

SESSION F: WILDLIFE I-MANAGING FOR SELECTED SPECIES

One of the more obvious signs that riparian habitat has all but disappeared in California is the number of endangered species whose existence depends on it. Because of the legal protection accorded to endangered species, they have become a major reason that riparian habitat is being protected and restored. Riparian habitats that harbor endangered or threatened species or even "species of special concern," suddenly become impediments to development of marinas, rip-rapping projects, and rows of streamside condominiums. Then finding out as much as possible about the requirements of these species becomes imperative, so that the minimum amount of habitat can be set aside for their protection. Under these conditions, money usually becomes available for the study of some of the more obscure but fascinating species that inhabit riparian areas.

The twelve papers presented here deal with seven discrete animal groups—stoneflies, a beetle, salmonid fishes and four species of riparian birds. The beetle and all of the birds are considered to be at some level scale of concern over possible extinction. Protecting such fascinating species is reason enough to save riparian habitats.

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