

Notes from the Editor

In this issue of *Fish and Game*, Trombley and Smith authored a paper on a male salt-marsh harvest mouse that was observed displaying an unusual behavior. In the last issue, Overton et al., described the predation of a Ridgeway rail by a peregrine falcon. The rail was vulnerable to predation due to high tides that inundated marsh habitats usually available as escape cover for rails and other species. Both species have the unfortunate distinction of being listed as endangered under the California and U.S. Endangered Species Acts. With the loss of nearly ninety percent of marsh habitats in the San Francisco Bay, and with the projected sea-level rise of 18-59 cm by 2050, the outlook for these species is concerning. Ongoing efforts to protect remaining marsh habitats and control invasive species are direct actions we can take to reduce the threats facing these species. This issue's article from the archives provides an interesting comparison of current and historic thinking on salt licks. Laurent et al. (this issue) examines the chemical properties and classification of mineral licks used by deer and elk, while Bryant (1918) describes the creation of the Trinity Game Refuge and the benefits that natural salt licks provided for deer and other game. Interestingly, other actions described by Bryant to benefit game included placing salt bricks in the refuge and controlling predators (i.e. coyotes and mountain lions). Also in this issue, McClanahan et al., and Byron and Tupen document species occurrences in locations that would reasonably be considered suitable habitat for their respective specimens, but not previously recorded in the scientific literature. These types of baseline studies are important as species move and habitats change. I encourage all my fellow biologists and scientists to take the time to write-up your observations and submit a manuscript to *Fish and Game*. In a hundred years, it could be really important.

I've been asked several times about why the winter issue of *Fish and Game* came out in the middle of summer, the fall issue came out in the spring, the summer issue came out in the winter, and the spring issue came out in the fall. There are two explanations for this. The first and likely best explanation is that we're behind schedule and it's really difficult to catch-up. The review process takes time, especially when the reviewers and Associate Editors are volunteering their time. So, while we have dozens of manuscripts under various stages of review, field seasons, class schedules, and family vacations can cause unexpected delays. The second but less likely explanation is climate change. Seriously, we will continue to publish as timely as possible and hopefully catch up by the end of this year.

Peter Kalvass, Associate Editor from the Marine Region has retired. Peter has been a valuable asset to *Fish and Game*, and will be missed. Thank you Peter for all your contributions. We wish you happy trails for a well-deserved retirement.

Armand Gonzales
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