

## Conservation Compromise with Developers Leaves Wildlife Vulnerable

EDITORIAL BY E.M. FAY

The best use of our ever-shrinking wild lands is the heart of the matter in what purports to be the most significant conservation deal ever made in California.

bulk of the property, the "conservation" groups involved had to agree not to oppose any type of development on the parcel being exploited, and to keep current land uses in place for the entire region. Those



The 375 square mile Tejon Ranch, the largest privately-owned wilderness in Southern California, is situated in the Tehachapi Mountains 60 miles north of Los Angeles, and includes a unique combination of grassland, woodland, and desert habitats within its borders. The landscape – where four distinct ecosystems converge – presents a stunning array of multi-colored wildflowers, twisted oaks, and Joshua trees. Condors, elk, bear, turkeys, peregrine falcons, coyotes, and eagles all call this area home, but that status has been threatened for years by the continual efforts of developers to build there.

After numerous attempts to negotiate a compromise with the Tejon Ranch Company, including a threat to sue under the Endangered Species Act, The Sierra Club, Endangered Habitats League, Natural Resources Defense Council, Audubon Society, and other land protection organizations have made a pact that preserves almost 240,000 of the 270,000 acres of natural wilderness, with taxpayer funds and private donors needed to finalize the arrangements. The remaining approximately 30,000 acres will be "developed" for human use. Three urban centers are planned, comprising hotels, condominiums, spas, golf courses, and more than 26,000 homes. Needless to say, a bonanza of profit for the lucky developers.

What sounds like a good deal is anything but for the wild inhabitants of the region, however. In order to secure the

current uses include hunting of multiple species. Not only that, but according to the Center for Biological Diversity, the portion of land that is being given up for development includes habitat that federal biologists say is key to the survival and recovery of the California condor, a bird that taxpayers and private individuals

## Conservation Compromise

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## Is Your Kitty A Threat To Sea Otters?



<http://www.avma.org/onlinews/javma/sep00/images/s091500e.jpg>

BY E.M. FAY

It seems like a crazy question, but a recent broadcast of The Weather Channel's environmental education program, Forecast Earth, included a feature on the increasing number of sea otter deaths linked to a surprising source: the improper disposal of cat feces.

100 years ago, otters were hunted to the brink of extinction because of their exceptionally thick fur. They were put on the Endangered Species List in 1977, and made a comeback; but by the 1990s, population growth had stopped. In California alone, hundreds of dead otters were found washed up on the shore every year, including young females, a sure sign of an unhealthy trend.

Besides being lovable, harmless creatures, sea otters are a vital component in maintaining the balance of the oceanic eco-system.



[http://olympiccast.noaa.gov/images/bodypic\\_cocac2\\_19.jpg](http://olympiccast.noaa.gov/images/bodypic_cocac2_19.jpg)

The kelp forests that provide shelter for numerous species of fish and invertebrates are eaten by sea urchins, so keeping them in check is necessary to preserve the kelp. Otters eat sea urchins, as well as bi-valves such as clams and mussels.

Unfortunately, shellfish tend to absorb whatever comes their way, including manmade pollutants such as PCBs that wash into the ocean. This may be responsible for some of the sea otter deaths. But there was something else causing the increased deaths, too. A parasite called *Toxoplasma gondii*, commonly found in cat droppings, is finding its way into

the ocean. When ingested, it causes swelling of the brain, seizures, and damages the immune systems of otters. A 2003 study found that 42 percent of live otters and 62 percent of dead otters carried the parasite *T. gondii*. As cats are the only species that passes *T. gondii* into the environment, the culprit was deemed to be the presence of their feces. But how did they get into the ocean? *As usual with so many modern-day problems, human interference with natural processes is to blame.*

Many cat owners flush their cats' droppings down the toilet. Wastewater treatment plant procedures do not kill the *T. gondii* parasite, so they pass unrestricted into the ocean. The parasites' eggs are eaten by bi-valves, which are then eaten by the otters. Otters typically live near the coastline, and those living near large freshwater outflows have been found to be 3 times more likely to be infected with *T. gondii* than those near smaller freshwater outflows.

The significance of *T. gondii* as a contributing factor in sea otter deaths has been taken seriously:

California passed a bill in 2006 requiring a warning label on all kitty litter sold in the state, telling people not to put cat droppings in toilets or storm drains.

It is recommended that we bag kitty litter in plastic, instead, and deposit it in landfills, where it is less likely to enter the water stream. Another way to decrease the risk is to clean kitty litter trays every day, as the parasite does not become infectious until from one to five days after being passed by the cat.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS for A Wildlife Watch Event

HOPE RYDEN, AUTHOR OF *GOD'S DOG:*  
A CELEBRATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COYOTE  
and ELISE ABLE, OF FOXWOOD REHABILITATION CENTER  
give slide and PowerPoint presentations  
about coyotes that will open your eyes and hearts.

Please e-mail [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net) to ensure seating!



<http://www.weforanimals.com/free-pictures/wild-animals/coyotes/coyote-1.htm>

This presentation is part of the Ranger Series.

JOIN US IN CENTRAL PARK IN NEW YORK CITY  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Place: the Multipurpose Room, North Meadow, Central Park. The North Meadow is located in the center of the park, at approximately 96th street. There are a couple of basketball and handball courts outside. It's easy to get to, as there is a subway stop on the west side of the park at 96th street.

Author-naturalist Hope Ryden has spent years in the field, studying and photographing North American wildlife. Her behavioral findings have been published in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and *Audubon* magazines, and her books have been translated into German, Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian, Dutch, Spanish, Italian and Russian. To date she has twenty-three books to her credit, all of which are illustrated with her own photography.

<http://www.hoperyden.com/>

## A Wildlife Watch Event

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## Conservation Compromise

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have spent tens of millions of dollars saving from the brink of extinction.

This author has spent time in the Tehachapi Mountains and loves the area. She believes this is a raw deal for wildlife!

Although proponents of the compromise tout the relatively small area being built upon, the fact is that the initial development will be only the beginning of many harmful concomitant consequences. When the hotels, spas, houses, and golf courses are actually being lived in and used by tens of thousands of people daily, the added strain on California's already stressed water resources will be tremendous. For many decades Southern California's burgeoning human population has drained much of the rest of the state dry – not to mention the waning Colorado River. Now, with the added burden of climate change and ever-more-numerous forest fires, the whole region is often in a state of serious drought. Wildlife and vegetation will have much less chance of finding enough water to survive as upscale houses and hotels, complete with swimming pools – and golf courses, with their well-known ill effects on nature – spring up.

Other obvious and inevitable impacts of human encroachment will be increased traffic and air pollution, as commuters working in the bigger urban areas flee to their new bedroom communities in Tehachapi. The presence of more vehicles, both commuter cars and trucks servicing the stores and industry that will appear, will mean all the more road deaths for wild animals.

But respect for wildlife is hardly part of the plan, no matter how many pious sentiments were mouthed regarding the preservation of the bulk of the Tejon property. Almost

unbelievably, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposal in March of this year to allow the killing of the extremely endangered California Condor; the Tejon Ranch Company sought permission to kill and/or harass 33 other species on the ranch, including our national symbol, the bald eagle. It was in fact during one of the Tejon Ranch Company's wild pig hunting events that a recently re-introduced young Condor was tragically killed.

Governor Schwarzenegger applauded the agreement as a way to "protect California's environment at the same time we pump up our economy." (LA Times, 5/8/08) Past experience of building in wilderness areas shows clearly that it is the latter of the two considerations that comes out ahead: the economy may thrive but wildlife loses out on their homes and their lives. Unpolluted streams and unfragmented wilderness will be changed forever by the inexorable influx of human material.

There is also the larger (and largely unspoken) question of whether and why wilderness lands *should* be owned by private individuals. As the Tejon Ranch Company and its stockholders become enriched by the coming developments, countless millions of animals will have their lives destroyed, and some rarer species may even be made extinct. The Center for Biological Diversity, an organization "that works through science, law, and creative media to secure a future for all species, great or small," advocates the establishment of a Tejon-Tehachapi National Park on the site, keeping habitats intact. This would be a better alternative than development, no matter how "limited" its proponents claim it will be.

E.M. Fay is Associate Editor of the *Wildlife Watch Binocular*. Ms. Fay is an environmental writer who spent time in the Tehachapi Mountains and was enchanted by the area

### FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO

<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/index.html>  
[http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2008/tejon-ranch-05-08-2008.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2008/tejon-ranch-05-08-2008.html)  
[http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2008/tejon-ranch-03-26-2008.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2008/tejon-ranch-03-26-2008.html)  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-tejon&2008may08,0,25201.story>

## Eye on the News Talking Fish

Far from being only a cartoon reality, fish do indeed talk to one another. Although the fact that fish communicate vocally has been known for a century, recent study by Dr. Andrew Bass [his real name] of the Canadian midshipman fish has revealed more of the complexity of their vocal social interaction.



Photo of toadfish closely related to the midshipman by Margaret A. Marchaterre/ Cornell University

Dr. Bass, a professor of neurobiology at Cornell University, has studied the varied grunts, and notes that two of the several distinct categories of speech are "advertisement calls," used during mating, and "aggressive calls," used by males when defending the nest. Females also employ an aggressive grunt in some situations, as well.

Fish vocalizing "is essential to their social behavior," Dr. Bass said, during an interview on CBC Radio.

To hear the entire story, go to <http://www.cbc.ca/mri3/8752/asithappens/20080718-aih-1.wmv>

## A Wildlife Watch Event

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For two uncomfortable years the author camped in remote areas of Wyoming and Montana, observing and photographing the elusive coyote in an effort to discover the truth behind the ignorance and misinformation that has plagued this much-maligned animal for over two hundred years. This book, considered the classic treatise on the subject, is the end result of that research. It has prompted comparisons to Jane Goodall's work in Africa.

### REVIEWS of GOD'S DOG:

"With this attractive animal under pressure from people who are biologically illiterate, we need definite information as to the way of life of this mammal. Ms. Ryden has added much insight to our understanding of the coyote."

-Roger Tory Peterson

"As the wilderness shrinks, man's moral responsibilities increase. Hope Ryden's book is

as full of charm and tenacious inquisitiveness as the appealing animal she pleads to see allowed to live." -The Washington Post

"In God's Dog, as in earlier books, Hope Ryden mixes love and reason in her own special blender and comes out with very good natural history



data, a clear picture of what the problem is and a faultless and reasoned attitude." -The New York Times

"As either natural history or personal adventure, this is a superb book." -Publishers Weekly

ELISE ABLE, COYOTE AND FOX REHABILITATOR, FOUNDER OF FOXWOOD WILDLIFE RESCUE INC.

Elise, a New York State and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator has been studying and working with coyotes since 1991.

In addition to holding a License to Collect and Possess, Nuisance Wildlife Control, and the Animal Welfare Act Class C Exhibitor Licenses (USDA), Elise is New York State Certified for Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation, Chemical Immobilization, and is actively involved in local Dog Control and Rescue.

Elise is the Founder and President of Fox Wood Wildlife Rescue, Inc a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation and education center and sanctuary located in East Concord, NY. Visit [www.foxwoodrehab.com](http://www.foxwoodrehab.com)

### Elise's talk will focus on: EASTERN COYOTE; FRIEND OR FOE?

Are you worried about the impact of the Eastern Coyote in New York? How can we control their populations? How can you keep your pets safe? What is myth and what is fact where these elusive animals are concerned? Habits, ecology and the answers to these questions and many more will be covered in this in-depth discussion on coyotes.

## Eye on the News

### The Parrot Who Knew His Address ....But Knew It Wasn't Home

Of course, parrot fans have always known that their favorite birds are bright. Parrots have long been acknowledged as exceptionally intelligent members of the bird family – you have only to note the size of their heads relative to their bodies to see they have as much brain capacity as many humans.

This intelligence stood one particular parrot in good stead recently in Japan. When Yosuke, an African Grey Parrot, flew out of his cage and got lost in the city of Nagareyama, he was eventually rescued by police from a nearby roof. But where did he live? police wondered. As police worked on the case, the parrot was taken to a veterinary

hospital for safekeeping.

Although Yosuke had been reticent with the police officers, he opened up to the vet, revealing both his name and accurate street address. "I'm Mr. Yosuke Nakamura," he stated. He also sang songs to the hospital staff.

Thanks to his excellent training and memory, Yosuke was returned to his home by the police. We can only hope that their feelings were not permanently hurt by his reluctance to take them into his confidence.

We at Wildlife Watch know that, yes, he wanted to go home. His real home, or ancestral home, is Africa. From either his direct experience or archetypal knowledge, he knows he was once a free citizen of the skies with friends and family of his own species.

Starting now, let's think out of the box (or the cage) before buying a bird.

Please visit the websites of [www.fosterparrots.org](http://www.fosterparrots.org) and [www.sunnyskiesbirdsanctuary.com](http://www.sunnyskiesbirdsanctuary.com)



## In Memory Of My Beautiful Bugeyes

Found in freezing cold water in a small bowl 2002 – Died May 3, 2008

You were a joy to watch. We loved seeing you grow, though I often wondered if I did the right thing to not let you have a friend.

The woman who abandoned you said you had killed your last friend. Should I have taken her word? Could I have tested that in the larger tank? I was concerned, as you had a weak immune system.

You lived with us, often happily, in ever expanding water-quarters. If only I could have gotten into the tank with you as another of your kind and hugged my beautiful Bugeyes, you would have known how loved you were and are. I hope you knew. We

will always remember our precious Bugeyes. We'll love you forever. Anne and Pete



Photo of Bugeyes by Anne Muller

If you found the *Wildlife Watch Binocular* at an outlet, please note that you can receive issues by mail by e-mailing your name and mailing address to: [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net) or calling 845-256-1400. Once you are on the *Wildlife Watch* list, you will be able to receive other information of interest to those who wish to help wild animals.

**R.O.C.K. -  
REHABBERS OFFER CARE AND KINDNESS**

THE WILDLIFE WATCH HOTLINE BRINGS HUNDREDS OF CALLS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND EVEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY!

**Carol Heard The Faintest Cry**

Our featured Wildlife Rehabilitator is Carol LaPorte of the Black Creek Ranch, NY

Here's why:  
When the call came in to Wildlife Watch, we called Carol Laporte. We had been told that a very tiny fawn was in someone's yard for three days, and the mother was known to be dead. No one could get this elusive little fawn, nor could they really see him, they just caught glimpses of him from time to time. To leave the area, the fawn would have to cross highways with major traffic. The person who called and other neighbors were greatly concerned. I suggested that they call Carol. About an hour later, I called Carol to find out if they had called her – they had.

When Carol picked up her cell phone, it was from the woods

surrounding this home. Carol was speaking softly and told me she was sitting down just waiting to hear the fawn and that she wouldn't leave until she got him. She didn't want to talk because she didn't want to frighten him.

Carol called me much later that evening. She said the roar of the traffic was blocking her hearing. But then, after a couple

of hours, there it was, a very faint bleat. Only her mother or a caring rehabber would have discerned and interpreted it through the loud din of the traffic. She tracked the cry and was able to pick up the fawn. His name is Highway and he's 3 weeks old. After a bumpy few days — he had been living on pine needles in the woods for 3 days — he is doing very well, thank you.



Photo of Timber and Highway by Carol LaPorte

Timber is the white German Shepherd in the photo who protects everyone at the Black Creek Ranch.

Highway will be released with the little guys below who are also at the Black Creek Ranch

In addition to being a rehabber, Carol is a NWCO - Nuisance Wildlife Removal Officer, a licensed veterinary technician, and is certified to immobilize an animal using a dart gun.

HOORAY for HIGHWAY and THANK YOU TO CAROL!!!

Some letters and photos from wildlife lovers who've benefited from the Wildlife Watch website and our hotline.

*Thank you so much for all your help and information. My mind was put a bit more at ease when I learned that the mother deer can leave their fawns for up to 12 hours. It never ceases to amaze me how adaptable our wildlife becomes with us encroaching on their habitat. I am so thankful I found your website and contacted you. My neighbor was all ready to go out there and feed the fawn after only a few hours but after learning more from you I quickly passed on the info.*

Cindy V., MI

*I just wanted to give you an update: I didn't see if the Mom came back to nurse last night - got too dark, but at about 9 pm, our little visitor was still lying comfortably in the grass. We never saw Mom come by this morning. At about 7 am I came outside and saw our new friend back in the corner on the cement in our little breezeway area. He/she looks good, still head up and very alert. I took some more pictures today and he didn't seem bothered by that. Still I wish I knew he was being fed, but we'll see what he/she does today. A close-up from this morning. - I was about 8 feet away. Later Scott wrote: The day he left, we saw an older deer in the driveway, we're hoping that was his mother - we haven't seen any signs of him since then so we're assuming the best. Thanks again for all your help.*



Photo by Scott Glaser, CT

Scott Glaser, CT.

*My neighbor and I were on our way home when we found the little deer we later named Zoe. She was tangled up in a barbed wire fence beside the highway.*

*Unfortunately, her mother was dead in the ditch nearby. Wanting to help her, we brought her home. My husband quipped, "I said pizza and beer, not pizza and deer!" I am an animal lover and have always rescued dogs and cats. Ever since seeing the movie "Bambi" I have loved deer. I was told that only wildlife rehabilitators can help deer and I now want to get my license.*

*Now that Zoe has been released near here, we were able to get this photo. Evalle M.W. of GA*



Photo of Zoe by Evalle M., GA

**Eye on the News  
Arctic Research Base Closes  
Due To Global Warming**



Polar bears losing ground, may be doomed  
[http://nasadaacs.eos.nasa.gov/articles/images/2006\\_seaice\\_polarbear.jpg](http://nasadaacs.eos.nasa.gov/articles/images/2006_seaice_polarbear.jpg)

For six decades, Russian scientists have conducted research on Arctic weather, flora and fauna, setting up temporary bases on the massive, sturdy ice floes that exist in the Arctic region.

Formerly, they were able to depend on the ice to support them from September until late the following summer. However, this year, global warming has caused the ice to melt so precipitously that the team was forced to evacuate in mid-July, instead.

The Russians were unequivocal about the cause of their hurried departure. "The evacuation is ahead of schedule because of global warming."

The drifting ice floe that had been home for twenty-one researchers and two dogs was approximately 1.2 miles by 2.5 miles in size when they arrived last Fall. In just ten months, it has shrunk to a mere 1000 by 2000 feet.

Although they seem to have accepted the undeniable fact of global warming, the Russian government is poised to add to the problem. Last year, they claimed an underwater Arctic mountain range as part of their sovereign land, and plans are likely underway to exploit the gas and oil reserves there.

For more details, go to <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/science/07/14/polar.station.ap/index.html>

Hi,

*Just wanted to let you know the mother deer came and took the fawn and both are gone. Thanks for your help. Hopefully we will see them around the area again. Dan & Linda M., Branson, MO*

Wildlife Watch's highest priority is to connect a young animal with his or her Mom. If that fails due to the death of the mother, the dire condition of the fawn, or the fact that we've been contacted weeks after someone has removed the fawn, our next priority is to get the fawn to a wildlife rehabilitator in the area of caller.

If that is going to fail because a wildlife rehabber is not nearby or because they cannot be contacted, or they cannot take any more animals, and if we determine that it's a crisis for the animal based on the description of the animal, we will recommend some first aid which can be found on our website. We do, however, caution that getting the animal to a rehabber is in the best interest of the animal.

**Announcement**

The New York Bird Club, Anna Dove has put out a request for a licensed wildlife rehabber or avian vet to give a workshop on a "kind of Urban and Wild bird Triage training to help stabilize a distressed bird until the bird can get to a licensed rehabber the following day. Stay tuned to their website at [www.nycwildlife.org](http://www.nycwildlife.org) to find out when and where this will take place.

If you need help for wildlife, call

**1-877-WILDHELP OR 1-877-945-3435**



Wildlife Watch maintains a Wildlife Help Hotline to help humane folks who have found an injured or orphaned wild animal. We maintain lists of wildlife rehabilitators throughout the country, and we will do our best to help you find the wildlife care professional closest to you. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually.

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Website: [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org)

Anne Muller – Editor E.M. Fay – Assoc. Editor  
We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

# Update On Florida's Gopher Tortoise

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ashton Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute has developed a **Workshop on Proper Planning and Methods of Tortoise Relocation** which will be held the morning of **September 20**, in Tucson, Arizona, as part of the **Turtle Survival Alliance Conference**, which runs from September 17-20.

Worldwide, turtles and tortoises are under terrific strain, with many species and their habitats pushed to the brink of extinction. Anyone interested in learning how to help may visit the Ashton biodiversity website below.

For more information on the Tucson conference, go to <http://www.turtlesurvival.org/events/tsa-annual-conference>

As we reported earlier this year, the shockingly cruel practice by builders and developers of crushing and burying gopher tortoises alive in construction areas was somewhat ameliorated in September of 2007 when the Florida Wildlife Commissioners voted for a policy requiring that the "incidental take" (killing) permits provide for relocation of the tortoises. The gopher tortoise was

re-designated as "Threatened," and new requirements established for relocating the tortoises "away from construction areas into public and private habitat where they can thrive." (See <http://myfwc.com/whatsnew/07/statewide/gopherplanpass.html>)

Many concerned volunteers and local organizations deserve credit for this improvement in the tortoise's

chances of survival. Ashton Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute, a 501(c)3 organization in Archer, Florida, has long been in the forefront of the fight for the gopher tortoise.

(<http://www.ashtonbiodiversity.org/>)

Part of their current work is helping to establish humane relocation programs for the tortoises.



<http://frog14.myweb.uga.edu/Gopher%20Tortoise.JPG>

# Eye on the News MEMORIAL

## Turtle True Love Tragedy

A popular attraction for the visitors to Oahu's Laniakea Beach is the regular arrival of green sea turtles, who bask in the sun on the warm sand. One large turtle in particular, that the locals named "Honey Girl," was especially popular.



Photo of Honey Girl by Patrick Doyle - Honolulu

The green sea turtle is listed as an Endangered species in Florida and along Mexico's Pacific Coast, and in Hawaii

it is considered a Threatened species, and is therefore officially protected. This status, sadly, did nothing to save Honey Girl from someone who brutally stole her life. When her broken body was found by someone who had been patrolling the area, it caused shockwaves among those who loved her. The 200 pound turtle had been cut open and dismembered.

When word of Honey Girl's murder got out, her heartbroken fans set up a memorial to her in the sand, complete with flowers and a photograph of Honey Girl herself. During her funeral, the human mourners were astonished to see a large male green sea turtle, named **Kuhina**, walk out of the sea and approach the memorial site. He walked straight up to her photograph and sat gazing at it intently for hours. As witnesses to this occurrence said when interviewed, it was obvious to them that he was mourning her.

Scientists are usually reluctant to ascribe "human" attributes to animals; some think this crosses a line and is mere anthropomorphizing. However, who are

we to say that such emotions as love, devotion, loyalty, sorrow and grief are ours alone? Countless instances of animals grieving have been recorded.



Photo of Kuhina by Patrick Doyle - Honolulu

And certainly Kuhina seemed to be showing his deep sorrow over the murder of his beloved Honey Girl.

The local office of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is working with NOAA to investigate this crime. No perpetrator has yet been identified. **Anyone with any information relating to the case should call the DLNR at 808-643-DLNR.**

In addition, if a stranded marine turtle is sighted, call 808-983-5730.

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080720/NEWS14/807200359/1001>

See this video and others on You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ycx570cE4oU&NR=1>

# Eye on the News Climate Change Triggers Gender Changes

**IF GLOBAL WARMING CONTINUES, WILDLIFE WATCH WILL BE DOING A MEMORIAL FOR ALL TURTLES AND FISH**

A study by Spain's Higher Council for Scientific Research has established that with fish species that have temperature-dependent sex determination the male-female ratio can change from 1-to-1 to 3-to-1 with an increase of only 1.5 degrees Celsius in water temperature. This is because undifferentiated embryos become male or female depending upon their environment. With certain fish, warmer water results in more males developing.

The skewed sex ratio can be even greater in some species, and also with the higher temperatures predicted in the future by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

This unsettling development is not limited to fish. Climate change is a major threat to marine turtles, as well. According to CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, "Small increases in temperature may strongly bias the sex ratio of hatchlings towards females."

Read the details at:

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1827881,00.html?xid=feed-cnn-topics>  
<http://64.233.169.104/search?q=cache:6h1mgk5kwzUJ:www.csiro.au/resources/ps2yd.html+climate+change+altering+fish+gender&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=3&gl=us>



# WILDLIFE WATCH CATALOG

## GOD'S DOG

We were happy to learn from Hope Ryden that her amazing book, *God's Dog*, is available once again. We encourage you to read it and give it to others to read. Ask libraries to order it, and give it to friends for holidays and birthdays. It will be a gift that will last a lifetime, for it will change the readers' perspective of coyotes forever.



*God's Dog: A Celebration of the North American Coyote* by Hope Ryden

"Full of charm and tenacious inquisitiveness as the appealing animal she pleads is allowed to live."—*The Washington Post*.

\$24.95 or \$20.95 members.

## Wildlife Watchers Should Know About :

**CAW OF THE WILD: Observations from the Secret World of Crows** by Barb Kirpluk order by calling 1-800-Authors (1-800-288-4677) [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com) published in 2005.

Kirpluk is masterful at describing her observations and interactions with these intelligent animals. She broadens our understanding of the species by deepening our connection with the individuals who comprise the species. CAW OF THE WILD is a MUST READ!



This book was sent to us by Rita Sarnicola of CROW (Citizens Respectful of Wildlife) in Auburn, NY. Please contact Rita and Joe Sarnicola for a professionally produced DVD of crow ecotourism in Auburn: [jsarn@adelphia.net](mailto:jsarn@adelphia.net)

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Please make checks payable to: **Wildlife Watch, Inc.**  
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