

From: [Ellie Cohen](#)
To: [Ellie Cohen](#)
Subject: Ecology, climate change and related news updates October 28, 2011
Date: 10/28/2011 08:01 AM

Hi all-

Ecology, birds, biodiversity, climate change and other news updates **October 28, 2011**

Highlight of the Week: the Next Dust Bowl....

1-**ECOLOGY, BIODIVERSITY, RELATED**

2-**CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME EVENTS**

3-**OIL SPILLS**

4-**POLICY**

5-**RENEWABLES**

6-**RESOURCES**

7-**OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST**

8-**IMAGES OF THE WEEK**

Best-

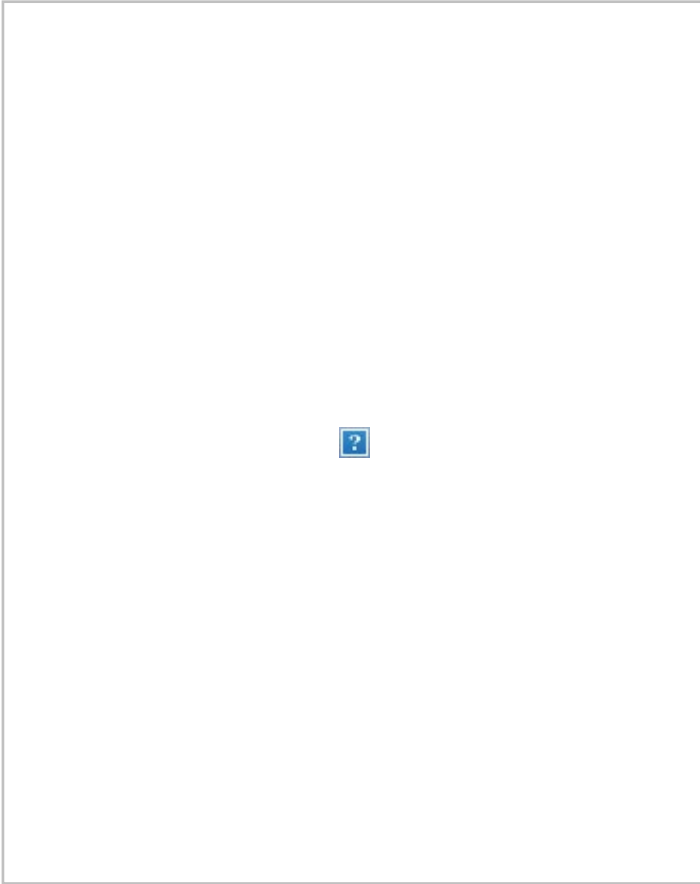
Ellie

NOTE: Please feel free to pass on my weekly news update for [PRBO Conservation Science](#) staff. The information contained in this update was drawn from www.sciencedaily.com, <http://news.google.com>, www.climateprogress.org, www.slate.com, www.sfgate.com, [The Wildlife Society NewsBrief](http://www.wildlifesociety.org) and other sources as indicated. This is a compilation of articles and other information available on line which were not verified and are not endorsed by PRBO Conservation Science. Please email me directly if you want your name dropped from or added to this list.

Highlight of the Week.... As we reach 7 billion on the planet sometime this Halloween...

Nature Comment- Joe Romm: Dust-Bowlification and the Threat It Poses to Food Security

“Feeding some 9 billion people by mid-century in the face of a rapidly worsening climate may well be the greatest challenge the human race has ever faced.”



The journal *Nature* asked me to write a Comment piece after they read one of my posts on prolonged drought and “[Dust-Bowlification](#).”This is not a peer-reviewed article but rather a “Comment” piece. I sent it to five of the world’s leading authorities on climate change and drought and the hydrological cycle: Kevin Trenberth, Aiguo Dai, Michael Mann, Peter Gleick and Jonathan Overpeck. I endeavored to incorporate their comments, but unfortunately *Nature* has a 10-reference limit for their Comment pieces and I wasn’t able to include as many references as they suggested or as I would have liked. I will probably do a later piece with more references. If you want links to most of the articles I refer to, [go here](#).

....I do not believe that most Americans and that includes most policymakers and most in the media understand the convergence of the recent scientific literature on the extreme threat posed directly to this country of Dust-Bowlification. During the last Dust Bowl era in the U.S., hundreds of thousands of families fled the impacted regions. Now, those same type of arid conditions could stretch all the way from Kansas to California within the next forty years. America’s financial future and the health and safety of our people are at serious risk if greenhouse gas pollution is not brought under control. The food security of all of humanity is at risk. Denial is simply not an option, the time for action is now.....

1. Ecology

PRBO in the news:

[Plan to kill Farallones mice a balancing act](#)

JASON DEAREN, 10/22/11 FARALLON NATIONAL **WILDLIFE** REFUGE, Calif. (AP) -- On the craggy, guano-covered Farallon Islands, tiny brown blurs of fur dart furtively across the ground between thousands of holes. This chain of small rocky islands that jut sharply out...



[Voracious Mice Scramble Food Chain on California's Farallon](#)

[Islands](#) NY Times Oct. 22, 2011

Winter after winter, burrowing owls have been overstaying their traditional migratory visit to the storm-swept Farallon Islands, dining on the petrels that have returned to breed. The attacks have taken a heavy toll on the petrels, a native bird that breeds slowly on the small, rocky islands. The stress on the ash storm petrels, which nest only on the Farallones and several other West Coast islands, is one of the many reverberations caused by a tiny island invader with a voracious appetite: the house mouse.“We’re supportive of the eradication goal,” said Melissa Pitkin, an island researcher who works for the [Point Reyes Bird Observatory](#), but only if an environmental study by the federal government — set to be released next fall — “shows that the benefits outweigh the costs.”

[Study: Songbirds decline as Wyoming oil and gas soars](#) Reuters

Key populations of songbirds are in decline in the sagebrush plains of southwestern Wyoming as oil and gas development there increases, a University of Wyoming scientist has said. The research, published in a recent edition of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, may aid in shaping the design of future oil and gas fields in Western states. [MORE](#)

[Celestial Compass Obscured by Urban Light Pollution for Some Nocturnal Animals](#)

October 28, 2011 — Urban light pollution has been shown to reduce the visibility of not only the stars, but also of an important navigational signal for some nocturnal animals. During clear moonlit nights, a compass-like pattern of polarized light that is invisible to the human eye stretches across the sky. The nighttime skyglow over major cities renders this celestial compass unobservable over large areas, according to a new study written by a group of physicists and ecologists at Freie Universität Berlin and the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB). The report, which is currently in press in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, cautions that screening of the celestial compass may reduce the evolutionary fitness of certain nocturnal animals, including species of beetles, moths, crickets, and spiders, possibly leading to disruption of food webs and affecting entire ecosystems....

Lethal virus from salmon farms seen in wild sockeye

Peter Fimrite, San Francisco Chronicle, 10/27/11

The discovery in British Columbia of an infectious virus that has devastated salmon farms on the East Coast, in Europe and Chile has alarmed conservationists, some of whom blame the aquaculture industry, but fishery scientists say it is too early to panic

Antarctic killer whales may seek spa-like relief in the tropics (October 27, 2011) -- In a new study, researchers offer a novel explanation for why a type of Antarctic killer whale performs a rapid migration to warmer tropical waters. One tagged Antarctic killer whale monitored by satellite traveled over 5,000 miles to visit the warm waters off southern Brazil before returning immediately to Antarctica just 42 days later. This was the first long distance migration ever reported for killer whales. ... > [full story](#)

Bioluminescence: Explanation for glowing seas suggested (October 20, 2011) -- It has long been known that distinctive blue flashes -- a type of bioluminescence -- that are visible at night in some marine environments are caused by tiny, unicellular plankton known as dinoflagellates. However, a new study has, for the first time, detailed the potential mechanism for this bioluminescence. ... > [full story](#)

Bolivia's jaguars set a record (October 21, 2011) -- In a new camera trap survey in the world's most biologically diverse landscape, researchers have identified more individual jaguars than ever before. ... > [full story](#)

Thousands of dead birds wash ashore in Ont.

London Free Press - October 24, 2011

By QMI Agency As many as 6000 dead birds have washed up on the shores of Georgian Bay, in southern Ontario. The province's Ministry of Natural Resources, which will begin cleaning the shorelines of dead birds Monday, suspects botulism might be behind ...

Fungus Identified as Killer of 1 Million Bats in North America

Elizabeth Lopatto, SF Gate, 10/26/11

Oct. 26 (Bloomberg) -- A fungus is at fault for the deaths of one million North American bats, according to a study that's the first to pinpoint the cause for a phenomenon that scientists say may spur agricultural losses of \$3.7 billion a year. The next...

'Boston Globe' Finds Mislabeled Fish In Restaurants

October 24, 2011 NPR

[Listen to the Story](#) [All Things Considered](#) [4 min 28 sec] [Add to Playlist](#) [Download](#)

A five-month investigation by the *Boston Globe* shows that restaurants in Massachusetts are routinely mislabeling fish, often substituting cheaper, lower-quality fish for what's promised on the menu. Melissa Block speaks to *Boston Globe* reporter Jenn Abelson about the story....

...BLOCK: And the DNA testing that you had done up in a lab showed what percentage of fish that actually was other than what it was advertised as? ABELSON: Forty-eight percent came out to be mislabeled. ...BLOCK: And the numbers were way higher for red snapper. You mentioned that that was a problem fish and it turned out it was a big problem. Hardly any red snapper was actually red snapper. ABELSON: Yeah. We tested 26 samples of red snapper and 24 times we got served something else. We were served ocean perch, crimson snapper, Colorado snapper and tilapia.

BLOCK: What would the price differential be between the fish that's actually served and what was being promised, the red snapper? ABELSON: So at sushi restaurants, which routinely substituted tilapia, that costs about \$2.30 a pound, whereas red snapper could cost about \$5.20 a pound.

[Rice farmers & birdwatchers work together in SW Louisiana's Yellow Rails ...](#)

Washington Post - October 25, 2011

Experienced birders help point out **birds** and answer questions. "Its primary goal is to provide participants a unique venue to view yellow rails while at the same time bringing birders and farmers together to realize the value to **birds** of the area's ...

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[Group: Last Javan rhino in Vietnam killed for horn](#)

The Associated Press - October 25, 2011

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) - Vietnam has lost its fight to save its rare Javan rhinoceros population after poachers apparently killed the country's last animal for its horn, pushing one of the world's most endangered species closer to extinction, ...

[Plants feel the force: How plants sense touch, gravity and other physical forces](#) (October 26, 2011) -- At the bottom of plants' ability to sense touch, gravity or a nearby trellis are mechanosensitive channels, pores through the cells' plasma membrane that are opened and closed by the deformation of the membrane. Biologists are studying the roles these channels play in Arabidopsis plants by growing mutant plants that lack one or more of the 10 possible channel proteins in this species. ... > [full story](#)



[Land animals, ecosystems walloped after Permian dieoff](#) (October 27, 2011) -- Researchers have concluded the mass extinction that ended the Permian Period was disastrous for land-based animals. In a specimen-by-specimen analysis, the scientists say species were reduced to a handful of forms, called disaster taxa. The low diversity of vertebrates meant that terrestrial ecosystems endured boom-and-bust cycles for up to eight million years before finally stabilizing. ... > [full story](#)

[Up to 20 millions tons of tsunami debris headed for U.S. shores](#)

Los Angeles Times - October 24, 2011

An estimated 5 tons to 20 tons of debris sucked into the **ocean** during Japan's massive tsunami is due to hit US shores, University of Hawaii scientists say.

2. Climate Change and Extreme Events

[Extreme melting on greenland ice sheet, team reports; Glacial melt cycle could become self-amplifying](#) (October 26, 2011) -- The Greenland ice sheet can experience extreme melting even when temperatures don't

hit record highs, according to a new analysis by Dr. Marco Tedesco, assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the City College of New York. His findings suggest that glaciers could undergo a self-amplifying cycle of melting and warming that would be difficult to halt. ... > [full story](#)

2011 melting in Greenland

[Year 2011 Greenland melting remains well above the \(1979 – 2010\) average; close-to-record mass loss](#)

M. Tedesco¹, X. Fettweis², T. Mote³, N. Steiner¹ and J. E. Box⁴ *Summary: Melting in Greenland in 2011 was still above the average (1979 – 2010 baseline period), exceptionally high over the west coast and reaching close-to-record simulated surface mass balance, bare ice exposure, albedo and runoff anomalies.An alternative approach using microwave data as well (Mote and Anderson, 2005) indicates that melt extent for the period June through August 2011 ranked third since 1979, following 2010 and 2007. ... Strong negative surface mass balance anomalies occurred in 2011, according to MAR (e.g., the loss in 2011 and 2010 were much higher than the gained mass because of accumulation).*

[Emission pathways consistent with a 2 °C global temperature limit](#) pp413 - 418

Joeri Rogelj, William Hare, Jason Lowe, Detlef P. van Vuuren, Keywan Riahi, Ben Matthews, Tatsuya Hanaoka, Kejun Jiang and Malte Meinshausen

doi:10.1038/nclimate1258 The 'pathway' the world needs to follow to limit global temperature rise to 2 °C remains uncertain. Analysis that takes technical and economic constraints on reducing emissions into account indicates that **emissions need to peak in the next decade and then fall rapidly to have a good chance of achieving this goal [of limiting global temperature increase to 2 C].**

[Full Text](#) | [PDF](#)

[Global Warming Target to Stay Below 2 Degrees Requires More Action This Decade.](#)

[Scientists Say](#) October 27, 2011 — Climate scientists say the world's target to stay below a global warming of 2 degrees, made at the United Nations conference in Copenhagen in 2009 and Cancun 2010 will require decisive action this ... > [full story](#)

[Projections of when temperature change will exceed 2 °C above pre-industrial levels](#) pp407 - 412

Manoj Joshi, Ed Hawkins, Rowan Sutton, Jason Lowe and David Frame

doi:10.1038/nclimate1261

Climate change projections are usually presented as 'snapshots' of change at a particular time in the future. Now a new approach to presenting projections, which should prove useful to policymakers, shows when temperature thresholds might be crossed, shifting the emphasis from 'what might happen' to 'when it might happen'. ... On regional scales, however, **the 2 °C threshold will probably be exceeded over large parts of Eurasia, North Africa and Canada by 2040 if emissions continue to increase — well within the lifetime of many people living now.**

[Full Text](#) | [PDF](#)

[Cooling the warming debate: Major new analysis confirms that global warming is real](#) (October 21, 2011) -- Global warming is real, according to a major new study. Despite issues raised by climate change skeptics, the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature study finds reliable evidence of a rise in the average world land temperature of approximately 1 degree Celsius since the mid-1950s. ... > [full story](#)

[Climate change isn't natural variation, says team](#)

TG Daily - Kate Taylor - October 24, 2011

There's been no simultaneous warming of the northern and southern hemispheres in the last 20000 years, scientists say, indicating that **climate change** can't be ascribed to natural variation. Svante Björck, a climate researcher at Lund University in ...

[NOAA Bombshell: Human-Caused Climate Change *Already* a Major Factor in More Frequent Mediterranean Droughts](#)

By [Joe Romm](#) on Oct 27, 2011 at 8:00 pm

NOAA reports that global warming is harming humans right now in a dramatic way: "Wintertime droughts are increasingly common in the Mediterranean region, and human-caused climate change is partly responsible, according to a new analysis by NOAA scientists and colleagues at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES). In the last 20 years, 10 of the driest 12 winters have taken place in the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea." **"The magnitude and frequency of the drying that has occurred is too great to be explained by natural variability alone,"** said Martin Hoerling, Ph.D. of NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., lead author of a paper published online in the *Journal of Climate* this month. "This is not encouraging news for a region that already experiences water stress, because it implies natural variability alone is unlikely to return the region's climate to normal." ...

[Glaciers in Southwest China Feel the Brunt of Climate Change](#)

October 28, 2011 — Significant increases in annual temperatures are having a devastating effect on glaciers in the mountainous regions of southwestern China, potentially affecting natural habitats, tourism and wider ... > [full story](#)

[Climate change making country's water problems worse: expert](#)

Reuters - October 26, 2011

By Kim Palmer ERIE, Pa (Reuters) - **Climate change** and population growth in the United States will make having enough fresh water more challenging in the coming years, an expert on water shortages said on Wednesday.

WORLD / EUROPE

[Flooding Ravages Tuscany and Liguria in Italy](#)

By ELISABETTA POVOLEDO (NYT) October 27, 2011 Compiled: 2:32 AM

Failing through mounds of debris and sludge, rescue workers hunted for survivors in Tuscany and Liguria on Wednesday after mudslides and flooding left at least six people dead and hundreds homeless. ... The rains

extended into Wednesday, causing more destruction. ... President Giorgio Napolitano said on television that [climate change](#) was the cause of the disaster....Environmental groups also blamed unregulated construction and expressed concerns that government cutbacks to environmental protection agencies, a consequence of Italy's budget and economic travails, had undermined efforts to better manage such catastrophes. The torrential rains were likely to become more common because of climate change, said Fausto Guzzetti, the director of a geological institute that is part of Italy's National Research Council. A different issue, he said in an interview, was the impact that they had on infrastructure and towns, as a result of the often unregulated and widespread urban development that took place throughout Italy during the postwar boom. What happened in Tuscany and Liguria, he said, "should not have happened, but it did because we have built in places where we should not have built. Now it is too late, and we are paying the consequences."....



Flawed USGS Study Still Links Southwestern Drying to Increasing Carbon Dioxide Pollution and Climate Change

Posted: 25 Oct 2011 06:17 PM PDT A new U.S. Geological Survey [analysis](#) finds that, as climate scientists have been predicting for decades, the Southwestern U.S. is drying in part because of rising levels of carbon dioxide: **The decrease of floods in the southwestern region is consistent with other research findings that this region has been getting drier and experienced less precipitation as a likely result of climate change.**

The study, "[Has the magnitude of floods across the USA changed with global CO₂ levels?](#)" appearing in *Hydrological Sciences Journal*, however, relies on dubious and "absurd" assumptions, according to a number of climate scientists I spoke with. Amazingly, the lead author seems to lack an understanding of core issues germane to his analysis, as we'll see.....

Climate Change May be Spiking Mercury in Yukon's Rivers

The massive Yukon River Basin has mercury levels vastly higher than many other comparable river bodies, the U.S. Geological Survey said this week, with release from thawing permafrost singled out as the prime suspected reason. A five-year sampling shows the basin, which is roughly twice the size of California, has mercury levels 32 times that of some other rivers included in the study, published this week in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*....

Iverson, Louis, Prasad, Matthews, Peters. [Lessons Learned While Integrating Habitat, Dispersal, Disturbance, and Life-History Traits into Species Habitat Models Under Climate Change.](#)

Ecosystems (2011) 14: 1005–1020 DOI: 10.1007/s10021-011-9456-4

Biodiversity and ecosystems: Change at the community level pp398 - 399

Martin Edwards Nature Climate Change doi:10.1038/nclimate1270

Some commercial fish species of the northeast Atlantic Ocean have relocated in response to warming. **The impact of warming on marine assemblages in the region may already be much greater than appreciated, however, with over 70% of common demersal fish species responding through changes in abundance, rather than range.**

[Full Text](#) | [PDF](#)

Ocean warming sends Australian seaweed packing

CBS News - October 27, 2011

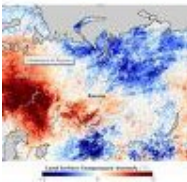
Warming **ocean** waters could force hundreds of Australian seaweed species to shift southward in search of cooler waters, and eventually, force them off Australia's continental shelf, and possibly into extinction, according to a study....

Growing Something out of Nothing Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Fears of global warming and its impact on our environment have left scientists scrambling to decrease levels of atmospheric carbon we humans produce. Now, Tel Aviv University researchers are doing their part to reduce humanity's carbon footprint by successfully growing forests in the most unlikely place — deep in Israel's Aravah Desert... Though maintaining our current forests is a necessary initiative, Prof. Eshel says, it is not enough to off-set human carbon output. **In their quest to create forests that diminish carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, many countries have been converting fertile agricultural lands into forests. But TAU researchers believed that encouraging growth on a piece of land that was traditionally barren, such as desert land, was a step in a better direction.** "When you take the overall carbon balance of converting agricultural land and freshwater into energy products, you may not gain that much," says Prof. Eshel. "You're investing a lot of energy in the process itself, thus releasing a lot of carbon into the atmosphere."



Salt cedars growing in Israel's Aravah Desert.



Russian Heat Wave Statistically Linked to Climate Change

Wired News - Brandon Keim – October 24, 2011

A new method of crunching climate data could make it possible to put a figure on **climate change's** contribution to freak weather events, something that's been difficult to do with empirical precision.

Year of extreme weather takes toll on hunting outlook in parts of Missouri and Kansas The Miami Herald

The Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in central Kansas looks more like a desert these days than a nationally known wetlands complex. Ordinarily, the basins would be teeming with water, inviting migrating birds such as ducks, geese, sandhill cranes and even whooping cranes, an endangered species, to stop. Not this year. Ugly cracks zigzag through dry basins. White sand from the bottom of parched pools blows in the wind. And waterfowl are nowhere to be found. After a summer without rain and 40 days when the temperatures exceeded 100 degrees, Quivira is a waterbird ghost town.

[MORE](#)

3. Oil Spills

[Oil company agrees to plead guilty in deaths of birds in North Dakota waste ...](#)

Washington Post – October 24, 2011

BISMARCK, ND - One of seven oil companies charged with killing migratory **birds** during drilling operations in North Dakota has agreed to plead guilty and pay \$12000.

4. Policy

[Technology Can Nudge Climate Change Politics: Charles Perrow](#)

BusinessWeek - [Charles Perrow](#) - October 24, 2011

Oct. 24 (Bloomberg) -- Reducing carbon-dioxide emissions is primarily a political problem, rather than a technological one. This fact was well illustrated by the fate of the 2009 climate bill that barely passed the US House of ...

[Former Keystone Pipeline Lobbyist Hired by Obama Campaign](#)

President Obama's reelection campaign has hired a former lobbyist for the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline as a top adviser.

The campaign said that Broderick Johnson, founder and former principal of the communications firm the Collins Johnson Group, would serve as a senior adviser for the campaign. Before founding the firm this spring, he worked for the powerhouse lobbying firm, Bryan Cave LLP, where his clients included Microsoft, Comcast and TransCanada, the company planning to build the \$7-billion pipeline to carry crude from Alberta's oil sands to the Texas Gulf Coast.

[Governments Must Plan for Migration in Response to Climate Change, Researchers Say](#)

October 28, 2011 — Governments around the world must be prepared for mass migrations caused by rising

global temperatures or face the possibility of calamitous results, say ... > [full story](#)

[In Northwest Town, A Local Fight Against Global Coal](#) by Richard Harris October 26, 2011

[Listen to the Story Morning Edition](#) [7 min 47 sec] October 26, 2011

This is the first of two reports on plans to export U.S. coal to China. Plans are afoot to build giant new coal terminals on the West Coast to ship this lucrative commodity to China. But activists want to stop this, in part because coal produces huge amounts of carbon dioxide when it's burned. Federal climate policy is silent on this potentially large source of emissions, so the debate is happening at the local level....

[House Votes to Ban Airline Compliance With EU Law](#)

Passenger and cargo airlines would be shielded from a European law making carriers worldwide pay for carbon emissions under legislation approved by the House of Representatives on Monday.

Lawmakers sent a strong message to the European Union on its unilateral action, fiercely opposed by carriers, travel groups, labor and a number of countries, including [China](#).

5. Renewables and related

[Kuwait Sets Biggest Gulf Clean-Energy Goal](#) Business Week Oct 26 2011

Sun-drenched Kuwait, a desert nation with no solar-power plants and electricity demand that's growing about 8 percent a year, has set the most ambitious target for using renewable energy in the Gulf region. OPEC's fifth-biggest oil producer, whose air conditioners run cheaply off state-subsidized oil-fired power plants, aims to generate 10 percent of its electricity from sustainable sources by 2020, said Eyad Ali al-Falah, assistant undersecretary for technical services at the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

[Forest biofuel projects could increase West Coast carbon emissions](#)

Los Angeles Times - October 25, 2011

Research published Oct. 23 in the journal Nature **Climate Change** undermines the a...

[Solar Has Highest Return on Investment Among Renewable Energy Sources](#) Return on investment from solar power is higher than from any other renewable energy source, thanks to large-scale technological improvements that are expected to bring down the cost of power generation to \$1/W by 2020, according to a new report from [SBI Energy](#). The payback period for a typical PV project has also come down to three to five years, from seven to 10 years...



Introducing the Climate Progress Podcast: Jigar Shah on Why Renewables Will Win This Decade, Even Beating Natural Gas

Posted: 24 Oct 2011 12:05 PM PDT

6. Resources

August 2011 SF Bay Area -Coastal Manager Scoping Workshops Summary Report for sea level rise and storm impacts to the outer SF Bay region is now available at <http://data.prbo.org/apps/ocof/workshop.php> or through the links below.

In August 2011, two Coastal Manager Scoping Workshops were held for the collaborative project, “Our Coast—Our Future: Planning for Sea Level Rise and Storm Hazards Along the Bay Area’s Outer Coast,” to **solicit management information needs for an online decision support tool to plan for and respond to sea level rise and storm hazards from Half Moon Bay to Bodega Head**. Fifty-five coastal managers and planners with jurisdiction and legal authority along the North-central California coast who use sea level rise and storm data and information in decision-making participated in the workshops. Workshop participants defined the highest priority *management questions* related to sea level rise and storms, and the desired *tool capabilities* to address them.

August 2011 Workshops Summary Report with Appendices

August 2011 Workshops Summary Report

August 2011 Workshops Appendices

2011 King Tides Final Report The 2011 King Tides Initiative Report is available at <http://californiakingtides.org/get-more-details/>. Project partners are made up of many Bay Area Ecosystem Climate Change Consortium (www.BAECCC.org) members including: Coastal Services Center, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, the San Francisco Bay and Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserves, California Coastkeeper Alliance, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the California Coastal Commission. The project team will be updating you shortly on ways you and your community can get involved in the 2011/12 photo event.

National Marine Sanctuaries of the West Coast Ocean Acidification Action Plan

The National Marine Sanctuaries of the West Coast Ocean Acidification Action Plan is available at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/westcoast.html> under “what’s new”

Physics Today, Oct 2011, article by Somerville and Hassol

“Communicating the science of climate change.”

Terms that have different meanings for scientists and the public		
Scientific term	Public meaning	Better choice
enhance	improve	intensify, increase
aerosol	spray can	tiny atmospheric particle
positive trend	good trend	upward trend
positive feedback	good response, praise	vicious cycle, self-reinforcing cycle
theory	hunch, speculation	scientific understanding
uncertainty	ignorance	range
error	mistake, wrong, incorrect	difference from exact true number
bias	distortion, political motive	offset from an observation
sign	indication, astrological sign	plus or minus sign
values	ethics, monetary value	numbers, quantity
manipulation	illicit tampering	scientific data processing
scheme	devious plot	systematic plan
anomaly	abnormal occurrence	change from long-term average



STEPHEN H. SCHNEIDER SYMPOSIUM
 CLIMATE CHANGE: FROM SCIENCE TO POLICY
 BOULDER, CO AUGUST 24-27, 2011

[Climate Change: From Science to Policy](http://stephenschneider.stanford.edu/Symposium/SHS_symposium_program.html)

http://stephenschneider.stanford.edu/Symposium/SHS_symposium_program.html

....to “attend” virtually, the webcast videos with the speakers' slides are now available. Steve's website, <http://stephenschneider.stanford.edu/index.html> (or www.climatechange.net) is featuring the complete set of webcast videos for each day of the Symposium as they were recorded by the NCAR staff. Click on the symposium link on the home page of <http://stephenschneider.stanford.edu> to access the videos and a wealth of information about the symposium:

[National Integrated Drought Information System](#)



[Colombia reaffirmed as #1 nation for birds](#) ProAves published the 15th issue of its journal *Conservación Colombiana*, which includes five articles related to new bird records for Colombia plus the annual review of the national list of birds. To date, we confirm a total of 1,889 bird species occurring in Colombia to reaffirm that Colombia is the #1 nation of birds on earth.



eBird Version 3 includes:

- Global scope—enter and explore observations from anywhere around the world
- Streamlined data entry—getting your data into the system is faster and more customizable than ever
- Improved range maps—explore interactive range maps for any bird in the world
- Alerts system—get customized reports about birds of interest to you in a region
- eBird Top 100—find out how your totals rank among other birders in any region
- Birding + Science connection—by participating, your data become available to the science and conservations communities

7. Other News of Interest

Carrying the torch

[A year after his death, Steve Schneider and his legacy take center stage](#)

Zhenya Gallon | 13 October 2011 • NCAR To honor his memory and inspire continuation of his work, about 200 people gathered in late August at NCAR for the 2011 Stephen H. Schneider Symposium. Colleagues, friends, family members, and former students—from undergraduates to postdocs—reviewed past accomplishments and looked forward as they celebrated Schneider's contributions to research, education, and communication about climate complexity, climate change, and a host of related topics.....



[Google To Deliver The Amazon Jungle In 3-D\(4\) Recommend \(16\)](#)

October 24, 2011 Google is teaming up with a Brazilian environmental group to offer a 3-

D, on-the-ground view of one of the planet's most remote areas: the hamlet of Tumbira in the center of the Brazilian Amazon. The goal is to show how people in the Amazon live and their efforts to protect the forest.

Local Ocean Launches European Sea Bass Raised in Hudson Valley

MarketWatch (press release) -

HUDSON, NY, Oct 24, 2011 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX) -- For the first time in North America, consumers in New York State can enjoy locally-grown European Sea Bass, otherwise known as Branzino, raised by Local **Ocean** in a fully-contained, ...

The scientific finding that settles the climate-change debate By Eugene Robinson *Washington Post*

For the clueless or cynical diehards who deny global warming, it's getting awfully cold out there.

The latest icy blast of reality comes from an eminent scientist whom the climate-change skeptics once lauded as one of their own. Richard Muller, a respected physicist at the University of California, Berkeley, used to dismiss alarmist climate research as being "polluted by political and activist frenzy." Frustrated at what he considered shoddy science, Muller launched his own comprehensive study to set the record straight. Instead, the record set *him* straight.



Long-gone woodpecker lives again ... on newfound film

msnbc.com - 59 minutes ago

It's a point in geography and time where you can document the species existed," said Joel Cracraft, curator of **birds** at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. The film was shot by the late William Rhein, a Pennsylvania dentist who made ...

Sunday Drive: Bay Wildlife Refuge

Tom Stienstra, San Francisco Chronicle, 10/09/11

What you'll see: Roughly 1.5 million migratory waterfowl spend the winter on bay wetlands. Hundreds of thousands will arrive over the next two months at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National **Wildlife** Refuge near Fremont on south San Francisco Bay...

"What Should a Ski Company that Cares About Sustainability Be Doing?"*

Posted: 22 Oct 2011 09:42 AM PDT... I've been told that losing just another few weeks from the ski season would make many if not most resorts unprofitable. So, what should a ski company that cares about sustainability be doing — in its last few decades of profitability?



Margaret Atwood knits for the birds

Vancouver Sun - Randy Boswell - October 25, 2011

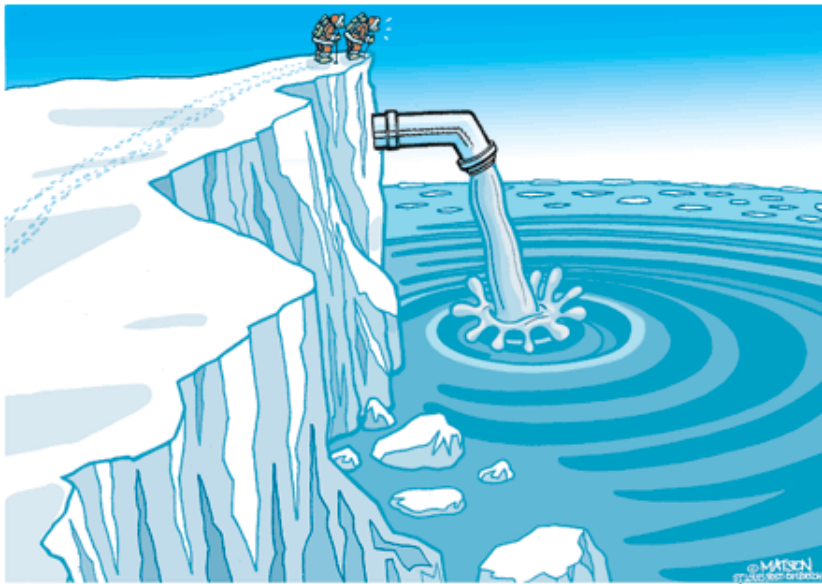
... The show, titled Ghosts of Gone Birds, calls attention to the tragic loss of scores of avian species in recent centuries and the looming threat to global bird populations today....

Morning UV exposure may be less damaging to the skin (October 26, 2011) -- New research suggests that the timing of exposure to UV rays -- early in the morning or later in the afternoon -- can influence the onset of skin cancer. ... > [full story](#)

Environmental toxin bisphenol A (BPA) can affect newborn brain, mouse study shows (October 26, 2011) -- Newborn mice that are exposed to bisphenol A (BPA) develop changes in their spontaneous behavior and evince poorer adaptation to new environments, as well hyperactivity as young adults, according to researchers. Their study also revealed that one of the brain's most important signal systems, the cholinergic signal system, is affected by bisphenol A and that the effect persisted into adulthood. ... > [full story](#)

Recycling thermal cash register receipts contaminates paper products with BPA (October 26, 2011) -- Bisphenol A (BPA) -- a substance that may have harmful health effects -- occurs in 94 percent of thermal cash register receipts, scientists are reporting. The recycling of those receipts, they add, is a source of BPA contamination of paper napkins, toilet paper, food packaging and other paper products. The report could have special implications for cashiers and other people who routinely handle thermal paper receipts. ... > [full story](#)

8. Images of the Week



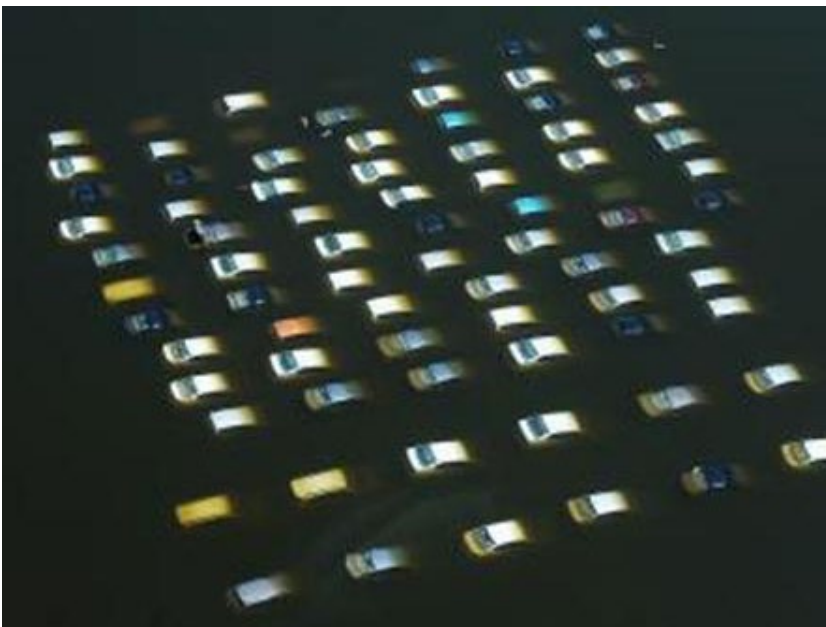
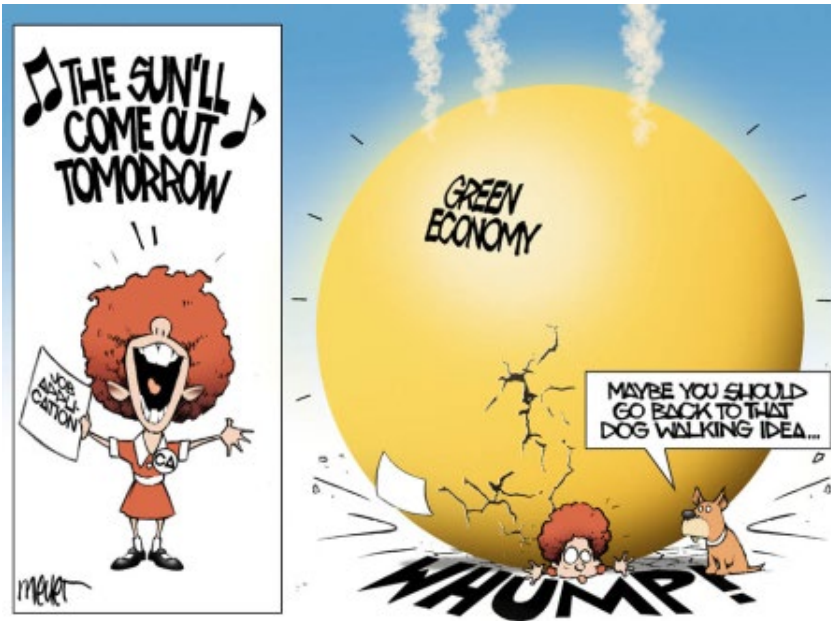
"HOW ON EARTH DO WE TURN IT OFF?"

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today's cartoon





New cars submerged in floodwater at the Honda Automobile Thailand plant outside the ancient Thai capital of Ayutthaya, north of Bangkok.



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