

New Biologists for the Migratory Bird Program, R8

Dr. Eric Kershner joins us from the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton where he currently supervises the Wildlife Management Branch. He is responsible for overseeing all wildlife management activities on the base including developing and implementing conservation management (i.e., research studies, monitoring programs). Due to Eric's efforts at Camp Pendleton, there is now a much stronger coordinated effort to ensure non-listed migratory bird species conservation is included in the Base's environmental analyses. He is also responsible for instituting several new migratory bird surveys on the base. Through his work experience with the consulting firm, Technology Associates, and the non-profit organization Institute for Wildlife Studies in San Diego, he gained experience in developing and implementing conservation plans for migratory birds at the local and regional level including coordinating monitoring and research and implementing conservation actions. Eric has a Bachelor's in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry from Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio, a Master's in Biological Sciences from Eastern Illinois University, and a Ph. D. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from University of Illinois. While obtaining his Masters he studied the reproductive success of grassland birds on East-central Illinois airports. For his doctorate, he also concentrated on grassland birds where he studied the effects of habitat restoration on grassland birds and researched factors that may cause population declines. Eric has a life long involvement in and love of birds. He is a master bander and has extensive field experience banding, surveying birds, and implementing telemetry studies. He has written numerous technical reports and published in several peer-reviewed journals with emphasis on passerine species research and ecology.

Dr. Rob Doster is currently with the Bureau of Reclamation in Albuquerque, NM where he utilizes his ornithological expertise to address avifaunal and related ecological resource conservation and enhancement activities. He is currently actively involved in Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Interior Least Tern, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo conservation issues. While with the Bureau, he has been responsible for implementing or overseeing biological research utilizing state-of-the-art analytic methodologies and has demonstrated his proficiency in utilizing GIS as an effective tool in implementing bird conservation activities. He has extensive field experience including leading migratory bird research projects, monitoring bird populations at a regional scale, and identifying habitat associations for migratory birds within a large geographic area and in various habitat types. Through both his academic experiences he has worked with Joint Ventures and Refuges in the lower Mississippi Valley. He has also gained experience in developing and implementing avian conservation at the local and regional level and has experience in administering Federal natural resource regulations and programs. He is described by his colleagues and managers as an excellent birder, writer, and biologist. He has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals in addition to being a peer reviewer for the Wilson Bulletin. Rob received his bachelor's in Biology from Hendrix College in Arkansas. He received his Master's in Zoology, with an ornithology emphasis, from University of Arkansas where he studied the home range and foraging characteristics of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. He also attended UAR for his Ph.D. where he studied the ecology and conservation of wintering migratory birds in early-successional habitats of the lower Mississippi River alluvial valley.

Eric will be located in the Carlsbad Field Office. He will cover migratory bird issues for southern California from Madera County south. Rob will be located at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge Complex in Willows and will be responsible for addressing migratory bird issues for northern California north of Madera County, excluding Klamath Basin. I will continue to be the main point of contact for Klamath Basin and Nevada until a 3rd biologist is hired.

Both Rob and Eric come to the Migratory Bird Program highly recommended by their peers and colleagues in the federal government and I know they will both be excellent assets for migratory bird conservation in Region 8. Eric will officially start July 6th and Rob, July 20th. Please help we

welcome them aboard next month.

Marie

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