



## Natural Resources and Science Monthly Update

### San Francisco Bay Area National Parks

#### October 2011

### New on [www.sfnps.org](http://www.sfnps.org)

#### Species Lists:

- Updated **Pinnacles bird checklist** [http://sfnps.org/birds/PINN\\_list](http://sfnps.org/birds/PINN_list)

#### Image Galleries:

- **Red-tailed Hawks:** [http://sfnps.org/red-tailed\\_hawks/images](http://sfnps.org/red-tailed_hawks/images)
- **Grasslands:** <http://sfnps.org/grasslands/images>
- **Rivers & Streams:** [http://sfnps.org/rivers\\_streams/images](http://sfnps.org/rivers_streams/images)
- **Lichens:** <http://sfnps.org/lichens/images>
- **Reports:**
- 2009 and 2010 **Early Detection of Invasive Plant Species Annual Reports** [http://sfnps.org/invasive\\_plants/reports](http://sfnps.org/invasive_plants/reports)

### Wildlife

#### Pinnacles Condor Population Grows

On September 24, nearly 200 visitors got to witness the release of condor 588 via a live video feed displayed on large screen televisions at the park visitor center. Two days later, a second juvenile condor, #589, was also released. Both birds have already reached the park's central High Peaks and have been perching and interacting with more experienced, older condors. The flock now also has another new free-flying condor, hatched in the wild. Condor 598, reared in a nest on a private ranch outside of the park, has been seen away from her nest since she fledged in mid-September. For more information contact [Daniel\\_George@nps.gov](mailto:Daniel_George@nps.gov).



Condor 588 flying free at Pinnacles

#### Nesting Plovers Had a Great Year

The western snowy plover season at Point Reyes has come to a close with the fledging of the last chick on September 21st. Eleven chicks fledged this year, more than any year since 2007. See [http://www.sfnps.org/western\\_snowy\\_plover/updates](http://www.sfnps.org/western_snowy_plover/updates) for details.

#### First State of the Birds Report for SF Bay Now Available

This PRBO publication summarizes what we know about the status of the region's bird populations and what needs to be done to help protect these species and their habitats. Key findings include:

- Most bird populations are stable while others are still struggling. Riparian birds and two endangered species (CA Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover) have increased, but grassland and coastal scrub birds are declining due to loss and alteration of habitat.
- The state-listed California Clapper Rail is still

### Large Scotch Broom Control Project Underway at Point Reyes

Point Reyes National Seashore recently completed the second of a three-year NRPP-funded project to treat all infestations of invasive Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) in the Seashore except the dense central core on N Ranch. Over 170 infested acres across 1,800 acres of the park were treated. The N Ranch core section will be treated in FY12-14 through a second grant. In addition to the last four infested acres that will receive initial treatment, the FY10-12 grant will cover retreatment of all sites treated in FY10-11. Removal methods (manual, mechanical, excavators, burning, and herbicide) were selected according to presence of sensitive species, proximity to waterways, time of year, weather conditions, and patch size and density. Monitoring plot data combined with tracking of hours and dollars will be analyzed this winter to assess treatment effectiveness. For further information, contact [Lisa\\_Michi@nps.gov](mailto:Lisa_Michi@nps.gov).



Scotch broom being treated at Point Reyes

### Endangered Plant Restoration At Point Reyes on the Radio

Hear an interview with rare plant ecologist Diana Immel and Point Reyes fire ecologist Alison Forrestel about research using controlled burns to restore endangered showy Indian clover—last reported growing in the park area about 100 years ago. The interview is available on the West Marin Report's website: <http://kwmr.org/blog/show/864>.

### Physical Resources and Processes

#### Cool Video of Bridge Installation at Muir Beach

To allow for the creek to change courses naturally, a longer, aluminum pedestrian bridge has replaced the existing smaller bridge from the parking lot to the Coastal Trail junction. The six sections of bridge arrived via CHP escort and were set in place with a large crane. Check it out on [YouTube](#).

### Announcements

#### Save the Date! 2012 Natural Resources and Science Symposium, February 15, 2012

This year's symposium will be held at Lower Ft. Mason, Building A. We will be sending out a request for proposals for presentations and posters soon. Check [http://sfnps.org/science\\_symposia](http://sfnps.org/science_symposia) for details or contact [moherron@parksconservancy.org](mailto:moherron@parksconservancy.org).

#### Species of the Year Kick-off November 13th

Bring the whole family and join us around a campfire with members of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria who will say their traditional salmon blessing. The event features storytelling, native craft-making, and traditional fire-starting. Meet at Muir Beach where the creek meets the ocean. Learn more about this and other Species of the Year events and activities at <http://sfnps.org/species>.

struggling because of habitat loss, predator pressure, and invasive species.

- All habitat types harbor species that are declining.

See <http://data.prbo.org/sfstateofthebirds/> for the full story.

## Vegetation

### Defeating Yellow Starthistle on Pinnacle's New Lands

105 acres of Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) are now under control in a heavily infested area acquired by the park a few years ago. This success is due to an integrated pest management approach that has been underway since 2009. Treatments have included a prescribed burn in 2009 followed by herbicide treatment in 2010, and timed mowing followed by hoeing of regrowth in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Timed goat grazing was also used in 2010 along with hand-pulling by volunteers throughout all years. Contact [Brent\\_Johnson@nps.gov](mailto:Brent_Johnson@nps.gov) to learn more.

### Weedzilla on the Loose in Golden Gate

Michael Chasse was awarded the 2011 Weedzilla Award at the latest CA Invasive Plant Council Symposium for outstanding work in the battle against invasive plant species in the park. The award is given out by NPS at these annual meetings to recognize those who have stood out from the crowd of California NPS managers. Congratulate Michael at [Michael\\_Chasse@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Chasse@nps.gov).



Michael Chasse (left) and Bobbi Simpson (right) with Weedzilla



"Moe Coho" as named by Michelle Woo Bowman in a Parks Conservancy Facebook contest, is the Species of the Year for 2012

## Brown Bags at Point Reyes

- **November 8 (Noon - 2 pm) - "Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Education and Outreach Training"** Presented by the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary Foundation will be presenting a basic overview of MPA science, monitoring, and outreach. This training is intended for volunteers and other interested partners who would like to improve their ability to communicate MPA science and objectives to the public. Anyone is welcome to attend this introductory overview, but please RSVP to [Ben\\_Becker@nps.gov](mailto:Ben_Becker@nps.gov) if interested.
- **November 17 (Noon) "Antarctic Toothfish and the Ross Sea"** Cassandra Brooks, <http://www.cassandrabrooks.com/>

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**Note:** All Inventory & Monitoring items are indicated with an \*

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