



## ¡Emotivo homenaje póstumo!

El día 1ro de diciembre la Sección Mexicana de la Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas entre México y los Estados Unidos, conjuntamente con la Comisión Nacional del Agua y el Gobierno del Estado de Baja California realizaron un homenaje póstumo en Honor del Ing. J. Arturo Herrera Solís, Comisionado Mexicano de la CILA de 1989 a 2008. En el evento estuvieron presentes colaboradores, amigos, y familiares del Ing. Herrera, incluyendo al gobernador de Baja California, el C. José Guadalupe Osuna Millán.



Durante el evento el gobernador develó una placa conmemorando la extraordinaria carrera del Ing. Herrera y su invaluable contribución al manejo de los recursos y relaciones binacionales a lo largo de la frontera. Descanse en paz el Ing. Arturo Herrera!

## Vaquita Conservation efforts



Two vaquita emerge from a calm sea. Photo - Chris Johnson

In response to the urgent need to save the vaquita porpoise, the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States asked the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to formulate a strategy to support Mexico's efforts to recover the world's most-endangered marine mammal. A few weeks ago, the CEC launched the North American Conservation Action Plan (NACAP) for the Vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*), a vital cooperative initiative that is the result of contributions from scientists, academics, environmental groups and

officials in the three countries. [Download report here.](#) Also, you can find more recent information on the latest efforts to protect the vaquita in the Northern Gulf of California in this documentary from the *Whale Trackers: A voice for vaquita*, [an interview with Lorenzo Rojas Bracho.](#)

## Feature

### Conservation Easement at El Doctor Wetlands

Pronatura Noroeste and the Ejido estación Doctor established a conservation easement to protect priority wetlands in the Colorado River Delta and promote opportunities for sustainable development for the local residents. The easement will protect 200 hectares (494 acres) of wetlands at El Doctor, where some restoration activities will also be conducted. These wetlands provide habitat for protected species, including California Black Rail, Yuma Clapper Rail, and Desert Pupfish, and is a critical stopover site for over 100 species of neotropical migratory birds. This achievement is part of the Joint Initiative for the Restoration of the Colorado River Delta, with the participation of Pronatura Noroeste, Sonoran Institute, CEDES, AEURHYC, and the Biosphere Reserve, with funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Through the establishment of the conservation easement, we secure the long-term protection of this area, avoiding the impacts by cattle ranching and land use changes. [View map of study area.](#) For more information contact Osvel Hinojosa Huerta at ([ohinojosa@pronatura-noroeste.org](mailto:ohinojosa@pronatura-noroeste.org)) or visit the website: <http://www.oem.com.mx/tribunadesanluis/notas/n913697.htm>



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## Feature

### Study Finds Silver Lining for Maligned Saltcedars.

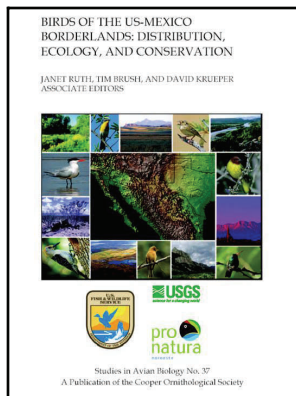
University of Arizona research shows that the non-native "invader" *saltcedar* also known as *Tamarix ramossissima*, isn't as bad as first thought. Dr. Ed Glenn and a team of scientists from the UA, the U.S. Geological Survey and other institutions have spent 10 years comparing *saltcedar* and native plant water use, and assessing riparian zone ecology along the Lower Colorado River, which stretches from the Grand Canyon to the delta in Mexico. Those studies have yielded surprising results. For more information please visit: <http://uanews.org/node/22298>.

Contact information: Ed Glenn [eglenn@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:eglenn@ag.arizona.edu) and Pamela Nagler: [pnagler@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:pnagler@ag.arizona.edu).



Colorado River in Mexico. Photo: Pamela Nagler

### Publications on Birds of the Colorado River Delta



Pronatura Noroeste participated in the preparation and publication of a special volume of the scientific journal *Studies in Avian Biology* published this Fall 2008, dedicated to the birds of the US-Mexico border region. The volume, entitled "Birds of the US-Mexico Borderlands: Distribution, Ecology, and Conservation" was a joint effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Cooper Ornithological Society and Pronatura Noroeste, to provide scientific information as a basis to sound management and conservation actions for birds and their habitats in this region.

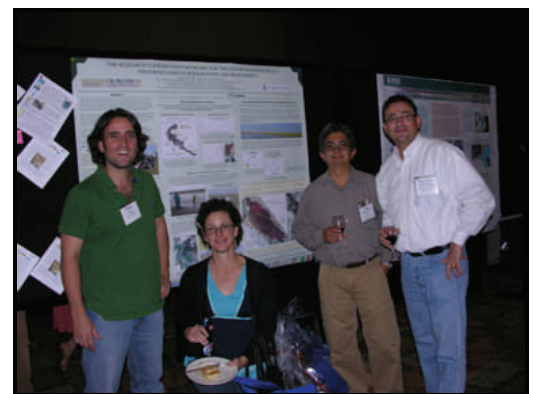
The volume includes a paper on the population trends of the Yuma Clapper Rail in the Colorado River Delta, with information on abundance and distribution changes of the subspecies from 1999 to 2006, and with recent population estimates. Also included is a paper on the densities and diversity of birds in the floodplain of the Colorado River in Mexico, and their relationship with the cottonwood-willow forest and the river flows.

For more information contact Osvel Hinojosa Huerta ([ohinojosa@pronatura-noroeste.org](mailto:ohinojosa@pronatura-noroeste.org)) or visit the website: [www.pronatura-noroeste.org/conservaciondeaves.php#avesdeldelta](http://www.pronatura-noroeste.org/conservaciondeaves.php#avesdeldelta)

## News from the RCN—CRD

The RCN presented a poster summarizing its activities in the Colorado River Basin Science and Resource Management Symposium held in Phoenix, AZ on November 18-20, 2008. The theme of the symposium was coordination of science and restoration activities for the Colorado River Ecosystem.

In addition, the RCN sponsored participation from four of its members, two from Mexico and two from the U.S., in the symposium, including the presentation of a poster summarizing ecological restoration activities in Mexico. Although presentations and poster sessions focused mainly on the upper and lower basin, these two RCN sponsored posters along with one presentation by Kirsten Rowell provided participants with some information about research and restoration activities in the Colorado River Delta.

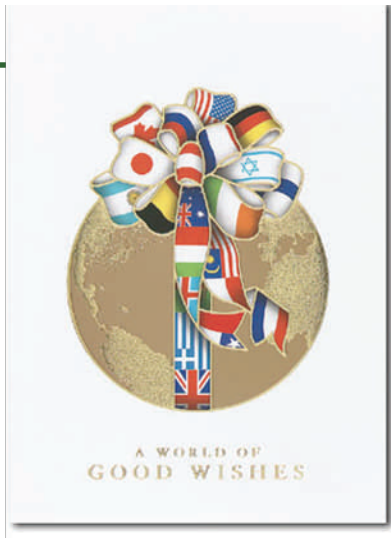


The photo shows participants sponsored by the RCN: Dr. Jorge Ramirez (UABC), Marion Vomen (AEURHYC), Dr. Francisco Zamora (Sonoran Institute and UA), and Phil Loring (University Fairbanks Alaska).

The RCN sponsored participation of three of its members in the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, held in Providence, RI on October 11-15, 2008. They participated in the special forum on monitoring and adaptive management in estuarine restoration as well as in the three days of the conference. Information about research, monitoring, and restoration actions taking place in estuaries and presented in the conference are informing the RCN for the preparation of its fourth workshop.

## Greetings from the RCN—CRD

☞ The RCN granted a travel scholarship to Angeles Sanchez Cruz and Ivan Martinez Tovar from CEDO to present their research work on artisanal fisheries and fishing bycatch in the Upper Gulf of California during two different international conferences in Mexico and the US. Their research titles are "[\*Relaciones Tróficas de Peces del Norte del Golfo de California\*](#)" and "[\*Collection of Bivalve Post-larvae to Test an "Order zero" Connectivity Model in the Northeastern Gulf of California, Mexico\*](#)" respectively.



☞ The RCN is preparing its fourth workshop to be held in spring 2009. This time the workshop will focus on looking at the fundamentals of ecological restoration and its application for identifying research and restoration needs in the Delta, particularly for estuarine areas. Participation in the workshop will be by invitation only due to the nature of the workshop and availability of funds. More information will be available soon.

## New Publications, Thesis and Books

☞ **Population Trends Of Yuma Clapper Rails In The Colorado River Delta, Mexico.** / *Tendencias Poblacionales Del Palmoteador De Yuma En El Delta Del Río Colorado, México.* Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, Juan José Rivera-Díaz, Helena Iturribarría-Rojas, Alejandra Calvo-Fonseca. Studies in Avian Biology No. 37:69–73. 2008

☞ **Densities, Species Richness and Habitat Relationships of The Avian Community In The Colorado River, Mexico.** / *Densidades, Riqueza De Especies y Relaciones de Hábitat de La Comunidad de Aves en el Río Colorado, México.* Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, Helena Iturribarría-Rojas, Enrique Zamora-Hernández, Alejandra Calvo-Fonseca. Studies in Avian Biology No. 37:74–82. 2008

☞ **Just Add Water? Restoring the Colorado River Delta.** Western Water Magazine. A publication of the Water Education Foundation. September/October 2008. 13pp.

☞ **Preparing for uncertain future: Climate Change and the Colorado River Basin.** Colorado River Project Report. Winter 2007-2008. By Gari Pitzer. Water Education Foundation. 12pp [Download full document here](#)

☞ **Book: DOWNSTREAM Encounters with the Colorado River.** Karen Halverson. Foreword by: William Deverell. University of California Press .2008 .

☞ **Book: Dead Pool-Lake Powell, Global Warming and the Future of Water in the West.** University of California Press. 2008. 283 pp.

## Conferences, Training and Scholarships

☞ The Water Education Foundation is accepting applications for its ninth Water Leaders Class, which will begin January 2009. More details at: <http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=875>

☞ **Conference: Adaptation to Climate Change in the Southwest: Impacts and Opportunities.** Hosted by the University of Arizona: Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, James E. Rogers College of Law Economics and Law and Environmental Program. January 22-23, 2009. Westward look Resort. Tucson. AZ. More information at: <http://www.law.arizona.edu/adaptationconference/index.cfm>

☞ **Post-doctoral position available at the University of Arizona .** A position as a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Geosciences is available, starting February 1, 2009. The availability of this position is still contingent on University approval. The successful candidate will be associated with the Research Coordination Network for the Colorado River Delta. [More information here](#) or , please contact Karl Flessa: [kflessa@email.arizona.edu](mailto:kflessa@email.arizona.edu)