird Populations* 9:192 (2009). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 16.1°C (range 10.2–23.8°C). Temperatures were mild, as typical for southern California's Mediterranean climate. **Source:** a Kestrel 3000 was used to measure temperature and wind speed. **Coverage:** 20.5 h; 8 visits (0 sunrise, 0 sunset); 18 March; 7, 21 April; 8, 22 May; 10, 23 June; 11 July; 2008. **Census:** Anna's Hummingbird, 13.0 (36; 4N,6FL); Song Sparrow, 13.0;

Spotted Towhee, 10.0 (27); Least Bell's Vireo, 8.5 (23; 7N,28FL); Common Yellowthroat, 8.0 (22; 2FL); Black-headed Grosbeak, 8.0; House Wren, 7.0 (19; 1N); Yellow-breasted Chat, 7.0 (3FL); Mourning Dove, 6.0 (16; 2N); Yellow Warbler, 5.0 (14; 2N,3FL); Lesser Goldfinch, 5.0; Bewick's Wren, 3.0 (8); California Towhee, 3.0 (1FL); House Finch, 3.0; Cooper's Hawk, 2.0 (1N,3FL); Bushtit, 2.0; Black-chinned Hummingbird, 1.0; Northern Flicker, 1.0; Ash-throated Flycatcher, 1.0; Western Bluebird, 1.0 (1FL); Nuttall's Woodpecker, 0.5. **Total:** 21 species; 108.0 territories (296/40 ha). **Visitors:** Mallard, American Bittern, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Ground-Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western Scrub-Jay, Barn Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, California Thrasher, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, American Goldfinch. **Remarks:** Song Sparrows were the most abundant breeders on the site due to the presence of a dense understory. Anna's Hummingbird was the second most abundant species. In addition to winter and breeding bird surveys, this site is currently being monitored for the nests of the endangered Least Bell's Vireo. Other species of concern that bred on the plot included Yellow-breasted Chat and Yellow Warbler. A Cooper's Hawk nest was found at the building stage and monitored throughout the season. It was successful and fledged three young. This site continues to be treated for Arundo re-growth on a yearly basis. A Brown-headed Cowbird trap was present adjacent to the plot for the entire breeding season.

13. RIPARIAN SCRUB BASIN CUENCA CON MATORRAL RIBEREÑO

MELODY AIMAR
Santa Ana Watershed Association
P.O. Box 219
Chino CA 91708

Location: California; Riverside Co.; Riverside; Mockingbird Canyon; 33°53'33"N, 117°24'47"W; Riverside West Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 2004; 5 yr. **Size:** 12.7 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Bird Populations* 8:142–143 (2007). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 18.5°C (range 8–26°C). Temperatures were mild, as is typical for southern California's Mediterranean climate. There was no precipitation within 24 hours of survey visits. Drought conditions continue. **Coverage:** 19.3 h; 8 visits (0 sunrise, 0 sunset); 14, 18, 28 March; 14 April; 16, 22 May; 9, 30 June; 2008. **Census:** Song Sparrow, 12.0 (38; 2FL); California Towhee, 11.0 (35; 1FL);

Spotted Towhee, 10.5 (33); Bewick's Wren, 10.0 (31; 1FL); California Quail, 9.5 (30); Anna's Hummingbird, 8.0 (25); Lesser Goldfinch, 7.0 (22; 2FL); Bushtit, 5.0 (16; 1N); Black-headed Grosbeak, 5.0; House Finch, 4.0 (13; 1FL); California Thrasher, 3.5 (11); Common Yellowthroat, 3.0 (9); Hooded Oriole, 3.0 (1FL); Nuttall's Woodpecker, 2.5; Mourning Dove, 2.0; Northern Flicker, 2.0; Western Scrub-Jay, 2.0 (2FL); Black-chinned Hummingbird, 1.0; Downy Woodpecker, 1.0 (1FL); Black Phoebe, 1.0 (2N); House Wren, 1.0; Yellow Warbler, 1.0; American Goldfinch, 1.0; Cooper's Hawk, 0.5; Red-tailed Hawk, 0.5 (1FL); Least Bell's Vireo, + (1FL). **Total:** 26 species; 107.0 territories (337/40 ha). **Visitors:** Greater Roadrunner, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, California Gnatcatcher, Wrentit. **Remarks:** As in previous years, Song Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, California Towhee, and Spotted Towhee remain as the most abundant species. Absent from this year's census was Phainopepla which had 5.0 territories in 2007. Also, the Barn Swallow pair that nested on-site in previous years was absent. Last year, their nest was vandalized by taggers. Sadly, the two Least Bell's Vireo pairs that nested on-site in 2007 did not return this year. Vireo territory numbers throughout the canyon, however, increased from 23 in 2007 to 27 in 2008. The Red-tailed Hawk pair returned to nest successfully on-site. Overall, territory numbers were down slightly from 2007. **Acknowledgments:** We would like to thank Gage Canal for site access.

14. STREAMSIDE RIPARIAN WOODLAND I

BOSQUE RIBEREÑO I

TERRY REESER

Santa Ana Watershed Association

P.O. Box 219

Chino CA 91708

Location: California; Orange Co.; Yorba Linda; Featherly Regional Park; 33°52'24"N, 117°42'23"W; Black Star Canyon and Prado Dam Quadrangles, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 2004; 5 yr. **Size:** 17.8 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Bird Populations* 8:143–144 (2007) and 9:182 (2009). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 20.6°C (range 14–27°C). Temperatures were mild, as typical for southern California's Mediterranean climate. **Source:** weather data were obtained with a Kestrel 2000 weather meter. **Coverage:** 47.0 h; 8 visits (0 sunrise, 0 sunset); 26 March; 22 April; 8, 19, 29 May; 13, 26 June; 16 July; 2008. **Census:** Song Sparrow, 32.0 (72; 1N); Common Yellowthroat, 28.0 (63; 2FL); Yellow Warbler, 20.5 (46); Spotted Towhee, 15.5 (35); House Wren, 13.0 (29; 1N,3FL); Bewick's Wren, 12.0 (27; 6FL); Least Bell's Vireo, 11.0 (25; 3N,7FL); Anna's Hummingbird, 10.0 (22; 1N,1FL); Nuttall's Woodpecker, 9.0 (20); Yellow-breasted Chat, 7.5 (17); Black-headed Grosbeak, 6.5 (15); Wrentit, 6.0 (13; 1FL);

California Towhee, 5.0 (11); Wood Duck, 4.0 (9; 2FL); Downy Woodpecker, 3.0 (7); Black Phoebe, 3.0; Western Scrub-Jay, 2.0; Bushtit, 2.0; House Finch, 2.0 (4FL); Mallard, 1.0; Cooper's Hawk, 1.0; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1.0; Acorn Woodpecker, 1.0; Ash-throated Flycatcher, 1.0 (1N); Tree Swallow, 1.0 (1N,2FL); Western Bluebird, 1.0 (1FL); California Thrasher, 1.0; Hooded Oriole, 1.0; Lesser Goldfinch, 1.0 (1FL). **Total:** 29 species; 202.0 territories (454/40 ha). **Visitors:** Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, American Coot, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, American Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, Wilson's Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, American Goldfinch. **Remarks:** The breeding bird community includes riparian, coastal sage, and chaparral species. The endangered Least Bell's Vireo and California species of concern Yellow Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat bred on the plot along with other species of concern such as Downy Woodpecker. The mature stands of cottonwood and black willow throughout the plot benefit many species observed including Yellow Warbler, Nuttall's Woodpecker, and Downy Woodpecker. I possibly over counted some species due to surveying only one side of the river, but I took this into account for some species. Nest monitoring for Least Bell's Vireo and winter bird surveys take place on the plot. **Acknowledgments:** I thank Harbors, Beaches, and Parks Resources and Development Department, County of Orange, for site access and its continuing logistical support.

15. STREAMSIDE RIPARIAN WOODLAND III

BOSQUE RIBEREÑO III

ALLYSON BECKMAN

Santa Ana Watershed Association

P.O. Box 219

Chino CA 91708

Location: California; Riverside Co.; Redlands; San Timoteo Canyon; 33°59'5"N, 117°7'45"W; Sunnymead Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 2004; 5 yr. **Size:** 12.3 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Bird Populations* 8:144–145 (2007) and 9:182–183 (2009). **Weather:** Mean start temp., 19.5°C (range 13–32°C). Temperatures were warm, as typical for southern California's Mediterranean climate. There was no precipitation during, or within 24 hours of, any survey visit. **Source:** weather data were obtained by using a Kestrel 3000 weather meter. **Coverage:** 23.1 h; 8 visits (4 sunrise, 0 sunset); 17, 27 March; 10, 23 April; 13, 28 May; 24 June; 2 July; 2008. **Census:** Song Sparrow, 19.0 (62); Bewick's Wren, 16.0 (52); Spotted Towhee, 15.0 (49); California Towhee, 12.0 (39); Lesser Goldfinch, 11.0 (36); Mourning Dove, 10.0 (33);

Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 9.0 (29); Bushtit, 9.0; Anna's Hummingbird, 7.0 (23); Common Yellowthroat, 7.0; Least Bell's Vireo, 5.5 (18; 6N,19FL); American Goldfinch, 5.0 (16); Oak Titmouse, 4.0 (13); Yellow Warbler, 4.0; Black-chinned Hummingbird, 3.0 (10); Nuttall's Woodpecker, 3.0; Black Phoebe, 3.0; American Crow, 3.0; House Wren, 3.0; Yellow-breasted Chat, 3.0; House Finch, 3.0; Ash-throated Flycatcher, 2.0; Common Raven, 2.0; European Starling, 2.0; Phainopepla, 2.0; Black-headed Grosbeak, 2.0; Bullock's Oriole, 2.0; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1.5; California Quail, 1.0; Barn Owl, 1.0; Downy Woodpecker, 1.0; Northern Flicker, 1.0; California Thrasher, 1.0; Cooper's Hawk, 0.5; Red-tailed Hawk, 0.5; Western Bluebird, 0.5; Blue Grosbeak, 0.5. **Total:** 37 species; 175.0 territories (569/40 ha). **Visitors:** White-tailed Kite, American Kestrel, Western Scrub-Jay, Red-winged Blackbird. **Remarks:** Thirty-seven species bred on this plot. The plot has been undergoing passive restoration over the last seven years after the removal of over 80 ha of invasive *Arundo donax*. One endangered species, Least Bell's Vireo, bred on the plot. Nest monitoring for the Least Bell's Vireo and winter bird surveys are also conducted on this plot. **Acknowledgments:** Special thanks to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for providing funding for the surveys.

16. FIELD, RIDGE, SHRUBBY TREES, AND WOODS

CAMPOS, COLINAS, ARBUSTOS Y BOSQUES

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Dundas ON L9H 6L7

Location: Ontario; Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth; Dundas; Dundas Valley Plot #1; 43°15'N, 79°54'W. **Continuity:** Established 1994; 13 yr. **Size:** 5.8 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *J. Field Ornithol.* 60(Suppl.):14 (1989), 66(Suppl.):27–28 (1995), and 67(Suppl.):73–74 (1996). Ongoing succession or "thickening up" continues. Jerusalem artichoke invasion appears to have affected breeding numbers. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 17.4°C (range 15–19°C). Temperatures were 2.5°C below the 30-year (1971–2000) norm in May but at the norm for the three-month study period. Precipitation totals averaged 35% over the norm from May through July. **Source:** Environment Canada. **Coverage:** 16.4 h; 8 visits (0 sunrise, 2 sunset); 16, 31 May; 21, 23, 24, 25, 26 June; 15 July; 2008. **Census:** Yellow Warbler, 20.5 (141); Gray Catbird, 9.5 (66); Northern Cardinal, 9.5; American Robin, 6.0 (41); American Goldfinch, 5.0 (34); Blue Jay, 4.0 (28); Blue-winged Warbler, 4.0; Field Sparrow, 4.0; Indigo Bunting, 4.0 (2FL); Black-capped Chickadee, 3.0 (21); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2.0; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2.0; Baltimore Oriole, 2.0;

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1.0; Brown Thrasher, 1.0; Eastern Towhee, 1.0; Common Grackle, 1.0. **Total:** 17 species; 79.5 territories (548/40 ha). **Visitors:** Northern Flicker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, American Crow, House Wren, Cedar Waxwing, American Redstart, Song Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager. **Remarks:** This year's 79.5 breeding pairs are 13.5 below the next lowest total (in 2006) and 39 pairs under the 13-year average for this revised plot. There has been a steady decline on this plot since the highest total (158 pairs) in 2000. The top three breeders (Yellow Warbler, Gray Catbird, and Song Sparrow) over 18 years of both versions of this plot declined this year to 42% of the 13-year average of 72 breeding pairs. Breeding Song Sparrows were absent for the first time. Yellow Warbler and Gray Catbird were 19 pairs below their 2007 total. Vegetative succession is likely playing a role in this steep decline. Also, there is a possible correspondence between the recent invasion of Jerusalem artichoke in the open low-lying areas of the northwest and north-central sectors and the notable declines of Yellow Warbler and catbird in these sectors.

17. SHRUBBY SWAMP AND SEDGE HUMMOCKS PANTANO ARBUSTIVO-MOGOTE

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Location: Connecticut; Litchfield Co.; Litchfield; White Memorial Foundation–North Shore Marsh; 41°43'N, 73°13'W; Litchfield Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1965; 42 yr. **Size:** 8.1 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Aud. Field Notes* 19:625–627 (1965) and *Bird Populations* 7:125–126 (2006). Habitat succession continued this year despite several severe flooding events. Floods last year killed several more trees so that there is an abundance of this microhabitat for cavity-nesting birds. Shrubs (especially silky and red-twigged dogwoods, arrowwood viburnum, and buttonbush) continued to increase in the area that they covered while herbaceous vegetation continued to decrease. The entire plot was much wetter than average throughout the entire breeding season, but it didn't seem to adversely affect the birds. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 23.9°C (range 19–32°C). The weather throughout all of 2008 was much wetter than normal in Connecticut. The months of May and June saw more wet days than dry ones. It was very conducive to vegetation growth, and it helped produce an abundance of seeds, berries, and insects as the season progressed. Rainfall was above average in May with 17 wet days producing a total of 8.4 cm of rain. The number of wet days decreased slightly in June to 16, but the amount of

precipitation increased significantly to 14.3 cm. That's well-above average. In July, there were 13 wet days that produced a total of 15.4 cm of rain. That's a little above average. May's mean temperature was 12.3°C, which is a little below average. The mean temperature in June was 19.3°C, which is close to average. In July, the mean temperature was 21.9°C, which is close to average. **Source:** White Memorial Foundation's weather station. **Coverage:** 28.0 h; 12 visits (0 sunrise, 5 sunset); 5, 13, 20, 27 May; 3, 10, 17, 24 June; 3, 10, 18, 28 July; 2008. Maximum number of observers/visit, 3. **Census:** Red-winged Blackbird, 36.0 (178; 4N,64FL); Swamp Sparrow, 30.0 (148; 3N,47FL); Yellow Warbler, 29.0 (143; 8N,47FL); Common Yellowthroat, 25.5 (126; 2N,39FL); Gray Catbird, 20.0 (99; 3N,34FL); Common Grackle, 8.5 (42; 2N,26FL); Song Sparrow, 8.0 (40; 14FL); Veery, 7.5 (37; 10FL); American Goldfinch, 6.0 (30; 1N,6FL); Tree Swallow, 5.5 (27; 4N,26FL); American Robin, 4.5 (22; 2N,19FL); Cedar Waxwing, 4.5 (2N,8FL); Eastern Kingbird, 3.5 (17; 1N,4FL); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3.0 (15; 3N,12FL); Warbling Vireo, 3.0 (1N,7FL); Black-capped Chickadee, 3.0 (20FL); Baltimore Oriole, 3.0 (1N,7FL); Least Flycatcher, 2.5 (4FL); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2.5 (6FL); Alder Flycatcher, 2.0; Willow Flycatcher, 2.0; Mourning Dove, 1.5 (3FL); Great Crested Flycatcher, 1.5; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1.5 (1FL); Tufted Titmouse, 1.5 (9FL); Black-and-white Warbler, 1.5 (1FL); Northern Cardinal, 1.5 (5FL); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1.0 (1N,3FL); Northern Flicker, 1.0; Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1.0 (2FL); Red-eyed Vireo, 1.0; Blue Jay, 1.0 (1FL); Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1.0; American Redstart, 1.0 (1FL); Northern Waterthrush, 1.0; Mute Swan, 0.5 (1N,4FL); Wood Duck, 0.5; Great Blue Heron, 0.5; Spotted Sandpiper, 0.5 (2FL); Downy Woodpecker, 0.5 (3FL); Hairy Woodpecker, 0.5 (3FL); Pileated Woodpecker, 0.5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 0.5 (4FL); Wood Thrush, 0.5; Ovenbird, 0.5; Scarlet Tanager, 0.5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 0.5 (1FL); Canada Goose, +; Mallard, +; Osprey, +; American Woodcock, +; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, +. **Total:** 52 species; 232.5 territories (1148/40 ha). **Visitors:** Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue-winged Warbler. **Remarks:** The number of species exhibiting breeding evidence in this plot increased to 52 this year, which ties the record high set in 2006. Last year, 45 species were found. The average of the previous 10 years is 44 species. The total number of territories increased to a new record high of 232.5 this year. The previous record high was 220.0 in 2002. Last year, 218.5 territories were recorded here. The average of the previous 10 years is 195, with all years from 2002 through the present producing greater than 200 territories each year. The most abundant species this year was Red-winged Blackbird with 36.0 territories. Last year, they were in second place with 31.0. In 2006, they were the most abundant species with 34.0

territories. The second most abundant species this year was Swamp Sparrow with 30.0 territories. Last year, they were the most abundant species with 34.0. In 2006, they were the second most abundant species with 32.5 territories. These two species have been number one or two every year for at least the last 10 years, and their number of territories is always in the 30s. Yellow Warbler has been the third most abundant species every year for at least the last 10 years, and that was the case again this year when 29.0 territories were recorded. Last year, there were 26.5, and in 2006, there were 25.5 territories. They are responding favorably to the increase in shrub cover. Species found this year but not last year included Mute Swan, Mallard, Osprey, American Woodcock, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Wood Thrush, and Scarlet Tanager. The last four species are representative of the transition of the northern portion of this wetland into a hardwood swamp. The only species found here last year but not this year was Purple Finch. Nesting success was good this year despite the wet conditions. At least 443 fledglings from 34 species were tallied this year. Last year, 469 fledglings were counted. Red-winged Blackbird, Swamp Sparrow, and Yellow Warbler were the most productive species. **Other Observers:** John Eykelhoff, Mary Gendron, Daren Jacklin, Caitlin MacGinitie, and Margaret Sellers.

18. COASTAL SCRUB

MATORRAL COSTANERO

PAMELA VALLE & SCOTT JENNINGS

PRBO Conservation Science

3820 Cypress Drive #11

Petaluma CA 94954

Location: California; Marin Co.; Bolinas; Palomarin Field Station; 37°55'N, 122°45'W; Bolinas Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1971; 34 yr. **Size:** 8.1 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Am. Birds* 25:1003–1004 (1971). The vegetation continues to gradually transition from coastal scrub to Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forest. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 12.9°C (range 8–30°C). The bioyear (1 July 2007–30 June 2008) rainfall was 703.4 mm. The 1976–2008 mean bioyear rainfall was 864.2 mm. The breeding season rainfall (1 April–31 July) was 17.4 mm. The 1975–2008 mean breeding season rainfall was 97.2 mm. **Coverage:** 279.0 h; 80 visits (72 sunrise, 0 sunset). 2008. **Census:** Wrentit, 13.0 (64; 8N,14FL); Bewick's Wren, 6.0 (30; 2N,4FL); Wilson's Warbler, 5.0 (25; 1N,2FL); Spotted Towhee, 4.5 (22; 3N,4FL); Hutton's Vireo, 3.5 (17); Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3.5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3.5; Orange-crowned Warbler, 3.5; Bushtit, 3.0 (15; 1N); Swainson's Thrush, 3.0; Purple Finch, 2.5; Mourning Dove, 1.5; Allen's Hummingbird, 1.5; Anna's Hummingbird, 1.0; White-crowned Sparrow, 1.0 (1N,2FL); Band-tailed Pigeon,

0.5; Northern Flicker, 0.5; Steller's Jay, 0.5; Western Scrub-Jay, 0.5; Dark-eyed Junco, 0.5; Red-tailed Hawk, +; Red-breasted Nuthatch, +; Winter Wren, +; American Robin, +; Song Sparrow, +. **Total:** 25 species; 58.5 territories (289/40 ha). **Visitors:** None listed. **Remarks:** The total number of territories on the plot increased 48% from 39.5 in 2007 to 58.5 this year. Wrentit territories increased from 9.5 to 13.0, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Hutton's Vireo both increased from 1.0 to 3.5 territories. In 2007, a small portion of one Golden-crowned Kinglet territory fell within the plot; in 2008, there were 3.5 territories in the plot. Most other species showed increases of 0.5 to 1.0 territory each. Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Winter Wren were present in 2008 but not in 2007. **Acknowledgments:** We thank the Point Reyes National Seashore for their cooperation. This is PRBO contribution No. 1761.

19. DISTURBED COASTAL SCRUB A MATORRAL PERTURBADO A

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Location: California; Marin Co.; Bolinas; Palomarin Field Station; 37°55'N, 122°45'W; Bolinas Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1972; 34 yr. **Size:** 4.7 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Am. Birds* 26:987-988 (1972). The vegetation continues to gradually transition from coastal scrub to Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forest. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 12.9°C (range 8–30°C). The bioyear (1 July 2007–30 June 2008) rainfall was 703.4 mm. The 1976–2008 mean bioyear rainfall was 864.2 mm. The breeding season rainfall (1 April–31 July) was 17.4 mm. The 1975–2008 mean breeding season rainfall was 97.2 mm. **Coverage:** 125.8 h; 55 visits (33 sunrise, 0 sunset). 2008. **Census:** Wrentit, 7.5 (64; 9N,11FL); Spotted Towhee, 3.0 (26; 3N,1FL); Song Sparrow, 3.0 (4N,9FL); Anna's Hummingbird, 2.5; Hutton's Vireo, 2.0; Bushtit, 2.0; California Quail, 1.5; Bewick's Wren, 1.5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1.5; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1.5; Wilson's Warbler, 1.5 (2N); Purple Finch, 1.5; Allen's Hummingbird, 1.0; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 1.0; Swainson's Thrush, 1.0; American Goldfinch, 1.0; Red-tailed Hawk, 0.5; Band-tailed Pigeon, 0.5; Mourning Dove, 0.5; Northern Flicker, 0.5; Olive-sided Flycatcher, 0.5; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 0.5; Winter Wren, 0.5; White-crowned Sparrow, 0.5; Dark-eyed Junco, 0.5; Steller's Jay, +; Western Scrub-Jay, +; American Robin, +; California Towhee, +; Brown-headed Cowbird, +. **Total:** 30 species; 37.5 territories (319/40 ha). **Visitors:** None listed. **Remarks:** The total number of territories showed a

minor decline from 38.0 in 2007 to 37.5 this year (-1.3%). Steller's Jay, Bewick's Wren, and Wilson's Warbler declined by 50% from small numbers in 2007. A remarkable number of species showed the same (or very similar) densities between the two years. Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Olive-sided Flycatcher, California Towhee, and White-crowned Sparrow were present in 2008 but not in 2007. Downy Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, and Pacific-slope Flycatcher were present in 2007 but not in 2008. **Acknowledgments:** We thank the Point Reyes National Seashore for their cooperation. This is PRBO contribution No. 1759.

20. DISTURBED COASTAL SCRUB B MATORRAL PERTURBADO B

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Location: California; Marin Co.; Bolinas; Palomarin Field Station; 37°55'N, 122°46'W; Bolinas Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1971; 34 yr. **Size:** 8.1 ha. **Description of Plot:** See *Am. Birds* 25:1002–1003 (1971) and *J. Field Ornithol.* 66(Suppl.):104 (1995). The vegetation continues to gradually transition from coastal scrub to Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forest. **Weather:** Mean start temp., 12.9°C (range 8–30°C). The bioyear (1 July 2007–30 June 2008) rainfall was 703.4 mm. The 1976–2008 mean bioyear rainfall was 864.2 mm. The breeding season rainfall (1 April–31 July) was 17.4 mm. The 1975–2008 mean breeding season rainfall was 97.2 mm. **Coverage:** 168.5 h; 58 visits (33 sunrise, 0 sunset). 2008. **Census:** Wrentit, 13.0 (64; 10N,12FL); Swainson's Thrush, 7.0 (35); Bewick's Wren, 5.5 (27); Song Sparrow, 5.0 (25); Winter Wren, 4.0 (20); American Goldfinch, 4.0; Anna's Hummingbird, 3.0 (15; 1N,1FL); Allen's Hummingbird, 3.0; Wilson's Warbler, 3.0; Spotted Towhee, 2.5 (2N); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2.0; Purple Finch, 1.5; Band-tailed Pigeon, 1.0; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 1.0; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1.0; Red-tailed Hawk, 0.5; Mourning Dove, 0.5; Hutton's Vireo, 0.5; Steller's Jay, 0.5; White-crowned Sparrow, 0.5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 0.5; California Quail, +; Northern Flicker, +; Western Scrub-Jay, +; Bushtit, +; American Robin, +. **Total:** 26 species; 59.5 territories (294/40 ha). **Visitors:** None listed. **Remarks:** The total number of territories increased dramatically from 2007 to 2008, rising 38% from 43.0 to 59.5. Wrentit increased from 8.0 to 13.0 territories, Swainson's Thrush increased from 4.5 to 7.0, and Bewick's Wren increased from 2.5 to 5.5. Allen's Hummingbird was not present in 2007 but had 3.0 territories in 2008. **Acknowledgments:** We thank the Point Reyes National Seashore for their cooperation. This is PRBO contribution No. 1760.