

Notes from the Editor

This issue of the Fish and Game Journal features two full articles, a note, a book review, and an article from the archives. The first full article provides a comprehensive review and compilation of historic records detailing the distribution of longfin smelt in California, excluding the San Francisco Estuary. It cites original records and research dating back to 1889 pertaining to the geographic distribution of the species, and uses data from administrative and technical reports, including field notes to describe coast marine distribution by month, depth, and distance from mainland. The second full article presents an important analysis of the distribution and derivation of Pacific Flyway dabbling ducks, which should be of substantial use to waterfowl managers. The note being published in this issue establishes a baseline distribution for Amargosa River pupfish, extending its previously known range. The book review will be of interest to anyone who studies bighorn sheep, and the article from the archives was actually cited in the de Sobring et al., article (this issue), and provides some historical perspective related to waterfowl nesting habitat.

The New Year is quickly approaching and we still have one more issue in this volume to complete. Sadly, we will likely not have 103-4 published by the end of the year but will need to wait until January 2018, which is a significant improvement over the publish date of 102-4, which was April 2017. So, we are catching up. By the way, wintertime is a wonderful time to be with family and friends. It's also a marvelous time write up those field notes and send them to us for publication.

The Department had two notable retirements this past November. Helen Birss, most recently the Chief of the Department's Watershed Restoration Grants Branch, retired. Helen spent most of her career in the South Coast Region (Region 5), before her appointment as the Chief of the Habitat Conservation Planning Branch. Deputy Director Sandra Morey also retired in November after a long career. Sandra or Sandy, started her career in the mid-1980s with the Department as a scientific aide in the Native Plant Program, which was under the Native Heritage Division. Sandy eventually moved on to supervise both the Program and Division; the Division later became the Habitat Conservation Planning Branch. From Branch Chief, Sandy became the Regional Manager of the Central Sierra Region (Region 2), before being appointed as Deputy Director of the Ecosystem Conservation Division. Thank you both for all your contributions to the natural resources of California. Congratulations and best wishes to you both.

Armand Gonzales
Editor in Chief