

Hastings Natural History Reservation



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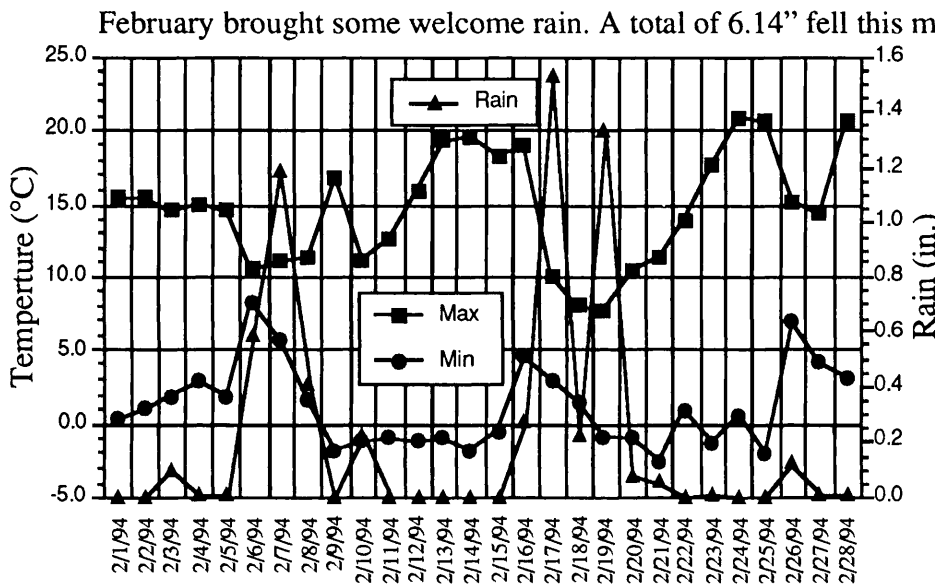
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Research Ecologist (Ret.) ... James R. Griffin Research Associate... Janis Dickinson
Reserve Steward... Mark Johnson

A Biological Research Station of the
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology
University of California, Berkeley
and a part of the University of California's
Natural Reserve System



Weather Report

February, 1994



hot days at the end of the month. Blomquist pond didn't fill until mid-month, and the mass arrival of California Tiger Salamanders never really occurred. No egg masses of toads, frogs or salamanders are present yet.

Research and Education

Walt Koenig and Janis Dickinson continued to work on research papers and prepare for the rapidly approaching arrival of field assistant and the 1994 field season for Acorn Woodpeckers and Western bluebirds. Walt gave a seminar at the University of Montana (Missoula) on the 11th.

Jen Toby and Wendy Cruso worked through the 25th as our faithful field assistants, gathering data on the amphibians at Blomquist Pond, and making observations on Acorn woodpeckers. We did have 40 adult salamanders arriving on the 7th, but nothing like the 105 on a single day last year. Leaving the Bunk House on the 25th, Jen and Wendy drove back to the east coast and new jobs.

Brian Heneks installed a large sign at Rana Creek Ranch at the cooperative native grass demonstration plot. Brian, Paul Kephart and I planted three test acres in 4 species of native grasses for forage, at high, medium and low energy input levels. At the low level, Brian ran a herd of 73 cattle on the plot for one hour to trample in the seeds which had been broadcast. At the higher input levels, seeds were drilled in. Brian then drilled another 15 acres for a test of permanent irrigated pasture. About 8 ac. was a mix of Orchard grass (non-native, but common pasture plant), *Stipa (Nasella) pulchra*, *Elymus glaucus*, and *Bromus carinatus* (natives) and two clovers (non-native, but well known pasture plants). The other half of the planting was strictly native *Bromus carinatus*. A single badger is digging up gophers all over the plantings. Paul Kephart and I met with Gene Fryberger and Richard Lopez of the Pebble Beach Company. On a quick tour, Paul found a couple of relict coastal terrace grasslands adjacent to the golf courses. With our guidance, they are starting a program to use their native grasses (and sedges) in revegetation and mitigation projects at Pebble Beach, and maybe some native grass in the golf operation. Although they have planted extensive areas with native herbs, the native grass

component was lacking. They were eager to hear about our research and we are confident that under the supervision of Lopez, Pebble Beach will be including their native grasses.

Keith White- Hastings plant ecologist in the mid-1960's- visited Hastings on the 7th. Jason Hamilton, (UCSB-Botany) came up for the day. We toured a number of White's grassland sites on North Field and were able to straighten out some confusion about old plot numbers. *Stipa cernua* continues to expand into North Field, while *Stipa pulchra* is slow to expand. Where either grass has expanded, it is obviously following drainages; seed has been washed down from populations higher up; seedlings are common in the bottoms of the small drainages. Keith White and his wife spent the subsequent two weeks resampling stands of Monterey Pine, providing a 30 year glimpse into the demography of these trees for an April symposium to be organized by CNPS and Cal Fish and Game.

Linda Newstrom, UCB-Entomology, checked the trap line for Africanized bees, and brought a couple of undergraduate students along on the 27th. Joe Haydock, a new postdoctoral associate with Walter, moved some things into the Red House, but continues to work mostly at MVZ. Joe was here to visit with Terry Burke, Univ. of Leicester, who spent two days with Walter discussing DNA fingerprinting of Acorn Woodpeckers. Ginger Bolen moved into Fanny's Cabin on the 18th to continue her studies of Yellow-billed magpies. Ginger, and field assistant Peter Badra are trapping near Corral Viejo on Oak Ridge Ranch.

Terry Chapin (UCB, Integ. Biol.) brought a plant ecology class to the Robertson House on the 12th and I gave them a talk on native grasses. Rick Grosberg (UCD-Zoology) brought a marine biology class (of 35!!) to the Robertson House on the 5th, and it all worked out. They had been going to Bodega for years, but found the Carmel Beach/Hastings arrangement to be better. On Feb. 1, members of the Cal Alumni toured in preparation for an April 23 fundraising event here. Dan Dawson (Director, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab) and his family visited for three days in mid-February.

I prepared a proposal to the National Science Foundation requesting two radio receivers which will allow us to take one in the field and locate points to within about 1-3 meters. With matching contributions from Boekenooogen Ranches and the Oak Ridge Ranch, we might qualify for a grant to cover 80% of the cost of this equipment. Thanks to our neighbors for your pledges. We should hear in about 6 months.

People, Places and Habitations

With funds from NRS and the help of the folks in the MVZ office (Betty and Anne), we hired two very good carpenters (Dave Smith and Barry Powell). Barry and Dave, who along with Mark Johnson, immediately tackled the difficult task of sealing up the School House. Working this month on the outside of the building, they sealed up many major holes, removed a lot of overgrown brush and one tree, and fixed the main chimney. Dave, Barry and Mark also worked on the Stucco House, Hastings Cabin, Bunk House, and the workshop. We are pleased to have them working with us. Our efforts to reduce the number of mice living in the houses will continue for several more months. Of course, Mark continued to keep up with the myriad of other ongoing maintenance jobs.

Fanny Arnold, her daughter Emily, and sons Jesse and Henry paid a visit on the 27th. We selected some great historical photos of the Hastings family for the PG Museum Exhibit in April. We (Jim, Joan Giffin, Koenig and Dickinson, myself) had lunch in the newly refurbished Hastings Cabin. It was a wonderful visit. Fanny got to see the new gate, water system, Hastings cabin and a quick tour of the School House and Robertson House.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Sunday, April 23, 1994. Please note these on your calendars..

***Cal Berkeley Alumni, Spring Scholarship Fundraiser** 10am-2pm: Hastings Tours, Catered Lunch. Limited Number of Participants. RSVP. Contact Pat Hitzl, 624-4473 or local Monterey Peninsula Cal Alum Clubs.

*** Hastings Reserve; Fifty Five Years of UC-Berkeley in Carmel Valley.** Official Opening. 3-5 pm. Lectures, Displays, Meet the Researchers. Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, Main and Forest Street, Pacific Grove.