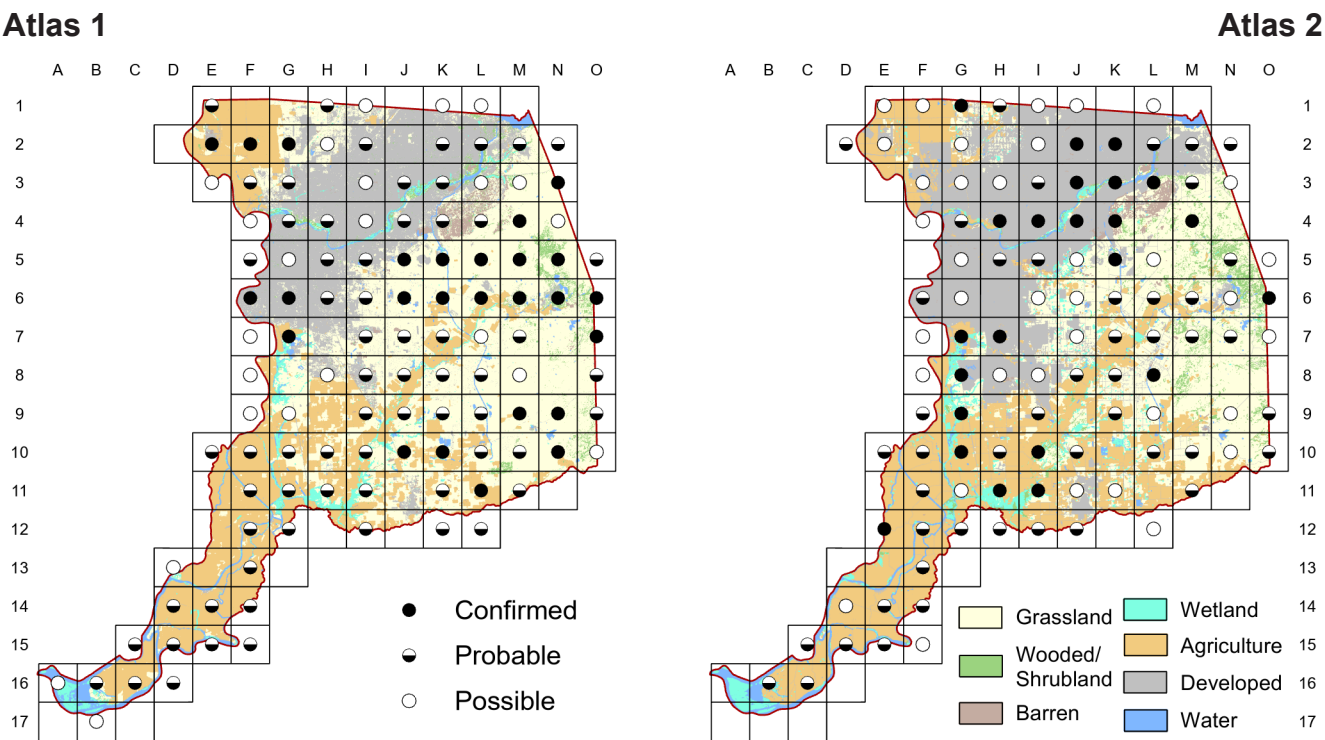


# Brown-headed Cowbird

## *Molothrus ater*



It is a testament to the adaptability of this brood parasite that, in both atlases, Brown-headed Cowbirds were observed exhibiting breeding behaviors in nearly every block. This species first spread into California following the introduction of cattle; however, as the atlas results show, they have learned to expand into all available Sacramento County habitats.

Breeding Bird Survey Trend (1966–2019)

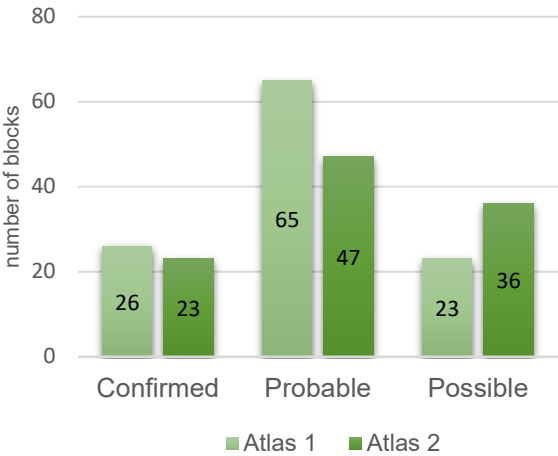
California	Rangewide <sup>1</sup>
–0.09% / year <sup>n</sup>	–0.51% / year <sup>s</sup>

<sup>1</sup>North America; <sup>s</sup>significant, <sup>n</sup>nonsignificant; Source: Sauer et al. 2020

Breeding Habitat

Wide variety of open and semi-open habitats

Comparison of Atlas Results



Nest Type

No nest; brood parasite

1923

W. L. Dawson

She was dumped at birth into a strange cradle, and left to make shift as best she might, an unblessed and pitiless bastard. Nourished by uncomprehending or reluctant strangers.