



# THE VALLEY FEVER

December 2017



## Call for Champions for Wildlife Award Nominees

If you know of a person or entity that you feel has contributed greatly to our Chapter or the scientific community within the Chapter area, please nominate them to be recognized with an official award presented on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter. This is the second year of this newly-created award, and with your help, we can keep up the momentum of honoring those among us that have shown dedication to our Chapter and/or the wildlife profession. January 5<sup>th</sup> is the nomination deadline.

Please contact Kris Robison with inquiries or to submit your nomination: [kristofer.robison@gmail.com](mailto:kristofer.robison@gmail.com)

## Seeking Candidates for President-Elect

Have you ever thought about getting more involved in the San Joaquin Valley Chapter? Have you attended one of our events and thought, “This was great, but what we really need next time is....?” Have you ever wanted to help make our events better and make a difference in helping provide local professional development opportunities that enrich our scientific community? Well, now is your chance!

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter is asking for you to consider becoming a member of the Executive Board. We’re looking for candidates for President-elect. It’s a three year commitment. The first year involves serving as President-elect where you’ll be able to learn the ropes, vote on official business, and get your feet wet to the extent you want or can. The second year serves as President, where you’ll have the opportunity to shape the events and scientific contributions in our SJV community to the extent that you want or can. The third year is spent as Past-president, where you retain your executive voting rights, again only remaining involved at your own capacity.

This is a personally rewarding professional development opportunity that can greatly contribute to your resume and the resumes of others through workshops,

presentations, field trips, and other events that bring wildlife professionals together.

Please consider this opportunity and email our current Past-president, Kris Robison, to learn more: [kristofer.robison@gmail.com](mailto:kristofer.robison@gmail.com). If we get multiple potential candidates, an election will be held so members can cast their votes. \*\*Please feel free to nominate yourself!\*\* January 5<sup>th</sup> is the nomination deadline.

## Spring 2018 Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard Workshop

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter of The Wildlife Society plans to host a Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard Workshop in the spring of 2018. The workshop will include both a lecture and field day. The lecture day will feature presentations from species experts and practitioners covering topics ranging from general ecology, regulations, and survey protocol. The field day will be guided by experienced practitioners and will provide participants with an opportunity to practice survey protocol techniques. More information regarding the workshop will be distributed to members soon.

# November 2017 Advanced Animal Tracking Workshop Summary

Ryan P. Lopez, Treasurer; [rlopez@natural-resources-group.com](mailto:rlopez@natural-resources-group.com)

It was a cool fall day within a braided section of the north fork of the Tule River, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada range, just outside of Springville, CA. Fifteen biologists, naturalists, and all around nature-lovers huddled together staring intently at multiple small depressions in the ground. A few had noses in a reference book, but most were on hands and knees, attempting to go back in time and enter the mind of a creature that traversed that very spot less than 24 hours prior.

It was the second Animal Tracking Workshop put on by the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and like the first, it did not disappoint. From the inspired instruction, to the event location at River Ridge Ranch, to the enthusiastic and engaged attendees, the workshop was a success.

The workshop focused on advanced tracking methods including track interpretation and behavioral inference. Participants had varied backgrounds in tracking, and to bridge that experience gap, a thorough tracking review was provided by Jim Lowery and Mary Brooks on Friday (Nov. 10). The Saturday-Sunday portion of the workshop included practical field application of tracking skills. Participants were assigned fresh tracks, and then worked cooperatively to determine species, gait pattern, and behavior. Pressure changes and variation in track shape indicate behavior including head movements, speed, and activity. Clues were discerned not only from the tracks, but also from the animals' relationship to the immediate environment. The tracking was challenging, even for the more experienced trackers in the group, but the thrill of discovery and successful conclusion was very rewarding. Exercises took place in the field with fresh tracks on a variety of substrates, and following sunset, indoors, in a large pavilion where photographed tracks were reviewed. The workshop concluded with Jim reading some of his personal writings on tracking and philosophy around a camp fire. "An animal is an instrument played by its landscape," he said.



Students in the field at the second Animal Tracking Workshop, taught by Jim Lowery and Mary Brooks, November 2017. Photo by Ryan Lopez.

Back to those "trackers" huddled together along the braided channel of the north fork Tule River. Using their new skills, thoughtful concentration, and enthusiastic teamwork, they read the story of two coyotes going about their daily lives. The larger one in the lead, quietly walking, lowered its head to smell the earth twice, then lazily looked to the left towards the creek. Perhaps it heard a rustling along the bank. About four paces later, this coyote turned its head sharply to the right, probably to look behind it and call for the second, smaller coyote, before picking up the pace and moving forward into the leafy under-story. The second coyote, moving much faster than the first, did not look down, did not take a moment to appreciate the flowing water, but rushed forward following those first tracks in single minded pursuit.

Tracking is a valuable tool in the ecologists' toolkit that can be used effectively to better understand the environment and all those who inhabit it. The San Joaquin Valley Chapter is honored to be able to organize events like this for our members. A special thank you to Kris Robison of Colibri Ecological for spearheading the workshop; the workshop instructors, Jim Lowery and Mary Brooks; as well as our hosts at River Ridge Ranch, Gary Adest and Barbara Brydolf. Here's to great tracking!



Highlights of the Animal Tracking Workshop.  
Photos by Ryan Lopez.

## Please Consider making a Donation to CALM via GoFundMe

**Skip Moss, Conservation;** [smoss@natural-resources-group.com](mailto:smoss@natural-resources-group.com)

The San Joaquin kit fox is one of the San Joaquin Valley's most iconic native species. The Bakersfield, California population of San Joaquin kit foxes has been a point of hope for the long-term survival of the species, but a new threat has emerged which now puts these urban foxes in jeopardy. Sarcoptic mange, a common skin condition in dogs and coyotes, has recently spread through the Bakersfield kit fox population and is beginning to kill foxes.

In kit foxes, sarcoptic mange causes hair loss, open wounds from scratching, crusting, swollen eyes, and weight loss. It is 100% fatal if left untreated. This is the first known outbreak of sarcoptic mange in any population of kit foxes and has the potential to devastate this once thriving population.

The California Living Museum (CALM) and the Endangered Species Recovery Program have answered the call to help save the San Joaquin kit fox. Infected foxes are captured and delivered to CALM, where a dedicated team of volunteers leaps into action, nursing the infected foxes back to health.

This work takes a massive amount of resources, from blankets and gauze, to life-saving medicine. CALM is currently limited in their ability to provide care for foxes, because of dwindling supplies, and a lack of kennels to house sick and injured foxes.

Donations to CALM via this GoFundMe page will immediately go to providing life-saving care to San Joaquin kit foxes infected with sarcoptic mange. Your donations will help fund the construction of a new outdoor kennel to house recovering foxes. These outdoor kennels are critical for giving foxes time outdoors to acclimate after being hospitalized for weeks and room to move around during their recovery. Any funding raised above our \$15,000 goal will go to purchasing the vital supplies necessary for helping these incredible foxes.

This effort is being conducted by the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The San Joaquin Valley Chapter is made up of wildlife biologists, nature enthusiasts, hunters and lovers of the outdoors.



Screen shot of the Go Fund Me page. Visit the link below to make a donation. <https://www.gofundme.com/savethekitfox>

## Riparian Restoration Project Volunteer Opportunity

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Jenna Stanek, Southern Sierra Research Station, [jestanek.ssrs@gmail.com](mailto:jestanek.ssrs@gmail.com)

The Southern Sierra Research Station has teamed up with the Audubon Kern River Preserve and California Department of Fish and Wildlife on a riparian restoration project along the South Fork Kern River to plant an agricultural field and also enhance some mature riparian forest. In 2018, we will continue to plant new trees and would appreciate volunteers from mid-January to March. If you are interested in spending time in the beautiful Kern River Valley planting trees with us please contact Jenna Stanek at [jestanek.ssrs@gmail.com](mailto:jestanek.ssrs@gmail.com) or 760-378-3345.

The Southern Sierra Research Station is a non-profit organization located in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada. Through basic and applied research, we aim to understand the biological processes that control population sizes and species diversity. In collaboration with government, academic, and conservation organizations, we strive to increase our scientific knowledge of the species we research, so that we may better inform environmental policy and encourage public appreciation within the region.

[www.southernsierraresearch.org](http://www.southernsierraresearch.org)

## Western Wildlife Journal Update

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Howard O. Clark, Jr., CWB®, Website Coordinator and Newsletter Editor; [howard.clark.jr@gmail.com](mailto:howard.clark.jr@gmail.com)

The *Western Wildlife* journal, ISSN 2475-4250, has just wrapped up another year. Volume 4 has now been posted on the web site. The volume contains eight papers and notes, as well as Section information. Download papers by following this link:

<http://hwjournal.org>

We are proud to announce that the journal now has its very own logo! Tom Davis designed the logo and we are grateful for his time and talent in creating a symbol of our dedication to wildlife research and conservation.

Please consider submitting your manuscripts to *Western Wildlife*; an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research, notes, reviews, perspectives, and correspondence on the ecology, natural history, management, and conservation biology of animals. Submit materials to David Germano at [dgermano@csu.edu](mailto:dgermano@csu.edu). Papers will be peer-reviewed and then published on-line once accepted.



New *Western Wildlife* logo designed by Tom Davis.



Munz's tidy-tips (*Layia munzii*), Carrizo Plain National Monument, San Luis Obispo Co., CA. Photo by Howard Clark.

# Read the Most Talked About Papers From JWM and WSB

Nancy Sasavage, TWS Director of Publications and Communications

Are you taking advantage of your free access to TWS journals?

As a member of The Wildlife Society, you can now easily read the full text of every paper — including the most talked about papers — from the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. This new benefit has been extremely popular since it was launched in January 2017. And it's leading to increased visibility for papers published in TWS Journals.

The list of papers (right) includes those with the highest Altmetric scores, which translates to how much attention the paper is getting. The scores are composed of metrics and qualitative data that are complementary to traditional, citation-based metrics. They can include — but are not limited to — mainstream media coverage, discussions on research blogs and mentions on social networks such as Twitter. Many journals today use the Altmetric scoring system because it indicates the amount of attention a paper has received. Authors also find the scores useful to follow engagement in their publications.

To read TWS journals, you must first log into the TWS member portal. Choose the “Publications” tab at the top of the page to go to the Wiley Online Library where the journals are archived.

**WILEY**

**Read the most talked about papers from The Wildlife Society publications**

Altmetrics are metrics and qualitative data that are complementary to traditional, citation-based metrics. They can include (but are not limited to) discussions on research blogs, mainstream media coverage, and mentions on social networks such as Twitter. The **Altmetric Attention Score** for a research output indicates the amount of attention it has received.

**Most Talked About Research**

436	<b>Polar bear attacks on humans: Implications of a changing climate</b> <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i>	134	<b>The true cost of partial fencing: Evaluating strategies to reduce reptile road mortality</b> <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i>
117	<b>How publishing in open access journals threatens science and what we can do about it</b> <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i>	89	<b>Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse</b> <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i>
88	<b>Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital</b> <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i>	87	<b>Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control</b> <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i>
78	<b>Evaluating population expansion of black bears using spatial capture-recapture</b> <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i>	73	<b>Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions</b> <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i>
68	<b>Population-level effects of lead fishing tackle on common loons</b> <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i>	68	<b>Persistence of greater sage-grouse in agricultural landscapes</b> <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i>

\*Altmetric score based on current standings as of November 9th 2017

## Did you know?

The Wildlife Society endorses professional development and career advancement at various stages through its professional certification programs. The Certified Wildlife Biologist® and Associate Wildlife Biologist® designations validate a professional's completion of rigorous academic standards, educational background and demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife. Learn more about The Wildlife Society's professional certification programs at:

<http://wildlife.org/certification-programs>



Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*). Photo © Graham Biddy.

## Chapter Executive Board and Committee Chairs

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Kacy O'Malley.....	President.....	kacyomalley@chevron.com
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Various versions of our new 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo—design by Robin Phanco.

## The Goals of the Society and the San Joaquin Valley Chapter

- Develop and maintain professional standards for wildlife research and management.
- Enhance knowledge and technical capabilities of wildlife managers.
- Advance professional stewardship of wildlife resources and their habitats.
- Advocate the use of sound biological information for wildlife policy decisions.
- Increase public awareness and appreciation of the wildlife profession.

