



Kerry Ross | Biologist

Qualifications

Kerry Ross has over 21 years of professional experience as an avian biologist, on a wide variety of field-based projects throughout California and Nevada. He is a well-traveled, avid birder and possesses superior field identification skills for raptors and all other avian taxa. Mr. Ross began working with BBI in 2015 and has performed a variety of avian surveys during that time and has utilized every protocol for bird surveys within California. He is adept at recording detailed data forms and spatial data while maintaining maximal coverage of each survey area. In 2018, he was one of 72 citizen-science surveyors that participated in a “Desert Avicaching” contest, as part of a collaboration between Point Blue Conservation Science and the Sonoran Joint Venture, which had birders surveying underrepresented areas of the Colorado and Mojave Deserts in Southern California. He ultimately received the grand prize, submitting an impressive 148 checklists and recording 95 species on eBird for those desert areas.

Professional Experience

Mr. Ross has conducted a broad array of avian surveys for private sector, utility, and other municipalities in California, at locations in San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, Kern, Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, Trinity and Sonoma counties, including construction and preconstruction surveys, and infrastructure-related surveys for wind farms and utility transmission lines. Avian sampling techniques employed included bird use count (BUC), eagle point count (EPC), linear transects, point counts along a transect line, and area bird surveys, all in accordance with published California Energy Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidelines for projects in California. Recent projects include:

Confidential Client, Antelope Valley, CA

Perform extensive ground surveys of known Swainson’s Hawk nesting territories in the Antelope Valley, as well as surveying for potential new nesting sites in any remaining quality Swainson’s Hawk habitat. This requires both expert bird identification skills as well as extensive knowledge of habitat use by Swainson’s Hawks. Document nest locations in detail, and record the banding status of adult birds, using photo documentation when possible. Assist with the banding of all Swainson’s Hawk nestlings found, as well as other raptor species in the same areas. These surveys will contribute to ongoing research started by Dr. Peter Bloom in 1979, and will be used to inform renewable energy companies of the needs for mitigation and conservation of the species.

SDG&E On-call, Various Locations in Southern CA

Provide on-call biological surveys for various preconstruction surveys and eagle monitoring surveys, especially in Eastern San Diego County. Work as a technician, identifying nesting birds and delineating buffered zones around nests. Write detailed reports, safety tailboards, and submit complex job packages with spatial data for each project daily.

SCE, Various Locations in Southern CA

On-call biologist for a variety of SCE transmission line projects throughout Southern California. Perform preconstruction surveys and during-construction monitoring related to nesting birds. Submit detailed daily reports of findings, including geospatial data and images from each surveyed site. Create a daily safety tailboard for each site.

Mitsubishi Mining Company, Inyokern, CA

Survey mine lease sites for nesting raptors as part of the North Slope (San Bernardino Mountains) Raptor Conservation Strategy implemented by the USFWS. Evaluate Golden Eagle nest sites for nest building signs and nest occupancy. Map and photograph all findings and update seasonal databases. Coordinate with mine owners for access to remote canyon sites. Operate according to stringent mine safety protocols.

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Confidential Client, Tehachapi, CA

Conducted approximately three years of half-day or full-day surveys for eagles and California Condors at an operational wind plant in a Joshua tree woodland habitat near Rosamond at the base of the Tehachapi mountains. Recorded detailed data and flight paths for all sensitive species detected, entered data and digitized flight path maps daily. Used radio tracking devices daily.

HawkWatch International, Nevada and Florida

Lead observer for five seasons of migratory raptor counts. Performed data entry and submission. Educated visitors to the hawk watch station, hawk migration and identification of all raptors resulting in the expansion of a long term data. Also captured and marked migrating raptors.

San Diego Zoo Global, Naval Base Coronado, San Diego CA

Searched for and monitored nests of Western Snowy Plovers and Least Terns in coastal areas. Banded adults and chicks of both species, re-sighted color-banded individuals, entered and organized nesting and banding data.

Institute of Wildlife Studies, San Clement Island, CA

Surveyed for and monitored endemic Loggerhead Shrike, wrote summary reports and upkept project database.

Various Clients and Agencies, throughout California

Performed protocol surveys for many different sensitive species in a wide variety of habitats, including Marbled Murrelet, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher, and Northern Spotted Owl.

Education

Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
Major: Wildlife Biology (Bachelor's degree pending)

College of the Redwoods, Eureka, CA
Associate of Science - December 2003

Workshops & Certifications

- Spatial Data Collection Platforms: ESRI ArcCollector, ESRI Survey123
- Certified Marbled Murrelet Surveyor, Trainer, and Evaluator 1999-2012
- Threatened Species Recovery Authorized (limited) Individual US Fish & Wildlife Service Permit # TE-823807-3 authorized to capture, band, weigh, and measure Western Snowy Plovers and eggs
- Oiled Wildlife Care Network Advanced Skills & Supervisor Training - Marine Wildlife Care Center
- Oiled Wildlife Care Network Basic Skills Course, Marine Wildlife Care Center, Arcata, CA 2005
- Snowy Plover Workshop and Training, Mad River Biologists, 2000 and 2001
- Wilderness Survival Course, Ketchum, Idaho, 1988
- American Heart Association, CPR and Advanced First Aid
- Swift Water Rescue Training, Wild Rivers Idaho, Ketchum, Idaho
- Pacific Seabird Group Member
- Helicopter Underwater Escape Training
- Marbled Murrelet Surveyors Training Annual Certification
- Skilled four wheel drive, powerboat, ATV, and snowmobile operator