



THE VALLEY FEVER

March 2019



Welcome President-Elect Tory Westall

Tory Westall was born and raised in Bakersfield, CA. She earned her B.S. in Biology in 2008 and her M.S. in Biology in 2015 from California State University, Bakersfield. Her thesis research was on parental care in San Joaquin kit foxes. She worked for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a few years and has worked for the Endangered Species Recovery Program for the last nine years. Tory has been an active member in the San Joaquin Valley Chapter for 10 years. She consistently assists with the Natural Communities Conference as well as presenting research every year.

Natural Communities Conference—Announcement and Registration (form: <https://bit.ly/2tSrUn1>)

2019 Natural Communities Conference Thursday, March 28, 2019 Announcement, Registration and Call for Presentations

This one-day conference is an opportunity for biologists conducting research, management, regulation, and conservation activities for natural communities and biota in the San Joaquin Valley Chapter area to exchange information, ideas, results, and progress of their work. The conference is set in a casual and informal environment.

Directions: Hodel's Restaurant is located on the north side of Bakersfield, just west of Hwy. 99. The main exit is Olive Dr. Hodel's is on Knudsen Dr. north of Olive Dr. Liberty Hall meeting room is on the north side of the parking lot, opposite the main entrance to the restaurant.

Please register by end of day, March 21 for an accurate attendance estimate for the catering order. Registration form here: <https://bit.ly/2tSrUn1>

Please notify Linda Connolly by March 21 if registered but can no longer attend.

sanjoaquinvalleytws@hotmail.com

If needed, please make requests by early March for accessibility accommodations.

Presentations

- Talks will be approved in advance by event coordinators.
- Presentations should be on Power Point and will be projected onto two screens.
- Abstracts due March 7, 2019 but, please submit ASAP.
- Presentations are limited to 20 minutes, includes question/answer time.
- 5-Minute "Quick-Talks" - back by popular demand! The "quick-talk" provides a venue to briefly suggest ideas, issues, and/or provide updates pertinent to our Chapter area.
- Posters may also be accepted. Please provide your own easel or display board.
- E-mail abstracts to Larry Saslaw larry7719@sbcglobal.net Subject: "NCC Abstract"

Silent Auction

The Chapter will again be hosting a silent auction to benefit conservation efforts for special-status species of the San Joaquin Valley. If interested in donating an item, please contact Erica Kelly at eckelly07@gmail.com Subject: "NCC Auction"

San Joaquin Valley Chapter Hosts California Condor Stakeholders Field Trip

Larry Saslaw, Past President; larry7719@sbcglobal.net

On November 7, 2018 the Chapter hosted a field trip to the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge for stakeholders in the San Joaquin Valley portion of the California Condor range to see these magnificent birds “up-close and personal”. The objective of this trip to the Refuge was to assemble the significant land owners, wildlife agencies, land management agencies, Community Services Districts, and local government representatives to see the Condors during the capture, fitting of telemetry, health checks, and releases to foster an understanding of the science and management of these endangered animals. US Fish and Wildlife Service California Condor Recovery Program Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Joseph Brandt, and his team in the Program explained the monitoring history and activities for the birds, distributions and flight movements, nesting and foraging habitat use, threats to recovery, and human-Condor conflicts. During the visit, the Recovery Program captured and processed several birds and some of our participants were given the opportunity to hold the rear end of the birds while the radios were being fitted and blood drawn (with the associated experience of Condor-soiled laps). We hosted representatives

from Tejon Conservancy, Wind Wolves Preserve, Los Padres and Sequoia National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, Golden Valley, Bear Valley Springs, and Stallion Springs Community Services Districts, Region 4 CDFW staff, Sacramento USFWS staff, and Kern County Supervisor Zack Scrivner. Along with the USFWS staff discussions, biologists from the Wildlife Studies Institute conducted a live-fire demonstration of lead and non-lead bullet fragmentation in barrels of water. Emphasis was placed on the role of lead fragmentation in game gut piles and wildlife carcasses and that the ingestion of lead is the primary threat to California Condor health, populations and recovery. It was pointed out that the ballistic characteristics of newly produced non-lead bullets often exceed that of traditional lead bullets.

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter hosted this field trip for wildlife professionals to share a wildlife experience with stakeholders and provide information about the science and management employed to conserve wildlife resources. We hope this is the first in a series of stakeholder field trips to promote an understanding of the wildlife profession in wildlife conservation issues.



California Condors perched in the capture pen prior to processing at the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge.



Mitchell Coleman, Tejon Conservancy, experiences the rear end of a California Condor as blood is drawn for health analysis.



California Condor #28 takes flight after new telemetry gear and a heal assessment.



Staff from the Wildlife Studies Institute conducts a live-fire demonstration of the differences of lead and non-lead bullet fragmentation.



Lead bullet fragments and a non-lead expanded bullet collected from the water barrels.



Stakeholders strike a pose with a California Condor and Joseph Brandt, California Condor Recovery Program Supervisory Wildlife Biologist.

Southern Sierra Research Station MAPS Banding Event

Bruce H. Garlinger, Desert Mountain Sheep Specialist, EREMICO Biological Services, LLC, Weldon, CA; (760)-378-4278 Home; (760)-793-2198 Mobile

Assessment of Habitat Restoration for Riparian Songbirds using Standardized MAPS Banding Data

In 2016 the Southern Sierra Research Station (SSRS) created 24 acres of new riparian habitat and enhanced 49 acres of existing mature riparian Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow Flycatcher habitat on Audubon's Kern River Preserve. During 2017, SSRS established 3 MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival) stations in their enhancement sites and captured over 1300 adult and juvenile songbirds including several state recognized Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).

MAPS is a great way to evaluate indicators of restoration and conservation success because captured songbirds can be aged to juvenile or adult, and juvenile recruitment is correlated with species declines. MAPS stations also allow determining adult and juvenile within- and between- season survivorship via recaptures. With additional years of data, it will be possible to assess long-term changes in habitat quality using breeding productivity and survivorship rates for SGCN in SSRS's enhancements and species trends range-wide.

The Southern Sierra Research Station is conducting a MAPS banding event in July and August, 2019. Contact Bruce Garlinger for more information (760)-378-4278 Home Office; or (760)-793-2198 Mobile, or visit the Southern Sierra Research Station website: <http://www.southernsierraresearch.org>



Photos from SSRS website.

Outgoing Past-President Statement

Kacy Twist (O'Malley), Outgoing Past-President; kacyomalley@chevron.com

It has been a pleasure serving on the Chapter Board. I admit, I had no idea what I was doing or what I was in for when I started as President-Elect, but lucky for me, Kris Robison was the current President so I had a great mentor and an outstanding Board for support. This Chapter is a powerhouse of knowledge and experience and I am proud to be a member and honored to have served as the President.

The last three years have flown by and a lot has happened at the federal and state level during this time. As the wildlife and conservation space has become increasingly contentious and political, involvement in Chapters such as ours becomes more important and necessary. I believe that this Chapter is a safe place for all members to come together for the common goal of promoting science-based conservation and wildlife protections for the San Joaquin Valley, a place we hold dear to our hearts and call home. I want to commend this Chapter's efforts over the last three years in staying on top of emerging policies and regulations, educating members, and encouraging members to

have a voice and get involved in such issues. I especially want to give a shout out to Skip Moss for keeping everyone informed and doing such a great job as our Conservation Affairs representative.

I can't say enough about the time and dedication of the Chapter Board and members, nor can I say enough about how approachable our members are and the friendships that our Chapter members share. We all have "daytime jobs" but folks in this Chapter still find the time and dedication to host events and workshops, send out newsletters and emails, update websites and social media, schedule Chapter meetings, represent the Chapter, advocate for wildlife and conservation, mentor, and conduct all of the required Chapter tasks that keep us going. It is no surprise to me that the San Joaquin Chapter has received The Wildlife Society Chapter of the Year award! I want to thank the Board and all members of the Chapter and I look forward to the great things this Chapter does in the years to come!

A President's Year in Review—2018

Larry Saslaw, Past President; larry7719@sbcglobal.net

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter continued to build on the excellent programming that earned the Chapter the Western Section Chapter of the Year award at the 2018 Western Section meeting in Santa Rosa. The San Joaquin Valley Natural Communities Conference was another success in bringing over 120 wildlife and natural resources professionals together for 11 presentations and 6 "quick talks". Subjects included results from scientific studies on special status wildlife and fish, habitat restoration, wetland species richness, conservation efforts in the Carrizo Plain, and regulatory programs. We added a trail camera contest and silent auctions to raise money for San Joaquin kit fox rehabilitation. The Chapter sponsored another Blunt-nosed leopard lizard workshop in May that was attended by 40 attendees. For the first time, we hosted a stakeholders field trip at Bitter Creek Na-

tional Wildlife Refuge to promote an understanding of the studies and information supporting conservation and recovery activities for the California Condor. There were about 30 people from the public and private agencies and organizations who manage California Condor habitats in the San Joaquin Valley portion of their range. The Chapter again sponsored a student research grant and travel grants for students and officers to the Western Section meeting. Thanks to the Board, committee chairs and Chapter members who put in the extensive time and effort needed to carry on our tradition of promoting wildlife professionalism, conservation, communication, continuing education, and supporting student research and exposure to our profession. Please pitch in to continue our good work.

—Larry Saslaw, Past President

Coyote Friendly Non-lethal Co-existence with Livestock

David N. Lee, MSc, Davey Resource Group, Ventura, CA; david.lee@davey.com; 805-946-1700

It's two in the morning and a lamb sleeps nestled with her mother against the chill of the evening. Fifty feet away, a pair of alpha coyotes silently creep closer, lured by the scent of very fresh leg of lamb.

This scenario could end in radically different ways depending on precautions taken by livestock owners. On one hand, the lamb could be toast (or should I say roast?), setting off a chain reaction leading to the death of the alpha coyotes and an even greater influx of incoming canines ready to take their place.

Another scenario, which is increasingly taking hold in California's San Joaquin Valley and across the United States, leaves both the lamb and the coyotes unharmed. A suite of "predator friendly" wildlife management tools are now being implemented by ranchers, nonprofits, and agencies to solve the problem of livestock depredation once and for all.

"You have to start by looking at the big picture," says Rebecca Dmytryk of Humane Wildlife Control, based in Moss Landing, California. "You need to take a holistic approach to solve predation problems and consider all of the contributing factors – including the human element." It is essential to correctly identify the species of predator and the cause of mortality, she says (coyotes have been blamed for feral dog attacks).

"Understanding coyote biology and behavior is critical," says Dmytryk. Coyotes are dogs' "genius cousin" — they are relatively easy to work with, are smart, and submissive to humans. Compared to their larger eastern cousins, the western sub-species weigh only 20 to 35 pounds. They live in family units or "tribes" made up of four to six individuals; an alpha male, alpha female, and their offspring. Only the alpha pair mates and they stay together for life, or until one of them dies.

Using lethal means to control coyotes can actually increase their population, Dmytryk explains. When an alpha female is killed, all the other females in the group go



Coyote hunting rodents. Photo by Don Bebold.

Source: <https://bit.ly/1bRr1t9>

into heat, leading to a sharp increase in the local population (coyote litters average six young). It's the old game of whack-a-mole; er, whack a coyote I should say. There are better ways...

Coyote-proof fencing is one of the most effective ways to protect livestock, says Dmytryk, especially during nighttime hours. She recommends livestock owners install two-inch woven wire field fence at a height of five and half feet. The top should angle toward the outside. To prevent coyotes from digging underneath, the bottom of the fence should include an "L" shaped footer facing out (<https://bit.ly/2H2Boob>), keyed into the ground and extending 15-inches. Add two strands of solar electric fence along the top of the fence; coyotes are actually quite good climbers. Agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (<https://bit.ly/2gofEG9>) have programs that may help offset fencing costs.

Guard animals also work well to protect livestock from coyotes in some situations. Specially-bred Great Pyrenees guard dogs (<https://bit.ly/2Hfngaq>), llamas, and donkeys all bond well with sheep and can also be used to protect poultry and cattle.

Resources: For more information on non-lethal coyote management.

Project Coyote (<https://bit.ly/2SKkYIL>). Project Coyote promotes collaboration among stakeholders united by a goal of coexistence among people, livestock, and wildlife.

The Predator Friendly® Production Standards for North America (<https://bit.ly/2VJjxGl>) recognize wildlife stewardship on farm and ranch lands. Participants strive to learn about area ecology and wildlife and value the ability of their operations to serve as habitat for wildlife, including predators and other key species.

Humane Wildlife Control (<https://bit.ly/2UoQvLU>). Sound, ethical and lasting solutions to wildlife problems. Bay Area, California.

Davey Resource Group (<https://bit.ly/2VFFqL>). Nationwide ecological consulting firm providing Range Management, Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Vegetation Management and Ecological Restoration Services.



Sheep guard dogs. Photo courtesy www.CuyamaLamb.com.

Sherman Live Traps for Sale

Gary Adest, Owner/River Ridge Ranch, has Sherman live traps for sale — details:

27 boxes of twenty traps, 9 1/8" length, aluminum, folding = 540 traps. Asking \$12 apiece. Very good to excellent condition.

Also have 220, 12" length, aluminum, folding, original wooden boxes = 220. Asking \$15 apiece. Very good to excellent condition.

Lots of extra partial traps for repair parts.

All 760 traps for \$9,800



Contact:

Gary Adest, Owner/River Ridge Ranch
President/River Ridge Institute
POB 879 Springville, CA 93265-0879
(559) 539-0207 office; (559) 361-7453 mobile
info@river-ridge.net

Gary can deliver within 100 miles radius

This year the Western Section of The Wildlife Society held their annual conference at Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite National Park. Bruce Garlinger braved the snow-covered roads and took these incredible photos of Half Dome and vicinity.



The San Joaquin Valley Chapter is on Instagram



The San Joaquin Valley Chapter is on Instagram—our account name is @sanjoaquintws. Feel free to send photos of wildlife or fieldwork for posting to: Howard Clark (howard.clark.jr@gmail.com) or simply tag the IG account in the app.

Western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) on Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), northern San Diego Co.
Photo by Howard Clark.



Chapter Executive Board and Committee Chairs

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New Mailing Address: San Joaquin Valley Chapter, 373 E. Shaw Ave. # 230, Fresno, CA 93710

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter Area

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter covers a nine county area that includes areas of the San Joaquin Valley, Coastal Range, Sierra Nevada Range, and western Mojave Desert.



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.

