



The Wildlife Society Western Section

~~Vol. 54, No. 1~~

Vol 55, No. 1

Spring Newsletter 2009

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President's Message

Scott Osborn

It was an accident, but it was hard for me not to interpret it with superstitious suspicion. I had just missed our Newsletter Editor's third or fourth deadline extension for this column. Instead of writing, I was adjusting the bookshelves in my home office to accommodate several new large books I recently acquired. As I worked, the shelving unit wobbled a bit and then suddenly the Western Section's Perpetual President's Trophy came crashing down onto my head. The PPT is a nice, hefty chunk of hardwood with lots of edges and sharp corners. After cutting open my scalp (no stitches required – but there was blood and it hurt!), the trophy also scraped the paint and dented the wall next to the bookshelves. After a couple seconds of disorientation and pain, I realized what had happened, and then my tendency towards superstition kicked in: This had to be a message from Past Presidents, living and dead, to get back to work on Section business!

But where to begin? I had been taking a procrastinator's holiday from Section work since the end of the annual conference in January. There were a dozen high-priority tasks on my list, each of which would require precious time to complete. Time, of course, always seems to be in short supply. I've read that people who take on too many

projects and commitments tend to be insecure and unsure about their own abilities. Under this theory, perfectionism and procrastination are two personality traits that allow a person to avoid judgment by others and provide an excuse when the person's own high expectations of himself inevitably fall short. That may be true about me, but what about all the other folks I know who are constantly overcommitted in their work and personal lives? When I ask my colleagues at Fish and Game and elsewhere how things are going, the almost inevitable response is "there's too much to do!" Is it possible that virtually every professional wildlife biologist I know suffers from the same character flaws that I do?

Or is it possible that there truly is just too much work to do? With nearly seven billion people on the planet, you'd think there would be plenty of people to help out with the job of managing and conserving wildlife resources. Unfortunately, wildlife biologists remain a tiny minority of the total population, even in developed, well-educated countries like the United States. And, of course, the large human population and its general disregard of the environmental consequences of its actions are the primary causes of most of the management and conservation challenges we deal with in our work. So, too many challenges and not enough people to deal with them seem to inherently go hand-in-hand.

And don't get me started on information! Can a person keep up with scientific literature and other information relevant to our profession anymore? I was astounded when one of our esteemed recent Past Presidents told me he has read every article that has been printed in the Wildlife Professional since its inception a couple years ago -- I've only managed to skim through most issues and have actually read very few of the articles, despite the high quality of the publication. More troubling is the difficulty I have in keeping up with primary literature, with so many journals publishing articles that are relevant to my work. How can I be effective in my job when I am not aware of the latest research that could inform our thinking about a particular resource challenge?

Continued on Page 4

2010 Annual Conference

January 26 - 29



Congratulations to each of our 2008 Award Winners!

Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year

Presented to

Dr. Rick Botzler



Conservationist of the Year Award

Presented to

Dr. Dixie Pierson and Dr. Bill Rainey Dr. Pat Brown and Dr. Bill Berry



James D. Yoakum Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment

Presented to

Bill Standley



The Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award

Presented to

Dr. Lee Fitzhugh



**Chapter of the Year Award *Presented to*
California Central Coast Chapter**



Acceptance letters from Pat Brown and Lee Fitzhugh can be read online here:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=183&Itemid=340



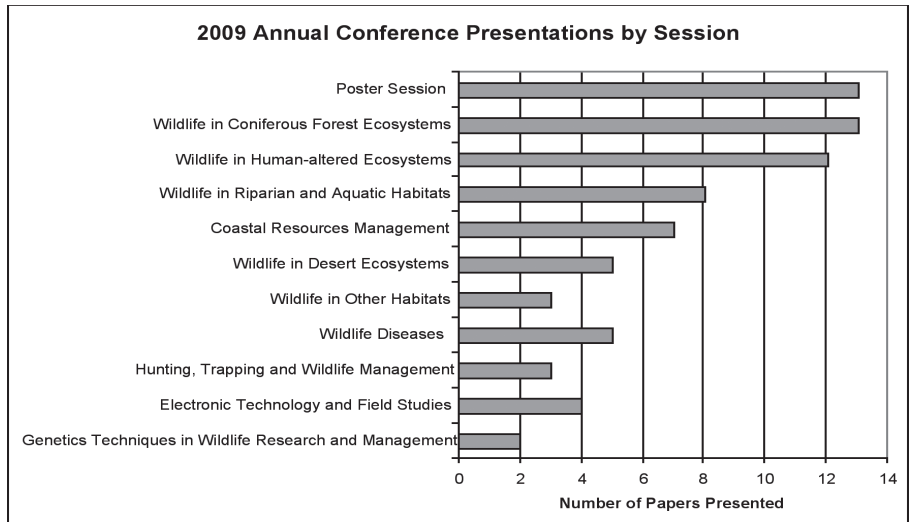
Awards Banquet presentations above, left to right: President Rhys Evans, Bill Rainey, Dixie Pierson, Bill Standley, Rick Botzler. Recipients not in attendance pictured far left: Pat Brown and Bill Berry. Lee Fitzhugh not pictured.

Program Chair Wrap-Up

Scott Osborn

The Western Section's 2009 annual conference in Sacramento was a success, despite the Program Committee's grave concern regarding turnout. Almost daily bad news about the economy preceded the conference and many companies and agencies had placed travel and training restrictions on their employees. So, as expected, attendance at the conference was low, with a total registration of approximately 350 persons, which is about 70 less than the average of the past several years. Despite the low turnout, the conference had a net income of about \$15,000. The annual budget for the Section relies on income from the conference, as well as from annual dues, to support the core operations of the Section. So it was a huge relief to the Executive Board that the conference did not lose money.

The conference program was diverse and interesting, though again modest because of the relatively low turnout. Approximately 75 papers and posters were presented in 11 sessions during the two-and-a-half days of the conference (see figure). This year, the sessions were arranged primarily by habitat types, with a few technique and general topic sessions thrown into the mix. I was interested to see that several habitat types, including alpine/sub-alpine, broad-leaved forests, chaparral, and herbaceous-dominated habitats, had either no or too few submissions to stand on their own as separate sessions. And I was dismayed, but not surprised, that the human-altered ecosystems session was the second-largest session during the conference. Both the general topic sessions ("Wildlife Diseases" and "Hunting, Trapping, and Wildlife Management") were new this year and, in my opinion, are important topics to maintain as discrete sessions.



Likewise, with the techniques sessions ("Genetics" and "Electronic Technology" as well as the "Statistical Innovations" session that didn't materialize) I'd like to continue to see focused sessions address these important, rapidly-evolving modes of inquiry.

The Plenary Session theme this year was "The View from the Future: Wildlife Management Challenges and Opportunities of the Next 100 Years." Five invited speakers painted a picture of the challenges wildlife professionals may expect to face in the coming century. Technical topics covered by David Graber, Juliet Christian-Smith, and Michael Reilly included climate change, water policy, and human population growth. Kevin Hunting discussed the challenges and opportunities for wildlife managers that arise during economic downturns. And John Perrine riveted the audience with his essay on the sense of community that comes from participation in TWS. If you missed John's presentation, you will likely get a chance to read the essay in an upcoming TWS or Western Section publication – I highly recommend it!

The conference also included two workshops and two informal working group meetings. Katie Moriarty and Darla DeRuiter taught an Orienteering Workshop immediately before

the conference began. Barbara Peters taught a Resume Workshop on Thursday morning. The Fisher Working Group met Friday morning and the Red Fox Working Group met Friday afternoon. There was also a well-attended Career Fair and Student-Professional Lunch on Friday.

A common theme of the conference evaluations we received was that the Sheraton Grand Hotel was a nice venue, but too expensive. With daily parking costing \$15 and rooms well over government rates, most conference attendees staying at the hotel had to pay more than they liked or were reimbursed for. The Program Committee and Executive Board heard your complaints and will be working to ensure that future conference hotels are more affordable.

A Program Chair, I would like to thank all the members of the Program Committee who worked on behalf of the Section to make the conference a success. I was very impressed with the willingness of others to take on the many diverse tasks that must be accomplished to pull off a conference of this size. I also thank all the presenters of papers and posters for sharing the results of their work with the conference attendees. And, of course, thanks to all who attended the conference despite the difficult economic times.

President-Elect

Armand Gonzales

I would like to thank all of you for your support, electing me to be the new President-elect. I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead. I have begun planning for the 2010 annual meeting in Visalia. This will be a great opportunity to focus on the San Joaquin Valley and the many conservation planning activities that are ongoing at the local, state, and federal levels there. If you would like to help with the planning or have any ideas for what would be important to highlight, please give me a call.

I am truly appreciative and amazed by the commitment of the Board, committee members, and the membership, all working towards common interests in wildlife management. There are always differing opinions about how we care for and manage the resources we know and love, and we make personal and professional choices based on our values and ethics developed over time. I often think about how much of what I learned about wildlife management in school and throughout my career has changed. The baseline has shifted and no longer are we talking about optimal outcomes, but rather manageable outcomes with consequences we can live with.

So, what will wildlife management be in fifty years? Will we have made the right choices? It's going to be crazy with all those millions of new people projected to populate California. Climate is not the only thing that's going to be changing. Whether and how we can apply the lessons learned during the good ol' days to an uncertain future will be our challenge as wildlife professional's to figure out. We, along with the wildlife in our charge will have to adapt, perhaps beyond our comfort zone in order to survive.

Treasurer

Gary Falxa

The Section continues to be in a strong fiscal position, thanks to several strong years, which have built up reserves. The Section ended 2008 with well over \$100,000 in assets, representing an increase of more than \$30,000. We stayed within our expense budget for 2008, and, thanks to a well-attended 2008 annual conference in Redding and several successful workshops, actual income exceeded our budget estimate. We can all be proud that in 2008, the Section spent a total of about \$15,000 in various grants and awards. In addition to student travel and research grants, this included donations to TWS National for the 2008 annual meeting in Miami, and to a trust fund, in honor of Barry Garrison.

With the Section's success over recent years, our assets are now sufficient to merit an investment strategy that goes beyond simple savings and checking accounts, where interest rates are low at best. Currently, the Section's assets are all in insured savings, checking, and CD accounts. Over the coming year, I will work with the Section's executive board to develop a long-term financial strategy for managing the Section's assets to maximize returns while minimizing risk. Also, the receipt in January of a generous bequest from the Donaldson Family Trust (more information: Summer issue) has invigorated plans to start building the Section's new Endowment Fund.



Looking forward into 2009, the recession likely impacted attendance at the recent annual conference in Sacramento, as many from the public and private section faced funding and travel restrictions. As a result, net income from the conference—about \$15,000, was lower than we've seen in recent years.

“...the Section continues to be financially solid”

In summary, the Section continues to be financially solid. We have no outstanding debt, considerable income has been made each of the past several years, and our bank deposits are substantial. We know that 2009 income may be lower than normal, because of the current global fiscal problems that affect us all. Due to measures taken in recent years to reduce the Section's fixed expenses, and the Section's robust financial condition, the Section is in a good position to weather a year or two of below-average income.

President's Message

Scott Osborn, cont. from page 1

If there's a solution to these dilemmas, it's got to have something to do with the joy of work. The satisfaction I get from working on wildlife issues is both intellectual and emotional. If I can maintain a modicum of productivity at work, then the most important tasks will be accomplished. If I can infect others, especially young people, with my enthusiasm for wildlife biology, then our numbers will increase and there will be more biologists to share the load.

I encourage all of you to remain over-committed, or at least highly committed, in your work. You may, as I often do, feel inadequate to the tasks we face. But the tasks are there, waiting for us!

Past-President

Rhys Evans

It was an honor to serve as President of the Western Section. I do regret, however, that there was only the one opportunity for a massively inspirational President's Message in the past year because I had at least two or three more "scat" stories in the queue (refer to my December 08 message if you're confused).

It was a great meeting in Sacramento! I think Scott Osborn and many other people deserve our utter gratitude – the list really is too long to print, and I'd inevitably forget some key folks. A few highlights: Janae Scruggs jumped into the game late to coordinate student paper judging; Sandra Hunt-vonArb Denise Walker-Brown and Lisa Ollivier did a great job, as always, with the raffle; Candace Renger continued to offer a warm smile at the registration table and Don Yasuda got us through the entire meeting without a single PowerPoint glitch that I'm aware of... Beyond that, thanks to all the session moderators, speakers, committee chairs and many other folks. Now, we've taken a break, so it's time to sprint toward the finish line in Monterey this September...

Elsewhere [page 7, Transactions Editor] you will find information on how

to access the 2008 Transactions on-line. I agreed on behalf of your Executive Board to ask a question: "What do you think?" In regards to the Transactions, we have long considered them to be one of the key benefits to section membership. We are committed to making them available to the world, but in an attempt to make your membership dollars count, we're trying something new: in the year of publication, Transactions are available "password protected" on our website for download. The thinking is, anyone who can download files can figure out a username/password, and you can print those articles that you'd like to see "hard copy." Additionally, you can save the files electronically, in some cases access additional data or analysis on-line, and even get some discussions underway.

"Transactions are available "password protected" on our Section website for download."

And while we do that, we save some significant funds on printing and mailing costs, not to mention storage of remaining copies. Some copies will still be printed and mailed to institutions and to members who request "hard copy." We

intend to make all previous Transactions accessible on the web soon, and the 2008 edition later this year.

Perhaps a bigger question is this: Does that seem fair? Would you NOT renew your membership if we made Transactions available to the world immediately? Do you perceive value from your Western Section membership in other ways? We charge \$20 for annual Western Section membership, and if you attend one typical workshop or our annual meeting, you usually save about \$35 by being a member. We provide a newsletter, e-mail updates of our actions, an ever-changing website, and more for that \$20. So, again, "what do you think?" Is giving YOU, the membership, early access to our Transactions something that we should continue to do as a benefit of your Section membership, or is it just not that important? Drop me a line at sirsnav@verizon.net with your thoughts.

So, as Past-President, I have one remaining, albeit huge, task: finding candidates for the 2009-2010 President-elect race. Nominations are most welcome, and please don't laugh if I ask you! Beyond that, we already have a contract in place for our 2011 meeting (early February in Riverside), and it truly is "full speed ahead" to Monterey! THANKS!

Registration Opening Soon!

**TWS 2009 Annual Meeting
September 20 - 24
Monterey, California**

**Monterey Convention Center
www.wildlife.org**



Newsletter Editor

Cynthia Perrine

A number of years ago, the Western Section Executive Board voted to save costs and resources by distributing newsletters electronically. When Section finances allowed, we voted to print a single issue of our newsletter, the Winter edition, to make sure elections and conference information were made available to all current and recent members in our database. Semi-annual issues are posted to the website and distributed electronically. This change took advantage of our improved electronic resources (website and members' listserve) while significantly reducing cost and resources; a single printed issue mailed to all members costs the Section from \$1,100 to \$2,000 and consumes 22,000 sheets of paper.

During our January 2009 Executive Board meeting, I was asked to revise our newsletter publishing strategy and to find a new publishing house for both printing and distribution. In developing the revised strategy, I considered costs, effort, sustainability, effectiveness of readership and readability for members.

My proposal is as follows:

- 1) Continue printed distribution of the Winter issue, reduce issue length, and move the publish date up to November 1st.
- 2) Publish quarterly electronic issues in Spring, Summer, and Fall; distribute 200 printed copies of each issue to members who request printed copies and institutional addresses including colleges and universities, agencies, and consulting firms.
- 3) Consider publishing electronic issues in html format to improve readability; providing links to web-based references and resources.

To provide comments on this proposed strategy, or to request that your name and address be added to the paper copy distribution list, please contact me at csgperrine@yahoo.com.

Western Section Representative to TWS Council

Don Yasuda

I attended the mid-year TWS Council meeting in Arlington, VA in March. Luckily, so far TWS has been spared from dramatic effects of the current economic downturn. Like most everyone else, some of TWS' investments have lost value; however, our membership remains strong - helping buffer our operations for 2009. Hopefully that means that our membership is weathering the economic storm and are ready to help support the many resource based economic stimulus projects occurring across the nation and in our own backyards.

“Our strength as a professional society will reflect in how much we are asked to be at the table (or how often we invite ourselves) in these important issues that affect our wildlife resources.”

Council is aware of the seriousness of the economic situation and we've agreed to a special meeting to evaluate the recently approved Strategic Plan. We'll meet in July to develop contingencies for operations over the next few years to ensure we have a plan to continue operations and meet our members needs.

Which gets me to a question for each of you. I've mentioned unified membership in past newsletters, but have you made the issue personal? Are you a member of TWS at the parent society level in addition to your Sec-

tion or Chapter subunit levels? If so, thank you for your contribution to ensuring that your professional society remains strong and among other things: 1) is able to represent you in Government Affairs and express our collective voice on policy issues; 2) is able to produce the quality members magazine, The Wildlife Professional, in addition to our Journal of Wildlife Management; and 3) is able to support professional development by providing a high-quality Conference (hosted by us in September!), a Certification program for professionals and soon, Wildlife Technicians, and offer development opportunities for young professionals, who are our future leaders. If you aren't a member of TWS, I ask you to reflect personally on YOUR wildlife profession and consider how affiliation at the national/international level demonstrates your commitment to your chosen profession and to wildlife resources in general. It isn't just about TWS collecting your dues, it's about you gaining tangible and intangible benefits from supporting and being affiliated with TWS.

In these tough economic times, I realize it's hard to ask you to dig in your pocketbook and pay yet another set of dues. But I challenge you, if not you, then who will support the voice of wildlife professionals? And in these times when environmental changes are rapidly occurring and policy decisions must be made with the incomplete and sometimes conflicting information that's available, don't you want our greatest strength - our science-based approach, as the centerpiece of decision-making? Our strength as a professional society will reflect in how much we are asked to be at the table (or how often we invite ourselves) in these important issues that affect our wildlife resources. I hope you agree with me and demonstrate your commitment through your TWS membership.

Transactions Editor

John Harris

Submitting Manuscripts for the Transactions of the Western Section

The Transactions of the Western Section is published annually at the time of our Annual Conference. Some Transactions papers result from conference presentations, but one may also submit any article on wildlife ecology and management, habitat management, conservation biology, useful techniques and related natural resource topics of interest to members. Keynote addresses, review papers, policy papers, panel discussions, and other presentations are also welcome. Manuscripts may be submitted at any time, but to ensure publication in the upcoming year's volume, it is helpful if manuscripts are submitted by the end of the previous June.

Manuscript guidelines are based on those for the Journal of Wildlife Management and are available on the Section's web site at the following link: http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/images/Documents/transactions_guidelines_2008.pdf.

Accessing the Archived volumes of the Transactions of the Western Section

Transactions volumes up to and including 2007 are available to all at the Section's web site at the following link: http://twswest.org/transactions/TWSWS_Transactions_directory-Mar2007.htm

Volumes older than roughly 2000 were scanned, and occasionally there have been problems with downloading some of these articles. Please contact me

(johnh@mills.edu) if you encounter such problems. I hope to replace problematic articles during the upcoming summer.

The 2008 Transactions of the Western is distributed to paid 2008 members by password-protected web access until publication of the next volume. High and low resolution versions are available for selected articles and for the complete document (which is a large file even at low resolution). One article (Leitner) includes some supplemental maps which can be downloaded as a separate file.

2008 members received login instructions via email. If you did not receive these instructions, please contact Membership Chair Don Yasuda at dasyudaTWS@comcast.net.

**June 30th
is the deadline
to submit
manuscripts
for
publication in
the 2009
Transactions
volume**

*Transactions are Online!
Visit the Western Section Web site!*

http://twswest.org/transactions/TWSWS_Transactions_directory-Mar2007.htm



***Western Section
2009 Bat Ecology and
Field Techniques
Workshop
co-sponsored by
California Central Coast***

Chapter

*Save the Dates & Start your
rabies vaccination series!*

*July 30 to August 2
Chimineas Ranch,
Carrizo Plain*

Registration opens June 1

Instructors: Dave Johnston,
Stephanie Remington,
and Joe Szewczak

The workshop includes 3 full days of instruction, combining lecture, demonstration, and hands-on field work including:

- ⇒ acoustic monitoring
- ⇒ mist-netting protocol
- ⇒ data collection & recording
- ⇒ ecological considerations
- ⇒ conservation strategies

Although all participants may attend and participate in lectures and field work, **handling is restricted to those with proof of current rabies vaccinations** so start the shot series now to maximize your learning opportunity!

Registration will open June 1st via the Western Section web site and is limited to 20 participants; two student scholarships are available.

For more information,
contact workshop coordinator
Cynthia Perrine,
csgperrine@yahoo.com

California Central Coast

Tim Belton and Cynthia Perrine

The Chapter held the annual Wildlife Roundtable event at Cal Poly on March 4th. Participants represented State and Federal agencies, consulting firms, academia, and retired members. Over 50 participants, including approximately 20 students, learned about research projects taking place throughout the county.

Elections were held, new officers are: Brooke Langle, President
Dave Hacker, Vice-President
Sue Christopher, Secretary
Michael T. Hanson, Treasurer
Tim Belton and Cynthia Perrine, Co-Representatives to the Western Section

The next scheduled event is on May 9th, A Carrizo Plains Field Day and BBQ. Contact Dave Hacker, dhacker@dfig.ca.gov.

California North Coast

Lisa Ollivier

The California North Coast Chapter had an active 2008. In January, the Chapter partnered with Section and held the resume workshop for the students in conjunction with the Western Section annual meeting. We also provided hotel rooms for members of the Humboldt State University Student Chapter to boost student attendance at the annual conference. In March we organized a biologist breakfast to facilitate discussions among local biologists on local issues, coordination of surveys, and sharing of new information. The meeting was well attended; 25 professionals discussed various topics including spotted owls, the expansion of barred owls into the area, marbled murrelets, and fishers.

In April the Chapter held its annual awards banquet in conjunction with the

HSU Chapter Beast Feast. Sandra Hunt von Arb was presented with the Professional of the Year award, Mark Colwell was presented with the Conservationist of the Year award, and Jeanette Griffin was presented with the Student of the Year award for the second time (this is the first two-time win ever in Chapter history for this award).

The fall mixer was well attended with approximately 80 in attendance, including many new faces. In December we held the winter mixer. The roughly 100 participants enjoyed a dinner of chicken and potluck items. Annual elections yielded new officers: Ken Moore (President Elect); Leslie Tucci (Secretary); Jesse Sargent (HSU Chapter Representative). We now have a newsletter editor and she has revamped and updated our webpage.

The Chapter provided a grant for research on plover to Kevin Brindock, sponsored travel for an international guest speaker, Dr. Reuven Yosef who gave an outstanding lecture in September, and sponsored the National meeting in Miami.

Hawaii

Bill Standley

During 2008, the Hawaii Chapter continued to sponsor a number of wildlife conservation projects throughout the state. We have continued our participation as a partner with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in a cooperative effort to construct a predator-proof fence and remove all alien mammals within the proposed fence at the Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve on the island of Oahu. Once completed, the project will create a 59-acre area of coastal habitat free from alien mammals, including feral dogs, cats, mongooses, and rodents,

Continued next page

which routinely damage or kill a variety of endangered and native species.



The Hawaii Chapter also teamed up with the Conservation Council of Hawaii (CCH) and supplied matching funds to those provided by the Hawaii Tourism Authority to produce wildlife viewing panels at selected Hawaiian habitats featured in the Hawaii Watchable Wildlife Guidebook. Signs for forest birds, waterbirds, sea turtles, monk seals, and whales and dolphins are being produced and will be placed in appropriate wildlife viewing areas throughout the state. See an example sign on page 9.

The chapter once again participated in the Hawaii Conservation Conference (HCC) in 2008, both through financial support of awards for best student presentation and best student poster, and the University of Hawaii Hawaiian Internship Program (UH-HIP). Chapter members participated in a well-attended Young Professionals Gathering and will be helping to organize a career fair at this year's HCC.

Chapter elections were held in January; 2009 officers are: Dave Leonard (President), Bill Standley (Vice-president), Brenda Becker (Secretary), Vanessa Pepi (Treasurer), Dave Smith (Grants Manager), Liz Kashinsky (Newsletter Editor), Ed Johnson (Conservation Affairs Chair), and Keith Swindle (Board Member).

Humboldt State Univ.

Sara Peterson

Adam Brown discussed his work on great white sharks at a recent chapter meeting. Two resume workshops were held, on February 24th and March 10th. Local professionals from different agencies attended to assist wildlife students in developing and revising resumes. The annual Beast Feast was held on March 28th, in conjunction with the California North Coast Chapter's annual award's banquet. The fundraising event netted nearly \$1,500 to help with meeting costs for HSU attendance at national conferences. In addition, a Nest camera workshop was held on March 31st.

This year's conclave team won first place in the wildlife quiz bowl at the regional wildlife society meeting in Logan, Utah. Conservation Unlimited coffee blend continues to be sold at our coffee table to raise funds for the club. Current Board Members are: Co-Pres-

idents: Casey Zarnes and Leslie Tucci; Past President: Terra Rentz; President Elect: Jesse Sargent; Treasurer: Casey Eganey; Secretary: Cori Elwood; Representative to Western Section: Sara Peterson; CNCC-TWS Representative: Casey Zarnes; Faculty Advisor: Dr. Mark Colwell. Committee Chairs: Educational program: Tony Stremski; Activities Coordinator: Daryl Coldren; Program Coordinator: Chris Smith

Nevada

Under the dedicated leadership and guidance of Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Director Ken Mayer, the Chapter has revived and membership is increasing. A new chapter representative, Kevin Langsford, a Furbearer/Predator Staff Specialist with NDOW, has been appointed as Ken attends to pressing NDOW oversight. The Section welcomes Kevin and thanks Ken for his continued dedication to TWS and years of leadership.

WETLAND BIRDS

Hawai'i's Watchable Wildlife

Naturally occurring freshwater marshes, ponds, and other wetlands may have always been in short supply on the Hawaiian Islands. Wetlands such as fishponds and taro fields were created by the early Hawaiians, and wetland birds utilized these habitats. But in recent history, many wetlands were filled for land development or degraded by agricultural practices. Many remaining wetlands are vulnerable to water diversions, pollution, and invasive species.

Today, five native waterbirds breed on most of the main Hawaiian Islands. The Hawaiian coot ('ālele 'ālele'), common moorhen ('ālele 'ālele), black-necked stilts ('ālele), and Hawaiian ducks (kōkoi) are in serious trouble and have been listed as endangered. These waterbirds nest on the ground, making them vulnerable to introduced predators such as mongooses, dogs, cats, and rats. The tree-nesting black-crowned night-heron ('ālele) is holding its own.

A number of waterfowl and shorebirds over-winter in Hawai'i or pass through on their annual migrations. The best known and most commonly seen in grassy fields is the Pacific golden-plover (kōkoi). Individual birds return to the same areas every year. Along the shoreline, ruddy turnstones ('ālele), wandering tattlers ('ālele), and sandpipers (huna) are a common winter sight.

Hawaiian ducks (kōkoi) can be seen feeding in marshes and shallow ponds.

The black-crowned night-heron ('ālele) is found throughout all of the main Hawaiian Islands and feeds in fresh and salt water.

Arriving in August in its dull winter plumage, the Pacific golden-plover (kōkoi) feeds in its characteristic feeding grounds just before returning to Alaska to breed in May.

A new winter visitor, the white-rumped turnstone (kōkoi) feeds in undisturbed sandy shorelines and short-grass fields. It is most often seen on Oahu, Maui, and Hawai'i.

Viewing Tips for You, Protection for Them

Finding Wetland Birds

- Finding quality habitat is the key to finding wetland birds. These sites offer fresh water, natural food, and shelter, as well as protection from ground predators.
- Look in marshes and ponds for coots, moorhens, ducks, and herons; shallow ponds for wading stilts; and along the coast for migratory shorebirds. Note: common moorhens are only found on Oahu and Kauai!
- Listen for the loud calls of the stilts and the quieter calls of the coots and moorhens to find the birds.
- Winter is the best season to look for over-wintering and migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

Watching Wetland Birds

- Do not feed wild birds. Human food can cause illness and death, and makes the birds vulnerable to predators or injury by vehicles.
- View from a distance and avoid sudden movements or loud talking. If the birds appear to be agitated by your presence, you are too close.
- Use binoculars or a telephoto camera for a close-up view.
- Birds nesting on land are most likely to flee at the slightest threat. Give them plenty of room.

Sponsors

Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Hawaii Ecotourism Association
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

HAWAII
Hawaii's Tourism Authority
The Wildlife Society
Hawaii Chapter

Produced by the Hawaii Wetland Wildlife Project (www.hawaiiwetland.org)
Hawaii's Tourism Authority
The Wildlife Society
The Academy of Design

The Hawaii Chapter teamed up with the Conservation Council of Hawaii and supplied matching funds to produce wildlife viewing panels, such as this example.

Sacramento-Shasta

Shaun Oldenburger

Upcoming confirmed events: The chapter is co-sponsoring a 2-day joint DFG/TWS WIFL/GGOW workshop to be held June 3-4, 2009 (see announcement in this issue, page 11). We anticipate a large attendance of 75 – 100 individuals. The 4th Annual Natural Resource Symposium is scheduled for November 4, 2009, at CSUS.

Upcoming events under consideration are a co-sponsored mixer with AEP and PEMA in July (TBA) and a summer BBQ at Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, near Davis.

The Chapter held a social at Hoppy Brewing Company in Sacramento on March 19th. Approximately 40 people attended, and everyone enjoyed discussing natural resource issues and libations. The spring issue (April) of the Magpie will be mailed out to members in April. We contributed \$250 to sponsor the Sacramento Earth Day event. The chapter awarded \$1,950.00 in scholarship funds. In 2009, we are increasing our efforts to solicit applications from students throughout the western United States. Applications this year are due June 1st, and information is available via the chapter website.

President – Laura Patterson (Dept. of Water Resources)

Vice President – Hal Holland (Westerfelt Ecological Services)

Treasurer – Melinda Bradbury

Secretary – Linda Leeman (EDAW)

Chapter Representative – Shaun Oldenburger (Dept. of Fish and Game)

San Francisco Bay Area

Natasha Dvorak

The Chapter has board meetings scheduled for April and a program meeting scheduled for May. Current officers are: President: Doug Bell; Past President: Ron Duke; President Elect: Christine O'Rourke; Treasurer/Secretary: Dana Ostfeld; WS Representative: Natasha Dvorak; Webmasters: Luke Macaulay & Natasha Dvorak.

San Joaquin Valley

Craig Bailey

The Chapter held its annual San Joaquin Valley Natural Communities Conference at CSU Bakersfield on March 25, 2009. The Chapter logo contest rules are being finalized; details to be announced soon. The Chapter granted \$1,000 to Brian Cypher for photos and publishing of the urban carnivore book he edited and co-authored.

Upcoming Events: The Chapter has scheduled the third Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard Identification Workshop for May 6-7, 2009 at the DeZemmer Center in Bakersfield, CA.



Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard Identification Workshop

May 6 - 7

Bakersfield, CA

Sponsored by

San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Photo Credit: John Harris

2009 Carbon Offset Program Thank You Ecousable!

The 2009 Annual Conference Carbon Offset Program was supported this year by Ecousable, Inc., which donated 100 stainless steel water bottles to the Western Section. The bottles were sold to raise funds to offset the conference carbon footprint. The water bottles came in several sizes and designs and were very popular at the conference. Our carbon footprint associated with travel to and from the Sacramento area and that generated through the use of electricity, heat, and water at the hotel was significantly offset.

The proceeds from bottle sales were used to purchase 200 native oak trees that were then planted by Boy Scouts volunteers, at the Wilson's Landing Unit of the Sacramento River Wildlife Area in Glenn County, California. The trees will sequester more than 200 metric tones of carbon dioxide over their lifetime which will help reduce the long-term impacts associated with global climate change.

The funds we raised through the sale of Ecousable water bottles will have lasting benefits for the environment and the species which depend on it.



www.ecousable.com

Sacramento - Shasta Chapter Event

NOTICE: Willow Flycatcher/Great Gray Owl workshop June 3 - 4, 2009 Truckee, California

There was an error on the registration form for the Willow Flycatcher/Great Gray Owl workshop being offered by the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter and the California Department of Fish and Game. If you registered for the workshop and have not received an e-mail confirmation, please resubmit your registration form. The workshop will include information on survey methods and techniques as well as conservation and protection measures.

The workshop will be held at Northstar-at-Tahoe-Resort, in Truckee, California, on June 3-4, 2009. Registration materials and more information is available at: http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/images/pastevents/yr2009/wfl_ggo/wfl-ggo_wksp_announc-reg_v4.pdf.

⇒ For more information please contact Armand Gonzales, 916-358-2876.

Willow Flycatcher – Great Gray Owl Workshop Topics and Speakers

Session		Title	Speaker
Day One	Registration	TWS Sac-Shasta Chapter/DFG	
		Introduction Housekeeping	Sac-Shasta Chapter
	Mountain Meadow Ecology	Historical Overview	Jon Winters
		Ecology, composition	Don Potter
		Management, research, conservation	Dave Weixelman
		Distribution, modeling, classification	Chris Stermer
	Willow Flycatcher	Break	
		Life History	Helen Mathewson
		Species distribution, status	Chris Stermer
		Resources, habitat use, dispersal	Helen Loffland
		Management, conservation	Michael Morrison
		Lunch	
		Survey protocol	Brad Valentine
		Yosemite update	Rodney Siegal
	Great Gray Owl	Status and Ecology	Steven Godwin
		Distribution and Habitat Use	Chris Stermer
		Genetics	Josh Hull
		Break	
		Management, Conservation, and Research	John Keane and Rodney Siegel
		Survey protocol	John Keane
		Low elevation occurrences	Kevin Roberts
		Wrap-up Instructions for field trip	Sac-Shasta Chapter
Day Two	Field Trip	Travel to Field	
		WIFL Survey Techniques -Mountain Meadow Ecology	Field Leaders
		Travel to Sage Hen	
		Lunch	
		Speakers Panel Discussion	All Speakers

Student Affairs

Katie Moriarty

The 2009 Annual Conference in Sacramento was well attended by students from many schools, including: CalPoly, San Luis Obispo; Humboldt State; Sacramento State; Sonoma State; UC Berkeley and UC Davis. There were 26 volunteers making the conference run smoothly – great job. We also had two successful workshops – a Resume Workshop and a Map, Compass, and Orienteering Workshop. Thank you to Barbara Peters and Darla DeRuiter for their assistance and knowledge as instructors! It's exciting to have such qualified professionals and a diverse group of eager students representing many schools attending these conferences. I hope to see you all in Monterey!

If you are a student or professor at a college or university, and would like to get more involved in the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, contact our Student Affairs Committee chairs, Darla DeRuiter or Katie Moriarty (see contact info, page 15). Opportunities include hosting a presentation or field workshop given by the committee or participating in the Annual Conference student activities or workshops.

Professional Development

Denise Walker-Brown

The Professional Development Committee is active, devoting most of our efforts towards supporting the TWS 2009 Monterey Annual Meeting. One workshop is scheduled for Summer 2009, with several workshops and symposia under development for 2010.

2009 Confirmed Workshops: (Instructors; Coordinators)
Bat Ecology and Field Techniques: July 30-August 2, 2009, Chimineas Ranch (Carrizo Plain) co-sponsored with the Central Coast Chapter (Dave Johnston, Stephanie Remington, and Joe Szewczak; Cynthia Perrine)

2010 In Planning:

Mohave Ground Squirrel, 2010 (John Harris, Phil Leitner; Rhys Evans)

Student Paper and Poster Presentation Competition Results

Janae Scruggs

Thirteen brave students presented at The Wildlife Society Western Section's Annual Conference this past January. These students did a terrific job presenting the results of their own research and for many of them it was the first time in front of a large group.

A special thank you to all student presenters and judges!

Student Poster (1 poster judged and awarded)

1st – Katie Rian, Humboldt State University, “Waterfowl Response to Hunting and Other Recreational Disturbance at a Coastal California Wetland”

Student Paper (12 papers judged and 3 awarded)

1st – Greta Wengert, UC Davis, “Bacterial Diversity and Prevalence of Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis and Ranavirus Within and Between Ranid Populations in Northern California”

2nd – Marcelle Moore, Sacramento State University, “Use of Nuclear DNA Microsatellites to Determine Evidence of Interbreeding Between Native Sacramento Valley Red Fox and the Nonnative Red Fox”

3rd – Jody Tucker, University of Montana, “Using Landscape Genetics to Assess the Genetic Structure and Population Connectivity of Fishers in the Sierra Nevada”

Honorable Mentions –

Kelly Herbinson, San Francisco State University, “Climate and the Evolution of Cooperation Among Queens of the California Seed-Harvesting Ants, *Pogonomyrmex californicus*”

Katie Moriarty, Oregon State University, “Wolverine Confirmation in California After Nearly a Century”

Acoustic Monitoring Techniques, (Joe Szewczak; Cynthia Perrine)

California red-legged Frog and/or California Tiger Salamander (TBA)

TBA In Planning:

Endangered Species Permitting (Sacramento, Napa or Bay Area)

Remote Camera workshop in Southern California

Raptors, 2011, Riverside, CA Chapter (Jeff Lincer; Rhys Evans)

Pre-annual meeting workshop in Riverside, Feb 2011

BNLL Certification Workshop (TBA)

Other Topics requested:

Arroyo Southwestern Toads

Mammal tracking and cameras

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society
announces a

Call for Workshops and Symposia

to be held in conjunction with the
2010 Western Section Annual Conference
January 2010 – Visalia Convention Center

***Do YOU have a Pressing Wildlife Topic in Mind for a
Workshop or Symposia?***

The Western Section's next Annual Conference will be held January 27 – 29, 2010, at the Visalia Convention Center. The Section invites organizers of workshops and symposia to contact the conference Program Chair to discuss options for co-locating their events with the Annual Conference. In the past, the added draw of the conference and one or more workshops or symposia has helped Section members and other participants reduce travel costs and improved attendance.

Proposal deadline June 15

Proposals for workshops and symposia may be developed for the days immediately before or after the conference. If you have an important professional development need or believe the time is ripe for a synthesis and comprehensive review of a particular wildlife management or conservation subject, please contact Armand Gonzales, Program Chair and Western Section President-Elect, for more information.

Contact Armand at agonzales@dfg.ca.gov.

The Wildlife Society Position Statements Information

At its recent meeting, TWS Council approved the following revised position statements:

Acidic Deposition

Alterations of Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Confinement of Wild Ungulates Within High Fences

Conservation Education

Conservation Law Enforcement

Conserving Biological Diversity

Visit http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=117&Itemid=187 to view the statements.

The Wildlife Society Council seeks member review and comment on these statements, prior to renewing them. Comments must be received by 15 June 2009 to be considered in a final position statement. Please send comments to: Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-2144, or via email to laura@wildlife.org

Monterey 2009
September 20 – 24

Spotlight on: Student Activities

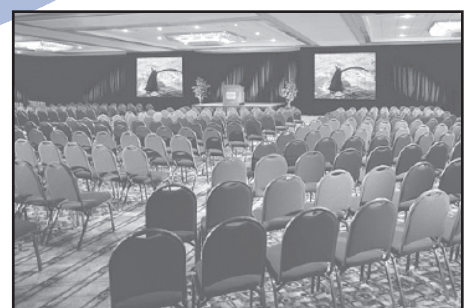
September 19: Student Field Trip to Big Sur
September 20: Plenary Session, Welcome Reception at Monterey Bay Aquarium
September 21: Student Mentoring, Student - Professional Mixer on the Beach
September 22: Student Mentoring, Student “Work-in-Progress” Posters, Quiz Bowl
All this in addition to the scientific sessions and workshops!

Katie Moriarty

This September, the Section is hosting the TWS Annual Meeting in Monterey from September 20-24. This is an extremely important opportunity for learning more about the wildlife profession, current wildlife research, new research opportunities, and more. TWS has made students and young professionals a priority for many years; this year is no exception. In fact, the program has been adjusted to offer all student activities between Saturday and Tuesday in an effort to minimize your time away from school. Picture this, there will be approximately 1000 –ologists wandering around Monterey. You will have the opportunity to network, attend an international conference, add to your resume, and look for employment opportunities. The list of student-focused activities includes a field trip, the Quiz bowl, student chapter breakfast, the student-professional mixer, student-only poster session, mentoring, poster and presentation awards, “Landing a Wildlife Job” workshop, career fair and job board.

We strongly encourage all students to start making plans to attend. Look at the website (www.wildlife.org) for details, expect a preliminary program by May. But you can't wait that long. There is a student-only poster session where you can present nearly finished work, the goal is to get information and feedback – not to compete with the rigorous professional abstracts. That deadline is typically in May. Make sure you are a member of your local chapter, the Western Section, and the TWS... and start to apply for travel grants! You will want to look for funding opportunities within your school and from TWS as these conferences are not cheap, especially on a student budget. A great way to offset costs and to get the inside track at the conference is to volunteer for on-site jobs during the conference, and earn money while you're there (contact Volunteer Subcommittee chair Janae Scruggs for more details – jscruggs@tidepool.com).

We hope to see you all in Monterey!



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The Wildlife Society

Western Section

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2010 Annual Conference ~ Visalia, CA ~ January 26 - 29

Call for Proposals - Special workshops and symposia, see page 13. Call for Papers due out in July

Calendar of Events

2009

May 6 - 7 ~ BNLL Identification Workshop, Bakersfield, CA (Page 10)

May 9 ~ CA Central Coast Chapter Carrizo Field Day (Page 8)

June 1 ~ Sacramento - Shasta Chapter Grant Deadline (page 10)

June 3 - 4 ~ Willow Flycatcher/Great Gray Owl Workshop - Truckee (Page 11)

June 15 ~ TWS Monterey 2009 Travel Grant Request Deadline (visit www.wildlife.org)

July 30 - August 2 ~ Bat Ecology & Field Techniques Workshop, Chimineas (Page 8)

September 20 - 24 ~ TWS National Conference, Monterey, California (Page 14)

November 4 ~ Natural Resources Symposium, CSUS (Page 10)