Final Program

25th VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE
March 5 - 8, 2012
The Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay
Monterey, California, USA

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the
Vertebrate Pest Conference, 1962 - 2012

Conference Chair:
Robert M. Timm

Program Chair:
Roger A. Baldwin

Includes special symposia:
• Urban Wildlife Management
• Wildlife and Food Safety

Sponsored by:
The Vertebrate Pest Council
COMMENTS ENCOURAGED
We have worked over the years to keep this educational Conference the best of its kind. We welcome your comments (good and bad) concerning it. We are always looking for potential Conference speakers and would appreciate your suggestions for possible speakers or program topics. Contact the chairperson, Robert Timm, (E-mail: rmtimm@ucdavis.edu).

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
Depending on your registration category, a paper or CD copy of the Proceedings of the Twenty-Fifth Vertebrate Pest Conference is included in the registration fee of those who registered for the entire Conference, and it will be mailed to you upon its publication, anticipated 8–10 months following the Conference. Some copies of past Proceedings also are available. For ordering current or past Proceedings visit our web site: http://www.vpconference.org.
CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS ASSIGNED

Attendees seeking Continuing Education credit: Sign in and out with the PAPA representative at the event registration desk.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation
- Monday, March 5: 5.0 O
- Tuesday, March 6: 1.0 L & 2.5 O
- Wednesday, March 7: 6.0 O
- Thursday, March 8: 3.0 O

California Vector Control Technicians
- Tuesday, March 6: 1.0 D
- Wednesday, March 7: 3.5 A & 1.5 D
- Thursday, March 8: 0.5 A & 2.0 D

Note: All credits are approximations and dependent upon your attendance.

BANQUET CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

For those who have pre-purchased banquet tickets celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Vertebrate Pest Conference, please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, at the Montrio Bistro (414 Calle Principal, Monterey, CA). The banquet will provide a wonderful opportunity to reminisce about the numerous advancements in vertebrate pest control over the last half-century, while also providing the audience with a video tribute to many of the Vertebrate Pest Council’s lifetime members. It should be a memorable experience for all attendees.

Note to Speakers:
There will be a computer provided in the Portola Room to review your Power Point presentation prior to speaking.
Monday, March 5

**Field Trip (Optional)**
*The Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay*

8:00 am  **Depart from the Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay**

Speakers on Bus/Coach:
- Richard Smith, Farm Advisor, Monterey County Cooperative Extension
- Graham Hunting, Agriculture Inspector Biologist, County of Monterey

**2008 Canada Geese Investigation – An Ag Commissioner’s Perspective**
- Casey McSwiggin, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Monterey County

**Experimental Methods for Vole Control in Artichokes**
- Holly Jantz and Roger Baldwin PhD, University of California, Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Parlier, California.

**Tour of Artichoke Facilities at Sea Mist Farms**
- Francisco Castaneda, Sea Mist Farms Pest Control Specialist, Lionell Handel, Senior Pest Control Advisor

12:00 **Lunch (sponsored by Liphatech, Inc.)**
Provided by Gino’s, Salinas at Sea Mist Farms Conference facility.

**Feral Pigs**
- Shannon Chandler, Wildlife Disease Biologist, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, Sacramento, California

**Food Safety in the Field**
- Michele Jay Russell, DVM, MPVM, PhD Dipl. ACVPM, University of California. Davis, California

**Monterey Harbor – Sea Lion and Seal Issues**
- Steve Scheiblauer, Harbormaster City of Monterey, CA

5:00 pm **Field trip ends. Enjoy a short walk to the Portola Hotel and Spa from the Monterey Harbor.**

Tuesday, March 6

**Plenary Session**
*DeAnza I & II*

**Session Chair: Roger A. Baldwin**
VPC Program Chair; Statewide IPM Program, UC Coop. Extension, Parlier, CA

8:30 am **Welcome**
Eric Lauritzen, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner

8:45 **Opening Remarks and 50th Anniversary Recognition**
- Kathleen A. Fagerstone, USDA/APHIS/WS/National Wildlife Research Center Fort Collins, CO

9:15 **Keynote Address: VPC: 50 Years of Progress?**
- Terrell P. Salmon, Wildlife Specialist Emeritus, University of California Cooperative Extension

10:00 **Break (co-sponsored by Bird Shield)**

10:20 **Abating Wild Pig Damage Using Trapping Best Management Practices**
- Billy Higginbotham, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Overton, TX

10:45 **Using Bird Strike Information to Direct Effective Management Actions within Airport Environments**
- Todd J. Pitlik*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, Long Beach, CA

11:10 **Regulated Commercial Harvest to Manage Overabundant White-Tailed Deer: An Idea to Consider?**
- Scott Hygnstrom*, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

11:35 **The Global Future of Vertebrate Pest Management**
- Steven Lapidge, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Unley, Australia

12:00 **Lunch (on your own)**

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.
Tuesday, March 6
Concurrent Session 1A: Nontoxic Control Methods
DeAnza I

1:15 pm  Session Chair: Robert H. Schmidt
Department of Environment and Society
Utah State University, Logan, UT

1:20 An Assessment of Richardson Ground Squirrel Activity and Potential
Barriers to Limit Access to Sensitive Sites at Malmstrom Air Force
Base, Montana
Gary Witmer*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research
Center, Fort Collins, CO

1:45 Raptor Perches as Vertebrate Pest Control
Beth Slate, Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture, Concord, CA

2:10 Evaluating Bird Repellents
Leonard R. Askham, Bird Shield Repellent Corporation, Pullman, WA

2:35 The Effect of Experimental Removal of Single Breeding Pairs of
Resident Canada Geese on Small Ponds Historically Harboring a
Single Breeding Pair in Southeastern Pennsylvania
Ryan P. Lynch*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, New Britain, PA

3:00 Break

3:20 Progressing the Possum Pied Piper Project
Matt Kavermann*, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand

3:45 The Use of an Electronic Control Device in Wildlife Management – A
Case Series
Larry L. Lewis*, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Soldotna, AK

4:10 Operational Evolution in Pest Eradication through Use of Self-
Resetting Traps
Stuart Barr*, Goodnature Limited, Wellington, New Zealand

4:35 Wildlife Damage Management at the County Level: Fresno County
Fred Rinder, Fresno County Department of Agriculture, Fresno, CA

*Multiple authored paper; see abstract for a complete list of authors.

If you registered for the 50th Anniversary Banquet, join us tonight at 7:00 pm
at the Montrio Bistro, 414 Calle Principal, Monterey.

Tuesday, March 6
Special Symposium 1B: Wildlife and Food Safety
DeAnza II

1:15 pm  Session Chair: Edward R. Atwill
Western Institute for Food Safety and Security
University of California, Davis, CA

1:20 Food Safety and Rodent Control in Leafy Green Crops

1:45 Deer Mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus) as a Vector of Foodborne
Protozoa Adjacent to Produce Production Fields
Xunde Li*, Department of Population Health and Reproduction, University of
California, Davis, CA

2:10 Methodological and Epidemiological Concerns When Comparing
Microbial Food Safety Risks from Wildlife, Livestock, and
Domestic Animals
Edward R. Atwill*, Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, University
of California, Davis, CA

2:35 Zoonotic Risks from Amphibians and Reptiles
Michele Jay-Russell*, Western Center for Food Safety, University of
California, Davis, CA

3:00 Break

3:20 Trichinella in California Bear and Feral Pig Populations
Jamie Sherman*, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California,
Davis, CA

3:45 Addressing Wildlife Risks in Produce Production in the Central
California Coast: A Grower’s Perspective
Bob Martin, Rio Farms, King City, CA

4:10 Discussion on Food Safety Risks Associated with Wildlife
Panel Group: Edward R. Atwill, Michele Jay-Russell, Xunde Li, Bob Martin,
Peter D. Newman, and Jamie Sherman; affiliations listed above

4:35 Discussion on Food Safety Risks Associated with Wildlife—Cont.
Panel Group: Edward R. Atwill, Michele Jay-Russell, Xunde Li, Bob Martin,
Peter D. Newman, and Jamie Sherman; affiliations listed above

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.

If you registered for the 50th Anniversary Banquet, join us tonight at 7:00 pm
at the Montrio Bistro, 414 Calle Principal, Monterey.
Wednesday, March 7
Concurrent Session 2A: Vertebrate Pest Control Training and Education
DeAnza I

8:15 am  
Session Chair: Kathleen A. Fagerstone  
USDA/APHIS/WS/National Wildlife Research Center  
Fort Collins, CO

8:20  
Strategic Vertebrate Pest Management Training  
Tony Buckmaster*, Institute for Applied Ecology and Invasive Animals  
Cooperative Research Centre, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia

8:45  
The Balanced Scientist Program - Training PhD Candidates Beyond Research  
Stephen Sarre*, Institute for Applied Ecology and Invasive Animals  
Cooperative Research Centre, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia

9:10  
Principles Underpinning Best Practice Management of the Damage Due to Pests  
Mike Braysher*, Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia

9:35  
PestSmart: An Information Toolkit for Practical Pest Animal Control  
Steven Lapidge*, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Unley, Australia

10:00  
Break

10:20  
USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services 2011 Research Needs Assessment  
Mark E. Tobin*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

10:45  
Changes in Wildlife Damage Management in Alabama: 1990 to 2010  
James B. Armstrong, Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources Extension, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

11:10  
Tactical to Practical: The Human Component of Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution  
George R. Gallagher*, Department of Animal Science, Berry College, Mount Berry, GA

11:35  
Outreach Education and Training Vertebrate Pest Control  

12:00  
Lunch (on your own)

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.

Wednesday, March 7
Special Symposium 2B: Urban Wildlife Management
DeAnza II

8:15 am  
Session Chair: Dennis L. Orthmeyer  
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, Sacramento, CA

8:20  
Activity Patterns of the Coyote (Canis latrans) Along an Urban-Rural Gradient  
Holly Jantz*, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

8:45  
Challenges to Managing and Conserving Endangered San Joaquin Kit Foxes in Urban Environments  
Brian Cypher*, Endangered Species Recovery Program, California State University, Stanislaus, CA

9:10  
Exposure of Wildlife to Anticoagulant Rodenticides at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area: From Mountain Lions to Rodents  

9:35  
Activity Areas and Roosting Sites of European Starlings Wintering in Central New Jersey  
H. Jeffrey Homan*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Bismarck, ND

10:00  
Break

10:20  
Are Turf-Type Tall Fescue Cultivars Useful for Reducing Wildlife Hazards in Airport Environments?  
Brian E. Washburn, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Sandusky, OH

10:45  
White-Tailed Deer Damage Management in a Forested High-Density Residential Community  
Ryan P. Lynch*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, New Britain, PA

11:10  
Deer, Humans, and Vegetation: A Case Study of Deer Management in the Chicago Metropolitan Area  
Rachael E. Urbanek*, Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

11:35  
Eagle-Aircraft Collisions: An Increasing Problem in the Airport Environment  
Brian E. Washburn*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Sandusky, OH

12:00  
Lunch (on your own)

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.
Wednesday, March 7
Concurrent Session 3A: Vertebrate Pesticides
DeAnza I

1:15 pm  Session Chair: Terrell P. Salmon
Wildlife Specialist Emeritus
University of California Cooperative Extension, San Diego, CA

1:20  Retrieving Older and Advancing Novel Rodenticides - for Integration with Anticoagulants
Charles Eason*, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand

1:45  NWRC Chemical Effects Database – What’s Old is New Again
Jeanette R. O’Hare*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

2:10  Innovative Developments for Long-Term Vertebrate Pest Control
Helen Blackie*, Department of Ecology, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand

2:35  Migration of Brodifacoum and Diphacinone from Bait Pellets into Topsoil at Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge
Aurora Alifano*, Island Conservation, Santa Cruz, CA

3:00  Break

3:20  Protecting Nontarget Wildlife from Effects of Vertebrate Pesticides
Stella McMillin, California Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova, CA

3:45  Toxicity and Potential Risk of the First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide Diphacinone in Raptors
Barnett A. Rattner*, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Beltsville, MD

4:10  The Importance of Aluminum Phosphide for Burrowing Pest Control in California
Roger A. Baldwin, Statewide IPM Program, UC Coop. Extension, Parlier, CA

4:35  Evaluation of a Pressurized Exhaust Device to Control Pocket Gophers and Belding’s Ground Squirrels in Alfalfa
Steve Orloff, UC Coop. Extension, Siskiyou Co., Yreka, CA

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.

Join us tonight at 6:00 pm in the De Anza Foyer for poster viewing, vendor’s forum, hors d’oeuvres, and no-host bar.

Wednesday, March 7
Concurrent Session 3B: Introduced / Invasive Pests
DeAnza II

1:15 pm  Session Chair: Mark E. Tobin
USDA/APHIS/WS/National Wildlife Research Center
Fort Collins, CO

1:20  Rangitoto and Motutapu – A Potential Model for Future Eradications on Large, Inhabited Islands with a Suite of Invasive Pest Species Present
Richard Griffiths*, Island Conservation, Santa Cruz, CA

1:45  Turning Back the Tide of American Mink Invasion at Unprecedented Scales in Partnership with Communities
Xavier Lambin*, School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

2:10  Efficacy of the HogHopper™ at Excluding Non-Target Wildlife from HOG-GONE® Baits
Tyler A. Campbell*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Gainesville, FL

2:35  Eastern Fox Squirrels and Western Gray Squirrels in Southern California
Alan Muchlinski*, Department of Biological Sciences, California State University, Los Angeles, CA

3:00  Break

3:20  Changes in Possum Spatial Behaviour Following a Control Operation: Implications for Conservation and Bovine Tuberculosis Management
Belinda Whyte*, Centre for Wildlife Management and Conservation, Lincoln University, Lincoln, New Zealand

3:45  Ecological Restoration of Sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island
Keith Springer, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Moonah, Australia

4:10  Finding Foxes in Tasmania: Faecal DNA Analysis Reveals Widespread Distribution of an Elusive Introduced Predator
Stephen Sarre*, Institute for Applied Ecology and Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia

4:35  Pushing the Envelope in Paradise: A Novel Approach to Rat Eradication at Palmyra Atoll
Richard Griffiths*, Island Conservation, Santa Cruz, CA

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.

Join us tonight at 6:00 pm in the De Anza Foyer for poster viewing, vendor’s forum, hors d’oeuvres, and no-host bar.
Thursday, March 8  
Concurrent Session 4A: Wildlife Disease / Rodent Control  
DeAnza I

8:15 am  
Session Chair: Jeanette R. O’Hare 
USDA/APHIS/WS/National Wildlife Research Center 
Fort Collins, CO

8:20  Prevalence of Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus in House Mouse (Mus musculus) in New Orleans, Louisiana  
Ashley Freeman*, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

8:45  Dynamics of Rodent-Borne Zoonotic Diseases and Their Reservoir Hosts: Invasive Rattus in South Africa  
Rolanda Julius*, Centre of Excellence in Invasion Biology, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

9:10  Suburban and Wildlife Skunk Abundances and the Potential for Rabies Spread in Flagstaff, AZ  
Jesse M. Maestas*, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

9:35  Old World Hantavirus Infection in Rattus Species and Risk Management in Urban Neighborhoods of New Orleans, Louisiana  
Ashley Freeman*, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

10:00 Break

10:20  Rats! Foiled Again: A History of NWRC Rodent Methods Development  
Kathleen A. Fagerstone*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

10:45  The Management of Brown Rat (Rattus norvegicus Berk.) in Palaeartic  
Rylnikov Valentin, Institute of Pest Management, Moscow, Russia

11:10  The Applicability of Burrow Fumigants for Controlling Belding’s Ground Squirrels in Alfalfa  
Roger A. Baldwin*, Statewide IPM Program, UC Coop. Extension, Parlier, CA

11:35  An Assessment of Seedling Damage by Wild House Mice and Wild Deer Mice  
Gary Witmer*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

12:00 Lunch (on your own)

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.

Thursday, March 8  
Concurrent Session 4B: Feral Cats  
DeAnza II

8:15 am  
Session Chair: Dirk H. Van Vuren  
Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology  
University of California, Davis, CA

8:20  Feral Cats in the Tall Forests of Far East Gippsland, Australia  
Tony Buckmaster, Institute for Applied Ecology and Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia

8:45  Getting Ready for the Next Step: The Eradication of Feral Cats on Large and Highest Priority Mexican Islands  
José Mariá Barredo*, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C., Baja California, Mexico

9:10  The Influence of Perceptions, Attitudes, and Experiences on the Perceived Risks and Benefits of Free-Roaming Cats  
Dara M. Wald*, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

9:35  The Effects of Feral Cats on Insular Wildlife: The Club Med Syndrome  
Steven C. Hess*, USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center, Hawaii National Park, HI

10:00 Break

10:20  Social Carrying Capacity for Introduced Terrestrial Vertebrates in the Hawaiian Islands  
Cheryl Lohr*, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

10:45  Toxoplasma gondii detection in urban Hawai‘i  
Alisa A. Davis*, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

11:10  Cat Fight! The TNR Wars  
Robert H. Schmidt, Department of Environment and Society, Utah State University, Logan, UT

11:35  Free-Roaming Cats: Menace to Wildlife or Scapegoat for Human Failings? An Animal Welfare and Protection Perspective  
John Hadidian*, The Humane Society of the United States, Washington, DC

12:00 Lunch (on your own)

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.
Thursday, March 8
Concurrent Session 5A: Bird Management
DeAnza I

1:15 pm  Session Chair: Brian E. Washburn
USDA/APHIS/WS/National Wildlife Research Center
Sandusky, OH

1:20  Bird Management Strategies: Contributions by the National Wildlife Research Center
Kathleen A. Fagerstone*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

1:45  Bird Management in Fruit Crops: How We Make Progress
Catherine Lindell, Center for Global Change and Earth Observations, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

2:10  California Gull Predator Management and Reproductive Success of Endangered California Least Terns in the San Francisco Bay, California
David L. Riensche*, East Bay Regional Park District, Oakland, CA

2:35  Break (DeAnza I and II combined for final presentations)

Thursday, March 8
Concurrent Session 5B: Economics / Other Topics
DeAnza II

1:15 pm  Session Chair: Gary Witmer
USDA/APHIS/WS/National Wildlife Research Center
Fort Collins, CO

1:20  The Potential Westward Spread of Raccoon Rabies: Modeling the Impacts
Aaron Anderson*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

1:45  Fiscal Impact of the Risk Mitigation Decision to the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Rodenticide Research Program
Victoria Hornbaker, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA

2:10  Wildlife Browse Damage: Estimating Biological and Economic Thresholds for Silvopasture Establishment
Micah Moore*, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

2:35  Break (DeAnza I and II combined for final presentations)

2:55  The Economic Benefits of Controlling Bird and Rodent Pests in California Agriculture
Aaron Anderson*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

3:20  Non-Target Species Management for the Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Project
Keith Springer*, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Moonah, Australia

3:45  Closing Remarks
John O’Brien, Nevada Department of Agriculture – Retired

*Multiple authored paper, see abstract for a complete list of authors.
**Poster Session** (Tuesday March 6, 1:15 PM through Thursday March 8, 12 noon)
*DeAnza Foyer*

**Chair:** Stella McMillin  
California Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova, CA

**Efficacy of Milorganite® as a Non-Venomous Snake Repellent**  
*George R. Gallagher*, Department of Animal Science, Berry College, Mount Berry, GA

**The Effects of Soil Aeration on the Rodent Population at Kansas City International Airport**  
*Gary Witmer*, USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

**VPCRAC – A Historical Perspective**  
*Sara Richards*, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA

**Impact of Introduced Small Non-Volant Mammals on Mountain Native Fauna in the Philippines**  
*Anna Pauline O. de Guia*, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

**Effects of Vertebrate Herbivory on Clematis morefieldii, a Federally Endangered Plant**  
*Kyle Paris*, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

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**25th VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE**

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