

Aviva Rossi

Dept. of Wildlife, Fish, & Conservation Biology
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Education

Ph.D., Ecology

University of California, Davis. Anticipated 2020

Dissertation: Habitat Associations and the Potential for Climate-Change Induced Distributional Shifts of Three High-Elevation Mammal Species

Advisor: Dr. Dirk Van Vuren

MS, Environmental Management

University of San Francisco. 2002

Master's Project: Effects of Increased Freshwater Flow from Anthropogenic Sources on Tidal Salt Marsh Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats in the South San Francisco Bay

BA, Psychobiology (emphasis on wildlife behavioral ecology)

University of California, Santa Cruz. 2000

Highest Honors awarded in the major

Minor in Psychology

Honors

UC Davis PhD – Golden Key International Honour Society

2003, 2004, 2005 – CH2M HILL Meritorious Service Award

1996 – Member Phi Theta Kappa

Fellowships and Awards

2018-2019 – Nominated for the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

2018 – 2019 – Ernest E. Hill Memorial Graduate Fellowship

2017 – 2018 – American Association of University Women American Dissertation Fellowship – Alternate List

2016 – 2017 – Professors for the Future - Alternate List

2016 – 2017 – Ecology Student Endowment/Jastro Award

2015 – 2016 – Graduate Group in Ecology Fellowship Award

2014 – 2015 – Wildlife, Fish, & Conservation Biology Graduate Student Award

2014 – 2015 – Ted and Silvia Hillyer Fellowship

Teaching Experience

Instructor at the University of San Francisco

Field Survey Management, 2012-Current

Developed and taught this course for the Master of Science in Environmental Management program. Used lecture and field experience to prepare graduate students to successfully manage field teams in a professional role. Course topics include planning, data management, proper documentation, reporting (professional writing skills), ethics, protocols, standards, field team oversight and regulatory permitting. Field component included field data collection for wildlife and vegetation.

Associate Instructor at the University of California, Davis

Natural History of California's Wild Vertebrates, WFC 50, 2017

Taught science course, open to non-majors, for 70 students. I prepared and presented lectures, and coordinated with Professors and other researchers to provide guest lectures. Managed a lab with specimens, overseeing two graduate student teaching assistants, and five undergraduate student assistants. Wrote a midterm and final exam and provided extensive feedback on science writing for term papers.

Teaching Assistant at University of California, Davis

Field Methods in Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology, Spring 2018, Instructor: Dirk Van Vuren

Assisted with logistics and teaching students vertebrate field survey methods. Graded exams and field journals.

Career Discovery Group, Fall-Spring 2014- 2019, Instructors: Diane Ullman, David Rizzo, Daniel Potter

Served as a mentor for ~20 first year university students each year. Student groups include animal/wildlife majors, minority students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and transfer students. Led quarter length seminars

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teaching on strategies to succeed at a university, refine career goals, and develop job application skills.

Organized career activities (field trips, panel presentations, guest speakers, etc.).

Field Research in Wildlife Ecology, Fall 2016 and Fall 2018, Instructors: Dirk Van Vuren & John Eadie and Fall 2018, Instructors: Douglas Kelt and Brian Todd

Assisted with logistics of weeklong traveling field course and teaching students field research techniques, graded field notebooks and edited research reports.

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Fall 2014, Instructor: Douglas Kelt

Led discussion sections, graded essays, homework, interactive class exercises, and short essay exams.

Biology and Conservation of Wild Mammals, Lecture and Lab, Spring 2014, Instructor: Douglas Kelt,

Led lab sections, supervised undergraduate teaching assistance, wrote, administered, and graded lab exams.

Graded short essay exams for lecture.

Wildlife Ecology, Fall 2013, Instructor: Dirk Van Vuren,

Graded exams and provided guidance to students.

Publications

Submitted 2019. Aliperti, Jaelyn, Dirk Van Vuren, Aviva Jali Rossi, Kenneth B. Armitage. Litter relocations in two ground-dwelling squirrel species of differing size and sociality. *Ethology*.

2015. Fifield, Virginia L., **Aviva J. Rossi**, and Erin E. Boydston. Documentation of mountain lions in Marin County, California, 2010-2013. *California Fish and Game*. 101: 66-71.

Agency Reports

2015. Assessing Climate Threats to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. A report to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from the John Muir Institute of the Environment at the University of California, Davis. Primary contributors (in alphabetical order): Giselle Block, Connor Dibble, Eric Holmes, Jordan Hollarsmith, Kelsey McDonald, Ryan Peek, Katherine Powelson, **Aviva Rossi**, Jason Sadowski, Mark Schwartz, Christine Sur, Kate Tiedeman, Matthew Williamson. August.

2001. Ettlinger, E., Gregory Andrew, and **Aviva Rossi**. Juvenile Salmonid Population Monitoring Report Lagunitas Creek, Marin County, California Fall 2000.

Popular Press Articles

2016. **Rossi, Aviva**. Ask the Naturalist: What's with all the squirrels in Marin?. *Bay Nature Magazine*. Oct 27.

2011. **Rossi, Aviva**. Woodpeckers of the Watershed. *Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed Newsletter*.

2010. **Rossi, Aviva**. Excitable Neighbors: Squirrels of the Watershed. *Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed Newsletter*.

2009. **Rossi, Aviva**. Wild Families of the Watershed. *Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed Newsletter*.

Presentations

2019. Habitat Use by Montane Ground-dwelling Squirrels Over Space and Time. **Rossi, Aviva**, Robert Klinger; and Dirk Van Vuren. Oral presentation at the American Society of Mammalogist annual meeting.

2018. Comparison of Niches of Three Sympatric High-elevation Ground-dwelling Squirrels. **Rossi, Aviva**, Robert Klinger; and Dirk Van Vuren. Poster at the Western Section of The Wildlife Society and Ecology Graduate Group Symposium. Oral Presentation at the Ecological Society of America 2018 Conference and Wildlife Fish and Conservation Biology Department Seminar.

2018. Litter Translocations by Yellow-Bellied Marmots, *Marmota flaviventris*. Poster. Aliperti, Jaelyn R., **Aviva Rossi**, Kenneth B. Armitage. Western Section of The Wildlife Society and Ecology Graduate Group Symposium.

2018. **Rossi, Aviva**. Invited speaker at the University of San Francisco, Master of Science in Environmental Management program event "Celebrating 40 Years of Environmental Management".

2016. Habitat Associations and the Potential for Climate-Change Induced Distributional Shifts of Three High-Elevation Ground-dwelling squirrels. **Rossi, Aviva**. Presentation. Graduate Group in Ecology Student Seminar Series.

2015. Habitat Associations for Three Montane Mammal Species. **Rossi, Aviva**, Robert Klinger; and Dirk Van Vuren. Poster. Western Section of The Wildlife Society.

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2010. Welcome and Introduction to Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). **Rossi, Aviva**. Oral presentation. Annual Partners Meeting.
2010. Prioritizing invasive plant eradication in the San Francisco Bay Area. Perlmutter, Mike, **Aviva Rossi**, Andrea Williams, and Dan Gluesenkamp. Poster. California Invasive Plant Council Symposia.
2005. Habitat Restoration in Remote Locations: Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. **Rossi, Aviva**. Oral presentation. The Western Section of The Wildlife Society.
2002. Wildlife Issues for Fire Management in the Sierra Nevada. **Rossi, Aviva**. Poster. Ecological Society of America/Society for Ecological Restoration joint conference.
2002. Effects of Increased Freshwater Flow from Anthropogenic Sources on Tidal Salt Marsh Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats in the South San Francisco Bay. **Rossi, Aviva**. Oral presentation. War on Weeds Symposium.

Professional Experience

- 2001 - 2013 Scientist/Project Manager CH2M HILL (now Jacobs)
Responsible for conducting interviews, staffing natural resource projects using in-house and sub-consultant teams, developing and tracking budgets (ranging from \$5,000-\$600,000+), and managing numerous concurrent multifaceted natural resource projects. Performance supervisor for biology staff. Document the wildlife, plants, wetlands, habitat types and other natural resources, and evaluate the potential impacts of projects for environmental assessment documents. Developed mitigation and implemented restoration projects. Work locations ranged from pacific coastal regions, remote pacific atolls, deserts, to west coast urban and suburban areas. Study areas ranged from the size of a single culvert under a road to 5,000 acres.
- 2009-2011 Early Detection Coordinator Bay Area Early Detection Network
First employee of this organization, implementing a regional invasive plants species early detection and eradication program covering the 9 San Francisco Bay Area counties. Coordinated partners from over 80 local land management and natural resource organizations to accomplish the goals set forth by the Steering Committee. I organized and managed a symposium for up to 400 natural resource practitioners, including securing venue, registration, sponsorships, coordinating speakers and volunteers. Participated in grant writing, field verification, obtaining GIS datasets from partners, website development, and field mapping.
- 2000 Watershed Aide Marin Municipal Water District
Electro-fishing, data collection, entry, analysis, and interpretation of results for juvenile and spawning salmonid.
- 2000 Raven Research Assistant Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO)
Conducted telemetry tracking, bird identification, bird and nesting location mapping, observation of heron and egret rookeries.
- 1999-2000 Field Technician Moss Landing Marine Labs and the Watershed Restoration Institute
Invasive plant species removal and native re-vegetation. Collected field data for behavioral pinniped research.

Professional Service

- 2017-2018 – Vice-Chair of the Diversity Committee, and Chair of the Engage Youth subcommittee of the Diversity Committee of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society. Facilitated opportunities for local diverse youth to attend annual conference.
- 2017-2019 – Committee Member - Wildlife Fisheries and Conservation Biology Seminar Series. Collaboratively plan speaker series, secure speakers.
- 2017 – 2019 – Established and maintained an online database for short-term volunteer research opportunities. This allowed undergraduate students who may not have the resources to allow a full-time internship, often those who needed to work while in school, to get experience and establish networks with researchers. This also helped graduate students with limited project budgets to get assistance to decreased time to graduation.
- 2016 -2018 - Elected Graduate Student Representative on the Ecology Graduate Group Executive Committee. Attended Executive Committee quarterly meetings. Discussed and voted on matters of importance to the graduate group, including funding, professor membership to the group, and graduation requirements. Spearheaded changes to the core curriculum and prerequisites to better prepare incoming students for current

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skill requirements and improve time to graduation. Graduate student lead for updating Graduate Group Mentorship Guidelines.

2016 – Graduate Group in Ecology Admissions Committee. Reviewed and ranked graduate student applicants.

2015 – Designed and built the Van Vuren Lab website.

2015-2018 - Member of Graduate Group in Ecology Diversity Committee

2016 - Certified Graduate Student Peer Mentor (Completed year-long training to assist incoming students)

2007-2013 - Founded and managed a Special Status Species specialty group with over 150 international members within CH2M HILL. Hosted monthly guest speakers, gave educational presentations, maintained a list serve and an interactive website, advocated for technical specialty within the company.

2005-2007 - United States Academic Advisor for two master's students through the University of San Francisco and Xiamen University's (China) joint Master's in Environmental Management program. I provided technical and editorial review for the master's projects. Master's projects were "Water Resource Protection in Tingxi Reservoir Watershed" and "Study on Wenzhou Integrated Coastal Management"

Community Outreach

2018 – Developed a forum to collect and share stories of parents who conducted fieldwork as a way to empower and inform those looking to do the same. <https://fieldworkwhileparenting.blogspot.com>

2017-2019 – Scientist participant in Skype a Scientist to elementary classrooms.

2017 – Volunteer for Wade Thomas Elementary School Science Friday

2016 – Contributing author to Bay Nature magazine's 'Ask the Naturalist' column.

2015-2018 – Guest speaker for AP Environmental Studies high school students during field visits to a habitat restoration site. Taught them about ecology and environmental regulations. Led them in monitoring efforts as part of ongoing citizen science project.

2011-2013 - Research Team Member for the River Otter Ecology Project

2012 - Organized and Led "Introduction to Naturalist Observation" for families at the Marin Municipal Water District

2010-Current – Created a blog about natural history observations within Marin County aimed at general public audience. <http://marineecology.blogspot.com>.

2009 – Advocated for, and secured, \$5,000 in sponsorship funds for the California Native Plant Society Symposium

2008-Current – Member of Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, Board Member 2010-2013

2007-Current – Member of the Conservation Professionals of Marin County. Group comprised of people working in conservation and natural resource management, who live in this county. I speak at public meetings, write letters to editors and boards, regarding matters of environmental concern. The group formed in 2016, but my participation with the unofficial group began in 2007.

1999 - Worked for the Watershed Restoration Institute, Return of the Natives program, as part of a team teaching elementary and high school groups about native plants and helping them in starting native plant greenhouses and landscaping programs.

Observation and Photograph contributor to [CalPhotos](#) and [iNaturalist](#)

Select Certifications and Additional Skills

2019 – General Use Scientific Collecting Permit – ID GW-190330003-19033-001. Previously held species handling permits include Fairly Shrimp, MBTA egg collecting, electrofishing, and mourning dove banding.

2018 – Wilderness First Responder – Expires Feb 2020

2018 – Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED – Expires Sept 2020

2018 – Software Carpentry Completion UNIX shell, R, and Git.

Experienced with operating manual transmissions, 4wd on and off-road, connecting and hauling trailers with live and stationary loads. Current California Driver's License, International Driver's License, and Passport