



EVENTS

May 10, 2014 (Santa Ana, CA)
 WERC scientists participated in the **Party for the Planet** conservation outreach fair at the Santa Ana Zoo.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=185>

May 20, 2014 (Camp Pendleton, CA)
Jon Keeley will be at the Camp Pendleton Climate Informed Monitoring Workshop, speaking on fire ecology links with local vegetative and hydrologic trends.

June 9, 2014 (Sacramento, CA)
Rob Klinger will speak about endangered Amargosa voles as part of the **TWS and CDFW Conservation Lecture Series** for wildlife professionals and the public.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=182>

IN THE NEWS

Still Up a Tree (*The American Scholar*)
 Writer Josie Glausiusz mentions **Nate Stephenson's** recent tree growth study as she muses on the often-forgotten cultural resonance of very old trees.
<http://theamericanscholar.org/still-up-a-tree/>

Laysan Albatross Migration Path (Pacific Rim Conservation)
 Biologist Lindsay Young and **Josh Adams** shared a map of an amazing 6,400 mile roundtrip journey by a satellite-tracked Laysan albatross, foraging in the Aleutians then returning to feed its chick in Hawaii.
<http://on.fb.me/1jORb2a>



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. Download this issue at <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx>.

San Diego Wildfires Engage USGS Research

Wildfire hazards are once again on our mind as flames and smoke smothered San Diego County and northern Baja California last week. Up to nine fires threatened San Diego County at one point, mere days after Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited San Diego to speak on this very matter. USGS Western Ecological Research Center center director **Keith Miles** accompanied Secretary Jewell on her May 6th helicopter tour, briefing her on the **Southern California Wildfire Risk Scenario Project**.

WERC scientists continue to monitor the current situation in San Diego, which has been hit by both drought and fires. The fires forced the evacuation of **Barbara Kus'** field crews studying endangered least Bell's vireos—songbirds which may not see successful breeding this year. Fires also destroyed **Robert Fisher's** equipment studying fire impacts on endangered amphibians and mammals. Fisher and Kus' teams will be surveying fire-damaged habitats as soon as it is safe to do so.

On the community hazard side, **Jon Keeley** is visiting burned communities to assess fire risk trends. Keeley and colleagues will be publishing more fire risk analyses and findings learned from San Diego fires in 2003 and 2007 later this year.

Secretary Jewell's San Diego Visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lgqlQRJXo8#t=75>
<http://www.cbs8.com/story/25444183/interior-secretary-tours-areas-prone-to-wildfires>

WERC Researchers Commenting on San Diego Wildfires

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/May/14/environment-fire-air-quality-least-bells-vireo/>
<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/May/17/drought-danger-on-fiery-display/2/>
<http://space.io9.com/fires-in-southern-california-are-weird-demanding-new-t-1577489862>
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/05/140517-san-marcos-wildfires-california-weather/>

USGS Blogposts Explaining Southern California Fire Ecology

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=210>
http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/how-to-live-with-wildfires-in-southern-california/



Marine Ecologist James Estes Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Retired WERC principal investigator **Jim Estes** is among this year's class of newly elected members to the **National Academy of Sciences**, the prestigious fellowship established by Abraham Lincoln charged with advising the Nation on matters related to science and technology. Estes is best known for his longtime research on sea otters and nearshore ecology, including his seminal **1998 paper in *Science*** presenting the trophic cascade effects of killer whales and the keystone role of sea otters controlling sea urchins and other consumers in kelp ecosystems.

<http://news.ucsc.edu/2014/04/estes-lay-nas.html>

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Lafferty, KD, MT Tinker. 2014. **Sea otters are recolonizing southern California in fits and starts.** *Ecosphere* 5:art50–art51. doi: 10.1890/ES13-00394.1

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5017>

CT McAllister, DW Duszynski, RN Fisher, CC Austin. 2014. **Two new species of *Eimeria* (Apicomplexa, Eimeriidae) from tree skinks, *Prasinohaema* spp. (Sauria: Scincidae), from Papua New Guinea.** *Acta Parasitologica* 59(2): 263-266. doi: 10.2478/s11686-014-0239-x

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5021>

NEW CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Ivey, GL, BD Dugger, CP Herziger, ML Casazza, JP Fleskes. 2014. **Distribution, abundance, and timing of arrival and departure of Greater and Lesser Sandhill Cranes wintering in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta region of California.** Proceedings of the North American Crane Workshop 12:1-12.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5019>

Ivey, GL, BD Dugger, CP Herziger, ML Casazza, JP Fleskes. 2014. **Characteristics of sandhill crane roosts in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta of California.** Proceedings of the North American Crane Workshop 12:12-19.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5020>

NEW WEBPAGES

American Avocet (The Birds of North America Online): In December 2013, **Josh Ackerman, Alex Hartman, Mark Herzog, and John Takekawa** revised the entry for *Recurvirostra americana* in the esteemed reference published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the American Ornithologists' Union.

<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/275>

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)

Joshua Trees May Be Migrating North in Response to Climate Change (*High Country News*)

Reporter Cally Carswell interviews **Todd Esque** about research with Christopher Smith in Nevada in the Tikaboo Valley north of Las Vegas charting the response of Joshua trees to climate change.

<http://www.hcn.org/blogs/goat/joshua-trees-on-the-move>

California Kingsnakes in Gran Canaria

Robert Fisher's recent visit to assess the invasive status of California kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis getula californiae*) on the island of Gran Canaria received heavy coverage by media locally and globally.

http://www.eldiario.es/canariasahora/sociedad/expertos-reconocen-imposible-erradicar-California_0_257575117.html

<http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/mas-canarias/canarias-12-05-14/2560227/>

<http://www.abc.es/sociedad/20140506/rc-serpiente-albina-amenaza-gran-201405060224.html>

<http://on.fb.me/1lWXdlK>

<http://www.afp.fr/en/node/2361735>

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/may/05/invasion-albino-snakes-threatens-gran-canaria-wildlife>

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2014/05/10/invasive-species-animals-environment-science-kingsnakes-carp-brown-tree-snakes/>

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2014/05/01/37232/california-kingsnake-wreaks-havoc-in-the-canary-is/>

