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# The Clear Print



The San Diego Tracking Team Newsletter ♦ October 25, 2007

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## Dr. Crooks' Lecture

Dr. Kevin Crooks, Associate Professor at Colorado State University and a member of the SDTT Scientific Advisory Group, will be giving the Jordan Dale Covin Memorial Lecture at the San Diego Natural History Museum November 9 at 4:00 pm. His lecture, "Connectivity and Wildlife Conservation in Urbanizing Landscapes," is in keeping with the SDTT's mission and should be very interesting. Dr. Crooks has experience in San Diego as he has researched habitat fragmentation here in the county. A flyer promoting the event is included at the end of the attached copy of the newsletter.

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## Global Warming and What You Can Do



As global warming becomes talked about more and more, we find ourselves looking for ways we can make a difference. The organization, Environment California, offers the SDTT and its volunteers the opportunity to make a difference by sending a letter to your Congress member urging the member to cosponsor of the Safe Climate Act, a bill that would set limits on global warming pollution. At the bottom of this newsletter is a letter you may print, sign, and send to your Congress member. Alternatively, you can log onto Environment California and

sign the petition online. For the online version point your browser to:

<https://www.environmentcalifornia.org/action/global-warming/petition>

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## Volunteer Spotlight: Claude Edwards

This month's Volunteer Spotlight features Claude Edwards. He is a biologist who is helping the SDTT update the habitat descriptions for our wildlife survey transects.

My name is: Claude G. Edwards. I am not actually a member of the SDTT, but I am acquainted with several people who are.

I was born at Camp Pendleton, but grew up in different places in and out of the U.S. until 1967, when my family moved to San Diego.

When I was a child I wanted to be a naturalist, something having to do with nature or science research and the outdoors. What I am doing now in my personal and professional pursuits is a fair expression of that.

My current occupation is as an Endangered Species Biologist for a local biological consulting firm. I have been doing this since the late-1970's and it has given me opportunities to visit many locations throughout southern California and the region's natural habitats and environments.

I got into nature awareness in the fourth grade while living in Maryland. They have four seasons there, with spring showers that truly result in April and May flowers, hot and humid summers that make you appreciate the coming of autumn with more colorful trees in reds and orange and yellows than we have in our back-country, and then snow arriving just in time to make holiday

songs make sense – you all know what I mean.

My current nature awareness activities include volunteering on the San Diego Audubon Society Board of Directors and chairing the committee managing their 11-acre Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve in Vista, leading monthly public bird walks at Cabrillo National Monument at the tip of Point Loma, presenting occasional lecture classes and field trips at the San Diego Natural History Museum, being one of several docent training instructors at the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, being one of several instructors at the annual summertime Sierra Club Nature Knowledge Workshop, and co-founding the annual wintertime San Diego Bird Festival.

Other than nature awareness, my favorite hobby or activity is seeking and observing wild birds throughout southern California, and sharing my passion and enthusiasm about bird identification, vocalizations, habitats and in so doing, enhancing other people's own nature-related experiences.

If I could take a vacation anywhere in the world, I would visit all of the islands in the West Indies, and all of the countries in Tropical America, being immersed to my dying days with the birdlife and varied environments in those areas, as well as observing and learning from native peoples and their cultures.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a little about myself.

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## Light-footed Clapper Rail Release

A unique opportunity was presented to our dedicated volunteers of the San Diego Tracking Team – radio telemetry monitoring of 5 Light-footed Clapper Rails (birds) in the San Diego River flood control channel, just south of Sea World. An announcement was made at the Mission Trails Regional Park prior to the showing of “the Great Dance,” and several attendees expressed interest in helping. Twice a day volunteers from SDTT, Sea World, and the San Diego Audubon Society were to move along the flood channel to document the location of each bird with a GPS waypoint.

Unfortunately, one clapper rail dropped the transmitter glued to its tail immediately, and ultimately, the other four birds’ transmitters fell off by the very day we announced the chance to participate in this new type of wildlife survey. According to John Konecny, wildlife biologist and one of our own

SDTT apprentices, a new type of glue was used that produced those disappointing results. In fact, previous releases have yielded radio signals for as long as 30 days!

Happily, the media was present at the release of the birds, both on television and in the paper. The significance on releasing birds into traditional habitats is not lost, particularly when a specie, such as the endangered Clapper Rail, had fallen to such a small population. Back in 1970, the US Fish and Wildlife Service designated the bird as “endangered” due to a known population of 300 nesting pairs.

The willingness of SDTT to “spread our wings” by helping in conservation efforts has been noted, and we anticipate future opportunities.

Thank you for your interest!

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## Introducing Jenny Gladheim

Hi! I am Jenny Gladheim and I have recently begun handling some of the SDTT’s administrative functions. I thought I would tell you a little bit about myself since it will be a while until I meet many of you. I trained to be a teacher and worked at Midland Elementary School in Poway for a short while until my youngest children were born. Now staying home to care for my four little ones takes up most of my time, but I manage to keep busy with the rest of my time—in addition to my SDTT work, I

also create custom cards and invitations.

As a child I grew up camping and hiking with my parents, something I continued as I attended college at Humboldt State in Northern California. I haven’t done much of either lately, but I hope to start again now that I am getting involved with the SDTT.

My favorite hobbies are reading, cooking, and digital scrapbooking. I also love going for walks along the horse

trails in Poway, riding bikes, and going to the beach with my family.

I look forward to getting to know many of you as I continue working with the

SDTT. Should you need to contact me, please feel free to call me using the SDTT number of 760.715.4102 or emailing me at [gladbiz@cox.net](mailto:gladbiz@cox.net).

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## Upcoming SDTT Events

**Friday- Sunday, November 2-4:** Trailing Workshop, 7:30 am at the Julian Coffee Shop. Cost for this event is \$325. Please see the SDTTLIST Yahoo! Group posting for more information (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SDTTLIST/message/314>).

**Friday, November 9:** Dr. Kevin Crooks' Lecture: Connectivity and Wildlife Conservation in Urbanizing Landscapes, 4:00 pm to 5 pm at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

**Saturday, November 10:** Monthly tracking walks, 8:00 am to 10:00 at the Peñasquitos Preserve Ranch House. Beginning and Intermediate/Advanced levels offered.

**Wednesday November 14 and Saturday November 17:** Advanced Tracker Naturalist Class, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Friday and 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday at the Ranch House. \$50 fee, \$10 discount for SDTT donor members. Contact Rick Botta at (858)472-2220 to sign up as a student or to help out.

**Saturday, December 8:** Monthly tracking walks, 8:00 am to 10:00 at the Peñasquitos Preserve Ranch House. Beginning and Intermediate/Advanced levels offered.

**Saturday, January 12:** Monthly tracking walks, 8:00 am to 10:00 at the Peñasquitos Preserve Ranch House. Beginning and Intermediate/Advanced levels offered.

**Saturday, January 19:** Introductory Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training, 9:45 am to 4:00 pm. at the Peñasquitos Preserve Ranch House.

Dear member of Congress,

Global warming is the defining environmental challenge of our time, and the window to act is closing rapidly. Scientists have warned that without action to reduce global warming pollution below today's levels within the next 10 years, we will be unable to avoid the most dangerous impacts of global warming.

I am writing you to urge you to cosponsor the Safe Climate Act, legislation that would set science-based limits on global warming pollution to prevent the worst effects of global warming. The Safe Climate Act is a forward-looking bill that mirrors California's own targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

If we act now, and act decisively, we can stop global warming and protect our children and future generations. Please support legislation like the Safe Climate Act, which will reduce global warming pollution by 80% by 2050.

Sincerely,

Please find your Representative from the table below and mail the signed letter as soon as you can so we can all help reduce global warming pollution.

District 49	Oceanside, Temecula	Congressman Darrell Issa 1800 Thibodo Road, #310 Vista, CA 92081
District 50	North County Costal	Congressman Brian Bilbray 462 Stevens Avenue, Suite 107 Solana Beach, CA 92075
District 51	Southern SD County, Imperial Valley	Congressman Bob Filner 333 F Street, Suite A Chula Vista, CA 91910
District 52	Eastern SD County	Congressman Duncan Hunter 1870 Cordell Court, Suite 206 El Cajon, CA 92020
District 53	City of San Diego	Congresswoman Susan Davis 4305 University Avenue, Suite 515 San Diego, CA 92105

JORDAN DALE COVIN MEMORIAL LECTURE 2007

# Connectivity and Wildlife Conservation in Urbanizing Landscapes

Dr. Kevin Crooks

Assistant Professor, Department of Fish,  
Wildlife, and Conservation Biology  
Colorado State University

## SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Friday, November 9th, 2007

Lecture: 4:00 -5:00 PM

Reception following

Public Welcome

**Event Info:** (619) 594-0580

<http://fs.sdsu.edu>

Presented by:



**SDSU FIELD STATIONS PROGRAM**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM