

## JOB FINAL REPORT

State: California

Cooperators: Inland Fisheries Branch

Project Number: W-54-R-6 Project Title: Special Wildlife Investigations

Job Number: II-5 Job Title: Other Rare and Endangered Wildlife

Period Covered: July 1, 1973 -- June 30, 1974 Job Type: Survey & Inventory

## SUMMARY:

On December 7, 1973 the California Fish and Game Commission amended the May 21, 1971 listing of California's endangered and rare fish and wildlife. The Beldings savannah sparrow (Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi) was declared endangered. Fishes included on the listing were: Thicktail Chub (Gila crassicauda), Owens Tui Chub (Gila bicolor snyderi), Modoc Sucker (Catostomus microps), Rough Sculpin (Cottus asperimus), and Cottonball Marsh Pupfish (Cyprinodon milleri). Consideration of other candidates petitioned for rare or endangered classification were delayed pending studies.

## BACKGROUND:

In 1970 the California Legislature enacted two important acts governing California's responsibility and programs for endangered and rare fish and wildlife. These were: (1) California Species Preservation Act which directs the California Department of Fish and Game to inventory all threatened fish and wildlife, develop criteria for rare and endangered, and report to the Governor and the Legislature every two years on the status of these animals; and (2) Endangered Species Act which expresses legislative concern over California's threatened wildlife, defines rare and endangered wildlife, and gives authority to the Fish and Game Commission to deem what animals in California are rare and endangered.

On September 18, 1973 the Department recommended to the Fish and Game Commission that the Beldings savannah sparrow and two species of fish be declared endangered and 3 species of fish be deemed rare. Other bird and mammal candidates petitioned for listing included the Yuma mountain lion (Felis concolor browni), giant kangaroo rat (Dipodomys ingens), Samuel's song sparrow (Melospiza melodia samuelis), Alameda song sparrow (M. m. pusillula), Suisun song sparrow (M. m. maxillaris), Salt marsh yellow throat (Geothlypis trichas sinuosa), California least bell vireo (Vireo belii pusillus), and spotted owl (Strix occidentalis). The Department recommended that consideration of these species be delayed pending study. Initiated in 1973-74 through project amendments were the Salt Marsh Song Sparrow Study (Job II-5.12), and California Spotted Owl Survey (Job II-5.10).

## OBJECTIVES:

1. Establish procedures to coordinate state's program with the Secretary of the Interior through the Office of Endangered Species.

2. Review the state's listing of rare and endangered wildlife and initiate specific project programs to gather current information on population, distribution, and reproductive status.
3. Initiate surveys on wildlife species of undetermined status.

PROCEDURES:

1. Determine those species whose status is unknown but thought to be threatened.
2. Initiate programs to determine current status of selected species for report due the Governor and Legislature January 1, 1974.
3. Submit to Fish and Game Commission additions to California's rare and endangered wildlife.

FINDINGS:

Attached is the revised listing of California's endangered and rare fish and wildlife adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission on December 7, 1973.

ANALYSIS:

Procedures to coordinate state's endangered species program with the Secretary of the Interior failed to materialize. Endangered Species Act of 1973 now requires a Cooperative Agreement to effect such coordination.

Lack of state and federal funds limited initiation of studies on species of undetermined status.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. State and federal endangered and threatened species programs be effected through a Cooperative Agreement.
2. Federal funds pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 be provided to assist the State in its endangered and threatened species program.

Prepared by: Howard R. Leach  
Howard R. Leach  
Wildlife Management Supervisor

Date: November 14, 1974

Approved by: Eldridge G. Hunt  
Eldridge G. Hunt, Chief  
Wildlife Management Branch

Date: November 15, 1974

## RARE

### Birds

California black rail (Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)  
California yellow-billed cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus occidentalis)

### Mammals

Mohave ground squirrel (Citellus mohavensis)  
Stephens kangaroo rat (Dipodomys stephensi)  
Fresno kangaroo rat (Dipodomys nitratoides exilis)  
San Joaquin kit fox (Vulpes macrotis mutica)  
Island fox (Urocyon littoralis)  
Wolverine (Gulo luscus)  
Guadalupe fur seal (Arctocephalus townsendi)  
California bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis californiana)  
Peninsular bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis cremnobates)

### Fishes

Modoc sucker (Catostomus microps)  
Rough sculpin (Cottus asperimus)  
Cottonball Marsh pupfish (Cyprinodon milleri)

### Amphibians

Siskiyou mountain salamander (Plethodon stormi)  
Kern Canyon slender salamander (Batrachoseps simatus)  
Tehachapi slender salamander (Batrachoseps stebbinsi)  
Limestone salamander (Hydromantes brunus)  
Shasta salamander (Hydromantes shastae)  
Black toad (Bufo boreas exsul)

### Reptiles

Southern rubber boa (Charina bottae umbratica)  
Alameda striped racer (Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus)  
Giant garter snake (Thamnophis couchi gigas)

LISTING OF CALIFORNIA'S  
ENDANGERED AND RARE  
FISH AND WILDLIFE\*

Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act of 1970 and Sections 2050-2055 of the Fish and Game Code, the Fish and Game Commission declares the following to be California's endangered and rare fish and wildlife.

ENDANGERED

Birds

California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*)  
California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)  
Southern bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*)  
American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)  
California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*)  
Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*)  
Light-footed clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris levipes*)  
California least tern (*Sterna albifrons browni*)  
Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*)

Mammals

Morro Bay kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*)  
Salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*)

Fishes

Colorado squawfish (*Ptychocheilus lucius*)  
Mohave chub (*Gila mohavensis*)  
Owens pupfish (*Cyprinodon radiosus*)  
Tecopa pupfish (*Cyprinodon nevadensis calidae*)  
Unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*)  
Thicktail chub (*Gila crassicauda*)  
Owens tui chub (*Gila bicolor snyderi*)  
Bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*)  
Humpback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*)  
Shortnose sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*)  
Lost River sucker (*Catostomus luxatus*)

Amphibians

Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum*)  
Desert slender salamander (*Batrachoseps aridus*)

Reptiles

Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Crotaphytus wislizenii silus*)  
San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*)

---

\*Adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission on May 21, 1971. Amended December 7, 1973.