

1116-T1-2970      **Andrew M. Oster\*** ([aoster@ewu.edu](mailto:aoster@ewu.edu)), Dept of Mathematics, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA 99004. *An example of population modeling: the California condor reintroduction project.*

The California condor was on the brink of extinction in the 1980s with only 27 birds in existence in 1987. In this talk, we discuss classical approaches to population modeling, then take an alternate stochastic approach in order to determine optimal reintroduction strategies to release birds raised in captivity to the wild. Due to the nature of the problem, this problem highlights fundamental concepts for modeling in biology at the undergraduate level - demonstrates some weaknesses of deterministic models, the role of stochasticity, and incorporates Markov chains. (Received September 23, 2015)