

Daniel Steven Cooper

5850 W. 3rd St., #167
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 397-3562
dan@cooperecological.com

EDUCATION

Harvard University, A.B., Biology Concentrator (1995)

University of California, Riverside, M.S., Biogeography (1999)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc., Pasadena, CA. (EIN 72-1598095) 2005 – present
President. Provide ecological expertise in the form of study design and analysis, ecological assessment and management recommendations for a variety of clients in the U.S. and Latin America. We specialize in conducting wildlife inventories of private ranches/farms and wildlife reserves: (includes pre-2005 experience)

- Southern California natural areas (various)
 - California Gnatcatcher permit #TE 100008-0
- Coffee farms in Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua
- Private forest reserves in Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela
- Audubon Sanctuaries in central Massachusetts

Puente Hills Native Habitat Authority, Whittier, CA. 2007 – present
Ecologist. Manage \$2 million in habitat restoration contracts throughout Puente Hills; evaluate properties for acquisition; implement Resource Management Plan.

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI. 2005 – 2006
Staff, Dept. of Natural Resources Science. Manage Kingston Wildlife Research Station on 80 acres in southern Rhode Island. Conduct bird and amphibian surveys; write grants to support restoration and research.

National Audubon Society, Los Angeles, CA. 1999 – 2005
Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon California. Helped shape Audubon conservation agenda in California; coordinated work with partner organizations and local Audubon chapters; wrote and published *Important Bird Areas of California*, later incorporated into state legislation. Major responsibilities included writing and speaking about statewide conservation issues; evaluating sites for new nature centers; developing land management plans and training manuals for existing centers and sanctuaries; developing educational materials, newsletters and webpages; grant-writing and donor cultivation. (2001 – 2005).

Biologist, Audubon Center at Debs Park. Wrote habitat management plan for 300-acre urban wilderness park in Los Angeles. Initiated long-term vertebrate monitoring program (incl. a MAPS station) with high school student-researchers. Served as key advisor to Arroyo Seco Watershed Feasibility Study. Developed educational materials, brochures and webpages. (1999 – 2001).

University of California, Los Angeles. 2000 – 2003
Instructor, UCLA Extension School. Developed courses on conservation biology and bird monitoring.

University of California, Riverside. 1997 – 1999
Graduate Research Assistant, Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Planned and conducted sensitive species surveys in open space reserves throughout western Riverside Co. *Graduate Teaching Assistant*. Geomorphology, Natural Disasters, Astronomy.

- Victor Emanuel Nature Tours** (based in Austin, TX). 1997 – 2000
Tour leader (part-time), leading field trips to Panama, Guatemala/Belize, Minnesota/North Dakota, and Florida.
- Kern River Research Center**, Weldon, CA. 1995 – 1996
Research Associate. Monitored response of birds to riparian habitat restoration at Kern River Preserve.
- University of Malaysia**, Kuala Lumpur. 1994
Part of a 6-member field crew conducting bird monitoring at Pasoh Forest Reserve (in peninsular Malaysia) to obtain biometric data on poorly-known southeastern Asian species.
- Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA. 1991 – 1995
Intern, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA. Designed and implemented baseline study of breeding birds and vegetation correlates in mixed hardwood forest, central Massachusetts. (1993). *Research Assistant, Museum of Comparative Zoology*. Identified and catalogued specimens in the Bird and Fish departments. (1991-1995).

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AWARDS

- Griffith Park Postfire Recovery Team. Wildlife Team Leader 2007 – present
- California Department of Water Resources. Salton Sea Restoration Advisory Committee 2003 – 2005
- California Partners-in-Flight. Executive Steering Committee 2003 – 2005
- Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Tech. Advisory Board 2002 – 2005
- Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture. Executive Steering Committee 2001 – 2003
- Audubon “ACE” Award (Debs Park Audubon Center planning team) 2001
- Winner, Great Texas Birding Classic (“Team Wildbird”, sponsored by Wildbird magazine) 1999
- Friends of the Los Angeles River. Technical Advisory Board 1989 – 2001

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Cooper, D.S. 2004. Important Bird Areas of California. Audubon California, Pasadena. 286 pp.

Book sections

- Cooper, D.S. 2007. “Playa del Rey/Ballona Freshwater Marsh”, p. 336, *In: A Birder’s Guide to Southern California*, Schram, B., American Birding Association, Colorado Springs, CO.
- 2005. “Ernest E. Debs Regional Park & Audubon Center”, pp. 16-17, *In: Birding Guide to the Greater Pasadena Area*, Pasadena Audubon Soc., Pasadena, CA.

Papers

- Cooper, D.S. *In press*. The use of historical data in the restoration of the avifauna of the Ballona Wetlands, Los Angeles County, California. *Natural Areas Journal*. Publication expected January 2008.
- 2006. Annotated checklist of extirpated, reestablished, and newly-colonized avian taxa of the Ballona Valley, Los Angeles County, California. *Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 105:91-112.
- 2006. Shorebird use of a novel habitat: the lower Los Angeles River channel. *Western Birds* 37:1-6.
- Cooper, D.S., R. Carmona, and R.A. Erickson. 2004. State of the Region: Baja California Peninsula. *North American Birds* 58:605-606.
- Cooper, D.S. 2003. New distributional and ecological information on birds in southwestern Guatemala. *Cotinga* 19:61-64.

- 2002. Geographical associations of breeding bird distribution in an urban open space. *Biological Conservation* 104:205-210.
- 2000. Breeding landbirds of a highly-threatened open space: The Puente-Chino Hills, California. *Western Birds* 31:213-234.
- 1999. Notes on the birds of Isla Popa, western Bocas del Toro, Panama. *Cotinga* 11:23-26.
- Cooper, D.S. and C.M. Francis. 1998. Nest predation in a lowland Malaysian rainforest. *Biological Conservation* 85:199-202.
- Cooper, D.S. 1998. Birds of the Rio Negro Jaguar Preserve, Colonia Libertad, Costa Rica. *Cotinga* 8:17-22.
- Rowe, S.P. and D.S. Cooper. 1997. Confirmed nesting of Lazuli Bunting with Indigo Bunting in Kern County, California. *Western Birds* 28:225-227.
- Cooper, D.S. and D. Perlman. 1997. Conservation of biodiversity on California military bases: Implications of base closures. *Fremontia* 25:3-8.

Reviews

- Cooper, D.S. 2004. Review of *Birds of the Salton Sea: Status, biogeography and ecology*, by M.A. Patten, G.M. McCaskie and P. Unitt. University of California Press. *Western Birds* 35:114-117.

Professional reports

BALLONA WETLANDS

- Cooper, D.S. 2007. 2007 Breeding bird survey, Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, July 13, 2007.
- 2007. Chapter 6: Birds of the BOLD Project Site. In: J.H. Dorsey and S. Bergquist (Eds.), "A baseline survey of the Ballona Outdoor Learning & Discovery (BOLD) Area, Ballona Wetlands, Los Angeles County, California". Report submitted to The California Conservancy and Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission by the Ballona Wetlands Foundation, April, 2007.
- 2007. 2006-07 Winter bird survey, Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, Jan. 20, 2007.
- 2006. 2006 Fall bird survey, Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, Oct. 23, 2006.
- 2006. 2006 Breeding bird survey, Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, July 14, 2006.
- 2006. 2005-06 Winter bird survey. Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, Jan. 7, 2006.
- 2005. 2005 Fall bird survey, Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, Nov. 8, 2005.
- 2005. 2005 Breeding bird survey, Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, July 11, 2005.
- 2005. 2004-05 Winter bird survey. Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, Feb. 8, 2005.
- 2005. Checklist of birds of Ballona Valley, Los Angeles County, California (Online). Available: http://www.cooperecological.com/ballona_field_checklist_v.htm.

- 2004. 2004 Fall bird survey, Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, Nov. 2, 2004.
- 2004. 2004 Breeding bird survey, Ballona Freshwater Marsh at Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, California. Prepared for the Center for Natural Lands Management, Fallbrook, California, July 25, 2004.
- 2004. Ballona Wetlands Training Manual, Audubon Ballona Wetlands Program. 54 pp.

MALIBU

- Cooper, D.S. 2006. Birds of Malibu Lagoon: Final Report, 2006. Prepared for the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Topanga, California, August 8, 2006.
- 2005. Breeding bird survey, Nicholas Creek mouth, Malibu, California. Prepared for the Wishtoyo Foundation, Oxnard, California, June 10, 2005.

MEXICO/ CENTRAL AMERICA

- Cooper, D.S. 2007. Ecological assessment of five coffee farms in north-central Nicaragua. Prepared for Rogers Family Companies, Apr. 28, 2007.
- 2006. Ecological assessment of seven coffee farms in the Soconusco region of Chiapas, Mexico. Prepared for Rogers Family Companies, Dec. 1, 2006.

MISC. LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Cooper, D.S. 2005. Debs Park Teacher-Naturalist Training Manual, Audubon Center at Debs Park, 45 pp.
- 1999. Debs Park Habitat Management Plan. Audubon Center at Debs Park, 24 pp.
- Scott, T.A. and D.S. Cooper. 1999. Summary of avian resources of the Puente-Chino Hills Corridor. January, 1999. Available (Online): <http://www.hillsforeveryone.org/>
- Cooper, D.S., C. D'Agosta, K. Garrett, L. Dwyer-Hade, V. Jigour, A. Thomas, K. Bullard, S. Manion, T. Alsobrook, M. Campbell, A. Dove. 1998. Environmental review of vegetation removal in Los Angeles County rivers and streams. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority/EPA Region IX, San Francisco.

Popular articles

- Cooper, D.S. 2005. A duck club in L.A.?: The near-death and slow recovery of the Ballona Wetlands. *California Waterfowl*. June/July 2005.
- 2005. Birding the Ballona Wetlands. *Winging It*. 17(2):1-4.
- 2000. Rediscovering the lower Arroyo Seco. *Western Tanager* 67:1-3.
- 2000. ("Off the beaten path") The Huntington Library. *Western Tanager* 66:6-7.
- 1999. From the front lines: a birding tour leader offers his perspective. *Wildbird*. October, 1999.

Conference Presentations

- Cooper, D.S. Wildlife of Griffith Park (presentation). *Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council Symposium*. June 20, 2007. The Autry National Center in Griffith Park, Los Angeles, CA.
- Avian extirpation and colonization at the Ballona Wetlands, Los Angeles County, California (presentation). *Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting*, May 20-21, 2005, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA.

- Important Bird Areas of California (presentation). *California All-Bird Conservation Workshop*. November 15-16, 2004, Sacramento, CA.
- Cooper, D.S. and E. Galicia. Community participation, birding trails and birding festivals – tools for IBA outreach and implementation (moderators). *Important Bird Areas Conference*, August 14, 2004. Sierra Vista, AZ.
- Cooper, D.S. An exploration of the importance of the Salton Sea and associated ecosystems to birds (presentation). *California Water Dialogue*, Sept. 16, 2003. San Diego, CA.
- Fall migration of shorebirds along the lower Los Angeles River (poster). *27th Annual Meeting of the Western Field Ornithologists*. October 10-13, 2002. Irvine, CA.
- The use of riparian bird species as indicators of restoration success in the Los Angeles area (presentation). *Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting*, May 19-20, 2000, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.
- Cooper, D. and T. Scott. Patterns of breeding bird distribution in a large urban open space reserve (presentation). *4th International Urban Wildlife Conservation Symposium*. May 1-5, 1999. University of Arizona. Tucson, AZ.
- Wehtje, W. and D.S. Cooper. Range expansion in the Great-tailed Grackle (poster). *North American Ornithological Conference*. April 6-12, 1998. St. Louis, MO.
- Cooper, D.S. Southern California's camouflaged national parks: military reservations (presentation). *Nature's Workshop: Environmental Change in 20th Century Southern California*. Sept. 18-20, 1997. California State University, Northridge, CA.