

Notes from the Editor

Readers of this column will note that Volume 100(3), originally scheduled to be a special issue addressing fresh water ecology and fisheries, has become the Special Wildlife Issue. This change occurred as a result of the extremely heavy workload experienced by California Department of Wildlife inland fisheries staff as a result of the ongoing, historic drought. Fisheries Branch personnel were to be the primary contributors to the Special Fisheries Issue, and other staff were to serve as Corresponding Editors. It remains my intent to produce the Special Fisheries Issue in tribute to this journal's centennial year, but it is uncertain as to the publication date given the drought-related challenges that Fisheries Branch personnel continue to address.

This Special Wildlife Issue is comprised of the largest number of pages ever published in a single issue of *California Fish and Game*, and is the now third in the series of four special issues originally planned to comprise the centennial volume of the journal. Production of these special issues has not been without its challenges, many of which have been overcome or are in the process of being resolved. Among these challenges were the continuing transition to electronic publication; development of a mailing list of those libraries, universities, and other institutions that wish to continue to receive a print edition of the journal; preparation and approval of a contract for transitioning from the Office of State Printing to a private contractor for the production of the print edition of Volume 100; and changes in publishing software, among others.

As has been the case with the earlier special issues, Chuck Bonham—Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife—and a scientist of his choice have contributed an introduction to this issue, and Anthony Rendon—Member of the State Assembly and Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee—provides additional recognition regarding the 100-year publication history of *California Fish and Game*.

Among the papers in the Special Wildlife Issue are reviews addressing the historical distribution of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep (an endangered taxon); the historical terminology as it relates to the conservation of mule deer habitat; the evolution of wildlife capture techniques; contributions of CDFW biologists to the conservation of waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway; and a primer describing the field of ecoimmunology and its potential applications to wildlife conservation. An additional contribution centers on a discussion of density dependence in ungulate populations, and provides a review of causes and concepts, as well as offering clarifications regarding the interpretation of density dependence and its application to management.

Papers reporting results of original research consist of those addressing the nest-site ecology of desert tortoise (a threatened species); a technique that can be used to index use of specific geographic areas by mountain lions (California's only specially protected mammal); compositional changes in vegetation nearly thirty years following removal of feral ruminants from Santa Cruz Island; and the use of water developments by female elk in an arid ecosystem. Results of additional original research reported herein centers on the application modern statistical methods to a foundational approach used to explore species diversity among bird communities, and an updated evaluation of the dynamics and social issues of overpopulated deer ranges throughout the United States. Natural history

observations have provided the basis for many of the hypotheses that have been posited and tested by wildlife scientists, and included in this issue is an example of such an observation. This issue is rounded out with a tribute to a dedicated and productive employee of the Department that recently passed on.

I want to acknowledge those Associate Editors that took on an extra burden and served as Corresponding Editor for several of the papers included in this issue: Scott Osborn, Cheryl Burton, and Laura Patterson. Additionally, Scott Osborn, Jeff Villepique, and Jack Connelly willingly stepped forward and served in the necessary, albeit awkward, capacity of Guest Editor for several contributions to this issue.

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