Senior Theses/Class Projects

Donaghy, M.M. Diurnal activity budgets of Pacific black brant on Humboldt Bay.
Did breeding adults spend more time foraging than juveniles during spring migration? No significant difference in time foraging between juvenile and adult, but adults more vigilant. Around 4 hrs. before low tides most adults and juveniles foraged.

Smith, S. N. Response of small mammals related to vegetative cover on pastures of varying grazing regimes within Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Loleta California.

More males than females harvested but no difference between adult and juvenile. Harvest order was: Adult males, juvenile males, juvenile females, adult females. Adult harvest increased as season progressed.

Increase in proportion of juveniles stopping over during northward migration. Adults preceded juveniles on migration.

Compared densities of raptors between grazed and ungrazed plots. Favored ungrazed areas.

Horn, L.K. 1993. Two sampling techniques for monitoring a seasonal wetland.
Simple random and systematic sampling got similar results. Used Triangle Marsh to measure water depth over 6 months.

Looked at abundance of AMWI, GWTE, and NOSH at 2 freshwater marshes adjacent to estuaries. Difference between high and low tide? Significant difference in use at Eel River Wildlife Area and no difference at HBNWR.

Haywood, W. 1995. The number of small mammals in relation to the grazing history of a pasture.
Compared grazed, ungrazed 1yr., and ungrazed 2 yr in SCU. California voles, deer mice, and western harvest mice caught. California voles and deer mice most abundant in 2 yr. ungrazed. West Har Mouse and house mice in 1 yr. ungrazed. Due to different veg height and composition.


Compared proportion hunted to proportion observed in field. Adult females and juveniles experienced more hunting mortality early in the season. Males more vulnerable later.

Measured water depth and salinity measured in relation to waterfowl and shorebird use. Variations not related to numbers of waterfowl, shorebirds, or species richness. Tide influenced shorebird use and time of year influenced waterfowl.
Fisher, M.R. Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) seasonal distribution and productivity near Humboldt Bay, California.

Highest densities of non-breeding plovers at Little River State Beach. Highest breeding densities at beaches near mouth of Mad and Eel Rivers. 20 nests recorded between 27 March and 4 August 1992 and 12 hatched at least one egg. 9 fledged.


Did restored marsh provide adequate mitigation due to construction of marina? Intertidal area of mitigation marsh did not replace intertidal and subtidal lost by construction due to unstable salinities and water temperatures.