

THIRTY-FIRST VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

Monterey, California

MARCH 11-14, 2024

INVITATION TO ATTEND

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the 31st Vertebrate Pest Conference, a scientific forum for discussing and exchanging information on human-wildlife conflicts. The conference will be held at the Monterey Marriott. Monterey is a city on California's rugged central coast. Its Cannery Row, one-time center of the sardine-packing industry, was immortalized by novelist John Steinbeck. Today this area is known as the salad bowl of the world and is the third largest agriculture county in California. More information about the hotel can be found at: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mryca-monterey-marriott/overview/>. Rooms are available to book and information can be found at a later date at www.vpconference.org.

The Vertebrate Pest Conference, held every two years, is the most recognized conference of its kind. Participants and attendees include leading authorities on vertebrate pest management from around the world. Papers are presented in English.

The pre-registration fee for the full conference (excluding field trip) is expected to be around \$395.

FIELD TRIP

The optional Conference field trip on March 11th will explore human-wildlife conflicts in this unique location. It will provide a first-hand opportunity to see wildlife damage as well as management efforts in progress. This will be an all-day event. The field trip fee includes motor coach transportation and lunch.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

The conference will be held over 4 days and includes a field trip, held on the first day, as well as three days filled with special symposia and concurrent sessions. This format maximizes information exchange and provides networking opportunities that satisfies all interests in vertebrate pest management (e.g.,

management of birds, rodents, and predators; management in agricultural, urban, and natural landscapes; zoonotic and livestock diseases, etc.). Presentations range from practical management to more technical papers concerning research or new technology.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The call for papers is an effort to attract a wide array of potential contributors. Papers can be of a practical nature or more technically or research oriented. We are seeking papers for proposed special symposia that may include:

Pest and Beneficial Bird Management Management of Commensal Rodents Predator Management

Additional contributed papers will be accepted in (but not limited to) the following vertebrate pest categories:

- Field rodent management
- Predator management
- Hazards associated with vertebrate pest control
- Control of birds in urban and agricultural settings
- T&E species and vertebrate pest management
- Regulatory issues of vertebrate pest control
- Human Dimensions of vertebrate pest management
- Economic, social, and political aspects of vertebrate pest management

Papers for urban/landscape nuisance wildlife and agricultural IPM procedures are encouraged for providing continuing education credit requirements.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts and a brief biography of the presenter for oral papers or posters to be presented at the Conference should be submitted not later than November 1, 2023. The body of the abstract cannot exceed 300 words. Your presentation may describe work currently in progress.

To submit an abstract, visit the VPC website (www.vpconference.org) and follow the links "Submit an Abstract".

If you have questions about abstract submission, please contact Program Chairperson Laura Snell.

E-mail: lksnell@ucanr.edu (best)

Phone: 530-233-6400

Contributed papers will be selected by the Vertebrate Pest Council on the basis of scientific merit, newness, uniqueness of topic, usefulness, and appropriateness for the overall Conference program and its objectives. Abstracts received after November 1, will be considered if space is available.

All speakers are expected to submit a manuscript, which is due on March 31st, 2024. All manuscripts will be peer edited and published in the 31st VP Conference *Proceedings*.

A preliminary program for the Conference will be available in December 2023. For additional information on the Conference as it develops, refer to the VPC website:

<http://www.vpconference.org>

30th VPC PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

Papers from the *Proceedings* of the 30th Vertebrate Pest Conference (2022) are available as open access files, which can be downloaded from the following website (from which papers published in the 1st through 29th VPC *Proceedings* can also be accessed): https://scholarship.org/uc/vertebrate_pest_conference

A printed copy of the 30th VPC *Proceedings* was not published, due to a low number of papers submitted during the COVID pandemic. However, papers from the

30th Conference will be included in the printed 31st VPC *Proceedings*, which is anticipated to become available for purchase before the end of calendar year 2024. Visit www.vpconference.org for information on purchasing printed copies of previous VPC *Proceedings* volumes.

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS & SPONSORSHIP

Space is available for exhibits of commercial products and services. Sponsorship of activities such as field trip, meal function, breaks and the reception are also available.

For more information, please contact:

Aaron Shiels

Phone: 970-266-6324

Email: aaron.b.shiels@aphis.usda.gov

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF PARTICIPANTS

The Conference makes significant contributions toward understanding and resolving human-wildlife conflicts and wildlife damage problems, promoting better management methodology, and minimizing adverse environmental and ecological effects. Vertebrate pest management is applied ecology focused on improving agriculture, public and wildlife health, and conservation of natural and human-made resources. The Conference is a forum for sharing knowledge and experiences among researchers, administrators, extension personnel,

educators, and practitioners in vertebrate pest management and wildlife damage problems.

Participants vary in professional background, but all have one common interest - wildlife as vertebrate pests. The following are representative of past attendees:

- Animal control officials and personnel
- Private and commercial pesticide applicators
- Consultants in vertebrate pest problems
- Manufacturers and suppliers of vertebrate pest materials
- Health department officials and employees
- Agriculturists interested in predation and disease transmission reduction
- Extension specialists, advisors, and agents
- Foresters
- Wildlife departments (wildlife managers and enforcement agents)
- Pest control advisors (PCAs)
- Federal and state pesticide registration and regulatory agency administrators and staff
- Sanitarians
- Food processing and warehouse managers
- Educators - pest control subjects
- Students
- Researchers - (public agencies and private sector)
- Natural resource managers
- Private wildlife control operators

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Monday, March 11, 2024

Field Trip - Vertebrate pest management

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Registration
Keynote Address and Plenary Session
General and Concurrent Sessions

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

General and Concurrent Sessions
Special symposia

Thursday, March 14, 2024

General and Concurrent Sessions
Special symposium
Closing Remarks

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

California Continuing Education (CE) credits for Pest Control Professionals (PCA, QAC, etc.) are anticipated. CE credit for other programs may also be available.

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

The Conference strongly encourages student participation by offering a discounted Student pre-registration fee of around \$75.00 for the entire Conference. A limited number of student travel scholarships will be available. Students whose abstract for a poster or an oral presentation is accepted and who provide a manuscript for the Proceedings can be eligible to receive a travel award of up to \$500. For more details, contact Nicki Frey at nicki.frey@usu.edu or 435-559-0360.

SHARE WITH A COLLEAGUE

If you are not available to attend this Conference, we hope you will pass it along to someone who many have interest in the field of managing human-wildlife conflicts. If you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to receive future announcements, please send your name and address, including e-mail address to:

Niamh Quinn

Email: nmquinn@ucanr.edu

31st VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

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Monterey, California

Sponsored by:

THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL



**Pest and Beneficial Bird Management
Management of Commensal Rodents
Predator Management**

Conference Chair:

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Natural Resources
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Conference**
www.vpconference.org

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