



Edwin Bryan/Family of Peter Pyle



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Marvelous Mammalling / Immortal Sequoias

Savor a long, soulful read for Earth Day? USGS Western Ecological Research Center scientists have recently been featured in two magazine feature stories that evoke the spirit of natural history and reverent curiosity.

“**The Mammal Big Day**” by writer Peter Pyle follows the author’s adventures with [Gary Fellers](#) and [Patrick Kleeman](#) on an uncommon quest: sighting and recording as many mammal species as possible within 24 hours in Northern California. The idea takes a page from the birding world, but proves a fascinating challenge along the Point Reyes seashore. Follow along as Pyle and company track down beaver burrows and Farallones whales—and faded family photos—on a mad Marin County dash.
<https://baynature.org/articles/pioneering-mammal-big-day/>

“**They Seem to Be Immortal**” writes Zach St. George of the giant sequoia. The journalist hiked with [Nate Stephenson](#) through Sequoia National Park to reflect on the death and survival of these plants, from the long-fallen Mark Twain Tree to ones scarred by the current California drought. “The trees can live at least 3,200 years, so the oldest ones alive today are the offspring of those that first recolonized this area, he says. This grove, measured in this way, is almost new.”
<https://www.guernicamag.com/features/they-seem-to-be-immortal/>

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Alonso, RS, [LM Lyren](#), [EE Boydston](#), CD Haas, KR Crooks. 2014. **Evaluation of road expansion and connectivity mitigation for wildlife in southern California.** *The Southwestern Naturalist* 59(2):81-187. doi:10.1894/F04-TAL-51.1
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5248>

Alonso RS, BT McClintock, [LM Lyren](#), [EE Boydston](#), KR Crooks. 2015. **Mark-recapture and mark-resight methods for estimating abundance with remote cameras: a carnivore case study.** *PLOS ONE* 10(3):e0123032. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0123032
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5249>

EVENTS

March 25-27, 2015 (Berkeley, CA)
[Nate Stephenson](#) and [Adrian Das](#) were at the **Science for Parks, Parks for Science** summit hosted by UC Berkeley, the National Park Service, and National Geographic Society.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=210>

March 27, 2015 (Carlsbad, CA)
[Barbara Kus](#) presented at and organized the biennial meeting of the **California Riparian Birds Working Group**, which convened more than 200 managers, consultants, and researchers focused on the conservation of listed bird species.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=217>

March 27-29, 2015 (Seattle, WA)
[Tim Tinker](#) and others joined researchers from around the world to discuss updates in sea otter biology and nearshore marine ecology research at the **Sea Otter Conservation Workshop IX**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=211>

March 29-April 3, 2015 (Oakland, CA)
[Phil van Mantgem](#) attended the **2015 George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites**, discussing research directions on long-term fire effects and forest data.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=212>

IN THE NEWS

As Sea Stars Die, New Worries About Urchins (*National Geographic News*)
Writer Leslie Willoughby quotes [Tim Tinker](#) and mentions research by [Kevin Lafferty](#) in this feature story on the Sea Star Wasting Disease and its apparent spread to sea urchins in California waters.
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/03/150401-urchins-sea-stars-monterey-bay-california-animals/>

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NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES (CONT'D)

Barr, KR, BE Kus, KL Preston, S Howell, E Perkins, AG Vandergast. 2015. **Habitat fragmentation in coastal southern California disrupts genetic connectivity in the cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*).** *Molecular Ecology*. doi:10.1111/mec.13176
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5255>

Drake, KK, TC Esque, KE Nussear, LA DeFalco, SJ Scoles-Sciulla, AT Modlin, PA Medica. 2015. **Desert tortoise use of burned habitat in the Eastern Mojave Desert.** *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 79(4):618-629. doi:10.1002/jwmg.874
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5256>

Fellers, GM, BJ Halstead. 2015. **Twenty-five years of monitoring a Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) maternity roost.** *Northwestern Naturalist* 96(1):22-36. doi:10.1898/NWN14-12.1
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5252>

Halsey, SJ, TJ Bell, K McEachern, NB Pavlovic. 2015. **Comparison of reintroduction and enhancement effects on metapopulation viability.** *Restoration Ecology*. doi:10.1111/rec.12191
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5257>

Seriesys, LEK, TC Armenta, JG Moriarty, EE Boydston, LM Lyren, RH Poppenga, KR Crooks, RK Wayne, SPD Riley. 2015. **Anticoagulant rodenticides in urban bobcats: exposure, risk factors and potential effects based on a 16-year study.** *Ecotoxicology* 24(4):844-862. doi:10.1007/s10646-015-1429-5
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5250>

Wood, DA, BJ Halstead, ML Casazza, EC Hansen, GD Wylie, AG Vandergast. 2015. **Defining population structure and genetic signatures of decline in the giant gartersnake (*Thamnophis gigas*): implications for conserving threatened species within highly altered landscapes.** *Conservation Genetics*. doi:10.1007/s10592-015-0720-6
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5254>

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)

Huge Week for Bighorn in Yosemite and Sequoia (KCET)
Writer Chris Clarke reported on the recent relocation of endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep into Sequoia National Park. Rob Klinger assisted with the modeling and analysis of winter and summer ranges at release sites, and advising on the feasibility of the relocation plan.
<http://www.kcet.org/news/define/rewild/mammals/huge-week-for-bighorn-sheep-in-yosemite-sequoia.html>

If Nature Could Talk: Love Among Lizards (Redlands Daily Facts)
Columnist Linda Richards chats with Robert Fisher about the amorous amblings of the western fence lizard.
<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/environment-and-nature/20150331/if-nature-could-talk-love-among-lizards>

OUTREACH NOTES

Katherine Baumberger will be hosting a USGS science booth at this year's Earth Day celebration at **Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton** on April 22nd.

On April 24th, Researcher Emeritus Phil Medica will be speaking to local students about his lifetime career as a naturalist as part of the **College of Southern Nevada's 2015 Science & Technology EXPO**.

On May 5th, Shannon Waters will be at the **Dinner with a Scientist** event hosted by the **Sacramento Area Science Project**.