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in memoriam on native artist Armand Frederick Vallee finishes off this nicely illustrated book.

The book has many merits. Written for the public, its narrative voice is thoroughly engaging. It paints a compelling, empathetic picture of lone shamans trancing in the shade of rock shelters while ranging across the distant reaches of the Desert West, with the rock paintings created for the private interiority of the shamanic mind in the cave. It is a familiar tale to anyone versed in the wider literature on the subjects covered. But those versed in that same literature know that the soothing voice of the narrator in large part glosses over any critical or analytical perspective that such a subject deservedly requires. For example, the opening image in the book of a rock shelter with black anthropomorphic figures is captioned “a shaman’s cave.” A number of bedrock mortars are shown in the same photograph but are not mentioned. Is there a midden present? It is entirely typical of almost any book

on shamans and rock art you may come across to ignore the archaeology that is often evident at rock art sites. A wide body of literature can be found that calls into question the idea that rock art was created exclusively for shaman’s eyes, based upon the rich archaeological deposits often found in association with it—clearly there was a whole lot more than trancing going on at the feet of those anthropomorphs. That failure to delve into the sites themselves is symptomatic of the failure to unpack the term shamanism, its use in the history of anthropology and in early twentieth century California, and the failure in works like this book to delve a bit deeper into ontological critiques of shamanism itself (as Thomas Dowson himself did 12 years ago). However, as I indicated previously, this book clearly was not written for an academic audience but for the general public, and the author can perhaps be forgiven for leaving academia behind and instead turning to the old magic of a good tale told well.



Foragers on America’s Western Edge: The Archaeology of California’s Pecho Coast

Terry L. Jones and Brian F. Coddling
Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2019,
Xii + 291 pp., includes 60 figures, 71 tables, 6 appendices,
references, index, ISBN 9781607816430, \$50.00 (hardcover).

Reviewed by Hugh D. Radde

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Foragers on America’s Western Edge is a compelling monograph that details the unique history of human adaptation throughout 10,000 years on the Pecho Coast of central California. Jones and Coddling marshal a substantive dataset derived from thirteen years of ongoing research on the Pecho Coast and synthesize over fifty years of archaeological research in the region. The study is focused on the foragers who lived near the rocky intertidal coastline between Morro Bay and

San Luis Obispo Bay; however, their findings are of import to archaeologists with interests ranging from human environmental interactions to post-contact indigenous resilience.

The first few chapters provide the necessary background to situate their study in a regional context. The authors begin by giving credit to the seminal work of Roberta Greenwood (1972), who was among the first to draw attention to ancient human occupation in this area of littoral California. Her published findings of a 10,000-year cultural sequence at the Diablo Canyon site (CA-SLO-2) were unprecedented at the time and befittingly brought attention to the Pecho Coast of San Luis Obispo County. Chapters 2 and 3 offer a thorough review of previous investigations in the area and provide a necessary overview of the environmental considerations that the authors link to settlement and subsistence throughout the book. Chapters 4 and 5 outline the field, lab, and analytical methods that were employed throughout the project.

The bulk of the data can be found in Chapter 6—site investigations. Seven sites that were excavated between 2004 and 2015 in association with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo are individually presented and discussed. These recently investigated sites, as well as three previous excavations, provide the 17 temporal components that form the basis of the authors' interpretations. Readers will be impressed by the sheer amount of raw data that is presented in numerous tables associated with each site (e.g., beads, debitage, fauna). These data are summarized in the penultimate chapter and reviewed in chronological order, beginning with the earliest known occupations during the Millingstone/Lower Archaic, proceeding through the Early, Middle, and Late periods, and concluding with a discussion of the historic Chumash village of *Tstywi*. The quantitative analysis associated with this chapter is sophisticated and intelligible.

There are several noteworthy accomplishments in this book. By utilizing existing collections with firmly established temporal components and drawing from their own excavations, the authors have compiled data from a remarkably large excavated volume (>97 m.³). The resulting synthesis is one that resonates and contrasts with the known archaeological record.

Much attention is given to a discussion of the Millingstone/Lower Archaic Period (10,300–5,700 cal B.P.), because our knowledge of this cultural period is limited and is often expressed in the archaeological record in patterns that are presently indecipherable. On the Pecho Coast, Jones and Coddling find this period to be characterized by short-term camps where people exploited marine birds heavily. This is perhaps the most 'coastal' aspect of these early inhabitants; remains of rabbit and deer are relatively more abundant than those of fish, shellfish, and marine mammals, which occur in modest quantities. These sites generally lack evidence for a classic Millingstone toolkit (i.e., a high density of handstones and milling slabs) and are suggested to be secondary sites in a settlement system that emphasized long-term interior residence. The transition to the Early Period (5,700–2,600 cal B.P.) has already been recognized as a time of demographic increases associated with a greater frequency of projectile points and the onset of mortars and pestles. Drawing from Early Period sites on the Pecho Coast, the authors

propose an Initial Phase of the Early Period (5,700–5,000 cal B.P.) that is defined by the co-occurrence of large, side-notched projectile points with mortars and pestles. After 5,000 cal B.P., contracting-stemmed forms prevail as the dominant projectile type through the remaining Early Period.

During the Middle Period (2,600–950 cal B.P.), many aspects of indigenous life shifted to a marine focus due to subsistence intensification and growing human populations. Subsistence regimes emphasized fish and sea otters—the former no doubt benefitting from the shell fishhook, which accompanied the Middle Period. Additionally, *Olivella* saucer beads appear for the first time, and more frequent exchange is evidenced by the influx of obsidian. During the Medieval Climatic Anomaly, communities on the Pecho Coast weathered terrestrial droughts by continuing to emphasize fish and shellfish. However, by the Late Period (700–180 cal B.P.), faunal densities decline, obsidian conveyance comes to a halt, and population appears to decline on the Pecho Coast. *Olivella* bead density is the most defining characteristic for sites in the region during the Late Period. Following the arrival of the Spanish, indigenous life was irrevocably changed. Evidence from the historic Chumash village of *Tstywi* suggests that people responded by shifting to full sedentism on the coast. Tool diversity, fish densities, projectile point and millingstone tool densities all reached unprecedented levels as people persisted on the landscape in restricted areas despite the colonial presence nearby.

There are some minor typographical errors and a few mistakes in the tables, but overall the authors are to be commended for compiling this comparative diachronic study. Unfortunately, there is minimal discussion of the plants that were gathered and consumed by foragers on the Pecho Coast. Faunal analysis can offer great insight into the environment and human behavior, but it is not a complete picture. I would expect that starch grain analysis of ground stone artifacts would further our understanding, particularly with regard to adaptive strategies during climatic events or during Spanish colonialism. Nevertheless, the book addresses many important anthropological topics—ranging from human mobility and migration to the complex processes through which human activities shape ecological systems. In this sense, the book will appeal to a range of readers.

More than 50 years have passed since the landmark excavations of Roberta Greenwood came to the attention of the archaeological community. *Foragers on America's Western Edge* attests to the enduring significance of the rich history of the Pecho Coast and will no doubt serve as an important resource for decades to come.

REFERENCE

- Greenwood, Roberta
1972 9000 Years of Prehistory at Diablo Canyon, San Luis Obispo County, California. *San Luis Obispo County Archaeological Society Occasional Papers* 7. San Luis Obispo.



Applied Zooarchaeology: Five Case Studies

Steve Wolverton, Lisa Nagaoka, and Torben C. Rick
Clinton Corners: Eliot Werner Publications, Inc., 2016,
130 pp., ISBN 978-0-9898249-6-5, \$29.95 (paper).

Reviewed by **Gabriel M. Sanchez**

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Increasingly, scientists, resource managers, and indigenous communities are recognizing the potential of the archaeological record to inform the conservation and management of fauna and flora. Undeniably, the evidence available for long-term human-environmental relationships through archaeological datasets renders these data invaluable for conservation science. However, the process of applying archaeological data to conservation biology, resource management, and restoration ecology is far from straightforward. *Applied Zooarchaeology* carefully considers these problems, provides solutions, and offers recommendations for applied archaeologists so that the implications of archaeological research can impact conservation science and policy. The book is an excellent primer for all fields of study and researchers at any level of their careers regarding the analysis of archaeological data to help guide the management of fauna.

Through a series of research projects that span the globe, Wolverton, Nagaoka, and Rick highlight the unique position of zooarchaeological data in defining the biogeography of fauna, ancient human impacts, and human-environmental relationships across broad spatial and temporal scales. While archaeologists are familiar with the role of archaeological data in investigating

these issues, *Applied Zooarchaeology* provides excellent recommendations to assist archaeologists in navigating the political ecology of conservation practice and policy. Each case study considered offers an exceptional opportunity to identify problems and solutions in bridging the gap between archaeological science and ecology and biology. Through a series of case studies, the authors highlight the strengths and limitations of archaeological data, how to communicate archaeological data quality assessments to other scientists, the role of taphonomy in structuring faunal assemblages, and the methods available to assess preservation biases.

The case studies presented emphasize a diversity of issues in applied zooarchaeology, including organism biogeography, species range reductions, species translocation, discrepancies between contemporary and ancient organism size, among others. Each chapter includes a list of key terms and discussion questions, which makes *Applied Zooarchaeology* a useful teaching resource. In addition, individual chapters include a bibliography and a list of suggested readings, which makes *Applied Zooarchaeology* an excellent resource for both students and researchers looking to delve deeper into the study of applied archaeological science.

The introductory chapter provides a concise review of conservation biology, considers the role of spatial and temporal scales in resource management, as well as the political ecology of conservation science. The chapter provides recommendations for navigating diverse political ecological contexts and shows how archaeologists can approach and overcome concerns regarding data quality. Chapter 2 explores how archaeological data can help establish the ancient biogeography of organisms (with