



Zachary Cava/USGS

## Desert Tortoise Council Symposium, Feb 17-20

WERC scientist **Kristin Berry** will chair the **37th Symposium of the Desert Tortoise Council**. The Las Vegas meeting will feature 14 talks and posters from WERC scientists **Berry**, **Lesley DeFalco**, **Todd Esque**, **Ken Nussear** and others on topics including disease epidemiology; head-starting programs; translocation stress; habitat recovery from fires; population and species genetics; and dormancy. **Steven Schwarzbach**, WERC Center Director, also will speak on the state of USGS desert ecology research. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=92>  
<http://www.deserttortoise.org/symposium>

## NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

**van Wagtenonk, JW**. 2012. **Fires in wilderness in the national parks**. *Park Science* 28(3): 20-23.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4644>

**Stephenson, NL**, CI Millar. 2012. **Climate change: wilderness's greatest challenge**. *Park Science* 28(3): 34-38.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4645>

Schwilk, DW, **JE Keeley**. 2012. **A plant distribution shift: temperature, drought or past disturbance?** *PLoS ONE* 7(2): e31173. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0031173  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4646>

Newman, SH, NJ Hill, KA Spragens, D Janies, JO Voronkin DJ Prosser, BP Yan, FM Lei, N Batbayar, T Natsagdorj, CM Bishop, PJ Butler, M Wikelski, S Balachandran, T Mundkur, DC Douglas, **JY Takekawa**. 2012. **Eco-virological approach for assessing the role of wild birds in the spread of avian influenza H5N1 along the Central Asian Flyway**. *PLoS ONE* 7(2): e30636. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0030636  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4639>

## AWARDS

The **Central Valley Joint Venture** has recognized WERC statistician **Julie Yee** for her **Significant Contributions in Support of Waterfowl Research and Conservation Programs**. Yee has worked with scientists at USGS, USFWS, California Fish and Game and many other offices to design extensive analyses of waterfowl data. CVJV praised Yee for her "patient way of explaining complex statistical concepts that allows even the most statistically naive biologist to understand....if not the first time...well then the second...or third time...or however long it takes." <http://www.centralvalleyjointventure.org>

The **Wildlife Society's Western Section Meeting** awarded **first place in student oral presentations** to Cody Massing of **Yosemite Field Station** and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Massing investigated whether American pikas (*Ochotona princeps*) behaved differently at high versus low elevations, to gain insights on pika response to climate change in the Sierra Nevada. [http://wildlifeprofessional.org/western/tws\\_abstract\\_detail.php?abstractID=374](http://wildlifeprofessional.org/western/tws_abstract_detail.php?abstractID=374)

## EVENTS

**Feb 01, 2012 (Sacramento, CA)** WERC researchers presented at **The Wildlife Society Western Section Conference**. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=87>

**Feb 07, 2012 (Haleiwa, HI)** **Josh Adams** and colleagues contributed talks and posters at the **39th Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group**. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=90>

**Feb 17, 2012 (Las Vegas, NV)** **Kristin Berry** will chair the **37th Desert Tortoise Council Symposium**, featuring WERC presentations and posters. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=92>

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## NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES (CONT'D)

Keeley, JE, TJ Brennan. 2012. **Fire-driven invasion in a fire-adapted ecosystem.** *Oecologia* doi: 10.1007/s00442-012-2253-8  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4647>

Hénaux, V., MD Samuel, RJ Dusek, JP Fleskes, HS Ip. 2012. **Presence of avian influenza viruses in waterfowl and wetlands during summer 2010 in California.** *PLoS ONE* 7(2): e31471. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0031471  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4648>

Fleskes, JP, DA Skalos, MA Farinha. 2012. **Bird use of fields treated post-harvest with two types of flooding in Tulare Basin, California.** *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* 7(2): e31471. doi: 10.3996/092011-JFWM-056 (in press)  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4649>

Bevins, SN, S Carver, EE Boydston, LM Lyren, M Alldredge, KA Logan, SPD Riley, RN Fisher, TW Vickers, W Boyce, M Salman, MR Lappin, KR Crooks, S VandeWoude. 2012. **Three pathogens in sympatric populations of pumas, bobcats, and domestic cats: implications for infectious disease transmission.** *PLoS ONE* 7(2): e31403. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0031403  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4650>

Adams, J, C MacLeod, RM Suryan, KD Hyrenbach, JT Harvey. 2012. **Summer-time use of west coast US National Marine Sanctuaries by migrating sooty shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*).** *Biological Conservation* doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2011.12.032 (in press)  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4587>

## NEW WERC PUBLICATION BRIEFS

**Narrowheaded Gartersnake Species Complex Comprised of Three Divergent Lineages** summarizes a *Molecular Ecology* article by Dustin Wood, Amy Vandergast and Robert Fisher discerning the genetics of the *Thamnophis rufipunctatus* species complex.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4634>



Photo courtesy of Steve Miodinow

## Least Bell's Vireo Survey in Baja California

WERC scientist Barbara Kus is leading a field survey in Baja California in search of wintering least Bell's vireos (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Least Bell's vireos are known to winter in Baja California Sur, and these federally endangered songbirds are summer breeders in San Diego County. Yet previous Baja surveys have turned up few San Diego-banded birds. Kus will survey new locations and band wintering birds in Baja in hopes to shed light on this migration mystery. (See From the Blog item)

## EVENTS (CONT'D)

**March 22, 2012 (Menlo Park, CA)** Tom Suchanek will give this month's USGS Menlo Park Public Lecture and Webcast, discussing the impacts of climate change on California and San Francisco Bay.  
<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/>

## IN THE NEWS

**Protection Increased for Endangered Frog (*Riverside Press-Enterprise*)** quotes Adam Backlin about the USGS-led monitoring and reintroduction project for the southern California mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*).  
<http://shar.es/fgiz>

**Domestic Cats, Wild Bobcats and Pumas Living in Same Area Have Same Diseases (National Science Foundation)** highlights new findings by Erin Boydston, Lisa Lyren and Robert Fisher on wild and domestic felids in San Diego, Riverside, Orange and Ventura counties.  
[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=123011](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=123011)

**Microbe Masters (ScienceNordic.com)** discusses how viruses, bacteria and parasites may be drivers of human culture, and cites Kevin Lafferty's theories on how the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite might have influenced human behavior.  
<http://scienordic.com/microbe-masters>

## FROM THE BLOG

**Sea Otter, Hear Otter** describes Tim Tinker's study comparing sea otter health between Monterey and Big Sur, and reposts the YouTube video produced by Capital Public Radio.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=120>

**"It's Winter -- Do You Know Where Your Vireos Are?"** previews upcoming field research by Barbara Kus to study and band wintering least Bell's vireos (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) in the Cape Region of Baja California to understand the wintering habitat of this endangered songbird.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=121>