



RipariaNews

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BANDING AND THE OCCASIONAL VAGRANT

By Michael Rigney

Many of us who spend a great deal of time on birding field trips know the exhilaration of finding a rare bird. Some birders, in fact, expend large sums of money and even greater amounts of time to chase down these elusive "vagrants".

Someone once said (I think it must have been someone with a much more patience than the average rare bird chaser) that if you wait long enough, every bird known to North America will eventually be found in California. Those of us who are also banders have realized that if you band in a location which is frequented by large numbers of migrants, sooner or later you will encounter a surprise in your mist net or trap.

As the keeper of records for the Santa Clara Audubon Society, Bill Bousman has shared a few of the most interesting vagrant records which have involved captures at local banding stations. Chief among these stations are CCRS and the Wool Ranch, a two-year banding project instituted by Dick Mewaldt in the early 1970's. The Wool Ranch is located atop Mount Allison in the hills above Milpitas and has long been known as a favorite stop-over for migrating passerines.

Below are a few of these records which Bill has extracted from his voluminous files on Santa Clara birds.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD

- Seven records, including one CCRS record, 18 September, 1988.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD

- 21 records, including 10 from Wool Ranch and five from CCRS (15 April, 1987 - 6 May, 1989).

LEAST FLYCATCHER

- Seven records, all banded at CCRS.



Black and White Warbler banded at CCRS in the fall of 1988. This bird represents one of only eight records for this species in Santa Clara County. Photo by Dick Mewaldt

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER

- 26 records, including 13 from Wool Ranch and 11 from CCRS (31 August, 1986 - 1 October, 1990). Only two sight records, both of singing birds in the spring.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER

- Six records, five banded at CCRS. Only one sight record of a detailed observation by David Suddjian in the fall.

GRAY FLYCATCHER ³

- 25 records, including 21 banded at Wool Ranch and 2 at CCRS (20-23 April, 1986).

BROWN THRASHER ²

- One banded at CCRS 3 October, 1987.

RED-EYED VIREO ³

- Two banded this fall at CCRS.

TENNESSEE WARBLER

- Five records, including one banded at Wool Ranch (3 May, 1970) and one at CCRS this fall.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER

- Eight records, including one banded at CCRS (23 October, 1988).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

- Two records, one banded at Wool Ranch (18 October, 1971).

WESTERN PALM WARBLER

- 17 records, including one banded at CCRS (7 November, 1990).

AMERICAN REDSTART

- Five records, including one banded at Wool Ranch (31 August, 1970) and one at CCRS (27 October, 1988).

OVENBIRD

- Three records, one banded at CCRS this fall.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

- Ten records, including six banded at CCRS (24 September, 1983 - 6 September, 1990).

KENTUCKY WARBLER

- One banded at CCRS and recaptured later (18-27 September, 1987).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER

- One banded at CCRS (2 September, 1989).

BLUE GROSBEAK

- One banded at CCRS (22 July, 1989).

INDIGO BUNTING

- Five records, one banded at CCRS and recaptured (23 and 26 May, 1989).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE

- Seven records, including one banded at Wool Ranch 5 September, 1970) and Two at CCRS (24 May and 1 October, 1989).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

- One banded at CCRS 2 December, 1987.

BREWER'S SPARROW

- One banded at CCRS 28 August, 1987.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW

- Seven records, including two banded at Wool Ranch.

HARRIS' SPARROW

- Eleven records, including on banded at Mewaldt residence and recaptured (5 and 9 January, 1988).

Bill closes by saying "In summary, then, there are eight species that have been recorded in the county only from

banding stations, while six more species have 50% or more of the records from banding stations."

Good things come to those who wait (and band on a regular basis, of course).

OTY

THE

WALL

by Bill Bousman

The 1990 Summer Season

The summer season is loosely defined here as the months of June and July. Most of our spring passage birds are finished migrating by early June and only a few have started in late July so it is a season for nesting and the capture rate is a reflection of the local populations. Banding was carried out continuously throughout this period.

Black-chinned Hummingbirds (BCHU) were captured at a fairly constant rate of 2 birds a week throughout the summer and this suggests that most of the birds we are netting are from local populations. Both Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds (RUHU, ALHU) were also captured in small numbers; the fall flight of Rufous was not obvious until the second week in August.

The only Willow Flycatcher (WIFL) for the spring was a summer record on 15 June. However, this is typical of the pattern of recent years as this bird is one of the latest of our spring migrants. A smattering of Western (Pacific-slope) Flycatchers (WEFL) and Ash-throated Flycatchers (ATFL) through the summer is expected as these are local nesting species. The real rush of Pacific-slope Flycatchers did not start until the second week in August.

Of all the records for dispersing juveniles, none is more tantalizing than the HY Cedar Waxwing banded 3 August. This species normally does not breed south of Del Norte and Humboldt counties although there are breeding records for Plumas and Siskiyou counties (Grinnell and Miller 1944, McCaskie *et al.* 1988). However, in 1987 a juvenile bird was found begging from adults east of Salinas in Monterey County on 11 June (Campbell *et al.* 1988). That same summer individual birds were recorded along the coast in San Mateo County on 21 June and Santa Cruz County 21 July (Campbell *et al.* 1989). First returns of this species on the central coast occasionally occur in the first week in September, but more typical are arrival dates in the last week of September. The HY bird at the Station must have been raised locally, but where? Field data from the Breeding Bird Atlas offers no hint of the source. Is it the Diablo Range? The Santa Cruz Mountains? Or the riparian corridor along Coyote Creek?

Fall Migration

Banding at the Station was continuous for the fall pe-

riod of August through November except for 10, 17, and 18 September and 19 and 26 November. The operation was down on 17 and 18 September, of course, so the trails could be moved up onto the new levee. I have plotted the 1990 new capture data and I show the more common of the passage birds or true migrants in **Table 1** with entries for the number banded through the migration period, their percentile dates and the last encounter. I have changed my definitions slightly from previous years in that I arbitrarily start the season at 1 July. However, none of the species in the table have a significant resident component so this change has a negligible effect on dates.

TABLE 1. New capture data for fall migrants - 1990

| Species | No. | First | 10th | 50th | 90th | Last |
|---------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| BCHU | 19 | 7 Jul | 7 Jul | 12 Aug | 3 Sep | 19 Sep |
| RUHU | 6 | 3 Jul | -- | 17 Aug | -- | 29 Aug |
| WWPE | 7 | 6 Aug | -- | 29 Aug | -- | 1 Oct |
| WHFL | 29 | 25 Aug | 25 Aug | 3 Sep | 25 Sep | 3 Oct |
| WEFL | 597 | 5 Jul | 19 Aug | 1 Sep | 22 Sep | 21 Oct |
| SWTH | 76 | 3 Jul | 5 Sep | 19 Sep | 30 Sep | 10 Oct |
| WAVI | 15 | 15 Aug | 15 Aug | 3 Sep | 19 Sep | 29 Sep |
| OCWA | 33 | 30 Jul | 8 Aug | 19 Sep | 10 Oct | 21 Nov |
| YWAR | 257 | 1 Jul | 26 Aug | 11 Sep | 22 Sep | 14 Oct |
| WIVA | 46 | 16 Jul | 4 Aug | 3 Sep | 26 Sep | 10 Oct |
| WETA | 6 | 3 Aug | -- | 24 Aug | -- | 1 Sep |

The most abundant migrant at the Station was, as usual, the "Western" Flycatcher (WEFL). These may all be Pacific-slope Flycatchers, but we are not yet able to key out a Cordilleran Flycatcher if did show up. The Yellow Warbler (YWAR) and Swainson's Thrush (SWTH) took second and third place, the same ranking they have held for the past two years. Wilson's Warbler (WIVA) was fourth-ranked and Orange-crowned Warbler (OCWA) fifth-ranked.

There was no clear trend in the number of the common migrants banded comparing this year's movement with last year's. Pacific-slope Flycatcher was up 11%, Yellow Warbler was up a whopping 56%, and the Wilson's Warbler was up 8%. Swainson's Thrush, on the other hand, dropped 28% and Orange-crowned Warbler numbers were down 22%. The migration appeared to be a little earlier this season based upon the median passage dates of our common migrants. The Pacific-slope Flycatcher median date was 1 September compared to 6 and 11 September in the previous two years. Orange-crowned and Wilson's warblers came through early as well, 11 and 8 days respectively, before the mean passage date of 1988 and 1989. The Swainson's Thrush and Yellow Warbler median dates were close to those of previous years.

Summer Departures and Winter Arrivals

Allen's Hummingbird (ALHU) and Black-headed Grosbeak (BHGR) appear to be largely resident from our banding data. The last departure of the Black-headed

Grosbeak on 28 August was 31 days earlier than the average of the last two years.

Golden-crowned Kinglets (GCKI) came through earlier this year (3 October compared to 29 October last year) and in good numbers with 12 banded. This movement was essentially over by the first week in November. Varied Thrush (VATH) numbers (N=2) were well down from the last two years: 9 and 17 in 1988 and 1989 respectively. Savannah Sparrows (SAVS) were banded in higher numbers than usual and this may relate to the more open areas near some of the nets. Although this is not reflected in the first arrival date, the Fox Sparrow (FOSP) migration appeared to be a week or two late from previous years, but our other common wintering sparrows seemed to arrive at similar times and rates as in previous years. An exception is the Puget Sound White-crowned Sparrow (PSWS) banded on 13 August - 5 weeks early! The next one caught was on 19 September and the rest of the migration was normal.

TABLE 2. Departure and arrival dates for new capture data - 1990.

| Species | Last | First |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Allen's Hummingbird | 1 Sep | -- |
| Winter Wren | -- | 22 Aug |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | -- | 29 Sep |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | -- | 23 Sep |
| Hermit Thrush | -- | 21 Sep |
| Varied Thrush | -- | 15 Oct |
| Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler | -- | 26 Sep |
| Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler | -- | 25 Sep |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | 28 Aug | -- |
| Savannah Sparrow | -- | 16 Aug |
| Fox Sparrow | -- | 12 Sep |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | -- | 5 Sep |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | -- | 19 Sep |
| White-crowned (Puget Sound) Sparrow | -- | 13 Aug |



One of the special "candy birds" of 1990, this Red-eyed Vireo is one of the two records for this species in Santa Clara County. The other record is also from CCRS about two weeks later. Photo by Michael Rigney.

This fall we had a good mix of rare migrants and even a few "candy" birds. Three Common Poorwills (COPO) were banded: 10, 17, and 24 October, for the first record of this species at the Station. The migration period for this species is poorly known due to its nocturnal habits and also because some do not migrate at all. A Hammond's Flycatcher (HAFL) was banded on 1 October for one of our latest records. Dusky Flycatchers (DUFL) were caught and keyed out on 19 July and 22 August. Both of these *Empidonax* species are very rare at the Station. Four Ash-throated Flycatchers (ATFL) were captured which is about normal and a Western Kingbird (WEKI) (always unusual at the Station) was banded on 21 September.

House Wren (HOWR) capture data show a mixture of migrating and wintering birds, I believe, although numbers captured are always low. Only one was banded this year, a probable migrant on 18 August. A Solitary Vireo (SOVI) was captured on 8 September and recaptured on 16 September for one of our few records for this species. Nine MacGillivray's Warblers (MGWA) were captured with an unbelievable eight in one day on 27 September. Last fall we did not capture any.

Four White-throated (WTSP) Sparrows were banded with capture dates of 24 and 29 October and 15 and 21 November. This was the only rare sparrow or finch that could be found this fall.

The best of the candy birds was an adult Red-eyed Vireo (REVI) that turned up on 12 August and probably remained in the local area since it was recaptured on 29 August. This is the first record of this species for Santa Clara County. (Ed. Note: See related article on rarities at the Station on Page 1 of this issue). Almost as surprising is a second Red-eyed Vireo that showed up on 25 September for the second county record! A juvenile Tennessee Warbler (TEWA) was banded on 9 October, a first for the Station and one of the few county records. A Western Palm Warbler (WPWA) banded on 7 November was also a first for the Station. Single Palm Warblers were found on both the San Jose and Palo Alto Christmas Counts this winter - it is seldom seen on either count. An Ovenbird (OVEN) was captured on 11 October and this is another seldom-found species with only three records in the county. A single Northern Waterthrush (NOWA) banded on 6 September was more expected as we have banded fall birds in 1987 and 1989 as well.

Literature Cited

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WESTERN BANDING SUMMARY

by Elsie Richey

The July-September issue of the *North American Bird Bander* carried a summary (prepared by CCRS) of all banding conducted in the western United States, the western provinces of Canada and Mexico during 1989. A total of 472 species were banded in 1989 by 359 banders, including individuals and group operations such as wildlife refuges and bird observatories.

Notable among these banders were the 43 individual and 50 group-affiliated banders operating in California. Topping this list with the highest number of species and individual birds banded was Point Reyes Bird Observatory with 161 species and 8,303 birds banded. Coming in a strong second was Coyote Creek Riparian Station (103 species and 7,750 birds).

I thought it would interest *RipariaNews* readers to see how we fared compared to other organizations (particularly PRBO) for species which we recorded "Highest Bander". CCRS banders banded the largest number of birds for sixteen species represented in the table below.

TABLE 1. Comparative data for 16 species of birds for which CCRS was "highest bander" in the western region.

| Species | No. Banded in West | No. Banded by CCRS | % of Total Banded |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Allen's Hummingbird | 165 | 65 | 39 |
| Western Flycatcher | 1,337 | 739 | 53 |
| Black Phoebe | 192 | 120 | 62 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 841 | 295 | 35 |
| Hermit Thrush | 920 | 481 | 52 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 126 | 49 | 39 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 384 | 103 | 27 |
| Brown Towhee | 251 | 36 | 14 |
| Song Sparrow | 1,768 | 292 | 17 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 986 | 154 | 16 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 958 | 234 | 24 |
| Puget Sound Wh.-cr. Sparrow | 582 | 267 | 46 |
| Western Meadowlark | 52 | 23 | 44 |
| Bullock's Oriole | 129 | 34 | 27 |
| House Finch | 8,771 | 1,498 | 17 |
| American Goldfinch | 386 | 187 | 48 |

Point Reyes Bird Observatory banded the highest number for 24 species. Many of these were pelagic species banded on the Farallon Islands or "vagrant" species banded either at the Palo Marin field station or on the Farallons.

It is also interesting to note that many of those reporting banding activities during 1989 were associated with educational institutions, government agencies, bird

observatories, etc. These are summarized in **Table 2** below.

TABLE 2. Group representation in western region.

| Type of Agency | Number |
|--|--------|
| Wildlife Refuges | 26 |
| Government Agencies (USFWS, BLM, NPS, etc) | 36 |
| Conservation Organizations (TNC, NAS) | 6 |
| Educational Institutions | 76 |
| Research Facilities (Bird Observatories) | 34* |
| Wildlife Rescue Centers | 5 |
| Museums and Zoos | 4 |

* Includes CCRS

One hundred fifty-six banders are pursuing their research independently. Pooling the information collected by all bird banders should give us more insight into "who is where and when". We're all part of a vast movement to learn more about our environment.

BANDER TRAINING CLASS

CCRS is again offering its popular Bird Banding class beginning on March 7, 1991. This combination lecture-field class will provide sufficient hands-on experience to qualify graduates for participation in the ongoing biomonitoring program at CCRS. Completion of this course is also the first step in qualifying for a Federal Bird Banding Subpermit. The cost of the class is \$25. The class schedule and meeting places are listed below. Registration is limited to 25 and you must pre-register before March 1, 1991 to be eligible for the course.

Session 1 7:30-9:30 pm March 7 Colwell Residence
281 Margarita Ct
Los Altos
(415) 949-1869

Session 1 will focus on introducing the student to banding data sheets, summary data forms and the use of molt and other features to age and sex birds. We will also explore the "whys" of banding and what questions it can and cannot answer.

Session 2 7:00-12:00 am March 9,10 CCRS

Session 2 will be our first field experience with banding techniques. Dress warmly and be prepared to walk about a mile and a half. As with all field sessions you have your choice of either a Saturday or Sunday at the banding station. Students will practice handling birds, taking birds out of traps. We will also introduce students to various ageing and sexing resource materials.

Session 3 7:30-9:30 pm March 14 T.B.A.

Session 3 will provide students with specific information on identification, ageing and sexing of birds which we will be encountering in the next field sessions and in spring migration.

Session 4 7:30-9:30 pm March 21 T.B.A.

We will continue our discussion of identification, ageing and sexing of sparrows, thrushes, flycatchers, warblers and hummingbirds.

Session 5 7:00-12:00 am March 16, 17 CCRS
March 23, 24

This last field session will provide students with experience in taking birds out of mist nets, logging in and processing birds, opening and closing nets. We will also be signing the new graduates up for regular banding assignments for coming months.

Please be aware that Active Banders are required to commit to at least 2 banding sessions per month or 20 sessions per year.

If you are interested in this course please call the Station @ (408) 262-9204 to reserve a spot. We feel you will find bird banding a rewarding experience. For you long-time birders, it will provide you with a new perspective on birds which cannot be attained any other way.

CCRS BIRD BANDING SUMMARY - 1990

by Michael Rigney

The number of banded birds (7,205) in 1990 was down somewhat from last year's record high despite the fact that we operated more days (324) than last year. In addition, recaptures (4,352) dropped substantially this year - down by 33% over 1989. On the "up" side though, we added nine new species to our CCRS "life list" which now stands at 152. These species are highlighted in **Table 1** of this article. One species in particular, the Red-eyed Vireo, represents the first (and second) record for Santa Clara County. **Figure 1** below shows the number of birds

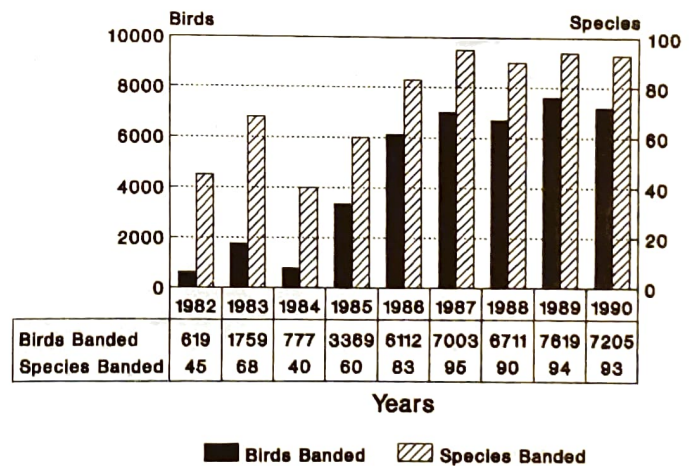


FIGURE 1. Banding summary for CCRS from 1982 through 1990.

TABLE 1. Coyote Creek Riparian Station bird banding summary for 1990

| Species | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| American Kestrel | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 3 |
| Killdeer | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Black-necked Stilt | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 3 |
| American Avocet | | | | | 6 | 5 | 5 | | | | | | 11 |
| Western Sandpiper | | | 17 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 18 |
| Least Sandpiper | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Mourning Dove | 11 | 8 | 7 | 18 | 15 | 36 | 66 | 29 | 2 | | | | 192 |
| Common Poorwill | | | | | 5 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 3 | | | 3 |
| Black-ch. Hummingbird | | | | | | | | | | | | | 31 |
| Anna's Hummingbird | 6 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 37 | 43 | 40 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 175 |
| Costa's Hummingbird | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Calliope Hummingbird | | | 11 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Rufous Hummingbird | | | 24 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | 5 | | | | | 45 |
| Allen Hummingbird | | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 1 | | | | 45 |
| Belted Kingfisher | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Downy Woodpecker | | | | | 1 | 6 | 7 | | | | | | 14 |
| Red-breasted Sapsucker | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Red-shafted Flicker | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | 5 |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Western Wood Pewee | | | | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | | 11 |
| Willow Flycatcher | | | | | | 1 | | 12 | 19 | 1 | | | 33 |
| Hammond's Flycatcher | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Dusky Flycatcher | | | | | | | 10 | 274 | 338 | 12 | | | 669 |
| Western Flycatcher | | | 4 | 9 | 16 | 6 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Ash-th. Flycatcher | | | | | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | | | 10 |
| Black Phoebe | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 33 | 42 | 9 | 6 | 3 | | 1 | 124 |
| Say's Phoebe | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Western Kingbird | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Violet-green Swallow | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Tree Swallow | | | 2 | 2 | 11 | | | | | | | | 15 |
| No. Rough-winged Swallow | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Cliff Swallow | | | 3 | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | 7 |
| Barn Swallow | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Scrub Jay | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Chestnut-bk. Chickadee | | | | | 9 | 6 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 8 | | 27 |
| Common Bush tit | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 26 | 19 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 87 |
| Bewick's Wren | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | | | 11 |
| House Wren | | | 3 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 5 |
| Winter Wren | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 9 |
| Marsh Wren | | | 10 | | | | | 40 | 60 | 32 | 7 | | 149 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | 9 | 2 | | | 14 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | | | | 3 | 24 | 47 | | 12 | 95 |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | 7 | 178 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 68 | 3 | | | 272 |
| Hermit Thrush | 34 | 23 | 12 | 41 | 7 | 1 | | 46 | 173 | 54 | 10 | | 401 |
| American Robin | 10 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 26 |
| Varied Thrush | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 17 | 5 | 7 | | 6 |
| Northern Mockingbird | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 54 |
| Water Pipit | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Cedar Waxwing | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Loggerhead Shrike | 1 | 3 | | | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | | | 2 | 20 |
| European Starling | | | | | 1 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 5 | | | | 32 |
| Solitary Vireo | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |

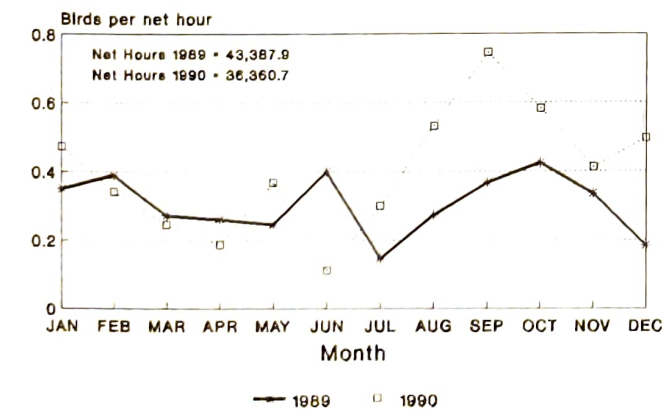
| Species | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Warbling Vireo | | | | 2 | 7 | | | 6 | 11 | | | | 26 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | | | 4 | 42 | 10 | | 1 | 5 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 92 |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Yellow Warbler | | | | 2 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 32 | 227 | 4 | | | 293 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 7 | 4 | 5 | 5 | | | | | 1 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 45 |
| Audubon's Warbler | 20 | 11 | 28 | 54 | 1 | | | | 7 | 82 | 63 | 35 | 301 |
| Black-th. Gray Warbler | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Townsend's Warbler | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Western Palm Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Ovenbird | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Northern Waterthrush | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | | | | | 7 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 9 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 1 | | 15 | 45 | 3 | 1 | | 56 | 60 | 15 | 6 | | 202 |
| Wilson's Warbler | | | 3 | 33 | 59 | | 1 | 19 | 23 | 4 | | | 142 |
| Western Tanager | | | | | 1 | | | 5 | 1 | | | | 7 |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | | | | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 10 | | | | | 33 |
| Spotted Towhee | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 8 |
| Brown Towhee | | 2 | | | 1 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 1 | | | 30 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 16 | 14 | 35 | 30 | | | | 4 | 26 | 61 | 26 | 13 | 225 |
| Fox Sparrow | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 19 | 43 | 20 | 12 | 101 |
| Song Sparrow | 5 | 9 | 38 | 30 | 29 | 51 | 10 | 39 | 42 | 20 | 14 | | 287 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 6 | 6 | 12 | 21 | | | | | 31 | 42 | 10 | 8 | 136 |
| White-throated Sparrow | | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 14 | 11 | 2 | 11 | | | | | 22 | 61 | 41 | 42 | 204 |
| Puget Sound White-cr. Sp. | 11 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | | | 1 | 29 | 94 | 27 | 21 | 200 |
| Gambel's White-cr. Sp | 22 | 17 | 17 | 53 | 1 | | | | 11 | 87 | 61 | 36 | 305 |
| Oregon Junco | | | 7 | 2 | | | | | 2 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 21 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 16 | 16 | 42 | 54 | 40 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 3 | | | | 193 |
| Western Meadowlark | 5 | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | 9 |
| Brewer's Blackbird | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | | | | 29 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | | | | 16 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 | | | | 32 |
| Hooded Oriole | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| Bullock's Oriole | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 1 | | | | 18 |
| House Finch | 110 | 98 | 19 | 57 | 78 | 232 | 298 | 265 | 92 | 10 | 9 | 22 | 1290 |
| Lesser Goldfinch | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 11 | | | | 38 |
| American Goldfinch | | 26 | 17 | 26 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 95 | 63 | 2 | 2 | | 248 |
| Pine Siskin | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| House Sparrow | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Total new captures | 322 | 281 | 325 | 667 | 606 | 529 | 600 | 1060 | 1310 | 841 | 434 | 230 | 7205 |
| Cumulative captures | 322 | 603 | 928 | 1595 | 2201 | 2730 | 3330 | 4390 | 5700 | 6541 | 6975 | 7205 | 7205 |
| Species banded | 26 | 27 | 37 | 47 | 46 | 37 | 40 | 42 | 50 | 42 | 30 | 21 | |
| Recaptures | 606 | 476 | 378 | 521 | 326 | 247 | 226 | 196 | 294 | 312 | 356 | 414 | 4352 |
| Days of operation | 20 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 31 | 28 | 31 | 28 | 21 | 324 |

banded and the species banded since CCRS's inception in 1982. As you can see from the graph, there has been little substantive change over the past few years indicating that, given a similar effort, we are banding most of the birds within our study area.

For the first time this year we are able to compare not only the numbers and kinds of birds banded but also the rate of capture throughout the year based upon the number of traps or nets run. Using the daily summary sheets, Chris Otahal has gone back over 1990 and 1989 extracting the number of nets and traps run each day and the duration each net or trap was open. This information was put into a database which has enabled us to calculate the number of birds per net or trap hour. These bits of data are essential for us to be able to determine the "true" abundance of particular species. Over several years, these data will also allow us to determine whether a species is declining or increasing at our Station. **Figure 2** below, shows the varying capture rates for 1989 and 1990 for mist nets only.

The graph shows that the peak of Spring migration occurred in June in 1989 while the peak was reached a month earlier, in May, in 1990. Similarly, Fall migration peaked in October in 1989 while September was the peak month in 1990. Overall, capture rates were higher in 1990 (0.39 birds per net hour [b.p.n.h.]) than in 1989 (0.26 b.p.n.h.).

On a species level, it is interesting to note that while more Swainson's Thrushes were banded in 1989 (295) than in 1990 (272), the capture rate in 1990 was higher (7.5 bptnh.) than 1989 (6.8 bptnh.). (Because the ratio of individual birds banded to the total number of net hours is so low, the capture rate is expressed in birds per thousand net hours or "bptnh"). The reverse was true of many of our migratory and resident hummingbirds. The Anna's Hummingbird was captured at a rate of 5.8 bptnh in 1989, whereas, the rate in 1990 was 4.8 bptnh. Speculation as to



(One net hour = one 12M net run one hour)

FIGURE 2. Capture efficiency of mist nets in 1989 and 1990.

the cause of this decreased capture rate revolves around the loss of productive nectar producing plants such as tree tobacco due to flood control construction.

Because traps were run on an opportunistic basis, capture efficiency (as expressed by birds per trap hour) varied widely between the two years. As a consequence, little conclusive information is available on capture success of granivorous birds in traps. We hope, in the near future, to standardize our trap operation during the winter to study population trends of *Zonotrichia* more thoroughly.

CCRS volunteers and staff again this year, banded at a number of different locations throughout California. These locations included Lundy Canyon and Long Barn in the Sierra Nevada, Natural Bridges State Park, Alum Rock Park, the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and IBM facilities in south San Jose. Also included are birds rehabilitated by Wildlife Rescue of Palo Alto. These additional bandings (listed in **Table 2**) comprised 260 birds of 50 species. As predicted by Dick Mewaldt in last year's summary, this total has nearly doubled.

TABLE 2. Numbers of birds banded at locations other than CCRS during 1990.

| Species | Number |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Mallard | 9 |
| Gadwall | 1 |
| Common Goldeneye | 1 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 2 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 3 |
| American Kestrel | 9 |
| Common Barn-Owl | 20 |
| Great Horned Owl | 4 |
| Northern Pygmy-Owl | 1 |
| Rufous Hummingbird | 2 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 1 |
| Red-breasted Sapsucker | 4 |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker | 1 |
| Western Wood-Pewee | 1 |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher | 14 |
| Dusky Flycatcher | 3 |
| Black Phoebe | 3 |
| Scrub Jay | 1 |
| American Crow | 1 |
| Chestnut-backed Chickadee | 1 |
| Plain Titmouse | 1 |
| Common Bushtit | 5 |
| Brown Creeper | 1 |
| House Wren | 5 |
| Bewick's Wren | 1 |
| American Dipper | 2 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 3 |
| Western Bluebird | 55 |
| Hermit Thrush | 1 |
| American Robin | 9 |
| Wrentit | 5 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 7 |
| California Thrasher | 2 |
| Warbling Vireo | 2 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 12 |
| Nashville Warbler | 3 |
| Yellow Warbler | 6 |
| Townsend's Warbler | 1 |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | 5 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 7 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Western Tanager | 1 |
| Green-tailed Towhee | 1 |
| Spotted Towhee | 2 |
| Brown Towhee | 2 |
| Fox Sparrow | 2 |
| Song Sparrow | 16 |
| Oregon Junco | 11 |
| Cassin's Finch | 1 |
| House Finch | 8 |
| Lesser Goldfinch | 4 |

Total Banded 260

Again this year we were alby assisted in our efforts by a dedicated band of volunteers. Over 70 people participated in banding programs at various locations while another sizeable group participated in plant restoration activities, banding data entry, trail maintenance, newsletter production, bluebird house construction and general Station maintenance. Our records show that members who participated in the bird banding program in 1990 include:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Alex Aiken | Karen Hoyt | Karen Raby |
| Clay Anderson | Bill Thile | Elsie Richey |
| Walter Avery | Chris Illes | Bettina Richman |
| Irene Beardsey | David Johnson | Mark Richman |
| Ahn Bui | Stephanie Jones | Dave Riensche |
| C. Carlson | Bruce Katano | Michael Rigney |
| R. Chen | Al Kluska | Hawkeye Rondeau |
| Rita Colwell | Craig Kuziel | Allen Royer |
| Gabriel Cuka | John Lehner | Jane Starbird |
| Maryann Danielson | Mary Lehner | Richard Seymour |
| Penny Delevoryas | Colleen Lenihan | Mark Sutherland |
| Peter Folan | Max Lincoln | Dieter Thiel |
| Marilyn Fowler | Kay Loughman | Llyoda Thompson |
| Marion Fricano | Sean Lydon | G. Van Stee |
| Thomas Goodier | Mike Mammoser | Suzanne Van Stec |
| Gloria Hellwer | Dick Mewaldt | Ellie Steinberg |
| Jorge Heller | Syndie Meyer | Mike Westphal |
| Nate Higley | Lorraine Meyers | Blair Wolf |
| Jerry Higuera | Thomas Meyers | Daphne Wollman |
| Sherley Higuera | James Migueigorry | Bob Yutzy |
| Geoffrey Hill | Dana Millican | Carol Yutzy |
| Grant Hoyt | Chris Otahal | |

Volunteers of record who participated in other valuable aspects of the CCRS program include:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Alberta Anacerio | Steve Glover | Joan Priest |
| Thomas Balgooyen | Bernard Goldner | Jerry Richey |
| William Bousman | Edward Gustafson | Theresa Rigney |
| Jeffrey Caldwell | H, Thomas Harvey | Sander Rigney |
| Roy Cameron | David Hildebrand | Edward Rooks |
| Howard Cogswell | George Honore | Howard Shellhammer |
| Rick Coleman | Rick Hopkins | Linda Spahr |
| John Delevoryas | Robert Johnson | Elinor Spellman |
| C. Dawson-Roberts | Guy Klitgaard | John Stanley |
| Emmett Dingel | Will Lapaz | Don Starks |
| Ronald Duke | Helen Le | Dan Stevens |
| Allyn Erickson | Fran Mewaldt | Jean Takekawa |
| Kevin Foerster | Paul Noble | Scott Terrell |
| Jim Fiedler | Erinn O'Dougherty | Jean Young |
| David Glover | Steve Orr | Joseph Young |

We wish to thank all of our members and volunteers for your continuing support. Without your dedication, none of what we report in this newsletter would be possible. Again, **Thank You.**

NATIVE PLANT NEWS

by Elinor Spellman

The area surrounding Coyote Creek Riparian Station contains an impressive array of native plants. *RiparianNews* for July and October, 1988 (Vol. 3, Nos. 3 and 4) featured Jeff Caldwell's concise articles on the "Vascular Plants of CCRS" and his annotated plant list. Jeff notes that "approximately 140 species of vascular plants have been observed within the vicinity of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station; 45 can be considered indigenous to Santa Clara County.

Bird banding, and other bird studies have, from the beginning, been the most prominent activities at the station and have always drawn the greatest volunteer effort. Still, the vegetation at the site has never been totally neglected. The mission of CCRS includes "research, restoration and management of riparian and wetland habitats". Those who spent time with Dr. Mewaldt can confirm that his vision of CCRS's future definitely foresaw a state in which the original native plant species would once again flourish.

We are, of course, faced with certain problems: degradation of the site from past agricultural use; the proliferation of invasive exotic plants; constraints imposed by co-existence with public agencies and their activities; lack of a dependable water source -- to name a few. Still, we have worked out some strategies that I am confident will eventually bring about something close to what Dick Mewaldt envisioned.



Elinor Spellman tends her native plant restoration area along the banks of Coyote Creek. Photo by David Johnson

The streamside corridor already contains a healthy diversity of native plants. Some have scarcely gained a toe-hold; others have established their own thriving colonies. The effort here has been to locate and mark these native plant sites. Ideally, all these sites would be flagged and protected. Where they are struggling to compete with introduced non-natives, weeding (to give them more space) has demonstrated that, thus encouraged, the natives will expand in relatively short order. Some pruning and clearing of tree limbs and branches has been conducted to give the understory plants more hours of daily sunlight.

In Revegetation Plot #1, which was planted in the winter of 1986-87, several of the hardiest and most successful native herbaceous perennials have established colonies and are competing very well with the non-native plants. A group of volunteers organized by Steve Orr and Erin O'Dougherty of Native Landscapes in Campbell, has been working under the guidance of Jeff Caldwell of The Habitat Restoration Group to remove invasive exotics from around healthy natives and beneficial non-natives. Thanks to Jeff we're not only learning to identify the natives, but just as important, proper weeding techniques to assist their spread. In time, the understory in this plot promises to become a true mosaic of native plants, visually beautiful and having impressive wildlife value.

The Overflow Channel and Revegetation Plot #2 are soon to be seeded and planted by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and The Habitat Restoration Group.

In December, a small native plant garden was created in the area between our two trailers, by David Glover and members of Boy Scout Troop #123 of Milpitas as an Eagle Scout project. David was ably assisted by his father, Steve Glover of L&L Landscape. Topsoil was donated and delivered by U-Save Rockery in Campbell. The plants used, although not native to the site, are California natives which adapt well and should survive the rather harsh environment. The garden instantly improved the outward appear-



Members of Scout Troop #123 of Milpitas work on the Native Plant Garden at CCRS. Thanks to these hardworking troops and their helpers!!
Phot by David Johnson.

ance of our, as yet, strictly functional headquarters layout. In the future, native landscaping around the trailers can and will be expanded. We hope birds as well as human observers will be attracted to it.

All maintenance and restoration work focusing on the flora of the CCRS area is naturally very labor-intensive. Any interested members who could spend occasional time on some aspect of the program are warmly invited to contact me at the Station or by calling me at home (408) 395-5526.

MEWALDT MEMORIAL FUND GROWS

by Michael Rigney

Shortly after Dick Mewaldt's death in August of 1990, CCRS established a Memorial Fund in Dick's honor. This fund is intended to support the important research projects which he instituted and are the foundation of our population monitoring program. The response to this fund appeal was extremely gratifying. To date the fund has accumulated nearly \$3,000.00. A portion of this fund has already been transferred into our endowment fund.

Dick knew the importance of providing an organization with a solid financial base and this growing endowment fund (over \$30,000.00) is a testament to his wisdom and leadership. We would like to thank the following people and organization who have generously contributed to the Mewaldt Memorial Fund:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bleitz Wildlife Foundation | Patricia Jacobson |
| Irene Brown | David Mewaldt |
| Roy Cameron | Kathy Oliver-Garnett |
| Evelyn Case | Betty Rutherford |
| Douglas & Gail Cheeseman | Alfred Schmitz |
| Robert & Rita Colwell | Elinor Spellman |
| Maryann Danielson | Mark Sutherland |
| John Delevoryas | Otis Swisher |
| Elwyn Dorman | Robert & Joan Tweit |
| Russell & Marilyn Fowler | Janet Wasserman |
| Tom Goodier | Erika Wilson |
| Habitat Restoration Group | Judy Wong |
| Gertrude Hopkins | Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Zimmerman |
| Dorothy Hunt | |

Contributions to the Mewaldt Memorial Fund are, of course, still welcome and encouraged. We hope soon to place a commemorative plaque at the base of the large coast live oak which Dick referred to as the "Standish Oak". This oak will stand as a symbol of Dick's dedication to a vibrant and healthy environment.

HAPPY EVENT

by Michael Rigney

When we said goodbye to Blair and Deanna Wolf in August, Blair was on his way to Arizona State University to prepare for his PhD, and Deanna was preparing for the birth of their first child. Blair is doing well in his studies and just after the new year, Deanna delivered a healthy baby boy. Mother and son, Cole Joseph Wolf, are doing well - father is coping.

The Wolf "cub" pictured below was born on 9 January at 2:48 p.m. and weighed in at a hefty 8 pounds, 7-1/2 ounces and measured 22 inches (no, that's not wing chord). According to Blair the new baby bears some resemblance to the Wolf family line in that he has reddish blond hair and Blair's nose.

We all wish the family well.



Cole Joseph Wolf relaxing after a hard day. Photo by Blair and Deanna Wolf

HELP WANTED

CCRS is looking for a few good people to help with some important tasks at the Station. These positions are volunteer positions at this time since our budget is severely limited.

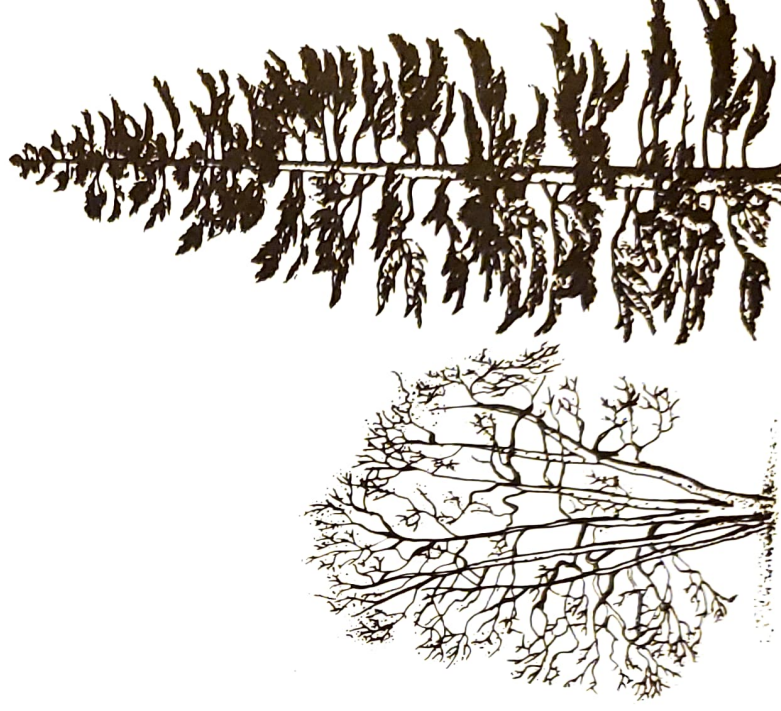
Volunteer Coordinator

We desperately need someone with good interpersonal skills to schedule and coordinate volunteers. The job would entail working with staff to determine needs and then drawing from our pool of volunteers to match skills and desires. The Volunteer Coordinator would need two or three hours twice a week (schedule flexible) to meet with the Manager and Data Manager then two or three more hours per week to contact volunteers and coordinate scheduling. After a system of communication is established, time commitment could be less each week.

Station Grounds Manager

An energetic person with carpentry, electrical, plumbing and mechanical skills is needed to help fight entropy at the Station. This person would be in charge of net and trap repair and construction, building maintenance, and facility improvements. CCRS is growing fast as are our facilities. We are in great need of someone who can bring order to our universe.

If you are just perfect for either of these positions, please contact Mike Rigney at CCRS immediately. Even if you think you might not be right for these positions we have plenty more!



COYOTE CREEK RIPARIAN STATION

Coyote Creek Riparian Station is a non-profit California membership corporation with United States and California tax exempt status. CCRS is dedicated to research on, and to the restoration and management of, riparian and wetland habitats including the wildlife and other animals that live there. CCRS is located on City of San Jose property near the town of Alviso.

Coyote Creek Riparian Station operates in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, U. S. Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD., San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Riparia News is published quarterly for the information of our CCRS membership, the personnel of the several cooperating federal, state, and local agencies, and for other organizations and individuals concerned with the flora and fauna of riparian and wetland habitats.

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COYOTE CREEK RIPARIAN STATION

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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 \$175 per month. CCRS is a non-profit corporation with U. S. and California tax exempt status. Five dollars from the dues of each joint CCRS-SCCBB Atlas Member goes to the Atlas program. We acknowledge Memorial contributions in **Riparia News**. We welcome bequests, including those of real property.

* Or in 4 or 5 installments

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome 16 new members who joined us in the last three months:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Emilie Curtis | Member |
| Bill Ihle | Active Member |
| Ellie Steinberg | Member |
| Richard Seymour | Active Member |
| Anna Trachtenberg | Member |
| John Lehner | Active Member |
| Mary Lehner | Active Member |
| Clayton Anderson | Active Member |
| Dr. William Calder | Member |
| Alex Aiken | Active Member |
| Richard Wetzig | Member |
| Mildred Swanson | Member |
| Phyllis May | Member |
| Dr. Tom Pogson | Member |
| Dr. Lynne Trulio | Member |
| Matt Johnson | Member |

Membership renewals are coming in very well. Some have upgraded their membership category or made an additional contribution.

We would like to welcome **Dr. Lloyd A. Thompson** as CCRS's newest Life Member. Dr. Thompson is in Facilities Planning at San Jose State University and was one of Dick Mewaldt's graduate students at SJSU. Welcome Lloyd!

Life Membership payments in their entirety and 10% of all other membership payments and general contributions are placed in the CCRS Endowment Fund. These additions help assure the future of Coyote Creek Riparian Station.