

Ryan Burnett Biography

Ryan Burnett is the Sierra Nevada Group Director at Point Blue Conservation Science, where he leads a team of scientists conducting research and conservation efforts across the Sierra Nevada ecosystem. A wildlife ecologist with more than 25 years of experience, Ryan has dedicated his career to advancing the understanding and conservation of California's wildlife, with particular expertise in Sierra Nevada bird ecology and population dynamics.

Ryan has designed, led, and published numerous long-term studies examining the status, trends, and conservation needs of bird populations throughout the Sierra Nevada. He has authored more than 20 peer-reviewed scientific publications and over 50 technical reports focused on wildlife ecology, habitat management, and conservation science. His work emphasizes the application of rigorous science to inform resource management and conservation decision-making.

A graduate of the University of California, Davis, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology, Ryan has conducted field research in diverse ecosystems, including seabird studies on Midway Atoll, the Farallon Islands, and Mono Lake. He has been involved with Point Blue's long-term California Gull research and monitoring program at Mono Lake for more than 15 years and has served as project lead for the past six years.

As Sierra Nevada Group Director, Ryan oversees a team of Ph.D.- and master's-level scientists working on issues ranging from wildlife conservation and habitat restoration to climate resilience and ecosystem management. He collaborates closely on the Mono Lake California Gull project with Point Blue Chief Science Officer Dr. Grant Ballard and Senior Seabird Ecologist Dr. Annie Schmidt, helping advance one of the longest-running seabird monitoring efforts in the western United States.