

Hastings Reserve News

Mark Stromberg, Ph.D. - Reserve Manager
October, 1988

October was hot during the first weeks, with highs in the 90's. Later weeks were cooler and continued dry. The last week in October brought in some foggy days. Halloween brought in the first serious looking rain clouds we had seen in a long while, over the mountains, but no rain fell that muggy afternoon. During the last week in October, the Arnold Spring actually filled the water storage tank, an event last seen in April. Several wet places along Robinson Creek are now puddles again with minor trickles. Acorns have started to drop and the poison oak dappled the hills with a bit of color. Mule deer are gathered in small groups of females with attentive bucks. Feral pigs are not much in evidence.

Work on our weather station continued. Mark Reynolds reviewed our data and produced some interesting figures (attached) which show the detail of information recorded. Even the most subtle daily patterns can be seen in the relative humidity trace which shows the sea breezes bringing moisture inland in the late afternoon. We are sampling the sensors every five minutes and recording the average, maximum and minimum every hour. Mark adjusted another set of records to sample every five minutes, but to record daily max, min, etc. for 6 parameters. During this shakedown period we have worked out, with Omnidata's help, a procedure to load the data from the weather station to our IBM-AT computer. Several very vexing problems have been solved and I appreciate Mark Reynold's skill in handling them.

Suzanne Schettler tackled several projects in addition to the usual maintenance routine. Suzanne planned out a wiring system for the new maintenance shop and we spent a couple of days getting that operational. Completing a project that started over a year ago, Suzanne now has the plumbing for the Maintenance staff house's propane system in place. Once the propane company delivers the tank, it should be a great improvement in Suzanne's house- just in time for the cold season. Suzanne, Jim Griffin, Mark Reynold's and I, with a hydraulic log splitter on loan from the neighbors for a day, split up most of the large pine rounds below the schoolhouse. The pile of split wood, perhaps 2 cords, is now available for the community of users. Suzanne has provided a generous supply of wood to our lone bunkhouse resident - Jane Kidd, and helped identify a wiring problem the phone company later solved with the new phone in the bunkhouse. Suzanne did the annual clean up of the schoolhouse in preparation for the mammalogy class visit. Suzanne framed and hung a back door in the Maintenance shop.

In anticipation of the mammalogy class visit, Mark Reynolds and I removed a defunct electric drier and questionable washing machine which had been stored in the schoolhouse. Mark straightened up the lab and library and annex, finding as many cleared tables as possible. On other business, I took the maintenance truck in for some relatively major maintenance/repair of the steering linkage system. I picked up a load of 2 twin beds for the Robinson house from a donor in Carmel Valley. With Alice Landauer's invaluable assistance, I was able to get to Berkeley and load up 16 sturdy steel chairs which are in great demand here. At the same time, I loaded a beautiful wood table and set of 4 chairs donated by Dr. Frank Pitelka for the Robinson house kitchen. Dr. Pitelka also donated 2 cabinets for use at Hastings, and I was able to add them to the load. At the Hallisey house, I installed a ceiling fan and we finished hanging curtains on the large plate glass windows- these in anticipation of cooler weather.

On Friday, the 28th, Dr. Jim Patton with his wife Carol, Dr. Bill Liddicker and 23 other students, teaching assistants and colleagues arrived for the annual mammalogy class field visit. Tents popped up in a variety of places and every available bed, chair and table were put to use. I was able to join the class for an attempt to catch or hear some bats along Robinson creek, but even by 7pm, the air temperature had fallen to the low 40's and bat activity was virtually nil. The class stayed through until Sunday, the 30th.

Dave Ribble and Mark Stanback have been in the Hasting Cabin and Red House respectively, for most of the month and their projects continue to make progress.

Aerial photos of the reservation have been ordered. We are sharing the costs of photography with Oak Ridge Ranch and Carmel Valley Ranch. Both Oak Ridge and Hastings will have false color IR negatives (9x9") to be printed on 24x24" black and white paper, at a scale of 1"=1000'. We will have contact prints (color) of the negatives. This will update our set of photos (all at least 10 years old) and add to the long term ecological data base here, as individual trees and a variety of vegetation patterns will be evident.

Fanny Arnold visited on October 17 to review progress on the Robinson house. In addition to our commitment to assist in furnishing the Robinson house, we provided paint for the interior and exterior of the house. Again with Alice Landauer's assistance, I was able to pick up an order of paint to add to my load of furniture from Berkeley. Going through University purchasing meant a better price on the paint than could be had locally.

Dr. Dan Botkin visited here on the 17th as well. Dr. Botkin is one of the 3 finalists for the Director position of NRS. Dr. Botkin was able to look over the reserve and visit briefly with one of the student, Mark Reynolds.

Tom Rowland, a land appraiser for Mrs. Arnold, visited here on the 27th. He and I toured the Robinson annex and I provided him with maps and peripheral information on the various users of Martin Road.

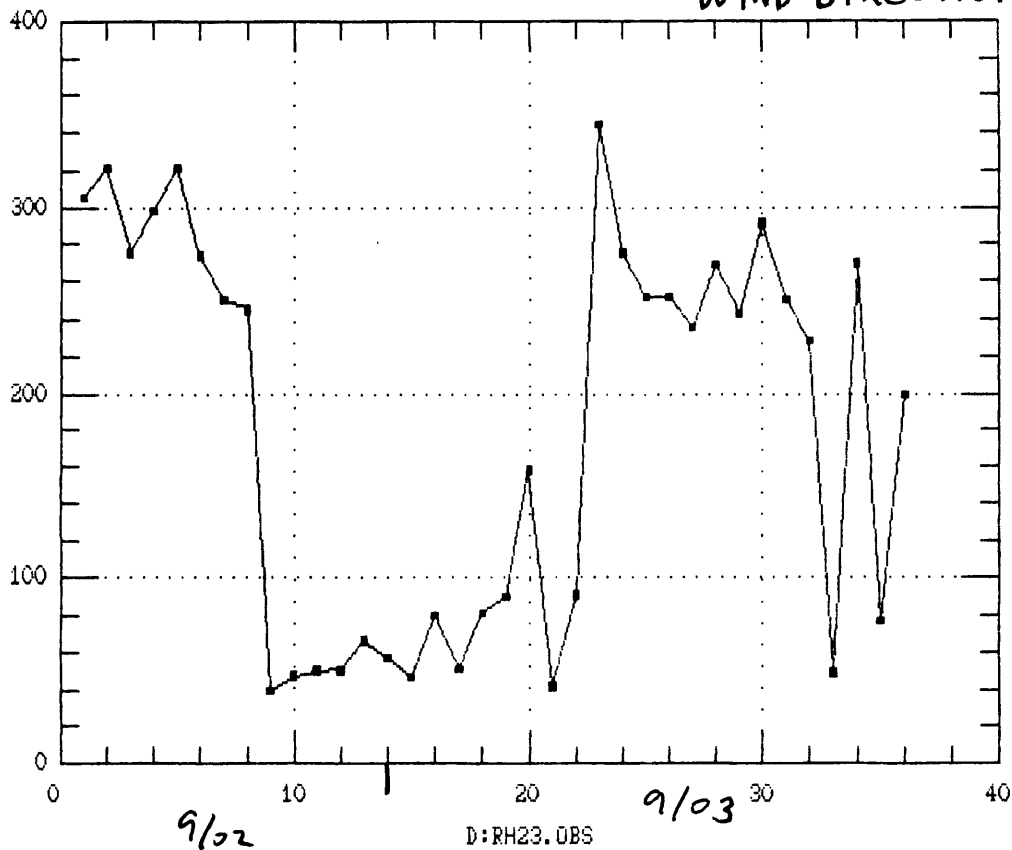
Bids for the laboratory were again solicited. After having redrawn the lab, and consulting both the architect and local contractors for suggestions to reduce the cost, we had a site tour on the 25th. One contractor - from one of the larger regional construction companies based in Salinas, showed up and later provided the only bid. All of the local contractors who did not bid responded that the contracting/bidding paperwork from the University was too much bother. The one bid received was \$3,400 over the \$50,000 limit made by DOFM and Purchasing for this, their most streamlined bidding procedure. Stay tuned for more.

Dr. Koenig was awarded a grant of \$4,645 from the Genetic Resources Conservation Program, UC Davis, to purchase an ultra-cold freezer to store genetic material from tissues taken from Hastings studies. We hope to have space available in the new laboratory in late spring, 1989 for this freezer.

Dr. Joe T. Marshall, who worked at Hastings 20 years ago, is retiring from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Smithsonian) where he has been an active field ornithologist. Dr. Marshall joined Mark Reynolds and I during a bird census on School Hill on the 14th. Dr. Marshall spent 2 days investigating the feasibility of a study of winter territorial behavior in Hermit Thrushes and several sparrows.

Multiple X-Y Plot

WIND DIRECTION (Vector)



Wind Speed

Multiple X-Y Plot

■ D:RH23.WINDAVG
⊙ D:RH23.WINDMAX

m/s

