



RipariaNews

Newsletter of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station

P.O. BOX 1027

ALVISO, CA 95002

(408) 262-9204

VOLUME 8

March, 1993

NUMBER 1

Banding Summary for 1992

by Michael Rigney

By almost all measures, 1992 was a banner year for the banding program at CCRS. Not only was the total of 8,423 birds banded a new year high total, but the number of species banded (102) was also a record see. In addition, six new species were added to our "life list" of banded birds (these are highlighted in bold in **Table 1** on pages 4 and 5). These six new species bring our cumulative total of species banded at CCRS to 159 species (or more legitimately, taxa, since we count identifiable subspecies such as Myrtle's and Audubon's Warblers separately. Our total of full species currently stands at 154.), including 10 county records.

May brought us our first **North-ern Parula** and **Swamp Sparrow** but our most unusual rarity a **Worm-eating Warbler** was captured the next month, in June. This seldom seen warbler is a native of

Blackpoll and **Virginia's Warblers**. The **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, a late November vagrant fairly common along the Pacific Coast, rounded out an exciting year.

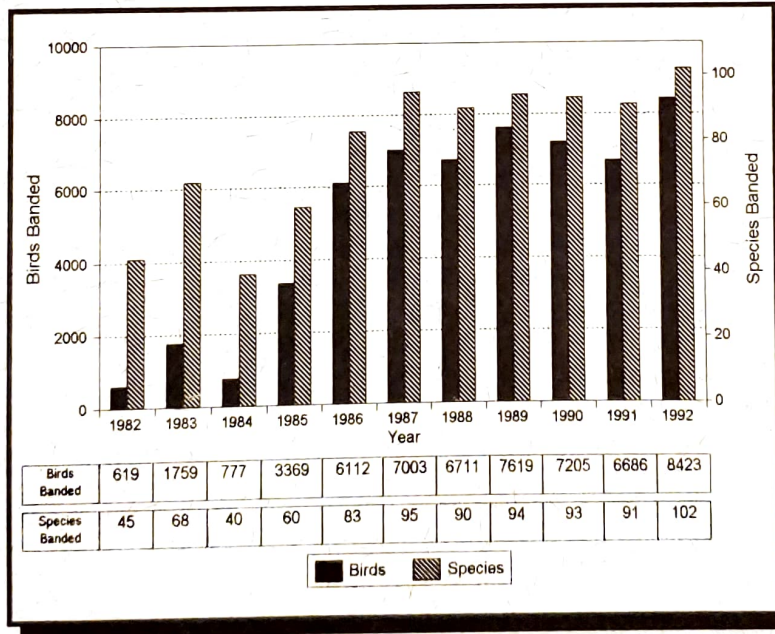


Figure 1. Banding Summary For CCRS (Alviso Field Station Only) From 1982 To 1992.

Our recapture total this year (5,701) was up from last year due to our ongoing study of White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrow home range and site fidelity. Song Sparrows were also recaptured in substantial numbers as were Yellow-rumped (both Audubon's and Myrtle's) Warblers which were very numerous this winter.

dense forested areas in southeastern U.S. Fall migration delivered our remaining "vagrants", the

With most of our banding records now on computer, we are beginning to assess species population trends. Articles dealing with population trends for certain species will soon be appearing in *RipariaNews*. Biologist Chris Otahal is beginning to assess some of these trends for publication

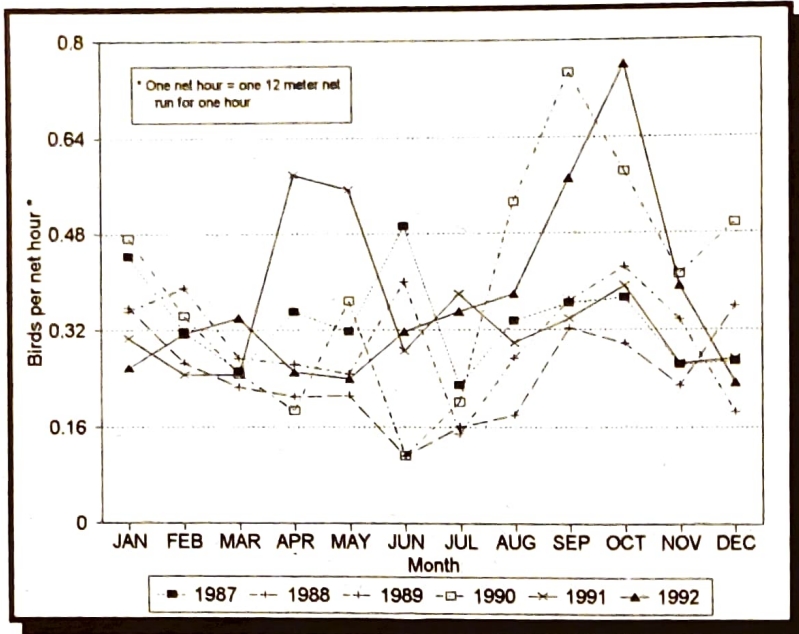


Figure 2. Monthly Capture Rate Of Mist Nets From 1987 To 1992.

publication.

Figure 2 summarizes our monthly capture rate (or efficiency) based upon the number of net-hours per month. Compared to last year, spring migration (April and May) was less than thrilling but well within the average for the last six years. Several species last year (1991) were captured in unusually high numbers - not so this past spring. For example, Orange-crowned Warblers were down 76%, Audubon's Warblers were down 36%, Wilson's Warbler captures declined a dramatic 82% and Swainson's Thrushes were down 37%.

On the other hand, fall migration (September and October) was overall, the best (in terms of capture rate) since 1990, although migration peaked a month later than in 1990. Record high numbers of Audubon's Warblers (564), Myrtle's Warbler (110), Yellow Warblers (193) and high numbers of Wilson's Warbler (27) and Swainson's Thrushes (45) helped boost our fall capture rate. Also, high numbers of migratory

sparrows such as Lincoln's Sparrows (180), Golden-crowned Sparrows (294), and Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows (126) contributed to a record fall migration.

Our capture total for Tri-colored Blackbirds (a candidate species for Threatened or Endangered status) was up substantially this year. A breeding colony of this unique California bird became established in a weedy field on adjacent sewage treatment plant property. We were fortunate to have a few birds (primarily juveniles) come into our Australian Magpie trap.

As in previous years, CCRS members conducted banding programs at several locations in California. These include Lundy Lake and Long Barn in the Sierra Nevada, McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Canada College, and the IBM research facility in South San Jose. CCRS also supplied bands to raptor rehabilitation personnel at Wildlife Rescue. Birds banded as a result of these efforts are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Number Of Birds Banded At Locations Other Than CCRS During 1992.

Species	Number
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	3
Red-tailed Hawk	12
Common-Barn-Owl	8
Great Horned Owl	2
Belted Kingfisher	1
Red-breasted Sapsucker	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Ash-throated Flycatcher	14
Hammond's Flycatcher	2
Violet-green Swallow	5
Scrub Jay	2
Steller's Jay	1
Plain Titmouse	27
Mountain Chickadee	6
Common Bushtit	2
House Wren	37
Bewick's Wren	9
Marsh Wren	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Western Bluebird	71
Hermit Thrush	6
American Robin	4
American Dipper	2
Hutton's Vireo	1
Solitary Vireo	1
Warbling Vireo	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	27
Nashville Warbler	6
Audubon's Warbler	5
Yellow Warbler	6
MacGillivray's Warbler	10
Wilson's Warbler	11
Common Yellowthroat	6
Green-tailed Towhee	4
Spotted Towhee	7
Brown Towhee	2
Song Sparrow	29
Oregon Junco	6
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	1
Golden-crowned Sparrow	13
Fox Sparrow	3
Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Cassin's Finch	1
TOTAL	364

Our corps group of volunteers continues to grow. Thanks to Maryann Danielson and banding biologist Kristin Shields, we were able to increase the number of training

classes held during 1992 and thereby increase the number of active banders. Maryann and the staff have also put together advanced training classes to keep volunteers up to date on new techniques and sharpen their identification, ageing and sexing skills.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the help of the following people on our long-term banding program:

Alex Aiken	Dorothy Johnson
Walter Avery	Ingrid Karau
Irene Beardsley	Bruce Katano
Ann Bender	Barry Langdon-Lassagne
Chris Bloxsom	Virginia Langdon-Lassagne
Joelle Buffa	Rosalie Lefkowitz
Less Chibana	Max Lincoln
Denise Clark	Kay Loughman
Rita Colwell	Sean Lydon
Chris Cropper	Steve Matsuoka
Lynn Cropper	Gary Mele
Mike Cropper	Syndie Meyer
Lois Culp	James Miguelgorry
Maryann Danielson	Clyde Morris
Craige Edgerton	Br. John O'Neill
Dik Elliott	Chris Otahal
Gerry Ellis	Janet Pasternak
Arleen Feng	Barbara Peck
Eric Feuss	Gloria Petersen
Bob Fitzsimmons	Virginia Reynolds
Peter Folan	Dave Riensche
Marion Fricano	Elsie Richey
Jack Fry	Mike Rigney
Lexie Fry	Allen Royer
Tom Goodier	Marilyn Scott
Helen Green	Vernon Sera
Scott Harris	Kristin Shields
Elaine Hatfield	Martin Sidor
Gloria Heller	Vicki Silvas-Young
Mark Hermon	Stephanie Singer
Patty Hermon	Karlene Stoker
Barbara Hoover	Zona Walcott
Karen Hoyt	Mike Westphal
Kathleen Human	
David Johnson	

The Birds of Santa Clara County

by Bill Bousman

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What is a Checklist?

A checklist can be as simple as a list of birds for some local park with a spot in front of each name for us to place our tick marks or it can be as complex as the "Check-List of North American Birds" which, in its Sixth Edition, runs to 877 pages and covers the habitats and distribution of every species recorded in the Americas north of the Panama-Columbia border. This reference, published by the American Ornithologist's Union, is the ultimate authority for the naming and status of North American birds.

A checklist for a local park or refuge is typically written by local birders and represents their best idea of the status and distribution of the local species at a particular point in time. The resulting list may be uneven in quality -- some are good and some are bad.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Sixth Edition of the AOU checklist is a scholarly work and is written by professional ornithologists and represents, at least at the moment of publication, everything we know about the status of North American birds. Yet, despite its authority and the tremendous effort that goes into its compilation, it is a

transitory reference. In time, if not tomorrow, perhaps next year, new information will come to light about the relationships of birds and one aspect of the checklist will have to be revised and then another. How nice to have a fixed and permanent reference, but such is not to be for people interested in birds any more than for those who follow the evolution of words and language. So, in the end, we must be satisfied that a checklist represents our best efforts even if its lifetime may not match our own.

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The most recent checklist for the birds of Santa Clara County was published in 1975 by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. It was compiled by Bob Yutzy, Mike Brady, and Henry Weston, Jr. and

was based on an earlier edition, published in 1962 by Henry Weston, Jr. and Tom Harvey. The total number of species recorded on the 1975 checklist is 294. The total indicated in the county notebooks that I maintain is 358 as of December 1992. This is an increase of 64 species in the last 17 years which corresponds to a rate of about 3.5 species/year. The most recent addition is an Eastern Phoebe found, are you ready? along Coyote Creek a few hundred yards north of the station on the San Jose Christmas Bird Count. This eastern vagrant has long been expected here. What will show up next we have no idea -- we know only that something new will turn up and, with luck, we all may have a chance to see it.

Table 1. Banding Summary For Coyote Creek Riparian Station - 1992.

Species	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
Sharp-shinned Hawk											1		1
Red-shouldered Hawk								1					1
American Kestrel	1												1
California Quail				1				1					2
Semipalmated Plover				1				1					2
Killdeer					1	15							16
American Avocet					17	4							21
Western Sandpiper				25									25
Red-necked Phalarope								1					1
Mourning Dove		2	3	6	12	18	7	6	2	2	1	1	60
Common Barn-Owl					1								1
Northern Saw-whet Owl											1	1	2
Common Poorwill										2			2
Black-ch. Hummingbird				2	3	10	20	25	5				65
Anna's Hummingbird	1	3	5	14	15	41	68	61	38	7	8	10	271
Rufous Hummingbird		1	1	35	2		11	31	2				83
Allen's Hummingbird		2	4	7	19	15	12	6					65
Belted Kingfisher							2		1				3
Downy Woodpecker			1		2	13	4	1					21
Red-breasted Sapsucker									1	1	1		3
Red-shafted Flicker	2								1	2	2	2	9
Flicker Intergrade											1		1
Nuttall's Woodpecker						2	1						3
Western Wood Pewee						1	2	4	3				10
Willow Flycatcher								26	24	1			51
Hammond's Flycatcher				1									1
Dusky Flycatcher									1				1
Least Flycatcher				1									1
Western Flycatcher			4	22	20	2	21	389	310	24			792
Ash-th. Flycatcher							1	3					4
Black Phoebe		4		2	14	36	22	7	4				89
Violet-green Swallow			1										1
Tree Swallow					1								1
No. Rough-winged Swallow						1							1
Cliff Swallow						4	1						5
Barn Swallow				1	9	9	9						28
Scrub Jay					2				1				3
Chestnut-bk. Chickadee		1			4	19	2	1					27
Common Bushtit	1	6	3	2	22	31	12	9	11	3	6	19	125
Brown Creeper						1							1
Bewick's Wren	1				3	2	3	1	1				11
House Wren							2	6					8
Winter Wren							1	6	8	2			17
Marsh Wren						53	88		61	49			251
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1	2	1	1					6	14	4	30
Swainson's Thrush				4	172			3	31	14	1		225
Hermit Thrush	4	8	5	10		1			39	131	67	16	281
American Robin		1	2	1	2	3	2					1	12
Varied Thrush	1										3		4
Northern Mockingbird		2		3	3	19	14	13	11	4	1		70
Loggerhead Shrike			1	1	5	4	2	4	2	2			21
European Starling	5		3	1	22	3	1		1				36
Warbling Vireo			1	1	1		1	4	8	1			16
Orange-crowned Warbler	1		6	34	1	3		4	24	21	3	3	100
Nashville Warbler										1	1		2
Virginia's Warbler									1				1

Table 1. Cont'd.

Species	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
Northern Parula					1								1
Yellow Warbler					20	12		22	157	36	1		248
Chestnut-sided Warbler											1		1
Myrtle Warbler	5	51	46	11					8	102	16	4	243
Audubon's Warbler	14	53	58	25					57	507	102	19	835
Black-throated Gray Warbler										1			1
Hermit Warbler		2											2
Townsend's Warbler									1				1
Blackpoll Warbler									1				1
American Redstart									1				1
Worm-eating Warbler						1							1
Ovenbird									1				1
MacGillivray's Warbler				2	1					2			5
Common Yellowthroat	1	1	9	23	9	31	29	39	89	23	3	1	258
Wilson's Warbler			2	43	26			8	25	2			106
Yellow-breasted Chat				1									1
Western Tanager					2	1		1	4				8
Black-headed Grosbeak				2	1	11	12	4					30
Blue Grosbeak						2							2
Lazuli Bunting				1	1			2	1				5
Spotted Towhee			1	1					1	1			4
Brown Towhee	3		1	5	5	4	5	14	1	2			40
Clay-colored Sparrow									1				1
Brewer's Sparrow									1				1
Savannah Sparrow	7	3		4				4	30	12	1		61
Fox Sparrow	7	1	2	1					40	49	18	12	130
Song Sparrow	4	2	8	22	92	112	93	27	44	25	2	3	434
Lincoln's Sparrow	17	21	39	35					75	105	40	9	341
Swamp Sparrow				1									1
Chipping Sparrow				1				1					2
White-throated Sparrow		1		2	2				1	1			7
Golden-crowned Sparrow	64	21	22	24	3	1			17	88	61	13	314
Puget Sound White-cr. Sp.	43	21	31	9	1				155	139	46	23	468
Gambel's White-cr. Sp.	121	66	20	19					28	98	28	3	383
Oregon Junco			1	1			1	1	2	9	3	1	19
Red-winged Blackbird	12	9	23	13	23	13	3	4					100
Tricolored Blackbird					21	5		1					27
Western Meadowlark	5										2	1	8
Brewer's Blackbird						1							1
Brown-headed Cowbird			1	10	2	3	14						30
Hooded Oriole				1		1	2	1					5
Bullock's Oriole				2	10	48	18						78
House Finch	127	26	6	7	17	194	216	147	9	36	75	30	890
Pine Siskin											2		2
Lesser Goldfinch			2	1		21	12	21	10	4	9		80
American Goldfinch	1	17	4	14	7	18	63	167	38	3	9	2	343
House Sparrow						8	8						16
New Bandings	449	326	317	457	598	797	785	1,079	1,389	1,518	530	178	8,423
Cumulative	449	775	1,092	1,549	2,147	2,944	3,729	4,808	6,197	7,715	8,245	8,423	8,423
Species banded	25	26	32	51	44	44	38	42	52	39	33	25	
Cumulative	35	44	49	66	74	83	85	88	96	99	101	101	
Recaptures	403	645	668	518	313	347	255	302	328	612	772	538	
Cumulative	403	1,048	1,716	2,234	2,547	2,894	3,149	3,451	3,779	4,391	5,163	5,701	
Days of Operation	28	23	30	30	31	30	31	31	30	28	25	21	338

So why publish a checklist for Santa Clara County at all? The best answer, I guess, is that the process of tracking the records of county birds, documenting when they are here and when they are not, and trying to make sense of all of these numbers is a better way of understanding their lives, to gain some knowledge of how they fit in the environment, and, perhaps most importantly, how we are affecting them. As we see and understand our influence on the birds then we may better see how we influence all of the world about us.

Loons

Three of the five species of the world's loons are rare winter visitors to the south bay and the Santa Clara Valley. They are an ancient species, and in this modern era they nest far to the north of us in forest and tundra lakes and only in the winter do they make their way south to feed along our ocean coast. Either beyond the surf line or in sheltered harbors they spend their winters and one cannot set up a scope along our coast without soon finding one of these species. But inland, along the bay or in our reservoirs, the foraging is less suitable for the loons and they are always rare here. Mostly the birds we see are fall migrants, slightly out of range, and their numbers taper off as winter progresses and they exhaust local food supplies.

I graph the Red-throated Loon records that have been reported to me over the last thirteen years in **Figure 1** and, above the figure, I show the equivalent bar graph from the county checklist that I am drafting. The dashed line means that a species is judged rare, while the dotted line indicates that the species is very rare over the time period.

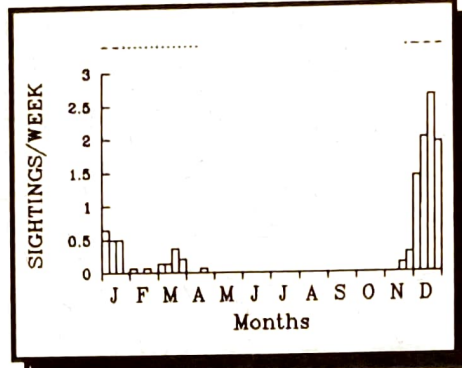


Figure 1. Red-Throated Loon.

For the purposes of my distribution plots I divide the year into 48 weeks, each with either seven or eight days. It is not a very accurate calendar, but it is good enough to describe the temporal distribution of our birds. The vertical axis, in this case, is the average "sightings/week" for the thirteen years of records.

What measure we should use to describe how common or uncommon a bird is is a difficult problem and is the subject of a number of future columns. For now we must be content with the crude measure I use here. The Red-throated Loon shows up towards the end of November and is most common in December. By January most birds have moved on from areas that are regularly birded and it is easy to believe that our lakes and reservoirs don't have a suitable prey base for these birds. The spring migration along the coast is from mid-March to late May, but this is not reflected at our inland location.

I have plotted the sightings per winter in **Figure 2** for Red-throated Loon and it is apparent that this species is irregular from year to year. In most winters we have fewer than ten sightings. In a few winters we encounter substantially more birds. Noteworthy in this regard were the winters of 83-84, 87-88, and 88-89. The large numbers recorded in 83-84 were largely the

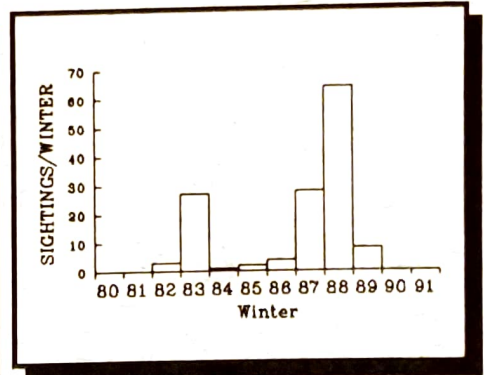


Figure 2. Red-Throated Loon.

result of a fierce winter storm that came in on December 3rd. I was driving that day with my family along Hwy 1 near Pescadero and never exceeded 15 mph for fear of being blown off the road by gale force winds. The next day was clear and an Audubon trip to Charleston Slough counted seven Red-throated Loons and a single Common Loon on Charleston Slough. Numbers declined after that but the San Jose CBC, on December 18, recorded three birds while the Palo Alto CBC, on December 19, counted 39! Many of the Palo Alto CBC birds, however, were in San Mateo County. The large number of sightings in the winters of 87-88 and 88-89 were not the result of a particular storm, but were a reflection instead of the extended stay of multiple birds on Shoreline Lake.

In **Figure 3** I show the distribution over the year for the Pacific Loon. The pattern is very similar to the Red-throated Loon, although the average sightings per week is only a fourth of what we see for the Red-throated. We have two late May-early June records of single birds and these are indicated as dots to represent accidental occurrences of this species. Note that in this figure the bar graph does not match the distribution plot exactly as the bar graph includes some historical October records that are not reflected in the recent data. The

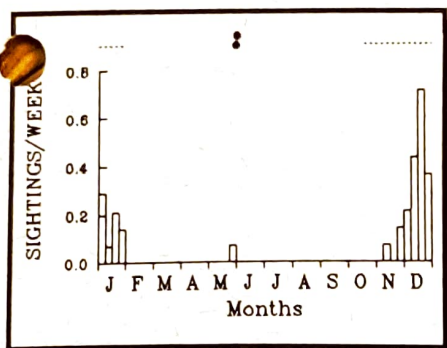


Figure 3. Pacific Loon.

pattern of sightings over recent years is similar to the Red-throated Loon as shown in **Figure 4**. This species was also much more common in the winters of 87-88 and 88-89, just as for the Red-throated Loon, and largely for the same reasons. However, there was no winter 83-84 peak as this species apparently was unaffected by that December storm.

Figure 5 shows the distributional pattern of Common Loon for

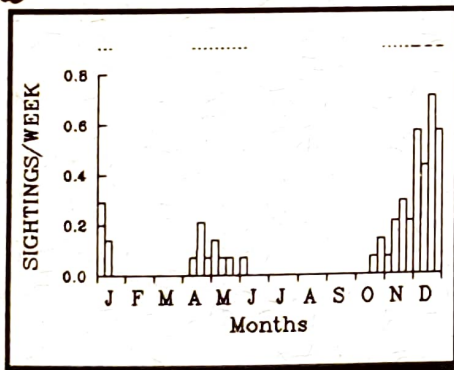


Figure 5. Common Loon.

recent years and it is very similar to that seen for the other two species. Typically numbers are similar to Pacific and again are about a fourth of what we see in Red-throated Loons. There is one significant difference in the distribution of Common Loon and that is the regular occurrence of spring birds from April to the first week in June. This appears to be the result of off-course spring migrants as census data from

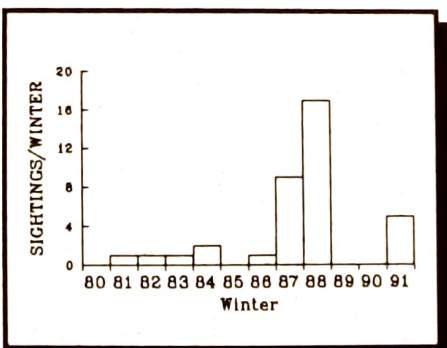


Figure 4. Pacific Loon.

Southeast Farallon Island indicates that the major migration passage there is from 18 Apr to 26 May (Pyle and Henderson, 1991). The spring migration of the other two loon species is not reflected at our inland location.

Common Loon numbers (**Figure 6**) in the last twelve winters have been fairly regular with between three and six sightings per season. The one exception is the winter of 88-89 when multiple birds

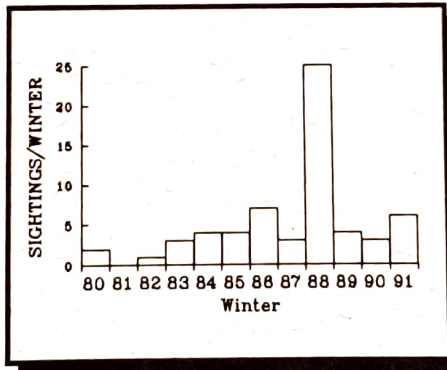


Figure 6. Common Loon.

were found on Shoreline Lake and other locations, particularly in December.

References

Peter Pyle and R. Philip Henderson, "The Birds of Southeast Farallon Island: Occurrence and Seasonal Distribution of Migratory Species," *West. Birds*, 22:41-84, 1991.

OFF THE WALL

by Bill Bousman

The 1992 Fall (and Summer) Season

The station operated continuously during the summer months of June and July and into the fall migration, as well, for the months of August and September. In October the nets were closed on the 20th and 27th and, in November, on the 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 26th.

I now have data for the Summary Board from 1986 to the present and this gives us an historical perspective on what we see each season. It is not a very clear picture, however, as the new capture data from the Summary Board do not account for how many nets are open on any one day or how long they are kept open. Nor do these data include the age or sex of the birds we encounter. All of that information resides in the station data base and it is a rich set of data that will reveal its secrets for those with perseverance.

Treating our regular migrants first, I have tabulated their passage dates in Table 1 below. In calculating the fall migration percentile dates I start with the first of July and finish with the 31st of December. This doesn't have much of an effect for most species except to show an unusual first or last date every once in a while. The median or 50th percentile date provides a good measure of the midspan of migration and the 10th and 90th percentile dates provide a good representation

of the length of the migration. I only show the 10th and 90th percentile data when we record 10 or more species.

Table 1. Fall 1992 - New Capture Data

Species	No.	First	10th	50th	90th	Last
RUHU	44	3 Jul	19 Jul	12 Aug	29 Aug	16 Sep
WEWP	8	30 Jul	--	28 Aug	--	7 Sep
WIFL	51	9 Aug	23 Aug	31 Aug	17 Sep	9 Oct
WEFL	703	3 Jul	13 Aug	28 Aug	20 Sep	21 Oct
ATFL	3	31 Jul	--	5 Aug	--	21 Aug
HOWR	8	1 Jul	--	12 Aug	--	30 Aug
SWTH	43	25 Aug	2 Sep	21 Sep	17 Oct	4 Nov
WAVI	13	26 Jul	26 Aug	1 Sep	12 Sep	11 Oct
OCWA	56	23 Aug	9 Sep	30 Sep	7 Nov	18 Dec
YWAR	207	16 Aug	30 Aug	17 Sep	10 Oct	1 Nov
WIWA	34	8 Jul	22 Aug	17 Sep	25 Sep	9 Oct
WETA	5	24 Aug	--	2 Sep	--	9 Sep
LZBU	3	26 Sep	--	28 Sep	--	13 Oct

Pacific-slope Flycatcher, or more precisely "Western Flycatcher," (WEFL) was our most common migrant. This is a species group that is an abundant fall migrant here on the valley floor but in some years does not even show a noticeable spring passage. We caught this species in incredible numbers for our best fall ever. On the 26th of August we banded 121 birds! The fall total is a rebound from our all-time low last year of 198 birds. Will we ever understand the reasons for these fluctuations? The median passage date was about seven days early, compared to the average over the years.

Yellow Warblers (YWAR) were the second most common migrant this season and were banded in good numbers. The total of 207 compares very well with our 1990 record of 257. The median passage date was the same as in past years, but the migration period was more protracted with the 90th percentile date 10 days later than our long-term average. Orange-crowned Warbler (OCWA), the third most

common migrant, showed a different trend. The median passage date was the same as in past years but the migration period (as defined by the difference in the 10th and 90th percentile dates) was much shorter, lasting about eight weeks instead of the normal eleven.

Willow Flycatchers (WIFL) were the fourth most common migrant and we banded them in record numbers, just as we did the Western Flycatcher.

Their median date was six days early and the migration period was about 10 days shorter. Rufous Hummingbirds (RUHU), our fifth most common migrant, comes through in much smaller numbers in the fall, as discussed in our last issue by Rita Colwell. This fall we banded very good numbers and the 44 bird total was just slightly behind our 1989 record of 47 fall birds.

I'll complete my discussion of our common passage migrants with Swainson's Thrush (SWTH). This species usually shows a fairly strong fall migration, although never in the numbers we see in the spring. This year, however, was the second lowest we have encountered since 1986

(last year there were only 21 banded) and is cause for concern.

We also encountered some of the less common birds on their migration. On 7 Oct we banded two Poorwills -- we have only captured them in two previous falls. We captured two Nashville Warblers, one on 18 Oct and a late bird on 13 Nov. On 13 Oct we banded a Black-throated Gray Warbler. I suspect that this bird is a more common migrant away from the valley floor. We netted two MacGillivray's Warblers, one on 9 Oct and the other on 11 Oct. One was recaptured on 18 Oct.

Departure dates for birds that are resident nearby and arrival dates for wintering species are shown in Table 2.

Three of our four common resident species departed earlier this year than in any past year, perhaps this was just chance. A number of our wintering birds have shown up in record numbers. Winter Wren (WIWR), never common here at the station, was twice as abundant this season with 16 birds captured by 31

Table 2. Departure And Arrival Dates

Species	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Comments
BCHU	--	11 Sep	High numbers
ALHU	--	22 Aug	Earliest departure
WIWR	7 Aug	--	High numbers
RCKI	7 Oct	--	Late arrival
HETH	16 Sep	--	
VATH	4 Nov	--	Late arrival
MYWA	26 Sep	--	High numbers
AUWA	23 Sep	--	High numbers
BHGR	--	28 Aug	Earliest departure
SAVS	24 Aug	--	
FOSP	13 Sep	--	
LISP	8 Sep	--	High numbers
GCSP	18 Sep	--	
PWSP	6 Sep	--	High numbers
GWCS	20 Sep	--	Low numbers
ORJU	20 Sep	--	
BUOR	--	29 Jul	Earliest departure

Dec. Both subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler have arrived in exceptional numbers. The 131 Myrtle Warblers (MYWA) banded by 31 Dec not only exceeded the mean of previous years (1986-91), but the total of 88 as well! Its conspecific, Audubon's Warbler (AUWA) did the same thing, with the season total of 688 birds exceeding the previous total for all years of 664 birds! The ratio of hatching year birds to after hatching year birds might give us some hints as to whether this increase was related to a successful breeding season or not. The 228 Lincoln's Sparrows (LISP) banded by year's end was also a record number and twice what we would expect based on past years. Our other species where we split out the races, the White-crowned Sparrow, showed very different results for the two populations. The Puget Sound (PWSP) White-crown arrived in near-record numbers with 363 banded by 31 Dec. The Gambel's (GWCS) White-crowned Sparrow, on the other hand, at 157, had the lowest total of the years 1986 to 1992.

The summer and fall were probably without precedent in terms of the number of rare and vagrant species captured at the station and included two first records for Santa Clara County! A Virginia's Warbler was netted on 6 Sep, the first we have ever found in the county. This southwestern species occasionally winds up at vagrant traps on the coast. A Blackpoll Warbler was banded 17 Sep and re-captured on 20 Sep. This is the first one banded at CCRS and is probably only the second or third county record for this eastern vagrant. A Worm-eating Warbler was first captured at the station 17 Jun and was re-captured on four other occasions with the final re-capture on 27 Aug.

This is the first record for the county as well as the station. This bird was also found by the census teams working the creek -- a real treat! An Ovenbird was netted offsite in a Santa Clara yard 28 Sep and released at the station and re-captured on 2 Oct. Two Blue Grosbeaks were banded, one on 11 Jun and the second 17 Jun. These were respectively the second and third county records as well as the second and third station records. CCRS's monopoly on Blue Grosbeaks lasted until 15 Aug this past fall when Scott Terrill found an immature in

Los Gatos for the first county record away from the station. A Chipping Sparrow was banded 19 Aug and this is unusual for the station although they are a common migrant in the Diablo Range. On 4 Sep things came in twos as we had the second station records for two rarities, the conspecific Clay-colored and Brewer's Sparrows. We captured two White-throated Sparrows this fall one on 25 Sep and the second on 6 Oct. The former date is the earliest arrival we have for this species.

A New Arrival

We are happy to announce the arrival of another potential bird bander into the world. Our banding biologist, Kristin Shields gave birth on February 4, 1993, to a girl - Chloe Noelle Shields. Kristin, Chloe and husband Mark are doing fine and adjusting to the new nestling (sorry) baby.

Chloe was born at Good Samaritan Hospital and weighed in at 8 pounds 11 ounces. Both mother and daughter were home the same day.

We all wish them well and hope that Kristin is able to return to CCRS as soon as she feels up to it.



New Mom Kristin and Chloe. Photo by proud Dad Mark.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Bill Carver	Member
Bernard Hand	Member
Marc Fenner	Active Member
Dena Mossar	Active Member
Trish Mulvey	Active Member
Stephen Rottenborn	Member
Ruth Russell	Member
Russell Scalf	Member
Mary Schaeffer	Member
Dick Stovel	Member

We are pleased to welcome four new Life Members into our growing corps of top supporters. **Dr. Alex Aiken**, who received his introduction to CCRS through the Bluebird Project at IBM and **Irene Beardsley**, also of IBM, are our newest Life Members. **Jim Yurchenco** and **Amy Lauterbach** were stalwart volunteers on the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas.

We welcome these four new Life Members and acknowledge their continuing contributions to CCRS's efforts.

MEMBERSHIPS IN CCRS

Member	.....	\$20 annually
Senior or Student	..	15 annually
Family	.....	25 annually
Supporting	.....	35 annually
Sustaining	.....	90 annually
Corporate	....	100 + annually
Life	.....	600 single payment*
Patron	.	5,000 single payment*

Life Membership payments and 10% of all other membership payments and general contributions go into the CCRS Endowment Fund. CCRS is a non-profit corporation with U.S. and California tax exempt status. Five dollars from the dues of each CCRS-SCCBB Atlas Membership goes to the Atlas program. We acknowledge Memorial contributions in **RipariaNews**. We welcome bequests, including those of real property.

*Or in 4 or installments

Corrigenda

The article last issue on Rufous Hummingbirds by Rita Colwell misstated the earliest arrival date at CCRS in 1992. The correct date for this male should have been 23 February.

RECOVERIES OF BANDED BIRDS

Compiled by Rita Colwell

The Banding Lab also notified us of an impressive recovery of a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON banded by Dr. Mewaldt as a nestling on May 24, 1973. It was recovered June 23, 1991 at Redwood Shores, making this bird eighteen years old!

Biologist Chris Otahal spotted a color-banded AMERICAN AVOCET in our Waterbird Management Area on October 5, 1992 which we found out through the Banding Laboratory, was banded by the Great Basin Shorebird Initiative of the University of Nevada, Reno. The bird was banded as a juvenile at Honey Lake in northeastern California this past summer.

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 the restoration and management of, riparian and wetland habitats.

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

RipariaNews 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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