



USFWS

## Mercury Biomagnification in California Grebes

Ongoing research by [Josh Ackerman](#) and [Alex Hartman](#) is now featured in a new Project Page on the USGS Western Ecological Research Center website. Scientists from WERC, [FRESC](#) and Moss Landing Marine Laboratory are studying Clark's and western grebes (*Aechmophrous* spp.) — birds which dive underwater to hunt small fish — as a model of how mercury levels are magnified through lake ecosystems from prey to predator. By comparing mercury levels in grebes versus the small fish species they prey on, researchers hope to develop analytical tools that assist the needs of the California Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP).

### Monitoring Mercury's Risk to Wildlife in California Lakes

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/project.aspx?projectID=248>

### Related Blogpost: Dancing with the Clark's Grebe

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=175>

## NEW OPEN FILE REPORTS

[Hothem, RL](#), [JJ Rytuba](#), [BE Brussee](#), [DN Goldstein](#). 2013. **Assessment of mercury and methylmercury in water, sediment, and biota in Sulphur Creek in the vicinity of the Clyde Gold Mine and the Elgin Mercury Mine, Colusa County, California**: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2013-1056, 38 p.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4873>

## NEW BOOK CHAPTERS

[Fisher, R](#), [M Uili](#). **Chapter 2: Report on the reptiles of upland Savai'i**. In [Atherton, J](#), [B Jeffereies](#) (editors). 2012. *Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of Upland Savai'i, Samoa*. Apia, Samoa: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. 176p.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4872>

## EVENTS

### March 13-14, 2013 (San Diego, CA)

[Robert Fisher](#) hosted a workshop on wild-fire and wildlife strategic planning for the **San Diego Management and Monitoring Program**. Managers and fire responders heard talks from [Jon Keeley](#), [Barbara Kus](#) and other WERC scientists. For more information, contact [Carlton Rochester](#). [crochester@usgs.gov](mailto:crochester@usgs.gov)

### March 21, 2013 (Arcata, CA)

[Phil van Mantgem](#) presented the talk "Fires of the Future Along the North Coast" at this event for North Coast fire managers and resource managers, hosted by the California Fire Science Consortium. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=152>

### April 4, 2013 (Webinar/Davis, CA)

[Jon Keeley](#) will be a panel speaker at the **CAL FIRE Forest and Range Assessment Steering Committee's** upcoming discussion, "The Challenges of California Wildfire: Balancing Ecological Needs with Societal Demands"

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=155>

### May 15, 2013 (Davis, CA)

[Phil van Mantgem](#) is invited to speak at the **UC Davis Forest Biology Lecture Series** on the pattern and processes of tree mortality across the Western U.S.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=154>

### July 16, 2013 (Menlo Park, CA)

Save the date for the biennial **Salt Ponds Science Symposium**, where scientists from WERC, other USGS science centers and local agencies and researchers will present research findings and restoration updates for the interagency **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project**.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=156>

This Biweekly Update is produced as a service to USGS/WERC staff, colleagues, partners and the interested public. To add your email address to the mailing list or to report errors/suggestions, please contact [blandis@usgs.gov](mailto:blandis@usgs.gov). Download this issue at <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx>.

## NEW NATIONAL REPORT

### National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Released by the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Partnership (includes CEQ, NOAA, USFWS), this strategy will help guide the nation's efforts to respond to impacts of climate change on our natural resources and the people and economies that depend on them. WERC scientist **Karen Thorne** served as a Coastal Technical Team Member, providing expert input on the coastal ecosystem portions of the adaptation strategy and offering perspectives from West Coast scenarios.

<http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>

## IN THE NEWS

### Is It Predators or Habitat? (*Elko Daily Free Press*)

Nature columnist Larry Hyslop again discusses greater sage-grouse science shared by **Pete Coates** at a February stakeholder workshop, including the threat of raven predation and reduced habitat quality.

[http://elkodaily.com/lifestyles/nature-notes-is-it-predators-or-habitat/article\\_977d4788-8291-11e2-ac86-0019bb2963f4.html](http://elkodaily.com/lifestyles/nature-notes-is-it-predators-or-habitat/article_977d4788-8291-11e2-ac86-0019bb2963f4.html)



# Redwood Currents

Resource Management and Science Division

Volume 37 February 2013

## On the Wild Side



**The Marbled Murrelet**  
Fog Robins of the Ancient Redwood Forest

**The Marbled Murrelet Fog Robin of the Ancient Redwood Forest**

By Keith Bowen, Fish and Wildlife biologist

Each of the 36 issues of Redwood Currents over the past thirteen years has featured an article dedicated to telling the stories of the parks' notable fish and wildlife. Amazingly, this is the first time that On the Wild Side has spotlighted the animal that best exemplifies the intimate link between the huge coastal redwoods and the Pacific Ocean—the marbled murrelet. Much like the hard-to-know murrelets themselves, sometimes stories in this newsletter can remain untold for a long time. Recent studies have uncovered much about these extraordinary seabirds and a good proportion of that science has taken place right here in Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP).

In the early 1970s, the nesting site of the marbled murrelet along the Pacific Coast was one of the great remaining ornithological mysteries of North America. How could a bird that numbered in the thousands when seen out at sea not have an obvious nesting place?

*(Continued on page 11)*

RNSP

## WERC Science in Redwood Parks News

Located at the WERC Redwood Field Station, **Mary Ann Madej** and **Phil van Mantgem** often contribute to the national and state park newsletters. In the February issue of *Redwood Currents*, look for articles about their research projects.

[http://www.werc.usgs.gov/fileHandler.ashx?File=/outreachdocs/2013/2013-Vol37-Feb\\_RMN.pdf](http://www.werc.usgs.gov/fileHandler.ashx?File=/outreachdocs/2013/2013-Vol37-Feb_RMN.pdf)

**Page 11:** “Linking Physical Monitoring to Coho and Chinook Salmon Populations in the Redwood Creek Watershed” (Madej)

**Page 19:** “Mapping Ecosystem Carbon Stocks at RNSP” (van Mantgem)