



The Wildlife Society Western Section

Granite Chief, photo by C. Renger

President's Message

Linda Leeman



Strength in Numbers

I recently returned from a week vacation in the Sierra. It was a delightful break from my ordinary routine. As I sit down to write a President's Message, I keep thinking back to my vacation for inspiration. We spent a lot of time outdoors and one of the highlights was three generations of family hiking 6 miles to our "secret" (off-trail) fishing lake. It was the first trip for my 5-year old son and I am so proud of him for making it the whole way with a big grin on his face. He even carried the one fish (packed in high mountain snow) that Grandpa caught, all the way over the pass.

There are many directions that I could take this message from here: a proud parent extolling a child's

accomplishments; encouraging the next generation to explore the nature world; how my own early fishing experiences sparked my interest in ecology ("let's see what the fish were eating!"); the restorative power and inspiration from connecting with nature; or the complex ecology and management of high Sierra lakes (the fish are not native, but are a result of past stocking efforts to provide recreational opportunities).

I suspect that you have heard many of these messages before so I won't repeat them. Instead, I



*The beginning of my love
for the outdoors, circa
1975*

want to use this story to share a message about the value of membership in professional societies. A few weeks before our family trip, my dad (who, at 77, can still out-hike the rest of the family) had scouted out the fishing for us. As he was returning from his solo hike, he struck up a conversation with some other hikers. Turns out, one was a wildlife biologist and a Western Section member. As my dad later told me about their

(Linda Leeman, cont'd on page 2)

In This Issue:

- Executive Board, Committee and Staff Updates.....1-11; 13
- Upcoming Events.....12
- Call for Papers, TWS-WS 2013 Annual Meeting....14-16
- Chapter Reports.....17-19
- From our Members.....20
- Natural Resources Communication Workshop 2014.....21

(Linda Leeman, cont'd from page 1)

chance encounter, it struck me that wildlife biology no longer seems as esoteric or obscure of a career choice as it did 25 years ago when I sat at the dinner table with my parents trying to explain my choice of college major.

Membership in the Western Section is strong as we approach nearly 900 members. This is great news for our growing profession, demonstrating that there are a variety of career paths and many opportunities for wildlife biologists, and for our Section, which offers members a vast network of colleagues and mentors. The Section strives to offer excellent professional development and networking opportunities. The Wildlife Society also provides a standard for ethical conduct and certification for members who demonstrate a level of experience. You never know where you'll run into a fellow Wildlifer.

It is an honor to be associated with such a strong organization and profession. If you feel the same way (which you probably do since you have read this far), I urge you to get involved!

I hope you are enjoying the summer!



*Ingraining a passion
for the high Sierra*



Somewhere in the Sierra

SEEKING PRESIDENT-ELECT

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2013 Western Section President-Elect.

If you know someone who would make a great leader of the Western Section (including yourself), please send contact info to the Elections Committee Chair, John McNerney (jmcnerney@cityofdavis.org).

President-Elect Message

Douglas A. Bell



With this newsletter we are putting out the first “Call for Papers” for the next annual meeting of the Western Section. As your President-Elect, I have taken the liberty to tweak the program a bit to reflect the input we received from members who submitted comments in response to our questionnaire from

the 2012 annual meeting. I have also relied heavily on my position as a Wildlife Biologist with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to inform our conference planning, emphasizing pressing wildlife management issues we face here in the EBRPD on a day-to-day basis. You may ask, “What sort of pressing issues?” Well, we manage about 112,000 acres encompassing all manner of habitats from the San Francisco Bay shoreline to Inner Coast Range wilderness, all embedded in a metropolitan area of millions. Everywhere you look there is a challenging issue, and probably one of the greatest challenges relates to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as it infuses nearly everything we do. The ESA will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2013. Thus, it seemed appropriate to make the ESA the conference theme and focus of our Plenary session. I hope that we can highlight the successes of this Nixon-era, landmark legislation as well as step back and see how well the ESA serves the environment, and by extension, society. If any of you have suggestions for speakers or have ideas you would like to see surface around this conference theme, please feel free to contact me. For the conference sessions, I have tried to group them thematically by habitat or issue to promote a broad range of presentations within each session. I am still on the lookout for session chairs, so if anything catches your eye that you would like to chair or assist in planning, please let me know. If it is not already taken, it is yours! Likewise, if I come calling to enlist your aid,

please answer. For those who have already agreed to help, thank you!

As I am sure applies to many, Spring is a busy time – with field work being layered on top of normal day-to-day responsibilities. One of our big surprises this season was the sudden appearance of a pair of bald eagles building a nest in a eucalyptus grove at Lake Chabot, a near-urban reservoir situated just east of the Oakland, San Leandro border (for a couple videos and photos of the eagles, see the link below¹). At the time of discovery the EBRPD was engaged in eucalyptus thinning to reduce the risk of fire at the urban- wildland interface. The eagles decided to begin building a nest just outside of the active vegetation treatment area. To say the least, we in Wildlife scrambled to monitor the nest, cordon off areas, inform all parties involved, e.g. Park Operations, Fire, the regulatory agencies, etc., and develop stop-work criteria should the vegetation treatment actions affect the eagle’s behavior in any way. We even had to inform blimp operators to adjust their flight paths so as not to disturb the eagles’ breeding. On top of all this, our bald eagle pair was young – based on plumage we had a four year old female paired with a five year old male – even under the best of circumstances, a pair this young would more likely fail than succeed. Their behavior was not encouraging either, in that the female largely left most of the duties– from incubation to chick rearing – up to the male. To make a long story short – the eagles were successful and their single chick fledged soon after the Fourth of July. How appropriate, and what an exercise in urban wildlife management! The latter topic, by the way, will be a theme of one of our conference sessions.

I am fortunate to be working with experienced and extremely helpful fellow Officers, Board members and volunteers in the Western Section of the Wildlife Society. They work harder for our Section than I could have imagined. I would hope that many of you will somehow find the time to assist in shaping our annual meeting and Section. I look forward to working with you in the coming months. Thank you.

¹http://www.ebparks.org/news/Bald_Eagle_Hatchling_in_Anthony_Chabot_Regional_Park_s1_p1070

Past-President's Message

John McNerney



Beginning in 1998, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Tech Trek Program has offered young

women from throughout California a summer camp option dedicated to science and mathematics. The Tech Trek Program attracts over 900 young women to nine campuses around the state. This summer, the Western Section, as part of its new environmental outreach and education initiatives, had an excellent opportunity to partner with the AAUW to develop and implement a Wildlife Biodiversity

course as part of the Tech Trek Program held at UC Davis. At Davis, 87 eighth-grade girls participated in the program with 20 girls choosing to enroll in the Wildlife Biodiversity course.

The Wildlife Biodiversity course had two primary objectives. The first was to have fun. The second was to introduce the girls to the concept of wildlife management, wildlife as a profession, and a few field techniques used by professionals in pursuit of management. The three-day course included concepts in the classroom and practical applications in the field (the UC Davis Arboretum). The girls were introduced to and practiced basic orienteering, track plate and cover board sampling, aquatic invertebrate sampling, vegetation sampling, and point count bird surveys. On the final day they were visited by Kelly Fitzgerald-Holland, a Western Section member and Senior Wildlife Biologist at AECOM. Kelly spoke to the girls about her education, factors leading to her career as a wildlife professional, and helped explain how the field sampling methods they were learning about are used to guide management and policy.

How did it all turn out? Despite having no animals under the cover boards and an overwhelming presence of eastern fox squirrel tracks on the plates... I'd say it went pretty darn great! There were many smiles and an abundance of "ah ha!" moments. I'm certain that several of those young ladies were inspired to pursue their interest in science...if not a career in wildlife!

I mentioned before that this program is held annually at 9 different campuses throughout California. This pilot course worked well enough to be transferable to one or more of the other campuses in the future. The largest benefit to the Section in having this partnership with the AAUW-Tech Trek Program is that there is a relatively low investment from the Section. The AAUW sponsors participation and coordinates most of the logistics. The bulk of our investment is in volunteer hours from Section and/ or local Chapter members and, perhaps, a few materials.

If you are interested in helping bring this course to your local Tech-Trek campus, please contact me or Cynthia Perrine (WS Program Director).

I'd like to thank several students from the UC Davis Student Chapter for their volunteer support of the Tech-Trek Wildlife Biodiversity course including Veronica Rodriguez, Michelle Fearon, and Brianne Milano. These young ladies were instrumental in helping the course participants set up sample stations, and identify bird calls and small mammal tracks. I'd also like to thank Kelly Fitzgerald-Holland for sharing a busy Thursday morning to speak with the girls.

That's all I have now. I hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer!

Treasurer's Report

Craig Bailey



Section assets were \$259,280 on June 30, 2012. These assets are split between our Wells Fargo accounts (\$99,737.27), Charles Schwab liquid investment accounts (\$123,793.25), and the Section's Endowment Fund (\$35,749.70). The Endowment Fund made approximately \$1,500 last month.

Membership Report

Don Yasuda

Our membership continues on an upward trend and is currently at 863, up from our March numbers of 790. Thanks to those of you that have renewed. This newsletter is sent to our Yahoo Group mailing list which includes past members who are not current in their dues because we want all supporters of the Section to be aware of our activities. However, if you have let your membership lapse, we ask that you consider renewing to both support us financially in our endeavors but also to bolster our membership numbers. This is even more important as our Conservation Affairs Committee engages with issues. Our voice as the Western Section of TWS is stronger as we represent more of you.

If you are a student who has recently graduated, first, we want to offer congratulations to you. Second, if you use a university email as your primary contact please send me another email so we don't lose track of you. Finally, if your career is taking you outside of our Section area, we wish you the best and encourage you to become active in your new TWS Chapter and Section. Let me know and I can mark your membership record so we don't pester you with renewal notices, although know that you are always welcome to stay in our Western Section "family".

If you have any questions about the status of your Section membership, contact me and I can check the database. I can also help if you have questions about your TWS membership that you cannot resolve directly with TWS.

Donate to the Western Section Endowment Fund!

The Western Section established an Endowment Fund through a member-approved change to our Bylaws in 2007. The goal of the fund is accumulate a core of principal that will not be depleted. Interest generated from the fund will be used to support the Section's education, outreach, and scholarship programs. The Endowment Fund principal receives input from all bequests, life membership dues, and donations specifically made for the fund. The fund is administered by three Trustees, including the Treasurer and two other Section members appointed by the President. Currently, former Treasurer Scott Osborn, former Treasurer Gary Falxa, and Past-President Marshall White are the Trustees.

The Endowment Fund was established with a \$38,000 bequest from the estate of Section member Douglas Donaldson. Please consider adding to the Section's fund by making a donation or becoming a Lifetime Member of the Section. Donations to the Fund are tax-deductible. Lifetime memberships cost \$450, which may be paid in up to three installments. Either way, helping to increase the core principal in the Endowment Fund is a great way to support the Section's programs for students and education/outreach!



Section Representative Report

Don Yasuda

As I've alluded to in the previous newsletter, TWS is dealing with a very serious budget situation. CEO Michael Hutchins has been back at work and, together with the

TWS Executive Committee, engaged a third party to conduct a detailed audit of the financial situation and examine TWS business practices. TWS is pursuing cost-cutting measures as well as looking at other methods to increase revenues, particularly non-dues revenue. Hutchins is implementing some immediate changes and is developing some mid-term and long-term strategies that will be discussed with Council prior to the Portland Annual Conference. Council and TWS' CEO and staff are committed to ensuring that this situation is corrected and safeguards are in place to ensure TWS' long-term financial security.

Somewhat related is a special ballot that will be sent out to current TWS members soon regarding a dues increase of \$10 for regular and family memberships (to \$81) and \$5 for all other memberships (to \$41). There has not been a dues increase (other than periodic inflationary cost-of-living increases) for over a decade while member services and TWS activities have increased significantly.

Government Affairs has launched a new Action Center that makes it easier for members to send letters and comments to elected officials and local media outlets. Over time, this site can be used to coordinate comments regarding emerging and important issues. You can find it on the TWS website.

The most recent issue of our member magazine, The Wildlife Professional (TWP), features a series on invasive species. You may not notice, but should appreciate that starting with this issue, a lighter weight paper is being used to both reduce printing costs as well as to reduce our carbon footprint by also reducing the mailing weight of each copy. This is your member magazine so if you have a story that you'd like to author or have an idea to pursue or even just a cool

photograph to share, contact Lisa Moore the editor who loves to hear from members.

TWS has migrated the main website over from Joomla to Drupal and with this change our website is now fully back to www.wildlife.org – without the confusing joomla prefix! The subunit webpages have not been migrated over yet, but TWS Webmaster Jeremiah Patterson is beginning that process and will be working with subunits based on the interest they express in converting.

As TWS has grown in recent years, so has the size and breadth of its programs and services. Currently, TWS is facing challenges in generating the funding it needs to maintain or expand its current programs and explore new opportunities for organizational growth and service. Therefore, we need additional funding to maintain the Society's programs, services, and opportunities. A possible source is allowing companies and organizations to use TWS's logo accompanied by a statement indicating that the company/organization was a proud sponsor of TWS, or similar wording, on product packaging or websites in exchange for a financial contribution. In such an arrangement, TWS would make it clear that no endorsement of a product was being made, only that the company has made a financial contribution to TWS. To pursue this option, specific guidelines for the use of TWS's logo would be developed. As this is a significant new approach for TWS relative to fund-raising, TWS Council is actively seeking input from members, via Section Representatives, to understand the memberships' views on this possible approach to funding. Your input is valued and appreciated. Please contact me for more details and/or further discussion and to make your thoughts on this known.

As I say in every newsletter, as your Section Representative, please let me know if have information, ideas, or comments for me to share with Council or TWS staff. Hope to see some of you in Portland. You can always find up to date information on activities on the TWS website (<http://www.wildlife.org>).

Notes from the Program Director

Cynthia Perrine



K-12 Conservation Education Initiatives

Two Western Section K-12 Conservation Education Initiatives were implemented this Spring – the “Get Out-

side” pilot for scientists leading weekly walks with K-6 students, and the partnership with American Association for University Women to teach Wildlife Conservation during the UC Davis Tech Trek Institute for 8th Grade Girls. See John McNerney’s Past-President column for more information on the Tech Trek collaboration.

“Get Outside” piloted in San Luis Obispo and ran for ten weeks. Six weekly walks for public school youth were led by a guide team of local scientists and Cal Poly undergraduate and graduate students. Fourteen elementary school students, ranging from pre-school to fifth grade, participated in the program. For each walk, students and guides met at the elementary school and walked to Laguna Lake Park, just half a mile from the school. Guide team members provided youth with basic exploration tools – binoculars, magnifying glass, reference books, and notebooks. Youth were encouraged to make observations, record them in notebooks, and inquire about whatever caught their interest. Assisted by City of San Luis Obispo City Biologist Freddy Otte, we even netted fish from the lake for closer inspection.

Online resources from National Wildlife Federation and USFWS were used to inspire inquiry and observation. A favorite activity for paying closer attention to natural elements was creating a nature bracelet. Bands of masking tape were wrapped around wrists, sticky side out, and then found objects like feathers, petals, seeds, leaves, rocks, and sticks were collected and stuck to the tape “bracelet.” The

“The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world are not reserved for scientists but are available to anyone who will place himself under the influence of earth, sea and sky and their amazing life.”

-Rachel Carson

(Cynthia Perrine, cont’d on page 8)



(Cynthia Perrine, cont'd from page 7)

students proudly shared these bracelets with their friends back at school.

Two grant applications to fund the “Get Outside” program at the K-6 level and to expand it to 7-8 grade levels were submitted, although neither was awarded. I’ve consulted with the program officers at each granting institution and received recommendations to strengthen “Get Outside” and improve our chances of being funded in the future. I’ll be working with the Executive Board and local partners to make these improvements and re-submit to each grant program in the next year.

Quotes from the youth participants:

- **“I’ve never seen fish from a lake before! They were spiny and shiny.”**
– 1st Grader
- **“I live right on the lake and never paid attention to how many different birds live here. I see their poop but never thought about where the poop goes when it rains.”** – 5th Grader
- **“The park is close to our school and walking there is fun. I like the way the morning can be sunny, or cold and wet.”** – 3rd Grader

Yosemite Falls Trail

Up, dusty, boot-crushed granite,
Switchbacks under, out of
Coniferous shade,
Basks, baking, naked, exposed,
Cools at creek-crossing.

The hum of bees working
Lush micro-oasis.

Leveling, rutted, bend
Stretches narrow finger-ledge
Caresses age-cracked,
Wizened, rock face,
Thunder-mist-ward.

The feathering water
Plummet-leaps.

Awe-glimpse image, ingrained,
Fleeting, yields boot-crushed,
Granite switchbacks,
Snaking bald backbone
Up, exposed, baking,
Naked.

The cool-wet canteen
Charges final ascent.

–Kevin Cahill, Ornithologist
Citrus Heights, Ca.

Spring Workshop Round-up

Western Section held two bat workshops in the spring of 2012, training a total of 42 participants from a wide variety of private industry, students, and state and federal agencies.

The 9th annual Bat Ecology and Field Techniques taught by Dave Johnston and Joe Szewczak was held at The Nature Conservancy's Dye Creek Preserve from April 19 to 22nd. Twenty participants learned the basics of bat natural history and identification, reviewed and discussed pertinent conservation and mitigation considerations, and were introduced to mist-netting and acoustic monitoring techniques. Participants included consultants, California Department of Fish and Game and Water Resources biologists, CalTrans, US Forest Service biologist, an epidemiology student, wildlife studies students, and a private conservancy biologist.



A participant in Bat Ecology and Field Techniques 2012 extracts a bat from the net while instructor Dave Johnston supervises.

The group successfully netted bats on each of the three evenings in different locations and also set acoustic detectors out in Dye Creek Canyon. On night 1 we captured 5 bats-in-hand of 5 species -- *Antrozous pallidus*, *Myotis evotis*, *M. californicus*, *M. yumanensis*, and *Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana*. On night 2 we captured 12 individuals of 3 species -- *Myotis californicus* (3), *M. yumanensis* (8), and *Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana* (1). On night 3 we ventured off the Preserve and netted near walnut orchards along Lower Dye Creek, just up from where it empties into the Sacramento River. There, we captured 6 individuals of 3 species -- *Lasiurus blossevillii* (1), *M. californicus* (2), *M. yumanensis* (3). It was the first *L. blossevillii* (Western red bat) netted during the 9-year span of these workshops. In addition to the mist-netted bats, the following species were acoustically detected in Dye Creek Canyon: *Antrozous pallidus*, *Myotis evotis*, *M. californicus*, *M. yumanensis*, *Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana*, *Eptesicus fuscus*, *Lasiurus noctivagans*, *L. cinereus*, *L. blossevillii*, and *Pipistrellus hesperus*.

From May 15-18th, Swanton Pacific Ranch was the location for our Non-Invasive Acoustic Monitoring of Bats workshop taught by Joe Szewczak. Twenty participants and two volunteers participated in lecture, demonstrations and lab exercises to learn the basics of using acoustic equipment and SonoBat software to detect bats without netting them. Participants also set nets up on one night to illustrate how difficult it can be to capture bats, and we netted two *Myotis yumanensis*. Participants came from consulting, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Conservation, US Air Force, students, and a private conservancy in Hawaii.

Thanks to our hosts for the workshop, The Nature Conservancy, Bianchi Orchards, Swanton Pacific Ranch/ Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, our volunteers, cooks, participants and our fantastic instructors for another great year of bat workshops! Many thanks to our expert instructors – Dave Johnston and Joe Szewczak; our field cook – Mehrey Vaghti; and our volunteers – Annette Roug, Tiffany Whitsitt, and Devyn Orr.



Professional Development Committee

Rhys Evans

The Professional Development Committee is pleased to announce many upcoming events! For the Portland meeting, we are working on literally about a dozen different events, but you really should read about all those opportunities on the “national” TWS website. I can mention, however, that two events sponsored by the Western Section include another iteration of the workshop “How NOT to Give a Scientific Presentation (Effective Oral Presentations)” and not one, not two, but THREE offerings of our Resume Workshop, including one which will focus on graduate students and post-Docs. I’d like to acknowledge the Southern California Chapter for their generous sponsorship of the Portland TWS meeting!

Prior to that, in late August, we’re doing a Certification Workshop in Encinitas (San Diego area); it’s probably too late to sign up when you’re reading this.

Next is...January, 2013! By popular demand, two workshops are being repeated:

“Scientific and Technical Writing – From Field Work to Final Draft.” One 2012 participant told us... “I valued the scientific/technical writing workshop.” Another participant: “The writing workshop was great!” And a third: “Please make the Scientific and Technical Writing workshop available more often.” OK, look for registration to open in October or so (and expect it to fill up again!).

“Wilderness First Aid” will also be repeated, and in 2013, we’re probably offering it immediately AFTER the annual meeting (i.e. Saturday and Sunday).

And here’s yet MORE breaking news: Following our successful model of the past several years, we’ll be offering a 2-day pre-conference symposium on the Western Snowy Plover. Many more details will be provided in the coming months. This year, the symposium is going to include several components of the annual Rangewide Recovery Meeting for this “keystone” species.

Finally for this report, I’d like to mention successful (and fun, and educational...) Bat Workshops we offered in April and May: Bat Ecology and Field Techniques Workshop and our Acoustic Monitoring of Bats: Noninvasive Field Techniques Workshop. Thanks for the 736th time to Dr. Joe Szewczak and Dr. Dave Johnston.

There’s a lot more to be developed – so keep an eye on our website, and if you haven’t for some bizarre reason signed up for our TWS Western Section Members e-mail messaging system... do it!

Check it out!



The California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Investigations Lab recently started up a blog that TWS-WS members might find interesting:

<http://calwil.wordpress.com/>

Student Affairs Co-Chair

Kate Howard



This year the Western Student's Wildlife Conclave was a big hit! Hosted in Moscow at the University of Idaho, their student chapter put on a fantastic event. In attendance this year was University of Montana, University of Nevada at Reno, University of Nebraska, University of Wyoming, New Mexico State University, Colorado State University, Utah State University, Humboldt State University, and for the first time in several years, Washington State University! Each night there were mixers for everyone to mingle and catch up, meet new folks and greet old friends. Each school brought a number of students, many seniors and quite a few freshmen!

The first day was field trips, and folks got to visit places like the Wolf Education and Research Center in Winchester, the Orofino Salmon Hatchery, an immobilization clinic, and the wildlife facilities at Washington State University. The second day was the big event, the Quiz Bowl. The morning started off with presentations, posters and the photo contest. Six presentations were given, first place going to Allen Harrington from CSU, second place to Kate Howard from HSU, and third place to Sam Aguilar from HSU. Posters were a big hit, with 1st place going to Felicia Aragon from HSU, 2nd place to Zach Brecheisen from NMSU and 3rd to SanShi Glover, USU. There were tons of awesome photos, with prizes going to folks from most of the schools.

Then there were several intense hours with great competition from all the schools that competed in the Quiz Bowl. Idaho did an excellent job running the game, and fun was had by all. NMSU came in 3rd, CSU ran a hard game for 2nd, and HSU brought it home once again. Later in the evening were the traditional skits and calling contests, with some outrageous and awesome performances by everyone. The traveling trophy went to NMSU this year, with a skit on dung beetle behavior.

The final day was the triathlon, and boy was it a cold one! Snow made it all the more fun. USU brought it home with an outstanding team effort, with 2nd place going to UNR, and 3rd to HSU. The evening wrapped up with the awards banquet, and an inspiring keynote speech by Chip Corsi, the Regional Supervisor for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Awards for events were handed out, and this year Idaho decided to kick into gear a new traveling trophy award, Best in the West. Since West was in the title of the award, it wouldn't be right if a Western Section school didn't bring it home; HSU scored the most points out of a system built to incorporate all members brought on the trip and participation at all events.

All in all, adding in the fun side adventures along the way, it was an amazing trip. Those of us set to graduate in May were grateful for such a fantastic final Conclave event, and many new faces were there to experience it and carry it on in the future. Next year's Conclave will be hosted by University of Wyoming, see you there!

Did you know?

TWS-WS Grant Money Is Available to Members

In pursuit of the objective to encourage high standards of professional achievement, the Western Section has established an honoraria fund to assist participation in professional meetings, conferences, symposia and other continuing education activities.

Additionally, each year The Wildlife Society-Western Section (TWS-WS) makes funds available to students to encourage participation in professional meetings, conferences, symposia and other continuing education activities. These funds can be used for partial reimbursement of transportation, lodging, registration and meal expenses. Travel grants of up to \$300 will be awarded to a limited number of students.

For more information visit our website at http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=185&I

Upcoming Events

- 2012 TWS Meeting
October 13-18, 2012 - Portland, OR
- Natural Resources Communication Workshop
January 7-11, 2013 - Chico, CA
- 2013 Annual Meeting
January 30 - February 1, 2013
Sacramento, CA - DoubleTree Hotel
New venue!
- Wilderness First Aid with Foster Calm
February 2-3, 2013 - Sacramento, CA
- 2014 Annual Meeting
January 28-February 1, 2014 - Grand Sierra Resort - Reno, NV
- Wilderness First Aid with Foster Calm
February 1-2, 2014 - Reno, NV



Conservation Affairs Committee

Armand Gonzales

The Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) has been meeting monthly since its reformation earlier this year. We have been focused on defining priorities and identifying strategies to effectively promote the policies and positions statements of The Wildlife Society. The primary goal of the com-

mittee is to provide decision makers at all levels, scientifically factual information on wildlife within the geographical boundaries of the Western Section, and be a source for advice and guidance in understanding the effect their decisions may

have on wildlife and habitats. Through this process we hope to promote established TWS policies and identify where new policies are needed to address the conservation and management needs of wildlife.

We received over seventy suggestions from WS members following the annual conference plenary this past February. We divided the suggestions into broad categories and found members were most concerned with bringing science to policy making, renewable energy development impacts, climate change and agency funding. We are strategizing on actions we can take in these areas. Some plans we are taking action on include:

- a) Drafting a letter to send or make available to legislators, county supervisors, and city council members that introduces the Wildlife Society, describes our mission, and offers the wealth of knowledge and experience within our membership as a source of information about species and habitats they can access when needed. Through the process of providing factual, unbiased, and clearly articulated scientific information on pertinent and relevant topics, we can build credibility as a go-to resource for informing their natural resource questions.
- b) Working with TWS National to develop renewable energy policy that is relevant to the Section's geographical area and focusing on impacts to wildlife from solar, wind, and geothermal energy development. Portions of the Western Section have been ground zero for renewable energy development, and due in part to the fast-tracked approval process, some impacts to wildlife were unforeseen and therefore unmitigated. In some cases there was simply a lack of knowledge indicating a need for more research. Through the development of specific renewable energy related policies we can help influence a balance between energy development and the conservation of species and habitats.
- c) Participate on the California Department of Fish and Game's Climate Change Stakeholder group to provide input directly into the development of the California Climate Adaptation Strategy 2012 update; and engage the various Landscape Conservation Cooperatives that overlap the Section in some manner yet to be determined. There are five LCC's within our Section boundaries: California, Desert, Great Basin, North Pacific, and Pacific Islands. Membership is usually limited on the LCC Steering Committees but here may be opportunities to participate in some of sub-committees such as the science or data management committees.

Membership in the Conservation Affairs Committee is open to any member of the Western Section. We would like to encourage representation from all the Chapters and are looking specifically for a representative from the Nevada and North Coast Chapters. Please contact Armand Gonzales for meeting information.



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Western Section of the Wildlife Society Annual Conference
January 29 to February 1, 2013
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Sacramento, CA

Tentative Schedule:

Tuesday, January 29

Pre-conference Symposia (details coming soon!)

Wednesday, January 30

Noon:

Official conference opening

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.:

Concurrent Sessions

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.:

Welcome mixer, social, and poster session

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.:

Chapter Meetings

Thursday, January 31

8:30 to 11:30 a.m.:

Plenary Session

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.:

Concurrent Sessions

4:00 to 5:30 p.m.:

Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum

7:00 p.m.:

Annual Awards Banquet and Raffle

Friday, February 1

8:30 to 4:30 p.m.:

Concurrent Sessions

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.:

Student Leadership Lunch and Career Fair

4:30 p.m.:

Western Section Executive Board meeting (all members welcome)

Plenary Session Theme: The Endangered Species Act at 40

It has been 40 years since this landmark legislation was passed, so it seems fitting to reflect at this juncture not only on its successes, but also on its implementation and effectiveness. Questions to be considered include whether the Act is in need of repair, how well it functions across institutions of government, whether it may hinder species recovery through limiting habitat improvements or the competing interests of listed species, and whether it is nimble enough to respond to climate change in a timely manner. The plenary session will present the views and experiences of representatives from public agencies, non-profits and the private sector. The Plenary Session will be held Thursday morning. Speakers to be announced.

Concurrent Technical Sessions in Development Include:

- Conservation and Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles
- Wildlife Diseases and Pathology
- Ecology and Management of Shorebirds
- Urban Wildlife, Management and Emerging Issues
- Endangered Species Act Implementation: Successes and Challenges
- Ecology and Management of Large Mammals and Carnivores
- Ecology and Management of Wetlands and Waterbirds
- Island Ecosystems and Wildlife Management
- Biology and Ecology of Small Mammals
- Renewable Energy and Wildlife - Managing a Balance
- Upland Habitats, Game Birds and Wildlife
- Conservation Banking and Related Tools for Mitigating Impacts to Wildlife
- Conservation and Management of Songbirds
- Ecology and Management of Raptors
- Grazing, Agriculture and Wildlife Conservation
- Climate Change and Wildlife: Managing Moving Targets

Note: Session titles may be added or changed at a later date.

Check <http://joomla.wildlife.org/western> for an updated list of technical sessions and schedule.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

Poster Session:

A poster session will be held for the Annual Conference on the evening of Wednesday, February 1, 2013 during the welcome mixer and social. Posters will also be available for viewing at other times and locations throughout the week. Posters should be no more than 4 feet high by 4 feet wide. Presenters must bring their own supplies (T-pins, push pins, etc.) to attach posters to the display boards. Display boards will be provided.

Call for Papers:

All papers associated with the general meeting will be presented Wednesday through Friday, January 30 to February 1.

We are soliciting abstracts for posters and 20-minute oral presentations for the concurrent technical and poster sessions. Abstract content should be consistent with technical session topics listed above, and may consist of either final or interim original research results. The conference program and session chairs will evaluate submitted abstracts to determine final concurrent session topics. In general, presenters should expect to speak for no more than 17 minutes, allowing for an introduction and limited Q&A after each presentation.

Abstract Submission Process:

The deadline for submission of both Oral Presentation and Poster abstracts is October 31, 2012. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words, excluding title and author addresses, should be in Arial 12-point font, and must adhere to format and layout elements provided on our website. Indicate the preferred session and whether the paper will be an oral presentation or a poster. Student presentations are eligible for cash awards. Students should indicate their intent to compete for these awards.

Please submit abstracts electronically by filling out the interactive form on the Section website at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/western/>

Speakers are expected to register for the conference and cover their own meeting registration, travel and lodging expenses. See the Western Section website for registration and other conference information.

Other Information:

PRE- CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA: The Professional Development Committee is developing a few pre-conference symposia adding even more outstanding educational and technical opportunities. Stay tuned for more details!

SPONSORSHIPS: We welcome potential sponsors to the meeting, individual events within the meeting or the pre-conference symposia. Organizations, agencies, consulting firms, chapters or individuals... let us know if you're interested. Sponsors can qualify for exhibit space, discounted or free event registrations, acknowledgement in the program and more. Opportunities start at \$250.

VOLUNTEERS: Opportunities abound. Please contact candace.renger@gmail.com if you are interested.

STUDENTS: As usual, we will have lots to offer! Resume workshops, career fair, networking with professionals and travel scholarships. Check our website under "Resources" for more information or contact the Awards and Grants Committee Chair (rburg@dfg.ca.gov) additional details.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Members will be eligible to earn credit hours for Professional Development, Professional Development Certificates and for TWS Certification renewal (note: meetings such as this do not normally qualify for an initial TWS certification application). Additional information will be provided in the final conference program.

WORKING GROUPS: The Western Section is pleased to help facilitate the meeting of working groups during the annual conference, as has been done in the past. In order to ensure space is available and to help minimize scheduling conflicts, if you are interested in holding a working group meeting at the annual conference, please contact Candace Renger by December 1, 2012 at candace.renger@gmail.com

MEETING REGISTRATION: On-line registration for the Western Section Annual Conference is expected to open approximately November 1, 2012. Visit <http://joomla.wildlife.org/western/> to register.

HOTEL INFORMATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS: The 2013 Annual Conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento. The Double Tree Hotel is conveniently located 5 minutes from the Capitol, Old Sacramento, Cal Expo, Arden Fair Mall, Railroad Museum, and the Light Rail System. Please help keep conference registration rates low by staying at the Double Tree Hotel.

Double Tree Hotel Sacramento
2001 Point Way West
Sacramento CA.

Reserve online or by telephone:

- http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/R/RLSA-DT-WLS-20130128/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG
- Telephone: (800) 344-4321

Special per- night room rates for conference attendees who book by January 14, 2013. Please indicate that you are a member of the Wildlife Society – Western Section:

Room	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Standard Room	\$89	\$89	\$89	\$89
<i>+ 12% Tax and \$1.25 Sacramento Tourism Business Improvement District assessment fee</i>				

Questions? If so, please contact event planner Candace Renger [at candace.renger@gmail.com](mailto:at_candace.renger@gmail.com) or (510) 527-5627.

Welcome Aboard Cal Poly SLO Student Chapter!

We are happy to announce the recent incorporation of the California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo (CalPoly) Student Chapter to The Wildlife Society. Thanks to the efforts of several energetic students, notably Lesley Anderson, and their faculty advisor Dr. John Perrine, we now have a FIFTH student chapter within the Western Section. We look forward to working with the CalPoly Student Chapter and have much confidence in its success.

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Report

Laura Patterson

This spring and summer, the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter has continued to host its bimonthly Brown Bag Seminars. Both were very well attended and contained a lot of useful information. In April, Angela Calderaro spoke about Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle life history, proper identification of exit holes, which mitigation measures seemed to be working and those that weren't, and the possibility of future delisting. In June, Jamie Kneitel spoke about vernal pool ecology, potential threats to vernal pools, experiments in mesocosms, eutrophication, and climate change in vernal pools and their conservation implications.



The Chapter also sponsored a Swainson's Hawk Workshop, hosted by Mike Bradbury, that sold out and received good reviews. The workshop included follow-up homework, tracking nests to provide participants with the experience of observing changes in behavior and the relative difficulty of detecting nests throughout the season. It appears there was enough interest that it could be repeated in a few years.

The Chapter awarded a \$1000 academic scholarship to Kevin Ringelman, a PhD candidate in the Ecology Graduate Group at UC Davis. Kevin's research focuses primarily on predator-prey dynamics in waterfowl, and he will use the money to continue data analysis and pay for publication fees. The next deadline for academic scholarship applications is December 1st. We still have some money available for travel grants, which are due at least two months prior to the proposed travel.

And, of course, our socials... We held a Spring Mixer at Hoppy Brewing Company on April 26th. The event wasn't as well attended as we'd hoped, but we think it might have been due to the short notice and lack of follow-up reminder. We'll work on that and will hopefully see many more people at our next one. We also co-hosted a Student-Professional speed-networking event/social with the UC Davis Student Chapter at Sudwerk in Davis on May 31st. That event was very well attended, and it was great to see so many promising, eager students about to enter the field.

We're sad to say good-bye to Michelle Havens, our Northern Region Coordinator. Michelle took a new job that doesn't afford her the time to help the Professional Development Committee with planning events up north. If anyone else lives up in the "Shasta" portion of our chapter and is willing to take Michelle's position on the Board, please let me know. We're still committed to reaching out to those members and including them as much as possible. The Professional Development Team is planning our annual Natural Resources Symposium. We're on the hunt for presenters, so if you know anyone who has a presentation they'd be willing to share, please let me know.

In other news, the Chapter voted to offer free Sacramento-Shasta Chapter membership to all UC Davis Student Chapter members, and we obtained 24 new members from the Swainson's Hawk Workshop, so we're currently up to about 165 members this year.

Feel free to contact me with any questions lpatters@water.ca.gov, and as always, if you want more information on Sacramento-Shasta Chapter activities, events, and opportunities check our webpage at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/sacramentoshasta> or "like" us on Facebook.

San Joaquin Valley Chapter Report

Linda Connolly

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter recently held our first San Joaquin kit fox workshop, in Bakersfield. The three-day event featured classroom instruction, survey techniques training, and field trips, with many opportunities to see kit foxes. The workshop sold out quickly and was a great time for learning and sharing information and creating new contacts. The photo below shows a group of foxes observed at a natal den:



We are planning for a Chapter board meeting later in the summer and will soon be preparing another edition of our newsletter *The Valley Fever*. We are still accepting applications for research grants, and we always welcome fresh ideas for ways the Chapter can help foster research, education, and conservation. Have a great summer!



SF Bay Chapter Report

Jessica Martini-Lamb

The Chapter's tour of Shoreline Regional Park, led by Lynne Truillo, was well attended. Chapter members and their guests had an opportunity to view burrowing owls nesting at the park. There is an activity scheduled for Chapter members every month in 2012. Hikes throughout the Bay Area are scheduled, as well as upcoming trips to the Farallones Islands and Hawk Hill in Marin County. Look for upcoming registration announcements for the Farallones Island trip (open to Chapter members and will fill up quickly) and upcoming workshops (including a Canid I.D. workshop in October and Certification workshop in November).

Welcome to the Chapter's new webmaster, Bridget Sousa. Thanks for volunteering Bridget! A big thank you to Brian Pittman, our Newsletter Editor, for his extended service as "acting webmaster."

We are looking for candidates for January elections to the SF Bay Chapter board. If you are interested in being more active in your chapter, please consider running for office. President-Elect is currently vacant and Secretary/Treasurer will be open next year. Please contact me or any of the Chapter board members for more information.

There are still free Student Memberships available for college students in the San Francisco Bay Area. If you are interested, or have any questions about Chapter events, please feel free to contact Chapter board members. Contact information may be found at the Chapter's website, <http://joomla.wildlife.org/SanFrancisco>

So Cal Chapter Report

Jeff Lincer

In February, 2012, TWS So Cal Chapter participated in the Western Section Annual Conference in Sacramento. We held a Chapter Meeting and introduced the chapter to potential members. The chapter meeting included a lively discussion with Western Section officers to discuss potential cooperative plans, including a Certification Workshop and training sessions on sensitive species of Southern California.



We recognize that professionals often have to make a choice between spending their time with family or other activities so on February 18, we sponsored a family BBQ and birding adventure at Santee Lakes Park, California. The birding expedition was led by local bird expert, Cindy Jones Daverin. Over 40 people attended, including several new members, and all had an opportunity to enjoy good food, quality family time, *and* professional camaraderie in a lovely park setting. Highlights of the day included: wood ducks, an osprey, and a zone-tailed hawk, mimicking the turkey vultures around it!

We are happy to welcome Brock Ortega as our new Chapter Treasurer. Brock is a Principal and Senior Wildlife Biologist at Dudek Engineering + Environmental, Encinitas, CA. Appreciation goes to Lyndon Quon, our outgoing Treasurer, and Brock!

Our plans for 2012/2013 are ambitious and I am pleased to report that we now have a Chapter Events Coordinator. Callie J. Ford, a Biologist/Environmental Analyst with Dudek Engineering + Environmental (also from Dudek's Encinitas office), has graciously accepted this responsibility and is doing a fine job. Thank you, Callie!

The Section's next big event is a Professional Certification Workshop, co-sponsored by the Western Section. This will be held on August 24 at Dudek's office in Encinitas, CA and we are exploring an off-site (GoTo) participation option in the Riverside area for more northern participants.

Plans for 2012/2013 also include several other event possibilities: a **Raptor Workshop** (I will lead that) in early February, 2013, another **Hermes Copper Butterfly** field trip with David Faulkner (May/June), another **family BBQ** or two (dates TBD), an **Arroyo Toad Workshop** (April/May), a spring and/or fall **Insect Session** (fall and/or spring), and another **consultant company-sponsored event**. We are happy to report that the **Audubon Society** has indicated an interest in cooperative events. The first one that we are exploring is a lecture and field trip on **Migratory Birds**, perhaps at the Carrillo National Monument. We are also looking into getting agencies involved in sponsoring one or more events.

The membership of the TWS SoCal Chapter continues to grow and now exceeds 100 members. We picked up several new members at each of our past events and some have signed up, online, as well. **Interested in becoming a Chapter Member? Please contact our Chapter Membership Chair, Wendy Loeffler, at wloeffler@recon-us.com.**



Long-nosed leopard lizard (Gambelia wislizenii) basking on a patch of rattlesnake weed (Chamaesyce albomarginata) in the western Mojave Desert.
Photo by Angel Correa

Sierra Nevada Red Fox Discoveries in Oregon

Scientists have discovered two new colonies of an elusive high-mountain fox that until recently was thought to be nearly extinct. Using remote cameras during spring 2012, Cascadia Wild and the Cascade Carnivore Project confirmed the first detections of montane red fox in the Mt. Hood Wilderness Area in northern Oregon in decades, and are likely a newly discovered population of Sierra Nevada red fox.

<http://www.sfgate.com/science/article/Threatened-California-fox-species-found-in-Oregon-3646317.php>

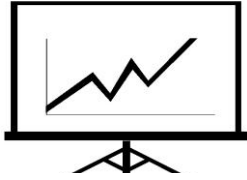
An Ecologist's Guidebook to Policy Engagement

The Ecological Society of America has a new publication that focuses on opportunities to connect ecological information to public policy issues. Aimed primarily at ecological scientists but also useful for others, the book covers the Congressional and Executive branches-highlighting federal agencies with environmental regulatory authority or resource management responsibilities-an overview of key environmental laws, tips on effective preparation and communication during in-person meetings, congressional testimony, crafting opinion editorials, talking with Rotary clubs, contributing to science blogs and working with the media. Numerous resources at the local, state, and federal levels as well as policy fellowships and awards for young scientists are also included.

An [ebook version](#) is available for about \$5. Hardcopy is also available.



Male Great Gray Owl at about 2,700' elevation in El Dorado County.
Photo by Kent Smith



Announcement!

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

January 7-11, 2013

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using good visual aids. The workshop focuses on the use of computer-generated images created with Microsoft's PowerPoint software. The workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

Workshop Content:

1. Discussion topics include:
 - Planning: communication principles, audience analysis, graphic design
 - Preparing: creating computer-generated graphics, photographic composition, rehearsal tips
 - Presenting: equipment setup, speaking tips, dealing with difficult audiences
 - Evaluating: evaluation of performance
2. Each participant will bring a selection of computer-generated images (ex., graphics created with PowerPoint or other presentation software programs) for organization into an illustrated talk.
3. Each participant will prepare graphics (titles, graphs, charts, maps, cartoons, etc.) to be used in their presentations.
4. Each participant will give a 5- and 15-minute presentation (which will include graphics prepared during the workshop). These presentations will be evaluated by the class and the instructors.

Instructor: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Professor, Calif. State Univ., Chico (Certified Wildlife Biologist, Certified Interpretive Trainer, Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, 35+ years teaching communication workshops around the country). Dr. Hooper will be assisted by Ms. Kim Rubin, who has experience as a tour guide and environmental interpreter. She has 13 years experience facilitating the Natural Resources Communication Workshop.

Location: California State University, Chico (90 miles north of Sacramento)

University Credit: Participants receive 1-unit CSUC Continuing Education credit. The workshop is worth a maximum of 40 contact hours in Category I of The Wildlife Society's Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program.



Application Procedure: The initial deadline for applications is **October 31, 2012 (Wednesday)**. Late applications are accepted (such applicants will become participants if the workshop is not yet full; otherwise, they will be placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations). The tentative registration fee is \$789. The workshop is limited to 16 participants. Since more applicants usually apply than there are spaces available, the registration fee is not due until an applicant has been officially accepted into the workshop (this occurs shortly after the October 31 deadline).

Since the workshop has a limited capacity, all applicants will be contacted after October 31, 2012 to notify them if they have been accepted. Instructions on paying the registration fee will be provided at that time. Payment must be received before applicants will be fully registered. Failure to make timely payment will result in alternate applicants being selected.

To apply, send a letter, fax, or email describing: (1) your current position within your agency or organization, (2) how you will use the training, (3) any special reasons why you feel you should be chosen as a participant, and (4) if you already have official agency/organization approval to attend. In your application, include your job title, address, phone number, fax number, and email. To apply or for more information, write or call:

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 Dept. Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management
 California State University, Chico
 Chico, CA 95929-0560
 (530) 898-5811 or 898-6408
 fax: (530) 898-6557 e-mail: jhooper@csuchico.edu

* * * * *

FLASH!!! Participants in the 2013 workshop will not only learn professional tips for using PowerPoint, but also will gain exposure to Photoshop Elements (digital photo editing software).

FLY ON IN
REGISTER TODAY



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY - 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PORTLAND, OREGON OCTOBER 13-18, 2012



A Plenary where experts discuss future conservation challenges while reflecting on the last 75 years

Presentations with over 200 invited speakers, more than 200 contributed papers, and 300 posters

Field Trips that explore Mount St. Helens, the Columbia River, Bybee Wetlands, and more, and identify conservation challenges facing the region

Student Activities including over 100 student research-in-progress posters, Quiz Bowl, Career Fair, and Student-Professional Mixer

Workshops half and full day, onsite and offsite that provide hands-on experience

Opening Night Reception where conference attendees will celebrate TWS's 75th anniversary

REGISTER TODAY AT
WILDLIFE.ORG/CONFERENCE

Early Bird Registration
Register by September 14
for discounted rates.





The Wildlife Society Western Section

P.O. Box 6756
Albany, CA 94706

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Contributions are due 30 days prior to each publish date.

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western>

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