

Western Region

Fifty-eight authors presented 65 papers and posters to more than 120 participants at the Fourth Biennial Conference on Research in California's National Parks Sept. 10-12, 1991. Sequoia-Kings Canyon was the subject of 15 presentations, Channel Islands and Redwood followed with 10 each. Award for the best presentation went to Dr. Jim Gramann of Texas A&M. In his plenary session, "Contributions of Sociology to the NPS," Gramann used the visitor survey work in progress at Yosemite to demonstrate the types and complexities of sociological studies available to park managers.

Papers are being reviewed and a conference Proceedings is slated for early 1992. Meanwhile, CPSU Leader Stephen D. Veirs, Jr., at U:CA: Davis, has produced a 50-page program with 63 abstracts, available from the NPS/CPSU, Institute of Ecology, U CA: Davis, (916) 752-3026.

* * *

The CPSU at U:AZ, Tucson, has published, as a supplement to a 1988 publication, the following:

Nagel, Carlos. *Report on Treaties, Agreements, and Accords Affecting Natural Resource Management at Oregon Pipe Cactus National Monument*, 1991. Special Report No. 8 (Supplement).

In June 1991, **Wilson Bulletin**, 103(2), 1991, pp 309-310, published the following:

Kunzmann, Michael R. and R. Roy Johnson (with the U:AZ NPS/CPSU). *Unusual Behavior in a Solitary Vireo*.

Copies of these papers may be had from the NPS/CPSU, 125 Biological Sciences (East) Bldg. 43, U:AZ, Tucson 85721.

* * *

Gary Fellers, Research Biologist at Point Reyes National Seashore, and Charles Drost have published a monograph, "Ecology of the Island Night Lizard, *Xantusia riversiana*, on Santa Barbara Island, CA" in *Herpetological Monographs*. In spite of their federal

status as a threatened species, island night lizards were quite abundant in some Santa Barbara Island habitats and clearly not in need of federal protection. In spite of their common name, night lizards were found to be strictly diurnal.

Drost and Fellers also published a paper on "Density cycles in an island population of deer mice, *Peromyscus maniculatus*, in *Oikos*. Though mainland deer mice have rather stable population levels, deer mice on Santa Barbara Island (Channel Islands NP) have distinct population fluctuations that have ranged from 2 to 462 mice/ha. Deer mice play a large part in the ecological workings of Santa Barbara Island. Due to their abundance, their position as both first and second level consumers, and their importance as a prey species, deer mice are one of the most important components of the simplified terrestrial ecosystem. Changes in deer mouse populations affect a variety of plant species, terrestrial invertebrates, the hawks and owls, and even some of the seabirds.

Fellers presented an invited paper for the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists at the American Museum of Natural History in New York last June. His paper, "Conservation Biology of an Abundant Lizard, *Xantusia riversiana*," was part of the symposium, "Strategies and Programs for the Conservation of Biodiversity."