

# RipariaNews

Newsletter of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station

Alviso, CA 95002

(408) 262-9204

P.O. Box 2019

VOLUME 3

OCTOBER, 1988

NUMBER 4

## Parallel Monitoring: What can it tell us?

by L. Richard Mewaldt

Those of us who study birds, whether casually or with intensity, speculate about the numbers we encounter from year to year. The changes we perceive are probably actual but are they significant in any real sense? Are the changes local or widespread? Which species show a consistent, long-term decrease or increase?

At bird monitoring stations such as CCRS and the Palomarin Station of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, these questions and many more are considered on an almost daily basis. At my request, Geoffrey Geupel of PRBO provided recent data from Palomarin for comparison with our findings at Coyote Creek.

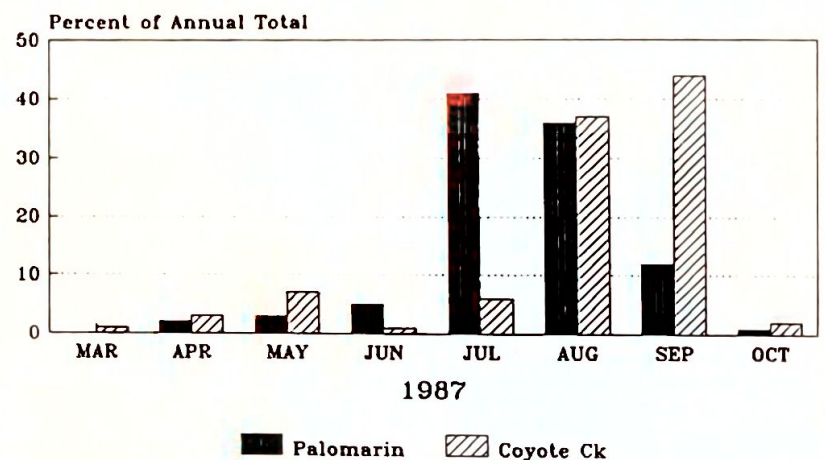
It would be nice to report that both stations show similar trends in data, that we detect the same migratory waves, or that we observe similar age ratios in fall migration thus yielding data on breeding success in northern populations. Unfortunately, a preliminary examination of these data suggest more differences than similarities. In the next issue of Riparia-News I shall report on promising similarities in data.

At both stations we typically capture several hundred Western Flycatchers (WEFL's) each fall, as we did in 1987 (Figure 1). The comparatively larger numbers at Palomarin in July are likely WEFL's in post-breeding dispersal. Why more at Palomarin? It is probable that many more young were produced within the normal dispersal range of this species. What is the typical or average dispersal distance for Western Flycatchers? We simply do not know. Certainly, juvenal dispersal provides a source for recruits to maintain local populations, but it also provides pioneers which colonize or recolonize other areas. At Coyote Creek, we hope the comparatively small numbers of dispersing WEFL's we typically detect (capture) in July and early August will be sufficient to establish them again as a breeding species.

Although we capture fewer dispersing Western

Flycatchers at Coyote Creek, we capture more migrants in late August through September than PRBO. This may be a consequence of isolated nature of the riparian habitat in our CCRS research area and its north-south orientation. Two other riparian migrant species showed contrasting capture patterns

### Western Flycatchers at PRBO & CCRS



Palomarin N=227  
Coyote Ck N=520

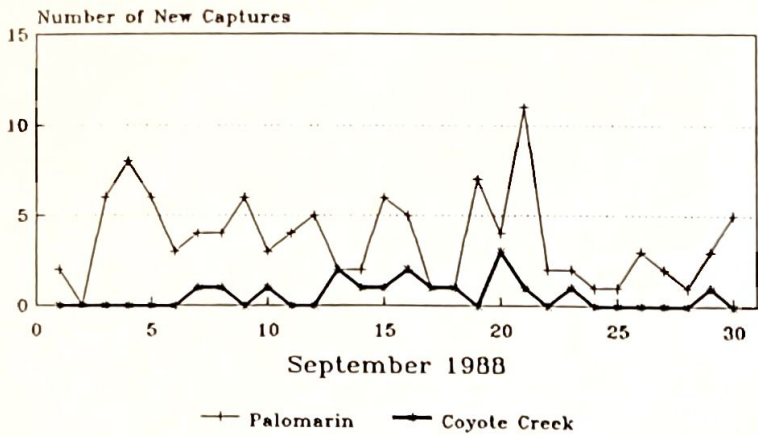
Figure 1. Comparison of capture rates at Palomarin and CCRS.

during September. Warbling Vireos were more commonly captured at Palomarin, whereas, Yellow Warblers were most often captured at Coyote Creek (Figure 2). I have no ready answer for this discrepancy in capture rates for these two species. It is also important to note that there appears to be no correlation in daily numbers netted at the two stations. Any migration surges or waves involving these two broad-front migrants were not synchronous at Palomarin and Coyote Creek even though the two stations are only 90 kilometers (56 miles) apart. It is evident that we shall need more monitoring stations if we are to better understand the pulse of western North American land-bird migration.

[See also article by Michael Rigney on a landbird monitoring program being established by Dr. David De-Sante. *Editor*]

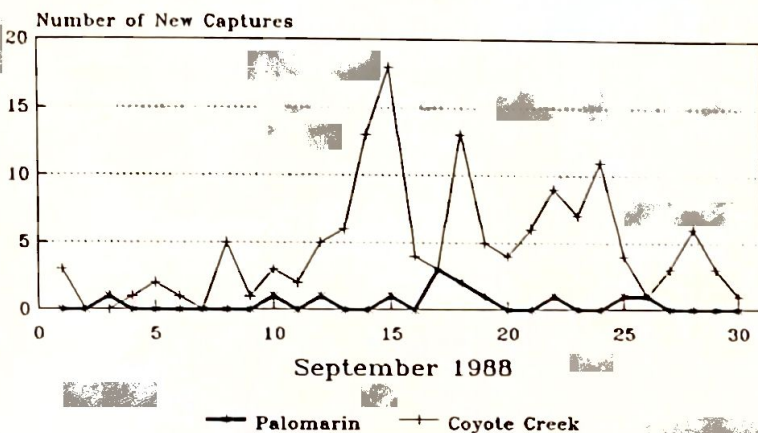


## Warbling Vireo Captures at Palomarin and Coyote Creek



Palomarin N = 112  
Coyote CK N = 17

## Yellow Warbler Captures at Palomarin and Coyote Creek



Palomarin N = 13  
Coyote CK N = 140

Figure 2. Comparative capture patterns of two migratory species.

## Monitoring Avian Production: A Joint Venture

by Michael Rigney

Dr. David F. DeSante, Research Associate at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and founder of the Institute for Bird Populations of Inverness, California, has extended "an invitation" to area bird banders "to become part of a continent-wide network for the long-term biomonitoring of avian productivity, survivorship, and population levels." Because such a program is consistent with our long-term objectives, Coyote Creek Riparian Station has accepted Dave's invitation to become a part of this continent-wide program and wish him success in this important and difficult task.

Those of you who have read Dick Mewaldt's article in this issue of RipariaNews can readily appreciate the many questions concerning avian population dynamics which can potentially be answered by systematic and cooperative banding efforts in different geographical locations. However, as

Dick also indicated, the answers do not come from one, two or even five years of data accumulation. The detection of subtle population fluctuations requires concerted effort on a broad scale. The establishment of banding stations operating under a standardized protocol is an important first step.

As Dave states in his "invitation": 'Monitoring Avian Productivity' is a cooperative venture that will allow bird banders to make a significant contribution to the understanding of the factors, both natural and human-caused, that are bringing about changes in populations of landbirds. It is my sincere hope that 15 stations can be in operation in western North America during the breeding season of 1989, and that 30 stations can be in operation across the continent in 1990." We at CCRS wish Dave good luck and we pledge our support in his difficult endeavor. If you would like more information on this program you may write Dave at:

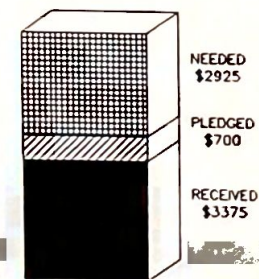
Institute for Bird Populations  
P.O. Box 554  
Inverness, CA 9493

## Emergency Fund Drive

Response to our late summer appeal to the Membership for emergency funds to meet our 1988-89 budget has been excellent. In line with our stated intent to keep you informed, we provide this summary update.

The 54 responses received to date (25 October) have ranged from \$5 to \$500 for a total of \$3,375.

EMERGENCY FUND DRIVE  
Status 25 Oct 88



GOAL IS \$7000

Another \$700 has been pledged for February, 1989. We hope many of you will help us meet the remainder of our shortfall with an end-of-the-year contribution, or a pledge for the first half of 1989. The Board and Staff are gratified by your response. We try hard to warrant your support. **THANK YOU!!!**



# Vascular Plants of CCRS

by Jeff Caldwell

[In the last issue of RipariaNews, Jeff Caldwell introduced us to the varieties of plants, both native and introduced, which can be found at CCRS. Because of space limitations, we were forced to continue his annotated list to this issue. We hope you will go back and reread his fine article and reintroduce yourself to the plant families already described. *Editor*]

## Myrtaceae. Myrtle Family.

Eucalyptus spp.

Several trees; two species.

## Oleaceae. Olive Family.

\* Fraxinus dipetala. Foothill Ash.

Small tree; planted in revegetation area.

## Onagraceae. Evening Primrose Family.

\* Epilobium paniculatum. Parched Fire weed.

Tall annual. A few specimens in the revegetation area. Does well in disturbed areas.

## Oxalidaceae. Wood Sorrel Family.

Oxalis corniculata. Creeping Wood Sorrel.

A few plants in the revegetation plot. Commonly spread as a weed in nursery containers.

## Papaveraceae. Poppy Family.

\* Eschscholzia californica. California Poppy.

Usually short-lived perennial. Two specimens seen in revegetation plot; conspicuous along nearby Los Esteros Road.

## Pinaceae. Pine Family.

Cedrus deodara. Deodar Cedar.

One tree persisting from cultivation is now a snag.

## Plantaginaceae. Plantain Family.

Plantago major. Common Plantain.

Perennial; occasional in the revegetation area.

## Platanaceae. Plane Tree Family.

\* Platanus racemosa. California Sycamore.

Deciduous tree. Planted in revegetation plot; growing very well.

## Poaceae. Grass Family.

Arundo donax. Giant Reed.

Perennial. A member of the bamboo tribe; conspicuous here and there in the riparian strip.

Avena spp. Wild Oats.

Annuals; occasional, mostly along the riparian strip.

Bromus diandrus. Ripgut.

Annual. Dominates small areas of the overflow channel, especially in the southern portion.

Bromus mollis. Soft Cress.

Infrequent annual.

Bromus willdenowii. Prairie Brome.

Annual or biennial. Occasional, mostly in irrigated revegetation area.

Cortaderia seloana. Pampas Grass.

Perennial. At least one specimen seen on north riparian trail.

Cynodon dactylon. Bermuda Grass.

Perennial; mostly near headquarters.

\* Distichlis spicata var. stolonifera Saltgrass.

Perennial; rare near north haul road.

\* Elymus triticoides. Alkali Rye.

Perennial, forming colonies in the overflow channel near headquarters; becoming quite dominant near the old Standish Dam. One of our few indigenous sod-forming grasses.

Festuca myuros. Rat-tail Fescue.

Annual; infrequent, in overflow channel.

Hordeum geniculatum. Mediterranean Barley.

Annual. Noticed mostly in the irrigated revegetation plot; often seen to grow where water has been standing.

Hordeum leporinum. Farmer's Foxtail.

Annual. Occasional, especially in recently disturbed areas.

Lolium multiflorum. Italian Ryegrass.

Annual. Frequent, abundant in many of the grassy areas.

Oryzopsis miliacea. Smilo Grass.

Perennial. Common along the riparian strip, sometimes dominant in the herbaceous under story.

Phyllostachys aurea. Golden Bamboo.

Perennial. A few plants in the northern portion of the riparian strip.

Polygonum australe. Beard Grass.

Perennial; occasional in the revegetation area.

Polygonum monspeliense. Rabbit's Foot Grass.

Annual; common in the irrigated revegetation plot.

## Polygonaceae. Buckwheat Family.

Polygonum aviculare. Common Knotweed.

Annual; infrequent, hard-packed disturbed areas.

Polygonum spp.

Two or three waterside species.

Rumex crispus. Curley Dock.

Perennial; common in the overflow channel near headquarters.

Rumex spp.

Two other species, as yet undetermined.



**Primulaceae. Primrose Family.**

Anagallis arvensis. Scarlet Pimpernel.

Annual; a few along the riparian trail where it passes along the revegetation plot.

**Punicaceae. Pomegranate Family.**

Punica granatum. Pomegranate.

Persists, from cultivation, near outhouse.

**Ranunculaceae. Buttercup Family.**

\* Clematis ligusticifolia. Western Virgin's Bower.

A few of this vine in the riparian strip; one in the revegetation plot.

**Rosaceae. Rose Family.**

Pyracantha sp. Firethorn.

One shrub persists from cultivation near the outhouse.

\* Rosacalifornica. California Wild Rose.

Frequent in sunny areas along the north riparian trail; also planted in the revegetation plot.

Rubus procerus. Himalaya Berry.

Stout-thorned shrub; a clump about ten meters north of outhouse. Sometimes invasive in riparian situations, obliterating native vegetation.

\* Rubus vitifolius. California Blackberry.

Native shrub, common to abundant in the riparian strip. Also planted in revegetation area. Important food and nesting plant for birds.

**Rutaceae. Citrus Family.**

Citrus sp.

Persisting from cultivation. One in old garden near outhouse.

**Salicaceae. Willow Family.**

\* Populus fremontii. Fremont's Cottonwood.

Common along the riparian strip; largest and most conspicuous native tree; also planted in the revegetation plot.

Salix babylonica. Weeping Willow.

Trees become frequent along the northward riparian trail.

\* Salix coulteri. Coulter's Willow.

A couple specimens, apparently of this species, are included in the revegetation plot plantings.

\* Salix laevigata. Red Willow.

Frequent trees along the riparian strip and some are included in the revegetation plot plantings.

\* Salix lasiandra. Yellow Willow.

Some said to occur in the riparian strip; some planted in the revegetation plot.

\* Salix lasiolepis. Arroyo Willow.

Common in the riparian strip and planted in the

revegetation plot. The bright red leaf galls are caused by the willow apple gall sawfly, Pontania pacifica

**Scrophulariaceae. Figwort Family.**

\* Scrophulariacalifornica. California Beeplant.

Rare perennial. A few specimens in the riparian strip and in the revegetation plot.

Verbascum thapsus. Common Mullein.

Two or three plants noted in the revegetation area.

**Simaroubaceae. Quassia Family.**

Ailanthus alissima. Tree of Heaven.

One tree in revegetation plot was chopped down; may become weedy in riparian situations.

**Solanaceae. Nightshade Family.**

Nicotiana glauca. Tree Tobacco.

Occasional shrub. Hummingbirds utilize the tubular yellow flowers.

Solanum nodiflorum. Small-flowered Nightshade.

Frequent perennial in the revegetation plot.

**Taxodiaceae. Bald Cypress Family.**

\* Sequoia sempervirens. Coast Redwood.

A clump persists from cultivation near headquarters

**Typhaceae. Cattail Family.**

\* Typha angustifolia. Narrow leaf Cattail.

Frequent waterside perennial.

\* Typha latifolia. Common Cattail.

Perennial; Occurs in a moist depression along north riparian trail and waterside.

**Urticaceae. Nettle Family.**

\* Urticaholosericca. Hoary Nettle.

Common perennial in the riparian strip. Stings people, but eaten by many insects.

Urtica urens. Dwarf Nettle.

This annual occurs near the doorstep at headquarters.

**Verbenaceae. Vervain Family.**

Lippia nodiflora var. rosea Garden Lippia.

Small patches noted along the north riparian trail.

**Vitaceae. Grape Family.**

Vitis sp.

Specimen noted in riparian strip not far from former ranch buildings.

**Principal References**

- Mason, Herbert L. 1957. A Flora of the Marshes of California. University of California Press, Berkeley.  
Munz, Phillip A. and David Keck. 1973. A California



Flora (and supplement). University of California Press, Berkeley.

Thomas, John H. 1961 . Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California

\* denotes native California flora

## Regional Coordinators Needed

[This article was excerpted from the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter #3. *Editor*]

Our objective with the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas is to obtain significantly more detailed knowledge of the avifauna of Santa Clara County through our collective efforts. The work is far more than any of us could do alone, but together the project becomes feasible. Each atlasser working in the field becomes an expert on his or her local block. The information on the breeding codes becomes a part of the atlas data base, of course, but a great deal of local knowledge stays at the local level.

If our county were more homogeneous then what we learn in our own blocks could be easily applied to other blocks as well. But on the contrary, our county is quite different from north to south and east to west and the species and their habitat use in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains may be quite different from what we encounter in the interior of the Diablo Range. This heterogeneity makes our county atlas very exciting, but also creates difficulties in trying to tie all the results together. The Atlas Committee has agreed upon a division of the county into seven regions to make the organization and collection of data a more effective process. The seven regions are:

Region 1 - Northern Santa Cruz Mountains

Region 2 - Southern Santa Cruz Mountains

Region 3 - South San Francisco Bay

Region 4 - Urban Valley

Region 5 - South Valley

Region 6 - Northern Diablo Mountains

Region 7 - Southern Diablo Mountains

The Regional Coordinators will have a number of responsibilities beyond their normal atlas efforts. They will need to keep close contact with atlassers in their region and make sure that the asterisked species (species of special interest) are properly documented. At times they may have to assist other atlassers with difficulties in identification and habitat assessment. At the end of the season they will take the first look at the new season's field cards and make sure that the species recorded are reasonably expected to occur in the block. If something unusual comes up they will be able to discuss this with the atlasser while everyone's observations are still fresh. In this coming year they will need to develop the ex-

pected species list for their regional blocks. In the later years of the atlas they will need to make an assessment of the additional coverage that is required in their region and determine the best uses of all of our resources.

There are a number of features of our atlas data base that will assist the Regional Coordinators. First, they will receive a printout of every block in their region with all the records shown whether obtained by atlassing or from the Casual Observation Forms. Secondly, for each block the data base will indicate species recorded in adjacent blocks that are missing from the block of interest. Lastly, each region will have summary maps for just that region to assist in planning future years' coverage.

Paul Noble has agreed to be the Regional Coordinator for Region 1, but we need volunteers to handle the other regions. Please contact Bill Bousmann to sign up for a region.

Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas  
c/o Bill Bousmann  
321 Arlington Way  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

## HELP WANTED

### Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds

Nearly all tasks associated with maintenance of our field laboratory, mist net lanes, trails, net repair and replacement, trap repair and pre-baiting routines (and more), are done by Dick Mewaldt, Max Lincoln, and Blair Wolf. They declare they enjoy these tasks, but really, they do it mostly because no-one else has come forward to do them. Each of these people is also doing data analysis, preparing contract reports and manuscripts for publication, preparing banding schedules for the USBBL, training new volunteers and retraining those already on line -- tasks for which they are trained and have experience.

They would like to share the maintenance and grounds-keeping tasks with others -- or even turn responsibility for part or all (how lucky might we get) of them to other CCRS Members. If you are currently a regular member with some time on your hands, such an assumption of task(s) will qualify you for our elite "Active Member" status. Contact Blair, Max, or Dick to discuss the opportunities. They will love to hear from you.



## New Members

We welcome 23 new members who joined us in the last three months:

Brown, Peggy	Member
Colbert, Katie	Member
Dawson-Roberts, Courtenay	Member
Dubois, Jean	Member
Gaber, Eleanor	Member
Gerson, Harriet	Member
Gustafson, Edward	Member
Green, Paul/Helen	Members
Hayes, Elizabeth	Member
Kelly, Jim, Francella, Michele	Members
Kelly, Dan	Member
Klitgaard, Guy	Member
Lapaz, Williams J.	Member
Le, Hoa	Active Member
Morrison, John	Member
Nericcio, Bess	Member
Niver, M.S.	Member
Pendleton, Philip	Member
Rich, Joseph L.	Member
Rosenbluth, Arianna W.	Member
Singer, Steven W.	Member
Spellman, Elinor	Active Member
Starks, Don	Member

Life Membership payments and 10% of all other membership payments and general contributions (including some generous contributions by our Life Members) help assure the future of CCRS by being placed into our CCRS Endowment Fund

## Memberships in CCRS

Member	\$15 annually
Senior or Student	10 annually
Family	20 annually
Supporting	30 annually
Sustaining	75 annually
Corporate	100+ annually
Life	500 single payment*
Patron	5000 single payment*

Life Membership payments and 10% of all other membership payments and general contributions go into the CCRS Endowment Fund now earning about \$145 per month. CCRS is a non-profit corporation with U. S. and California tax exempt status. We will acknowledge Memorial contributions in RipariaNews. We welcome bequests including those of real property.

\*Or in 4 or 5 installment

## Welcome New Board Members

**ALLEN ROYER** - Allen was elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in September to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Allan Sillett. Allen is a junior high school teacher who has been active in birding and banding for many years. A past Board member of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, he currently organizes and supervises our weekend banding crews. Allen will be working with Elsie Richey to develop a program to increase our membership.

**GUY KLITGAARD** - Mr. Klitgaard was elected to the Board of Directors at the October board meeting to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Ron Duke. Guy is Assistant Superintendent of the Eastside Union High School District. He brings to the Board a working knowledge of local political and governmental entities and strong managerial skills. Guy will be helping us explore new methods of funding raising and increasing community involvement.

## Coyote Creek Riparian Station

Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) is a non-profit California membership corporation with United States and California tax exempt status. CCRS is dedicated to research on, and restoration and management of riparian and wetland habitats. CCRS is located along the last two miles of the west bank of Coyote Creek where it meets San Francisco Bay. Coyote Creek Riparian Station operates in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Jose Water Pollution Control Plant, Harvey and Stanley Associates, San Jose State University, U. S. Bird Banding Laboratory, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

### Board of Directors:

Michael D. Rigney, President  
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 Elsie Richey, Secretary  
 L. Richard Mewaldt, Treasurer  
 William G. Bousman  
 Guy Clitgaard  
 H. Thomas Harvey  
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 Blair O. Wolf, Biologist  
 Helen Hoa Le, Office Manager  
 Michael D. Rigney, Editor (Volunteer)  
 Chris Illes, Assoc. Editor (Volunteer)

Coyote Creek Riparian Station, P.O. Box 2019, Alviso, California 95002 -- (408) 262-9204