



## Shearwaters Affected by Fukushima Radiation?

WERC lead scientist **Josh Adams** was quoted in a December piece by Radio New Zealand about his upcoming research on sooty shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) migrating to that country, which may have accumulated radioactivity from their earlier feeding routes near the Japan-Fukushima nuclear disaster. Also known as “muttonbirds”, sooty shearwaters are also hunted and eaten by local New Zealanders, hence that government’s interest in human health safety risks.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2505653/muttonbirds-may-be-radioactive-after-migration-to-japan>

## NEW REPORTS

JJ Rytuba, **RL Hothem**, **BE Brussee**, DN Goldstein. **Impact of mine and natural sources of mercury on water sediment, and biota in Harley Gulch adjacent to the Aboott-Turkey Run Mine, Lake County, California.** U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report 2011–1265, 105 p.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1265/>

## NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Ackerman, JT**, **CT Overton**, **ML Casazza**, **JY Takekawa**, CA Eagles-Smith, **RA Keister**, **MP Herzog**. **Does mercury contamination reduce body condition of endangered California clapper rails?** *Environmental Pollution* 162: 439-448

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4609>

Bateman, HL, **SM Ostoja**. **Invasive woody plants affect the composition of native lizard and small mammal communities in riparian woodlands.** *Animal Conservation* doi:10.1111/j.1469-1795.2011.00517.x

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4618>

## EVENTS

**Jan 24, 2012 (Nir Etzion, Israel)** WERC lead scientist **Jon Keeley** gave a keynote speech on California fires at an Israeli conference on **Climate Change & Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Basin.**

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=89>

**Jan 25, 2012 (Tiburon, CA)** WERC climate change coordinator **Tom Suchanek** spoke on climate change projections around San Francisco as part of the **Romberg Tiburon Center Seminar Series.**

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=88>

**Jan 28, 2012 (Palmdale, CA)** WERC lead scientist **Kristin Berry** spoke at the 37th meeting of the **Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee** about her 2011 study splitting *Gopherus agassizii* into multiple species.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=91>

**Feb 01, 2012 (Sacramento, CA)** WERC researchers will present at **The Wildlife Society Western Section Conference** on topics such as sage-grouse ecology; alternative energy land use in Mojave Desert landscapes; American pikas; San Francisco salt pond restoration; and climate change effects on waterbirds.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=87>

**Feb 07, 2012 (Haleiwa, HI)** WERC lead scientist **Josh Adams** and colleagues will present talks and posters at the **39th Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group.** Topics include marine plastics ingestion; PACSEA marine mammal surveys; hyper-spectral radiometry of the Columbia River Plume; and Hawai’ian petrel foraging.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=90>

**Feb 17, 2012 (Las Vegas, NV)** WERC scientists will present findings at the **37th Desert Tortoise Council Symposium.**

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=92>

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## NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES (CONT'D)

**Mattsson, BJ**, MC Runge, JH Devries, GS Boomer, JM Eadie, DA Haukos, **JP Fleskes**, DN Koons, WE Thogmartin, RG Clark. **A modeling framework for integrated harvest and habitat management of North American waterfowl: case-study of northern pintail metapopulation dynamics.** *Ecological Modelling* 225(1): 146-158  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4608>

## NEW BOOKS

**Keeley, JE**, WJ Bond, RA Bradstock, JG Pausas, PW Rundel. **Fire in mediterranean ecosystems: ecology, evolution and management.** Cambridge University Press. 515 p.  
<http://www.cambridge.org/aus/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521824910>

## NEW BOOK CHAPTERS

Atkinson, A, **CJ Rochester**, **RN Fisher**. **Chapter 4: Data quality assurance and quality control** in McDiarmid, RW, et al. (editors) **Reptile biodiversity: standard methods for inventory and monitoring.** University of California Press. 424 p.  
<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520266711>

**Brown, C**, **RN Fisher**. **Chapter 4: Databases, metadata and integrated data management** in McDiarmid, RW, et al. (editors) **Reptile biodiversity: standard methods for inventory and monitoring.** University of California Press. 424 p.  
<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520266711>

**Fisher, RN**, M Mitrovich. **Chapter 3: Study design and sampling overview** in McDiarmid, RW, et al. (editors) **Reptile biodiversity: standard methods for inventory and monitoring.** University of California Press. 424 p.  
<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520266711>

**Fisher, RN**, **CJ Rochester**. **Chapter 9: Pitfall-trap surveys** in McDiarmid, RW, et al. (editors) **Reptile biodiversity: standard methods for inventory and monitoring.** University of California Press. 424 p.  
<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520266711>

**Fisher, RN**. **Chapter 9: Reptile sign and camera traps** in McDiarmid, RW, et al. (editors) **Reptile biodiversity: standard methods for inventory and monitoring.** University of California Press. 424 p.  
<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520266711>

Gardner, SL, **RN Fisher**, SJ Berry. **Chapter 6: Field parasitology techniques for reptile surveys** in McDiarmid, RW, et al. (editors) **Reptile biodiversity: standard methods for inventory and monitoring.** University of California Press. 424 p.  
<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520266711>

**Rochester, CJ**, **RN Fisher**. **Chapter 4: Handheld computers for digital data collection** in McDiarmid, RW, et al. (editors) **Reptile biodiversity: standard methods for inventory and monitoring.** University of California Press. 424 p.  
<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520266711>

## NEW FACTSHEETS

### WERC Outreach Factsheet: Research Support for BLM

A summary of WERC survey, modeling and research projects providing science to the mission of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Nevada and California.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4579>

## IN THE NEWS

**Taking the Measure of Climate Change at Corte Madera Marsh** (*Bay Nature* magazine) features quotes from WERC biologist **Karen Thorne** at the **San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station**, who spoke on sea level rise risks to the endangered California clapper rail.  
<http://baynature.org/articles/jan-mar-2012/>

**Once Near Extinction, Sea Otter Survival Rates Boosted by Extensive Research** (*Capital Public Radio - Sacramento*) profiles field research by WERC lead scientist **Tim Tinker**, Monterey Bay Aquarium, California Department of Fish and Game and other partners, who are comparing the health of Big Sur versus Monterey Bay sea otters to gauge environmental conditions.  
<http://www.capradio.org/168961>



## FROM THE BLOG

**PHOTOS: Baby Desert Geckos, Lizards and Tortoises** showcases close-ups of Great Basin whiptail, banded gecko, yellow-backed spiny lizard and other species, taken by WERC field technician Zachary Cava, who is working under **Ken Nussear** of the **Las Vegas Field Station** on Mojave Desert field surveys.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=117>

