

Notes from the Editor

Another year has gone by, and another volume of *California Fish and Game* has been published. During 2012 (Volume 98), total pages numbered 244, as compared to the 220 pages making up Volume 97 (2011), and the 268 pages that made up Volume 96 (2010). Over the past three years, each volume of the journal has averaged roughly 250 pages, and expectations are that pages published will increase in the future.

Over the past several years, I have received some complimentary notes regarding changes that have occurred with respect to the format of the journal, initiation of publication of obituaries, and increases in the overall quality of the papers appearing in *California Fish and Game*. I have also received a few suggestions for improvements, which are being implemented. Several individuals commented regarding the use of the sticky closures used by the Office of State Printing (OSP) when mailing the journal; we have learned that OSP follows U.S. Postal Service guidelines regarding the closures; nevertheless, I am certain that closures that do not damage the journal covers are available. The damage caused by the closures will not be an issue for much longer, however, as *California Fish and Game* will begin to transition to electronic publication during the upcoming year.

Readers were advised in July that the implementation of this transition will occur early in 2013, so look for additional information in the next “Notes from the Editor.” Some additional changes will also occur in 2013. Associate Editor Liam Davis, who has served in that capacity for more than 15 years, will retire at the end of December 2012. Liam began serving as an Associate Editor in 1995 with volume 81, when Dave Kohlhorst and Jim Orsi assumed the roles of Co-Editors-in-Chief. Since then he has served continuously as an Associate Editor, providing invaluable assistance to Co-Editors-in-Chief Todd Keeler-Wolf and Ed Pert (2001), Ken Hashagen (2002 – 2009), and the current Editor-in-Chief. While working with me over the past three years, Liam processed a total of 10 manuscripts, which entailed comments from 19 outside reviewers; he also served as a subject-matter expert for two other manuscripts, and to ensure there would not be a conflict of interest involved with another manuscript, assumed the duties of Editor-in-Chief and handled that paper completely. Liam’s expertise in the fields of botany,



Liam Davis

ornithology, and natural history in general, his enthusiasm for science, and his dedication to *California Fish and Game* will be sorely missed. I strongly desire to fill the vacancy created by Liam's departure with an individual or individuals having similar interests and expertise. California Department of Fish and Game employees that are interested in serving as an Associate Editor are encouraged to contact me directly, but please be certain that your supervisor is supportive. In the meantime, I extend to Liam a sincere thank you for his contributions to California's longest-running professional journal, and wish him nothing but success as he pursues the next chapter of life.

As many readers of *California Fish and Game* are aware, our editorial staff and webmaster have been, and continue to work on the journal's website at <<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/journal/contents.html>> and, at some point in the future, the website will include a complete archive of all issues of the journal. Currently, the complete contents of volumes 94 (2008) through 97 (2011) are available, and can be viewed as either a digital flip book or in printable pdf format. With publication of this issue (98[4]; 2012), the complete contents of volume 98 will become available electronically. Tables of contents for volumes 66 (1980) through 93 (2007) are also available on the website. The search engine can be used to find a specific article using searches for keywords, part of the title, or author's name(s). We currently are working to extend the availability of tables of contents by ten-year increments, of which the next series will be posted early in 2013.

In addition, there is other good news. In the previous issue of *California Fish and Game* I announced that the journal has been asked by several publishers to solicit individuals to review their books. To date, I have received two recently published works, which are described below. Individuals interested in reviewing either of these publications should contact me directly, and request they be considered as a reviewer. When doing so, please be prepared to explain why you are interested in writing the review, and how you are uniquely qualified to do so. In exchange for completing and submitting a book review that is published in *California Fish and Game*, the reviewer will be able to keep the book. There will be a requirement, however, that the review be completed and provided to the Editor-in-Chief within 90 days of receiving the book. Currently, the following publications are available for review.

KIRKWOOD, S., AND E. MEYERS. 2012. America's national parks: an insider's guide to unforgettable places and experiences. Time Home Entertainment, Inc., New York, New York, USA. 208 pp. \$24.95 (hard cover).

LOVE, M. S. 2011. Certainly more than you want to know about the fishes of the Pacific coast: a postmodern experience. Really Big Press, Santa Barbara, California, USA. 650 pp. \$29.95 (soft cover).

Finally, I want to thank each of the authors that submitted manuscripts to be considered for publication in *California Fish and Game* during 2012 and, especially, I thank the Associate Editors and the reviewers — all of whom volunteered their time to improve the quality and ensure the rigor of material published in the journal. Best wishes to everyone for a joyous Holiday Season and the upcoming New Year.

Vernon C. Bleich, *Editor-in-Chief*