

31st VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

March 11-14, 2024

Monterey, California

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Includes Special Symposia:

Pest and Beneficial Bird Management

Management of Commensal Rodents

Predator Management

New Frontiers in Managing Wild Pigs

THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL



Sponsored by:

The Vertebrate Pest Council

The 31st Vertebrate Pest Conference will be held March 11-14, 2024 at the Monterey Marriott in Monterey, California. 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. The Conference will feature an optional full-day field trip (Monday, March 11) and three days of presentations (March 12-14) covering many aspects of vertebrate pest control.

Who Should Attend

The Conference significantly contributes to understanding and resolving undesirable wildlife-human interactions and wildlife damage problems, promoting better management methodology, and minimizing adverse environmental and ecological effects. Vertebrate pest management is applied ecology with improved agriculture, public health, and conservation of natural and human-made resources as the primary goals. The Conference is a forum for exchanging knowledge, information and experiences among researchers, administrators, regulators, extension personnel, practitioners, and students. Participants have various professional backgrounds, but all have one common interest – managing human-wildlife conflicts. The following represents previous attendee affiliations:

- Wildlife control and animal control officials and personnel
- Wildlife managers employed by federal, state, and regional agencies
- Health department officials and employees
- Pest control advisors (PCAs) and others involved in pesticide use and pesticide regulation
- Agricultural producers, both using conventional and organic methods
- Consultants in vertebrate pest problems
- Manufacturers and suppliers of vertebrate pest materials
- Extension Specialists, Advisors, and Agents
- Foresters
- Administrators and staff of federal and state agriculture departments, environmental protection agencies, and other regulatory agencies
- Sanitarians
- Food processing and warehouse managers
- Educators teaching integrated pest management and agricultural topics
- Researchers (public agencies and private sector)
- Natural resource managers (conservationists) in public agencies and NGOs

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

California Continuing Education (CE) credits for pest control professionals (PCA, QAC, etc.) and Vector Control personnel will be available. Past Conferences have provided 18 to 22 California DPR credit hours, plus CE credits from the CA Department of Public Health; credits are based on final program content. For updates, see www.vpconference.org. We are also working on Arizona CE.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is highly recommended and can be accomplished online via the Internet, using a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover), by going to <http://www.vpconference.org/>. To obtain the discounted pre-registration rate, be sure to complete your registration **by February 1, 2024**. Registration after February 1 or at the Conference will include an additional \$80 surcharge.

Pre-registration fees will be refunded minus a 20% administrative fee if the request for refund is made to Conference Registration Coordinator Lillian Mignella at lillian.mignella@target-specialty.com or phone: 562-802-2238 ext 51218 by **February 25, 2024**. No refunds will be granted after this date. Pre-registration fees can be transferred to another individual, to permit their attendance in your place, if the request is made by February 25.

Discounted Pre-Registration

Complete Conference (Mar 12-14)	\$410.00
Per-Day Conference Registration	\$185.00
Retiree, Complete Conference (Mar 12-14)	\$205.00

Student Pre-Registration

Complete Conference – Student (Mar 12-14)	\$90.00
Per-Day Conference Registration	\$40.00

Commercial Exhibitor

Complete Conference – Exhibitor (includes 1 person registration with 1 exhibit table)	\$1000.00
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Optional Events

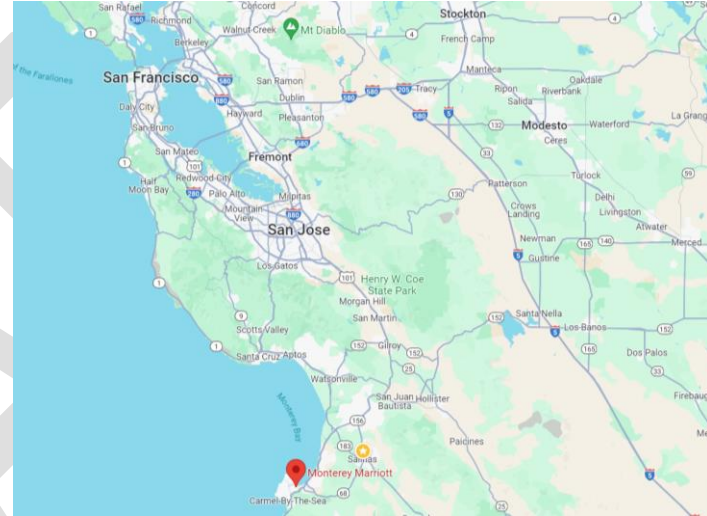
Field Trip (full day Mar 11, includes lunch)	\$110.00
Field Trip – Guest (full day Mar 11, includes lunch)	\$110.00

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The conference *Proceedings* will be available with open access as individual papers in pdf format at the University of California's eScholarship portal once publication is completed. A printed version of the 30th and 31st *Proceedings* will also be available for purchase via print-on-demand.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Monterey Marriott
350 Calle Principal
Monterey, CA 93940, US



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

To make your hotel reservation at the Monterey Marriott, go to <https://book.passkey.com/event/50637515/owner/4481/home>. There are a limited number of rooms available at the conference rate, so it is important you make your room reservations by February 19th for the \$189/night rate.

TRANSPORTATION

Airports: Monterey Regional Airport (MRY) is 3.5 miles from the Monterey Marriott. This airport has regional service from Denver - CO, Dallas – TX, Phoenix – AZ, Seattle – WA and several California locations. The San Jose Airport (SJC) is 72 miles and San Francisco (SFO) is 107 miles from the Monterey Marriott and offers national and international service.

Ground Transportation:

There is bus service and shuttle service from the San Jose and San Francisco Airports to the Monterey Marriott. Look for schedules and pricing at Groome Transportation (groometransportation.com \$48 San Jose to Monterey) or Monterey-Salinas Transit (mst.org).

COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS

The Conference will have commercial exhibit displays. Space is available for exhibiting commercial products and services. The exhibition fee is \$1000, which includes one full conference registration. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar will be available Wednesday evening in conjunction with the displays, poster exhibits, and a vendors' forum. For further information, contact Aaron Shiels: aaron.b.shiels@usda.gov.

FIELD TRIP (Monday March 11, 2024)

The Conference begins with an optional full-day field trip on Monday, March 11. The field trip departs from the Monterey Marriott at approximately 8:00 AM. The field trip will include a bus trip through the surrounding area with talks about bird and rodent management and other human-wildlife conflicts. A lunch will be provided (included in cost). Buses will return to the hotel by approximately 4:00 PM.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM (Tuesday – Thursday, March 12-14, 2024)

Conference presentations will begin at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 12, with a single plenary session, led off by a keynote address and a presentation of the Walter E. 'Howdy' Howard Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Vertebrate Pest Management. Concurrent sessions will occur from Tuesday afternoon through Thursday, offering participants a choice of topical sessions and special symposia. Morning and afternoon refreshment breaks, as well as evening social activities on Tuesday and Wednesday, will permit ample time for meeting speakers and conference participants to engage in informal discussions.

The final program, containing exact times and assignments of concurrent sessions and individual presentations, will be provided at the time of the Conference. Updates on program details will be posted on the Conference's web site (<http://www.vpconference.org>) when they become available.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Keynote Address will be given by Dr. James Beasley, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia. His research is focused on addressing both theoretical and applied questions in wildlife ecology and management. In particular, his research is interdisciplinary in nature and uses a combination of field and laboratory approaches to develop science-based solutions to facilitate the management and conservation of wildlife populations. Dr. Beasley has worked on a diversity of taxa including carnivores, birds, wild pigs, small mammals, and invertebrates. He will focus his talk on global management of wild pigs.

POSTER SESSION

A special Poster Session will be available for informal viewing from Tuesday afternoon (March 12) through Thursday morning (March 14). Posters can present either practical or technical aspects of managing human-wildlife conflicts, or summarize research related to wildlife damage management or work currently in progress. Easels and poster boards will be provided to display posters, so posters cannot be larger than 36 inches x 36 inches. For further details, see the Conference's web site or contact Nicki Frey at nicki.frey@usu.edu.

Conference At-A-Glance: Tentative Schedule

Monday, March 11

Optional Field Trip
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday, March 12

Opening Plenary Session
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Lunch (*on your own*)

Posters and Commercial Exhibits open – 1:15 PM

Symposium:
**Pest and Beneficial Bird
Management**
1:20 PM – 5:00 PM

Symposium:
**New Frontiers in Managing
Wild Pigs** 1:20 PM – 5:00 PM

5:30 PM No-Host Welcoming Social

Wednesday, March 13

Speaker's Breakfast 6:30-9:30 AM

Symposium:
Commensal Rodents
8:10 AM – 12:00 PM

Symposium:
**New Frontiers in Managing
Wild Pigs** 8:10 AM – 12:00 PM

Lunch (*on your own*)

Symposium:
Commensal Rodents
1:20 PM – 5:00 PM

Concurrent Session:
General Session
1:20 PM – 5:00 PM

1:30 PM -5:00 PM National Wild Pig Task Force Meeting
Ferrantes Bay View Ballroom

6:30 PM: Hors d'oeuvres, Poster Session, and Vendors' Forum

Thursday, March 14

Symposium:
Predator Management
8:10 AM – 12:00 AM

Concurrent Session:
General Session
8:10 AM – 12:00 AM

Lunch (*on your own*)

Concurrent Session:
General Session
1:20 PM – 5:00 PM

Concurrent Session:
General Session
1:20 PM – 5:00 PM

31th VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE CHAIR:

Niamh Quinn, University of California Cooperative Extension
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REGISTRATION:

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COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS:

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POSTER AND STUDENT AWARD COORDINATOR:

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CONTINUING EDUCATION:

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