

Vol. 57, No. 3

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Winter Newsletter 2012

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society

President's Message

Linda Leeman

The Power of Service

*"No time is better spent than that spent
in the service of your fellow man."*

Bryant H. McGill

Recently I have been thinking about the power of service. Service can come in many forms—big grand gestures, small quiet deeds, and everything in between. Service can be a one time shot, like holding the door open for a stranger, or require long-term dedication and commitment, like being a mentor.

While the intent may be to assist others, we also end up benefiting ourselves in the process. We do acts of service every day, many times without even realizing. We may not seek praise or recognition for these acts, but it makes us feel good. Service can help us understand our values, give us a sense of pride and purpose, and enhance our skills. I am feeling this keenly now as I am wrapping up my year as



president and can begin to reflect on the experience. Was it a lot of work? Yes. Was it worth it? YES! I have a deeper appreciation of our collective power as wildlife professionals and our ability to shape conservation issues and priorities. I have learned about leadership and organization, how to build consensus, and how to value differing opinions. Plus it has been great fun to get to know wildlifers working in all sorts of capacities throughout our area. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the Western Section.

Service is essential to the functioning of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society. Indeed, our organization only exists because volunteers are willing to serve on

(Linda Leeman, cont'd on page 2)

**Election Info
Inside & On-line!**

Please Vote!

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the board, donate their time and talents, and share their knowledge and expertise. Our organization provides professional development, mentoring, and networking opportunities. We host technical workshops, annual conferences, and social mixers. We provide scholarships and travel grants, mentoring for students, and a vast network of professionals, with whom you can enrich your professional life.

I am amazed by the commitment to service shown by Western Section board members and volunteers.

This service shows our passion for our profession and our commitment to helping others. There are many ways to be involved—in big, small, long-term, or short-term ways. I urge you to think about what you can contribute and to consider giving back to your profession. What does it mean to you to be of service to others?

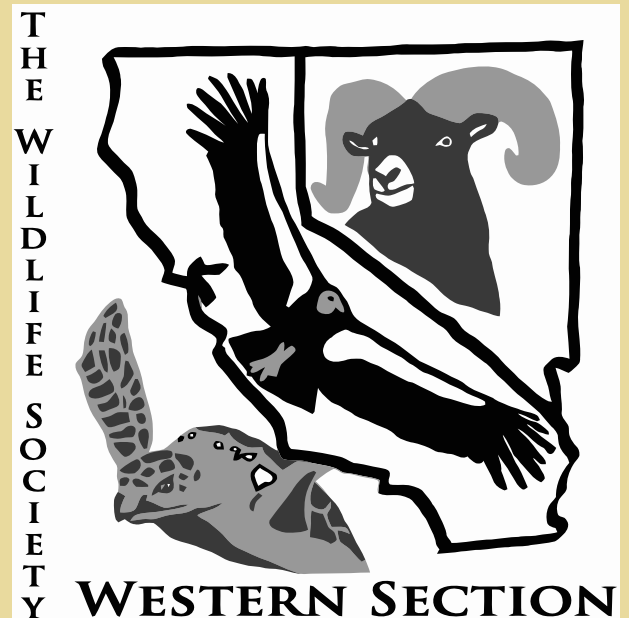
Member Survey ... coming your way soon!

Be on the lookout for a TWS-WS member survey which will be coming soon to your email inboxes.

This electronic survey will take just minutes to fill out and it is your opportunity to contribute to the future direction of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society.

Thank you!

Unveiling... Our New Logo!



The Western Section of The Wildlife Society is proud to introduce its new logo. Earlier this year the Western Section Past-President John McNerney put out a call for logo proposals. Three artists answered the call and contributed a total of seven concepts. These concepts were given careful consideration by the Board and a vote was held.

The winning logo was designed by Section member Sarah Yarwood. Sarah worked to refine the logo to the final version presented before you. We believe the logo does a great job at representing the Western Section. It is simple, yet illustrates the rich diversity in habitat and species within the Section's geographical boundaries.

Congratulations Sarah...
....and thanks for your hard work!

President-Elect Message

Douglas A. Bell, Ph.D.



Thanks to electioneering, political pundits, arm-chair quarterbacking and upcoming holiday plans, it is no doubt difficult to think of all the things one must do in the coming weeks. Nevertheless, I hope you are progressing with plans to attend the next annual meeting of the Western Section, to be held at the DoubleTree

by Hilton Hotel in Sacramento, California. The meeting runs from January 28-February 3, 2013, including pre-and post-conference activities. The conference theme focuses on the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which is very appropriate since we are celebrating its 40th anniversary. For the plenary we are hosting a distinguished panel of experts on the ESA made up of scientists, regulators, lawyers and two former politicians, the Hon. Pete McCloskey, one of the original writers of the ESA and the Hon. Richard Pombo, who worked to amend the ESA. I look forward to a productive discussion and question-answer period following the panelists' presentations. Our Keynote speaker during the banquet will be author Lily Raff McCaulou, who will be relating her experiences on becoming a hunter in the wilds of Oregon, after growing up on the highly urbanized East Coast. She is certain to shed light on new aspects of the philosophy of hunting and on the food movement. Additional conference meetings will include workshops for students and a professional/student lunch. Of course, there will also be local chapter meetings, to which I would urge all members and prospective members to attend. Pre-conference activities include a snowy plover symposium and technical writing workshop. Post-conference activities will include a Hunter Education Course for Conservation Professionals and a field trip to the Sutter Buttes, guided by the Middle Mountain Foundation and our

own Dave Wyatt (Student Affairs Committee Chair). Your hard-working Board has tried to keep conference costs and registration in line with previous years. I would like to remind students that they can help offset registration by volunteering during the conference (please refer to the conference announcement for details). Not only will students save money, but they will also have a great opportunity to interact on many levels with conference attendees. Students should also check with their local chapters, as many offer financial help with registration costs.

I attended the national meeting in Portland last month and was thrilled to have the opportunity to see friends and colleagues and to establish a few new ties. Aside from a host of great sessions and presentations, I think my highlight was attending the student poster session. What a pleasure to talk with students in a venue that highlights their brilliant ideas and hard work! It is gratifying to see so much energy in one place and I sure came away with some great insights. I hope we can continue to harness such energy.

Field work is one of the great aspects of my position with the East Bay Regional Park District. The pulse of rains that we received last month filled some of our vernal pools located in rock outcrops in our regional preserves such as Vasco Caves. These *rock tanks*, as we call them, harbor fairy shrimp, and for the past several years we have been studying this system with Prof. Jamie Kneitel, a vernal pool ecologist at California State University, Sacramento. As soon as I discovered water in the rock tanks, I called Jamie and out he came with his equipment in tow (see photos below). In three years of studying this system, every year has led to different discoveries and the revamping of hypotheses in an attempt to understand fairy shrimp diversity and turnover. One gets the feeling that there is more to know than we possibly can know. For example, at various times the rock tank complexes may host vernal

(Doug Bell, cont'd from page 3)

pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and/or California fairy shrimp (*Linderiella occidentalis*) or none at all. The locality is known for the presence of longhorn fairy shrimp (*B. longiantenna*), yet among 100 or more pools we have found this species in only two rock tanks, and then during only one of the three years. The two rock tanks are located miles apart, one is large, more than 10 feet across, the other is small, about two feet in diameter. What gives? I am hoping that one of Jamie's graduate students may discover the secrets behind such an ephemeral mode of life. Field work also has its down side, as when I found another dead golden eagle below a wind turbine in the Altamont Pass, even though I was not engaged in a systematic mortality search. Between this discovery and the tragic storm events on the East Coast, one is reminded of the pressing need to support research and the dissemination of research on renewables to find a way forward, sooner rather than later. I am glad our Section is participating in this effort.

It has been a real pleasure working with our Board members, officers and volunteers of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society on organizing and developing our annual meeting. I hope to see you in Sacramento! Thank you.



Left, Dr. Jamie Kneitel, from California State University Sacramento, sampling vernal pool rock tanks at Vasco Caves Regional Preserve, Fall 2012.
Photo: Doug Bell



Right, Longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), found during our surveys of vernal pool rock tanks at Vasco Caves and Brushy Peak Regional Preserves, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Photo: Jamie Kneitel

Treasurer's Report

Craig Bailey



Section assets were \$218,879 on October 31, 2012. These assets are split between our Wells Fargo accounts (\$57,527), Charles Schwab liquid investment accounts (\$124,076.43), and the Section's Endowment Fund (\$37,275.96). The Endowment Fund earned approximately \$1,500 last quarter.

Membership Report

Don Yasuda

Our membership as of 28 October was 913 members. This is a very good membership growth over last year and it continues our trend in steadily increasing membership. Please continue to introduce your professional friends and colleagues to the benefits of membership in TWS and the Western Section and let me know if I can help in recruiting new members (or welcoming back former members!).

For many, membership expires at the end of the year. Some renew membership in conjunction with the Section's Annual Meeting. And some of you renew Section dues when renewing national membership through TWS. However some have let their membership lapse. Please help support us again with your renewal. Regardless of how you renew, we thank you for your continued financial support of the Section and will continue to provide a variety of member services such as our Conference, our Professional Development programs, our newsletters, our grants and awards, our renewed Conservation Affairs efforts, and our social and networking opportunities to keep you connected with your peers.

I generally send out renewal notices quarterly, however because of the large number of memberships that expire between now and February, I will send out a few more *gentle reminders* to encourage renewals. Your help by renewing promptly is greatly appreciated. You can always contact me at dyasudaTWS@comcast.net if you have questions about your membership.

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 President 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. 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!

Secretary Report

Janine Payne

Executive Board Meeting Highlights:

Since our last newsletter was published, the Executive Board has met twice. In what is becoming an annual tradition, the summer Executive Board meeting was held “retreat style” on August 4th and 5th at the Westminster Retreat in Alamo. Originally a private home and orchard which is now operated by the Presbyterian Church, the retreat offers a great place for small non-profits to meet for a nominal fee in the tranquil environment of an old oak grove in the shadow of Mount Diablo.



We were fortunate to have Craig Brown in attendance, representing the newly formed Cal Poly Student Chapter. Some business covered at this meeting included creating a seed fund to offset the financial hardships of creating new student chapters. The Board voted to support a travel grant for Brianne Winter and a research grant for Austin Roy. The Board also voted to endorse a letter in support of restoring funding to the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program.

Other topics discussed were: updating our grant applications procedures in our Operations Manual, additional support for our Awards and Grants Committee, and developing a Strategic Plan for the Section. Membership Committee Chair and Council Representative Yasuda requested assistance with nominations for Distinguished Service Awards and asked the Board for feedback regarding TWS’ proposed Affinity Program. All in all, we accomplished a lot of important business, but perhaps the best part was sitting outside talking wildlife trivia (“How many bird species can you list that have red eyes?”) as the sun set while being serenaded by a great horned owl. Not to mention capping-off a long meeting day with raucous games of ping pong and Trivial Pursuit, although Professional Development Chair, Evans, showed a clear affinity for the game, “Green Eggs and Ham”.

On November 2nd the Executive Board met at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento. President-Elect Bell walked us through his progress in planning the upcoming Annual Meeting at the same venue. The program looks amazing - especially the Plenary Session, but I’ll let you get more information straight from the horse’s mouth by reading his column. Other items on the agenda for discussion were the new Western Section logo (designed by Sara Yarwood and championed by Past-President McNerney), an update on the Conservation Affairs Committee, and possible venues for upcoming conferences. Following his valiant effort at reinvigorating the Western Section Transactions, David Wright has resigned as Editor. His efforts are greatly appreciated. The board is working on creating an ad hoc committee to figure out the best way to move Transactions forward and this committee will be led by John Perrine and Brian Cypher.

Last but not least, several members shared their experiences attending the TWS Conference in Portland this October; perhaps you will read about that here in this newsletter. For me, the conference is always a welcome opportunity to connect with old colleagues and friends from other parts of the country, but the highlight was attending the newly formed Early Career Professional Working Group meeting. I have written about this working group in past newsletters, so I won’t go into too much detail. I will say that we are working on some exciting events for Milwaukee and some online resources to consult through the year. If you’re transitioning careers, transitioning from student to professional, or (to borrow a phrase from President Leeman) moving from being a “gypsy biologist” toward a more permanent position, check out the ECP on the “Working Groups” section of TWS’ website. You can also find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/earlycareer/>

If you are interested in more detailed information regarding the Executive Board’s activities, the meeting minutes are now posted on the Western Section’s website and accessible to all. See everyone in Sacramento!



Section Representative Report

Don Yasuda

Council met before and during the TWS Portland Conference in October. A full day was devoted to discussing options and strategies to address the budget shortfalls. By making some serious and hard budget decisions, we think we are on the road to improved fiscal health. However, we did have to make some temporary budget cutbacks, with the most significant cuts occurring in our Government Affairs staff area. Our incredibly hard-working staff at Bethesda are all working together to ensure our critical programs and core member services continue to be met at the high quality we've all come to expect.

For this year's Leadership Institute, we had three Section members as participants: Dominic Bachman, Serra Hoagland, and Liisa Schmoele. Dominic is well known as an active member of the HSU Student Chapter and he now works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at the Modoc NWR. Liisa also works with the FWS at the Arcata office, she moved to California from Missouri and we are lucky to have her in the Section. Serra is responsible for founding the UC Santa Barbara Student Chapter and is pursuing her PhD at Northern Arizona University and also works with the Forest Service's Southern Research Station. Congratulate them when you see them and if you are an early career professional, graduate or post-graduate student, ask them about the Leadership Institute.

Unfortunately, despite the success of the Leadership Institute this year and in past years, Council was compelled to make the very difficult decision to not fund it off the top for 2013. We will be looking at alternate methods to fund it and hope we can continue it in Milwaukee. Look for more information on this in the in the next few months.

Past President Paul Krausman remains as the Acting Executive Director while the process to select a new Executive Director continues. In the interim Darryl Walter has been operating as Chief of Staff to ensure smooth operations at headquarters.

TWS has made great progress on implementing actions in the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan. Council will be meeting this spring to update the Strategic Plan. This is timely given our budget situation and we will be much more mindful of balancing income and funding with timelines for initiating new actions. TWS has made great strides in improving our voice for the wildlife profession and wildlife resources and with careful strategic planning we will continue to grow and strengthen as your professional society.

Conservation Affairs Committee

Armand Gonzales

Quick Update:

The Conservation Affairs Committee has drafted a letter for various decision makers, offering WS and CAC expertise on wildlife issues.



The next step is to get TWS-WS Board input on content and approval. The Conservation Affairs Committee will also work with the Executive Board to decide to whom this should be sent and how we should solicit member participation as experts if a question is submitted.

Greetings!

We are quickly moving to count-down mode for our annual meeting, held in Sacramento, CA Jan 28-Feb 1, 2013. Please take a moment to mark your calendars and plan your trip accordingly. We anticipate having a full program with pre-conference and post-conference activities including a workshop on Section 7 Consultations, a Western Snowy Plover Recovery Team meeting, a hunter safety training course that will qualify novices for obtaining a hunting license, and wilderness first aid, to name a few. I am particularly happy with our meeting line-up; we will have a host of broad scientific sessions, several of which will be centered around our conference theme - the Endangered Species Act at 40 (Oh, to be 40 again!). The Plenary should be enlightening, as we will have a range of speakers from academics (Law Professors Eric Biber and Dan Rohlf) to one of the coauthors of the ESA, the Honorable Pete McClosky, and one of our Representatives who worked to change the ESA, the Honorable Richard Pombo. The Plenary will hopefully give us all the opportunity to reflect on the ESA, where it has been, and where it may need to go. Lastly, I am excited to announce that we will be hosting at the banquet a new and upcoming author, Lily Raff McCaulou, who will be relating her experiences in becoming a hunter despite of her urban upbringing as chronicled in her new book, "Call of the Mild". See you in Sacramento!

- Doug Bell, TWS-WS 2013 Annual Meeting Chair

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.

Confirmed speakers, as of mid-December:

- Craig S. Harrison, Vice Chair for Conservation, Pacific Seabird Group
- Kierán Suckling, Executive Director, Center for Biological Diversity
- Hon. Peter McCloskey, Jr., U.S. House of Representatives, 1967-1983, Co-author of the 1973 Endangered Species Act.
- Daniel J. Rohlf, Professor of Law, Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center, Lewis and Clark Law School
- Alexandra Pitts, Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Hon. Richard W. Pombo, U.S. House of Representatives, 1983-2007, Rancher, landowner

Annual Meeting

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Monday, January 28

1:00 pm to 5:15 pm

1:00 pm to 5:15 pm

Western Snowy Plover Recovery Team Meeting
Section 7 Workshop

Tuesday, January 29

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Scientific and Technical Writing Workshop
Western Snowy Plover Recovery Team Meeting
Section 7 Workshop
TWS-WS Executive Board Meeting (all members welcome)

Wednesday, January 30

8:30 am to 12:15 pm

8:30 am to 12:15 pm

8:30 am to 12:15 pm

Noon:

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Scientific and Technical Writing Workshop
Western Snowy Plover Recovery Team Meeting
Section 7 Workshop
Official conference opening
Concurrent Sessions
Conservation Affairs Committee meeting
Welcome mixer, poster session, and taco bar
Chapter Meetings

Thursday, January 31

8:30 am to 12:00 pm

1:00 pm to 5:05 pm

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

7:00 pm

Plenary Session - The Endangered Species Act at 40
Concurrent Sessions
How NOT to Give a Scientific Presentation
Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum
Resume Workshop for Undergrads/Graduating Seniors
HSU Alumni Meeting
No host cocktail reception
Keynote Program, Awards Banquet and Raffle
Lily Raff McCaulou - "Call of the Mild: Learning To Hunt My Own Dinner"

Friday, February 1

8:00 am to 9:30 am

8:30 am to 12:00 pm

8:30 am to 10:00 am

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

10:15 am to 12:00 pm

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Resume Critiques with Barbara Peters
Concurrent Sessions
Early Federal Career Opportunities Panel with Dave Wyatt
Career Fair
CalPIF Meeting
Resume Workshop for MS and PhD Students
Student Professional Lunch
Concurrent Sessions
The Job Interview Process
Resume Critiques with Barbara Peters
Career Fair continues
TWS-WS Executive Board Meeting (all members welcome)
Hunter Safety Training (Grizzly Island)

Saturday, February 2

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

8:00 am to 9:00 pm

6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Sutter Buttes Field Trip
Wilderness First Aid
Hunter Safety Training (Grizzly Island)
CPR

Sunday, February 3

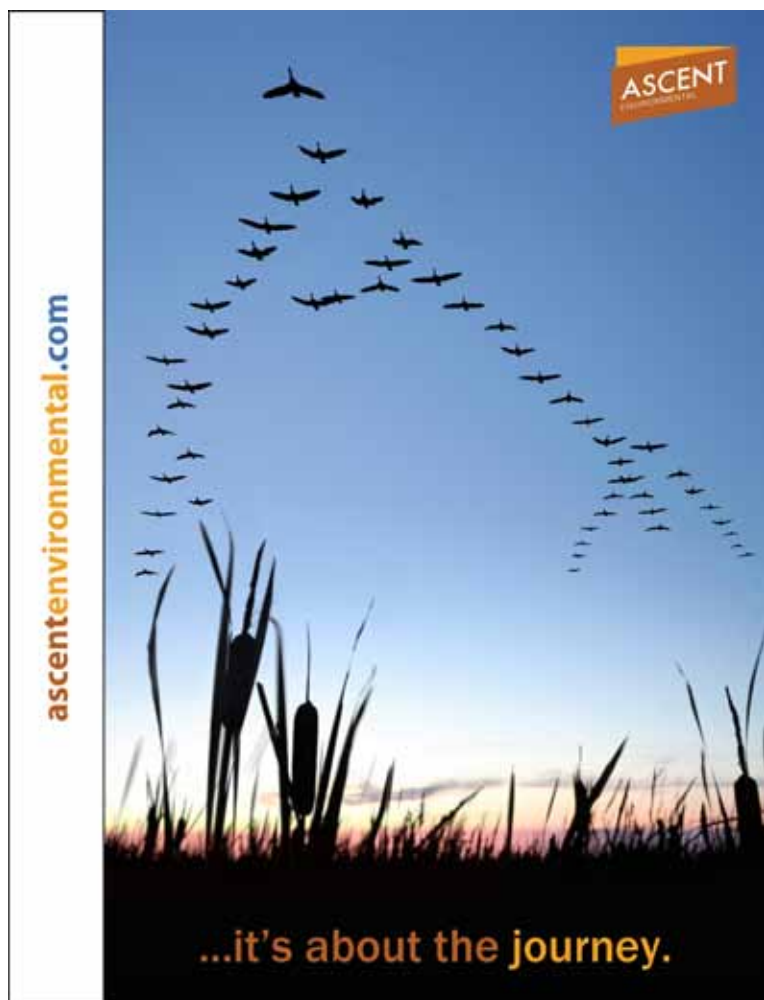
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

8:00 am to 11:00 am

Wilderness First Aid
Hunter Safety Training (Grizzly Island)

2013 Annual Meeting Sponsors

\$2,500 BIGHORN Gold Sponsors



\$1,000 SEA TURTLE Bronze Sponsors

DUDEK



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ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

[link to session schedules](#)

Wednesday afternoon

- 1) Conservation and Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles
Wildlife Diseases and Pathology
- 2) Ecology and Management of Shorebirds
- 3) Urban Wildlife Management and Emerging Issues
- 4) Island Ecosystems and Wildlife Management

Thursday afternoon

- 1) Endangered Species Act Implementation:
Successes and Challenges
- 2) Ecology and Management of Large Mammals
and Carnivores
- 3) Ecology and Management of Wetlands and Waterbirds
- 4) Conservation and Management of Songbirds

Friday morning

- 1) Biology and Ecology of Small Mammals
- 2) Renewable Energy and Wildlife – Managing a Balance
- 3) Upland Habitats, Game Birds and Wildlife
- 4) Conservation Banking and Related Tools for
Mitigating Impacts to Wildlife

Friday afternoon

- 1) Ecology and Management of Raptors
- 2) Grazing, Agriculture and Wildlife Conservation
- 3) Climate Change and Wildlife:
Managing Moving Targets

Volunteers Needed at the Annual Meeting

• Audio Visual Co-Chair

We are looking for someone to work closely with Don Yasuda to provide Audio Visual support to our Concurrent and Plenary Sessions at the Annual Meeting. Email dyasudaTWS@comcast.net for more information.

• Judge Student Presentations and Posters

It doesn't take much of your time, we'll try to match you with topics you're interested in, and it's fun!

Well-rounded communication skills are critical for wildlife biologists in report writing, preparing manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals, or for oral presentation. The TWS-WS student award competition provides an opportunity for seasoned wildlifers to judge, encourage, and offer constructive criticism to future members of our profession. If you are interested in judging the student presentations and posters at the 2013 Annual Meeting, please contact Jeff Wilcox at jtwilcox@comcast.net.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

ANNUAL MEETING WORKSHOPS

How NOT to Give a Scientific Presentation - Thursday 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Since many problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve management programs. Communications expert Dr. Jon Hooper (California State University, Chico) has led a Natural Resources Communications Workshop for the Western Section of The Wildlife Society for more than 35 years. Similar to almost everyone else, he has witnessed problematic attempts, by speakers young and old, new professionals and established veterans, to share their research and work at professional meetings. We decided to do something about that... In 2011, for the TWS Western Section meeting, Dr. Hooper assembled an entertaining and educational mini-workshop (he's repeated this workshop to great acclaim at the TWS West 2012 meeting and the National 2012 meeting in Portland). It includes three key parts: 1.) a presentation intentionally featuring common presentation errors (too much information on a slide, poor text /background color combinations, and ALL CAPITAL TEXT), verbal gaffes (e.g., ummmm, uhhh, like you know, I'm gonna...), presentation errors (too many slides, too few slides) and more; 2.) a revised version of the same presentation with most of those problems solved; and 3.) a facilitated discussion of effective communication strategies and techniques. A discussion and Q&A session, sure to be vibrant and educational, will follow.

RESUME WORKSHOPS - Thursday Afternoon (4-6 pm) AND Friday morning (10:15 – Noon)

Resume Writing for Undergrads and Graduating Seniors: Barbara Peters (Career Counselor) will present Resume Writing workshops for undergraduate students on Thursday, January 31 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. She will provide information and handouts about putting together an effective resume and cover letter targeting positions (seasonal, internship, and professional) in the wildlife and environmental fields.

Resume Writing for Graduate Students: Barbara Peters will also present a Resume/CV Writing workshop for graduate students (MS & PhD) on Friday, February 1, 10:15 a.m. – Noon. She will provide information and handouts about putting together an effective CV/resume and cover letter targeting professional positions in the wildlife and environmental fields.

In both workshops, she will also provide a list of special skills that students develop as part of their undergraduate and graduate experiences (research techniques, field equipment & techniques, training, licenses, etc.), as well as interviewing tips and on-line resources for job hunting in these fields.

On Friday (February 1), she will be available, on a sign-up basis, from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. AND from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at the Career Fair to critique CV/Resumes, and she is also willing to look at emailed resumes & CV's after the conference.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

CAREER FAIR AND STUDENT/PROFESSIONAL LUNCH - Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

This is an opportunity for students to meet prospective employers and discuss careers in the wildlife sciences. Professionals from state and federal agencies and several consulting firms will be present. Student/Professional Lunch, served at noon, is free to students and professionals who have indicated they will attend on their registration form, but a ticket or name badge symbol is required. All are invited to attend the Career Fair.

EARLY FEDERAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES PANEL - Friday 8:30 am to 10:00 am

A group of 4-6 invited speakers will open the discussion with 5-10 minute presentations covering general information within their specific areas of expertise. Topics to be addressed include: internships including the new Federal career "Pathways Programs" program, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps and Student Conservation Association volunteer programs and similar opportunities. A basis for the first presentation will be a document prepared by several federal employees affiliated with the Western Section of TWS. The session moderators will lead a brief, focused discussion period followed by opening the floor to participant questions. The session is not intended to include graduate school recruitment, guidance or similar educational opportunities.

CALIFORNIA PARTNERS IN FLIGHT MEETING - Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

California Partners in Flight (CalPIF) is initiating the process of updating the Grassland Bird Conservation Plan, one of seven valuable habitat-based guides to conserving California's birds (<http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>). PRBO Conservation Science, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Central Valley Joint Venture, UC Berkeley and Western Field Ornithologists are convening a meeting from 0900-1200 on Friday, February 1, 2013, in association with the Western Section of The Wildlife Society meeting in Sacramento. We invite those interested in grassland management and avian conservation to participate. We are particularly interested in participation by those who actively manage grasslands and watersheds, to ensure individuals who implement habitat conservation programs are involved early in the process. The objectives of the meeting include: defining the scope of the plan – 'what is grassland?' ; consensus on a suite of focal or surrogate bird species to form the bases of this multi-species plan, and to form a voluntary technical advisory committee to guide the process and content. Please RSVP to Ryan DiGaudio California PIF coordinator (rdigaudio@prbo.org) or feel free to drop in the day of the meeting.

JOB INTERVIEW PANEL: I Got a Job Interview, Now What? - Getting Jobs in a Tough Job Environment. Friday 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

The job interview process can be an intimidating experience for the job seeker. To help make this less mysterious, a group of 4-6 invited speakers from agencies, private consulting, and academia will provide insights into what can be expected during a job interview with their respective employers. Topics include how to prepare for the interview, how you should present yourself, and the range of potential questions you may be asked. In addition, an open discussion follows the presentations.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

AWARDS BANQUET AND KEYNOTE SPEECH

This year our Banquet Keynote Speaker will be Lily Raff McCaulou, author of “Call of the Mild: Learning to Hunt My Own Dinner.”

Lily Raff McCaulou grew up near Washington, D.C., graduated from Wesleyan University and worked in New York City’s independent film industry before becoming a newspaper reporter. She has written articles about everything from professional mini-golfers to dogs trained to find wild animal scat for science experiments. She has won numerous awards, including a prestigious Knight-Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan. Her first book, “Call of the Mild,” was published in June. Part memoir and part journalism, it explains why Lily -- a gun-fearing urban environmentalist -- decided to learn to hunt. And it examines what it means to be a hunter in America today. She lives in Bend, Oregon with her husband, son and dog.



[Link to Author's website](#)

[Link to book](#)

POSTER SESSION:

A poster session will be held during the Annual Meeting on the evening of Wednesday, January 30th 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.

MEETING REGISTRATION

On-line registration for the Western Section
Annual Meeting is now open.

Follow this link to the online registration form:

https://wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2013_reg.php

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

HOTEL INFORMATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The 2013 Annual Meeting 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.

Special per-night room rates are available for conference attendees who book by **January 14, 2013**. A limited number of rooms are being held for us at the great rate of \$89 / night. First come, first served, and these rooms will likely sell out quickly. Free Internet access is included if you book one of these rooms. Please indicate that you are a member of The Wildlife Society – Western Section.



Reserve [online](#) or by telephone: (800) 344-4321

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

SPONSORSHIPS AND EXHIBIT HALL

Support TWS-WS by becoming a sponsor or an exhibitor! This year we have several unique sponsorship opportunities for companies and groups that want to publicize their company and support wildlife biology. Career Fair space starts at \$100 and Exhibit Hall space starts at \$250. We hope you will join us at our Annual Meeting. The Premier California Condor Sponsor will get their logo along with ours on our conference merchandise, plus a double space in the best exhibit hall location and more!

[Visit our Vendor and Exhibit Hall Link for more information](#)

[Link to Sponsor / Exhibitor registration form](#)

VOLUNTEERS

Opportunities abound. Please contact Janae jscruggs@tidepool.com if you are interested in volunteering at the meeting. A limited number of volunteers are eligible for discount or free registration to the meeting. Please contact Janae ASAP if you would like more information.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

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) for additional details.

Students: Click here for the student information page!

[TWS WS Student Travel Grant Application](#)

[Sac-Shasta Chapter Travel Grant Application](#)

CARBON OFFSETS AND REDUCING OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society is proud to partner with Putah Creek Council to offset the carbon and ecological footprint of the 2013 Annual Meeting. Over the past several years, the Western Section has collected donations from conference attendees with the proceeds being used to fund local restoration projects that will offset the carbon footprint of the conference. This year, the registration fee includes a \$5 surcharge for carbon offsets and ecological karma.

Putah Creek Council believes thriving creeks build thriving communities. As the recipient of the carbon offset dollars, Putah Creek Council will help protect native wildlife, improve water quality, and ensure the next generation feels inspired to do the same through ‘Adopt-A-Flat’ program. <http://www.putahcreekcouncil.org/>

Putah Creek Council’s education program, Adopt-a-Flat, helps elementary school children learn about the benefits of healthy waterways for people and wildlife. Classes raise flats of native grasses and wildflowers in their classes, incorporating them into California science curriculum. In the spring, the classes take a field to plant their grasses and wildflowers in habitat improvement areas along the creek. Children learn lessons for a lifetime about how we are all connected through our waters, how native plants play an important role in carbon sequestration, and how protecting native biodiversity promotes a healthy environment for all.

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

Professional Development Committee

Rhys Evans



We have scheduled so many outstanding Professional Development events in association with our 2013 Annual Meeting in Sacramento that I hope some of you are mad at me (because you can't decide which to attend...).

• **ESA SECTION 7 WORKSHOP**

Monday-Wednesday, Jan 28-30

As the Federal Endangered Species Act **turns 40** in 2013, the ESA will be featured throughout our 2013 Annual Meeting, including the plenary and a technical sessions. But prior to the Annual Meeting focus on what and why, we're presenting a two-day workshop on a very important aspect of "how." Starting Monday at 1 p.m. (and concluding Wednesday about 12:15 p.m., before the annual meeting begins about 1 p.m.), we'll open a detailed examination of "Section 7: Interagency Consultation."

The objectives of this workshop are to go over the fundamental principles and practices involved in the interagency consultation process. The ESA directs all federal agencies to participate in conserving these species. Specifically, section 7 (a)(1) of the ESA charges federal agencies to utilize their resources and authorities to further the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the federal agencies, to ensure that their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. This workshop will focus on the "pieces" of the 7(a)(2) process and will end with perspectives from other state and federal agencies, as well as from the private sector, and will emphasize examples that are relevant to section 7 practitioners in the western U.S.

With primary instructors from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, and additional perspective to be added by the California Department of Fish and Game, a land management agency (BLM) and an expert biological consultant, we expect many opportunities for questions and discussion. Do you have an interest in Cumulative Effects? Do you know how to define the Action Area? What sections belong in a Biological Assessment?

The last time we did this in Sacramento, more than 600 people showed up (that was a half-day, scratch the surface kind of thing). This time, we're limiting registration to 175. That should allow some degree of sanity. One more thing: if you know *nothing* about the ESA, this workshop is not for you! We're expecting familiarity and at least SOME experience with the law... By the way, we have tentative plans to follow this up with a "Section 10" workshop in 2014!

• **WILDERNESS FIRST AID - 16 hours**

Saturday and Sunday, February 2-3, 2013

In addition to a half day of outdoor scenario practice of first aid and leadership skills, this class focuses on practicing skills and covers: patient assessment, shock and bleeding, head and spinal injuries, wounds, musculoskeletal injuries, heat and cold illnesses and much more. Gain some good tools and knowledge to handle a wilderness first aid emergency. Successful completion of class includes a Wilderness First Aid certificate.

Classes are fun with lots of hands-on practice. The emphasis is on making good decisions by staying calm and safe, doing a good patient assessment, and having good communication and leadership. Join our classes, where it is safe to learn and OK to make mistakes.

- **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WRITING WORKSHOP - FROM FIELD WORK TO FINAL DRAFT**
Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan 29-30

TWS-WS was repeatedly asked to offer a writing workshop. One of our members has prepared one; it was a great success in 2012, so we're offering it again in 2013! Learn career-assisting techniques for technical writing in an interactive workshop format immediately before the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society. Well-organized, clearly written reports will more effectively communicate your findings and enhance your organization's credibility -- and your own. You'll leave with practical techniques for organizing your field work to facilitate writing reports that are clear, concise and easy to understand. Don't miss your chance to learn how to make every technical document more effective from now on!

- **HUNTER EDUCATION FOR CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS**
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 1-3, 2013

Hunting remains a critical component of the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. In a diverse and modernizing world, many students and conservation professionals have had little opportunity participate in a hunting experience. This workshop provides an opportunity for wildlife students and professionals to explore the role of hunting in wildlife conservation today, examine the ethics of the evolving sport, and gain an introduction to modern hunting techniques with hands-on experiences in a safe learning environment. Students will learn to use firearms and archery equipment under supervision in the field using stationary and moving targets. In addition to advanced topics specific to conservation, all the fundamental components of a CA Dept. of Fish & Game Certified Hunter Education class are included in the workshop and include a final examination in which all successful students will receive a Hunter's Safety Certificate good in all 50 states. Meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast), lodging and materials are provided to registrants; hunting license purchase is separate.

- **SUTTER BUTTES FIELD TRIP**
Saturday, February 2, 2013 8 am to 4 pm

The Sutter Buttes are a small volcanic mountain range in the middle of the Sacramento Valley. The Sutter Buttes are circular in shape, have a diameter of 10 miles, and are one of the largest remaining contiguous parcels of wildlands in the Central Valley. A special charter hike guided by a wildlife biologist with 25 years of experience in the Sutter Buttes will occur on Saturday, February 2, 2013. We will be leaving Sacramento at 8:00 am and returning to Sacramento at approximately 4:00 pm. The trip involves some strenuous hiking so you should be in good physical condition and wear hiking boots. The cost of the trip is \$40. Transportation will be by carpool.

Note: We're also co-locating the 2013 annual meeting of the Western Snowy Plover Recovery Team, and though they're part of the Western Section Annual Meeting, they are not part of the pre- or post-meeting Professional Development Committee events.

Look for more information on all of these on our website! It's true that some of them are scheduled to overlap, so unfortunately you can't attend all of them, unless you have a clone....

We hope to 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 their participation. 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

- Natural Resources Communication Workshop
January 7-11, 2013 - Chico, CA
- January 8-9, 2013 Revolutionary Advances in Genetics: Implications for Amphibian Conservation. Arcata, CA
Humboldt State University
- 2013 Annual Meeting
January 30 - February 1, 2013
Sacramento, CA - DoubleTree Hotel
- Wilderness First Aid with Foster Calm
February 2-3, 2013 - Sacramento, CA
- 10th Annual Bat Ecology & Field Techniques Workshop
April 18-21, 2013 Dye Creek Preserve
- 2014 TWS-WS Annual Meeting
January 28-February 1, 2014
Grand Sierra Resort. Reno, Nevada.
- 2015 TWS-WS Annual Meeting
January 28-30, 2015
Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa
Santa Rosa, CA



Cooper's Hawk, photo by Jo Ellen Ryan. Davis, CA

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Report

Laura Patterson

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter continued its lunchtime brown bag seminars in August with Mike Cardwell, a local rattlesnake expert from Sacramento State University, presenting a talk on courtship behavior in Mojave and North Pacific rattlesnakes and the correlation between this behavior and the epidemiology of their bites. Our final seminar of the year will be in late November on DFG's long-term monitoring in montane regions of the state, collecting baseline data on occurrence, distribution, and phenology of wildlife and habitats to assess changes that may be occurring as a result of climate change.

Unfortunately there weren't enough abstract submissions this year to hold our annual Natural Resources Symposium. I'll plant the seed early...start thinking about putting together a presentation for this event next year. We typically hold it the first week in November at Sacramento State University. It's usually very well attended and provides a great opportunity to share your work with professionals and students in a very casual environment.

In terms of outreach over the past couple months, the Chapter made a financial contribution to the Women of Wildlife reception event at the National meeting in Portland, and we sponsored Nature Bowl again.

Of course I have to talk about the socials...we haven't had as many this year as in previous years, but we are planning a joint holiday mixer with AEP and APA again, this time at Gallery 21ten, on December 6th.

The Chapter's membership numbers reached nearly 200 this year. We're so thankful to everyone who renewed or became a new member this year. Please consider renewing again next year. In addition, we'd love it if you'd consider getting involved with the Board. It's that time of year again, and we're looking for people who are interested in taking on an active role on the Board. All positions are open: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chapter Rep to Western Section (that's me!), Newsletter Editor, Scholarship Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Professional Development Committee Chair, and we're still looking for someone to take over our Northern Region Coordinator role.

Check out the November edition of our newsletter, the Magpie, on our website for more specific information about what the Chapter's been up to and what we plan to do in the future. <http://joomla.wildlife.org/sacramentoshasta>.

Hopefully we'll see you at our meeting during the Western Section's Annual Meeting in Sacramento!



Photo above, by Jo Ellen Ryan. Davis, CA

San Joaquin Valley Chapter Report

Linda Connolly

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter has held another workshop this year, a repeat of our Sensitive Small Mammal Species of the San Joaquin Valley workshop. The event featured a day of classroom instruction followed by an evening of setting traps and an early morning of checking traps. Capture success was high, and most captures were giant kangaroo rats. The workshop was a great success and sold out again quickly. The photo below, taken by our President-elect Jeff Davis, features a giant kangaroo rat captured during the workshop.



We also have a new Yahoo!Group to promote communication among professionals regarding wildlife, plants, and habitats within the chapter area. Anyone interested in joining the discussions can send a blank email to sjvwildlife-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. We are always accepting applications for research grants, and we welcome ideas for ways



the chapter can help foster research, education, and conservation. For more information about the chapter, our research grants, and recent events, visit our website at http://joomla.wildlife.org/SanJoaquin//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=174&Itemid=276.

California Central Coast Chapter

Kevin Cooper

The California Central Coast Chapter hosted the “Ecology and Conservation of the San Joaquin Kit Fox” workshop in July in the Carrizo Plains of San Luis Obispo County. The workshop filled up quickly with 24 professionals, one student, and one student/presenter signing up. Brian Cypher and Christine Van Horn Job of the Endangered Species Recovery Program taught much of the lecture material and graciously spent time in the field with the participants for multiple days. Participants spotlighted as many as 30-50 San Joaquin kit foxes during the three nights, along with many other San Joaquin Valley endemic species such as, badgers, burrowing owls, short-eared owls, long-tailed weasels, pronghorn, tule elk, and more. Foxes were also seen during the daytime, along with plenty of dens, tracks, and scat. Camera stations were successful as well.



Our chapter plans on having a field trip to visit Hopper Mountain Condor Refuge and camp out nearby on the Los Padres National Forest. We plan on working with Jesse Grantham who led the Condor recovery effort with USFWS, the Forest Service, USFWS, Caltrans, and CDFG on re-establishing the condor observatory sign along the Cerro Noroeste Road by Bittercreek Wildlife Refuge. This is a great spot to view condors from and would benefit by having a viewing station and interpretive sign. Activities will include a visit to the condor release facilities, condor viewing, and camping out. Due to low turnout, we postponed this event until spring of 2013 when we expect to get higher participation. We are also planning to continue our research roundtable gathering of local wildlife managers, researchers, and students to update each other on our ongoing issues, research, and management. This will be held at Cal Poly SLO University in February.

Davis Student Chapter Report

Karin Petrites

The Davis Student Chapter has had an exciting start to the school year. After our general chapter meeting in October, we've had a busy month: on November 4th, John McNerney gave us a special tour of the Davis Wetlands, and our members enjoyed some quality time birding - instead of studying. That week, we also practiced our interview skills at an Interview Workshop, then fine-tuned our resumes at a Resume Workshop with the Internship & Career Center. (Many thanks to all the professionals who contributed advice for these workshops; your experience was very helpful!) We spent Veterans Day weekend camping and hiking in Pinnacles National Monument, where we went on a guided hike with a ranger and got to try our hands at finding California condors using radio telemetry. Members also enjoyed the opportunities the park offered to test our bird, insect, and amphibian identification skills. We're looking forward to an upcoming small mammal trapping trip at Tolay Ranch, which will serve to monitor effects of ongoing restoration by the Sonoma Land Trust, and a presentation from fellow student Jenn McKenzie about grant applications and her experience conducting her own research as an undergraduate. In addition to all that, we've happily launched a new website! Check us out at <https://sites.google.com/a/ucdavis.edu/wildlifesocietyucd>.



Left, UC Davis Student Chapter members birding with John McNerney



Right, Enjoying Pinnacles National Monument

North Coast Chapter Report

Sandra Hunt-von Arb

The California North Coast Chapter held its annual Fall BBQ Mixer on September 7 to signify the end of the field season and the welcoming back of students to HSU. This year, a record 165 students, professionals, and professors attended the event. The HSU Wildlife Department did a stellar job of communicating with the students, and it showed, as participation came from all classes, unlike previous years where mostly juniors and seniors attended.

Our Winter BBQ Annual Meeting and Mentor Program was held on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at the Korbel Schoolhouse. Mentor program begins at 5pm and is followed with the Potluck BBQ. Students are paired with a professional for a short Q&A session and then move on to another professional in a system similar to speed dating. This is our fourth year of conducting this historically well attended program. This is also the night where elections are held. We are soliciting nominations for open 2013 board positions: President Elect, Treasurer, Western Section Representative, Secretary, and Student Representative. Contact any board member for more information. We encourage folks to bring their own cups as we continue to strive for a no waste event. A prize will be awarded for the ugliest mug!



We are also pleased to announce our next workshop is on January 8-9, 2013 titled, **REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCES IN GENETICS: IMPLICATIONS FOR AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION**. It will be held in Arcata, CA at Humboldt State University (HSU) the two days prior to the California/Nevada Amphibian Populations Task Force 2013 meeting on January 10-11 which is also being held at HSU. They are two separate events sponsored by separate groups. Our Amphibian Genetics workshop is intended for professional biologists, resource managers, and students who desire a greater understanding of current genetic techniques and how they are applied for the conservation of amphibians.

Description: Rapid advances in molecular techniques are changing the field of conservation biology and how we design and implement effective monitoring programs. This two-day workshop is designed to provide: (1) a refresher on basic genetics principles, (2) an overview of the rapidly advancing molecular techniques available today and associated terminology, (3) genetic application for conservation and management of amphibians (e.g., *stream classification for timber harvest*) and (4) field experience on effective methods for capturing and collecting DNA from amphibians. Amphibians will be the focal taxon, but the principles and techniques learned are applicable to other taxa.



Additional information and registration materials can be found by following the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2o4yggf7blvuhn5/gF6eSr_dp9/AmphibGeneticsWorkshop_Fnl.pdf

Student Group at UC Davis Lends Local Wildlife a Hand by Quinn Morgan, TWS-WS Member

A recently launched student initiative is making an impact for good at UC Davis. Wild Campus, a student group founded just over a year ago, has had great success involving a large number of students, faculty, staff and the community in taking on the hard work of conserving local wildlife in Davis, California. The group is entirely student run, but experts inside and out of UC Davis have stepped forward as advisors to help students learn first hand the scientific, business, and people skills needed to function effectively within a nonprofit environment. With over 50 internship positions that recruit from all majors— ranging from Environmental Science & Management to Communications— and over 20 involved faculty and staff advisors that span departmental and organization lines ranging from the Wildlife, Fisheries, Conservation Biology Department to the School of Education to the UC Davis Arboretum, the group is effectively bringing individuals from all walks of life together in the name of conserving local wildlife.

There are three branches of the Wild Campus student group, each with a specific function to serve the overall goals. The largest branch, with nearly 150 members, is the volunteer corps, Wild Forces. Open to the public, Wild Forces organizes Done-In-A-Day wildlife habitat restoration events at key locations around campus. Wild Campus' conservation branch, the Wild Naturalists, is organized into five taxa-focused teams: the Amphibian and Reptile Team, the Bird Team, the Fish Team, the Insect Team, and the Mammal Team. Each Wild Naturalist team, with the help and advice of expert UC Davis scientists, focuses on an active conservation project—installing kestrel boxes for example—as well as conducting various forms of monitoring within adopted sites to assess the impact that the student teams are having over time. Finally, Wild Campus' educational outreach group, the Wild Ambassadors, reaches out to the community through social media campaigns, website stories, a K-6 grade school science educational efforts, a junior high school volunteer program, and hosts immensely popular public events for all ages. In Spring 2012, for example, Wild Family Day, attracted over 250 attendees—including people of many cultures and speaking many languages--- from the local community. The Wild Campus students recently adopted an area within the UC Davis Putah Creek Riparian Reserve, which they will annually steward for local wildlife through a number of programs that seek to involve students, children, as well as the general public. The students of Wild Campus are proud of the work they have been able to accomplish in such a short amount of time and are excited to begin new activities planned for the upcoming year.

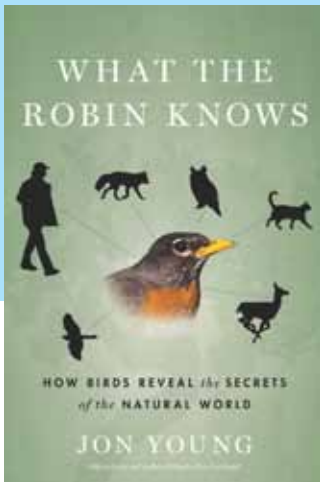
While making a local impact and improving wildlife habitat across campus, Wild Campus interns gain critical leadership and real-world work experience before hitting one of the toughest economies for fresh graduates in years. The Wild Campus student leaders hope their model can serve as encouragement to students at other universities that want to make an impact on the health of their local ecosystems. If you are interested in learning more about this new organization, you can visit the Wild Campus website at wildcampus.ucdavis.edu or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mywildcampus.

Book Review

by Matthew Bettelheim, TWS-WS Member

What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World

by Jon Young, Houghton Mifflin Company



Being the avid reader than I am, it is the rare book that captivates me enough by the last page that I relish setting it aside to be reread. Most books end up consigned to the bookshelf to become what author David Quammen describes as a “comforting sort of intellectual wallpaper.” Rarer still is the book that entices me to reread it from the first few chapters. And so it was that some eighty pages in – having already recommended this book to any colleague who would listen (and then volunteering this review) – I knew that *What the Robin Knows* was indeed such a rare book. Turning over that last page did not disappoint.

Imagine if every time you set foot outdoors, you were at once attuned to the natural world around you. Imagine if you could intuit the comings and goings of songbirds – their quirks, their chatter, their body language – like second nature. Unless you are Sacagawea or Crocodile Dundee, for most people that is the stuff of legend, tall tales emboldened and emblazoned in Hollywood’s hallowed halls. But what if deciphering bird language was neither flight of fancy nor parlor trick, but instead a primeval, visceral know-how, a skill that could be restored to second nature?

Through *What the Robin Knows*, birder, tracker, and naturalist Jon Young establishes the simple premise that there is a common language among songbirds, and if you take the time not only to hear, but to listen, birdsong can open doors to the natural world around you. To really see wildlife, Young offers – not just the urban-indentured skunks and raccoons, but the evasive deer, foxes, and mountain lions we share the woods with – you have to get the birds’ permission first.

At first blush, this may sound like all sorts of bunkum and hokum. But the deep bird language Young is selling is a visceral augury shared among scouts and trackers around the world, from the San Bushmen of South Africa to the Native Americans of North America. In today’s busy world, where this sixth-sense savvy has atrophied, modern man has instead become victim to not seeing the trees for the forest. The remedy is simple: listen to the birds.

Songbirds, Young explains, communicate their state of affairs through birdsong. Wherever songbirds are present, they are almost always “on” – constantly vocalizing as they forage, feed young, and defend territories. There are five typical vocalizations that make up the basic building blocks of what trackers call “bird language”: the four commonplace vocalizations that represent songbirds’ baseline behaviors (songs, companion calls, territorial aggression, and adolescent begging), and alarm calls.

For those that know how to listen, songbirds can be viewed as sentinels, constantly on the lookout for predators or other intruders and quick to raise the hue and cry when a threat is imminent. But it is just as important to realize that other creatures – be they fellow birds or deer, foxes, and mountain lions – also make it a habit to “eavesdrop” on birdsong, Mother Nature’s party line. Whether eavesdropping occurs intraspecies, interspecies, interorder, or interclass, other wildlife take heed when songbirds sound the alarm. To become accepted as part of the baseline and earn songbirds’ permission to eavesdrop, explains Young, we must diminish our intrusion into the songbirds’ space, a skillset teachable through patience, observation, and a “routine of invisibility.”

(Matthew Bettelheim, cont’d on page 26)

(Matthew Bettelheim, cont'd from page 25)

These skillsets are, of course, the bread and butter of What the Robin Knows. To master them, you must not only learn to assimilate yourself into the baseline through nonintrusive behaviors, but also recognize typical songbirds' unique baseline behaviors (territorial songs and companion calls) and alarm-response behaviors (the bird plow, hook, popcorn, sentinel, bullet, and hawk drop, to name a few). When you combine these superpowers – when songbirds no longer announce your arrival as a threat, when your zone of awareness exceeds your zone of disturbance, and when you can recognize the nuances of bird behaviors – only then will you be able to intuit that a junco's evasive "bullet" flight betrays a Cooper's hawk on the wing, or that the "popcorn" flight of winter wrens exposes a coyote moving through the underbrush.

To better understand the principles of bird language, let's consider two examples. The first comes from the genius mind of The Far Side cartoonist Gary Larson, who cut to the bone of deep bird language in a 1993 cartoon parodying nature documentaries. In the single frame, a raccoon ambles through the woods without a care in the world, lulled into complacency by the soothing musical accompaniment of an attending flutist and clarinetist. The caption reads:

"On this particular day, Rory the raccoon was hunting frogs at his favorite stream, and the pleasant background music told him that Mr. Mountain Lion was nowhere around."

Replace the duet with songbirds, and you've got a textbook example of eavesdropping. The music (birdsong) tells Rory (other wildlife) everything is hunky-dory. When the music stops unexpectedly (threat), it is time for Rory to get out of Dodge.

The second example comes from colleague and weekend outdoorsman Mark Wilson. This September, Mark was hunting black-tail deer in Siskiyou County east of Fort Jones. On that particular Friday, Mark shot, field dressed, and deboned a buck, leaving behind the carcass, bones, and gut pile for scavengers. He also left behind a game camera. When he returned to check the kill site Saturday morning, the carcass was gone. A quick review of the game camera revealed images of a grey fox and the true culprit, a 300 lb black bear.

Without blood or snow to track the bear's retreat, Mark figured it had dragged the carcass across or downslope (the paths of least resistance), so Mark headed downhill, east, in search of the buck. It was only after walking several hundred yards that he first registered the cacophony of ravens and crows in flight above tree line heading north, canvassing the woods with intent. Instinctually, Mark gave chase. As he gained ground with the boil of birds, the corvids changed course, this time to the west in response to a lone raven's call. And there in a clearing, where the birds were converging in the woods to dine, lay the deer's remains.

In following the flight of birds to the carcass, Mark was in effect "wake hunting," a strategy regularly used by Cooper's hawks and jays to conserve energy by eavesdropping, letting others do the hard work. He had effectively tapped into the forest's baseline and was listening to the birds.

Whether you are a naturalist, a birder, a hunter, or a photographer, the benefits of learning the language of the birds are indisputable: acceptance as a cohort of the woods, a small footprint and all-seeing eyes, and at long last hearing what a little bird told you. I find the idea intoxicating. But it's up to you to learn what the robin knows...

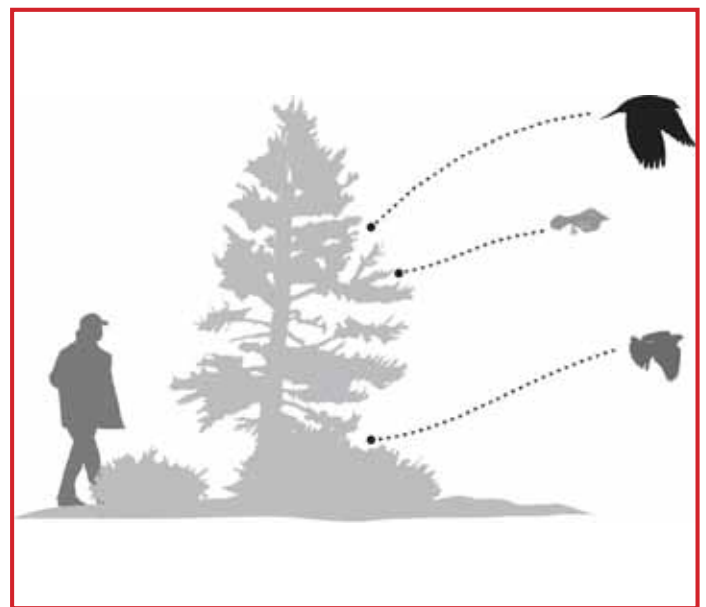


Image above,
Courtesy of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt



These pictures were taken in fall, 2011, on the Beckwourth Road in Plumas National Forest. The District wildlife biologists, Russell Nickerson and Debbie Bliss, put the remote camera at the site to see what kind of use occurs on the east side of the District.



Above Photos by Jo Ellen Ryan. Davis, CA

President-elect Candidate Statements

Natasha Dvorak

Greetings wildlifers! I'm Natasha Dvorak and I'm running for President-elect of the TWS Western Section.

I am the current president of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter and I have been a member of the TWS Western Section for the past 6 years. I served as Chapter Representative to the Western Section from 2007 through 2011, during which time I was exposed to Western Section goals and Executive Board functions while also participating in subcommittees for annual Western Section conferences and the 16th National Conference in Monterey, California. For my Chapter, I have enjoyed organizing professional development opportunities and social events. To serve my Chapter as Representative and President has been an honor, and has brought enhanced satisfaction to my career as a wildlife biologist.

I came to this career relatively late, but it was a welcome homecoming. Born in Wyoming, I lived in New Mexico, Idaho, and Colorado before moving to California. Childhood summers were spent in rural Texas and Oklahoma, where my paternal grandmother fought to establish the Big Thicket National Preserve, and my maternal grandparents-avid birders and campers- enjoyed their golden years along the Red River. A hunter and private pilot, my dad flew us in to Idaho Primitive Areas where we spent happy days camping along the Middle Fork Salmon River. But when we moved to southern California, my family became increasingly urbanized and nature was a place we visited occasionally.

This theme continued well into my adult life, where my first careers were as a family law paralegal and later a program specialist for an economic development/social services agency. Finally, I finished my undergraduate degrees in Biology and Economic Development at Pitzer College. I worked for ESRI where I learned valuable GIS skills, then completed the transition into my wildlife career in 2006 when I joined the consulting firm Environmental Science Associates. I perform general and focused wildlife surveys, conduct wetland delineations and habitat assessments, write survey reports and CEQA/NEPA documents, monitor construction activities, provide wildlife management recommendations, and prepare regulatory permit applications.

There is no aspect of our profession that doesn't interest me, but perhaps the most urgent issues that we face collectively are the ability of wildlife to adapt to climate change within a network of dwindling and fragmented habitats, the heightened threat to conservation from our society's increasing disconnection from nature, and the lack of diversity in our profession relative to rapidly changing broader demographics. I am also interested in the use of technology such as remote sensing, GIS, and community mapping to identify concrete connections between local actions and broad-scale initiatives.

I enjoy my affiliation with The Wildlife Society, and have found no shortage of outstanding professionals willing to provide expertise, feedback, advice, and encouragement as I have navigated these early years of my career. Now, as your candidate for President-elect, I look forward to the opportunity to serve you, the Western Section membership. Thank you for your consideration, and regardless of whom you favor in this election, please support our great professional society by taking the time the vote!



President-elect Candidate Statements

Canh Nguyen

Hello members of The Wildlife Society!

My name is Canh Nguyen and I'm running for President-elect of the TWS-Western Section. Canh is pronounced like the word "congratulation", but without the "gratulation" part.

I am currently the president my local chapter, The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter. Before then, I was the membership coordinator. I am fairly new to The Wildlife Society, but feel that the President-elect position is a great fit for my enthusiasm and drive to promote the Society's vision. As president of our local chapter for two terms, I have helped direct our accomplishments in the form of two consecutive Chapter of the Year awards. This includes numerous professional mixers, workshops, scholarships, donations, brown bag events, and much more.

My background is in wildlife biology with a Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology; emphasis in conservation from the University of California, Davis. I was a member of the Davis student chapter of TWS while I was attending as an undergraduate. Currently, I work for the California Department of Fish and Game as a Senior Environmental Scientist for the North Central Region. As a Senior, I supervise the Resource Assessment Program and unit biologists. To clarify, I oversee the research component and data needs for the region; as well as provide support for unit biologist dealing with numerous wildlife situations.

To why I am running for the position as President-elect for TWS Western Section: 1) I am not shy when it comes to promoting The Wildlife Society and all the great opportunities it provides; 2) I believe in properly managing the natural resources for its intrinsic value for all to enjoy; 3) I enjoy helping people understand that belief; and 4) selfishly, I love to party it up with biologists!

Thank you for taking the time for reading my statement! Please vote and stay involved with The Wildlife Society.

Always,

Canh Nguyen ...but sometimes "Wendy"



CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS!

The Western Section recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to make contributions toward the Western Section's goals. If you know of a deserving nominee for any of the awards described below please contact the Award and Grants Committee Chair rburg@dfg.ca.gov about the required supporting material.

- **Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year**

The "Dasmann Award" is presented by the Western Section to Professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources management and understanding in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam.

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any member(s) of The Wildlife Society-Western Section, who develops, applies, administers or completes an especially significant program of management, education, research or communications that results in an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources in the Western Section geographic area.

- **The Conservationist of the Year Award**

The Conservationist of the Year Award is presented by the Western Section to a person or group, engaged in wildlife conservation either as a profession or as an avocation, who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam.

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any individual or group who has demonstrated an active concern for wildlife conservation by accomplishing projects or programs that have significantly enhanced wildlife resource conservation within the Western Section geographical area.

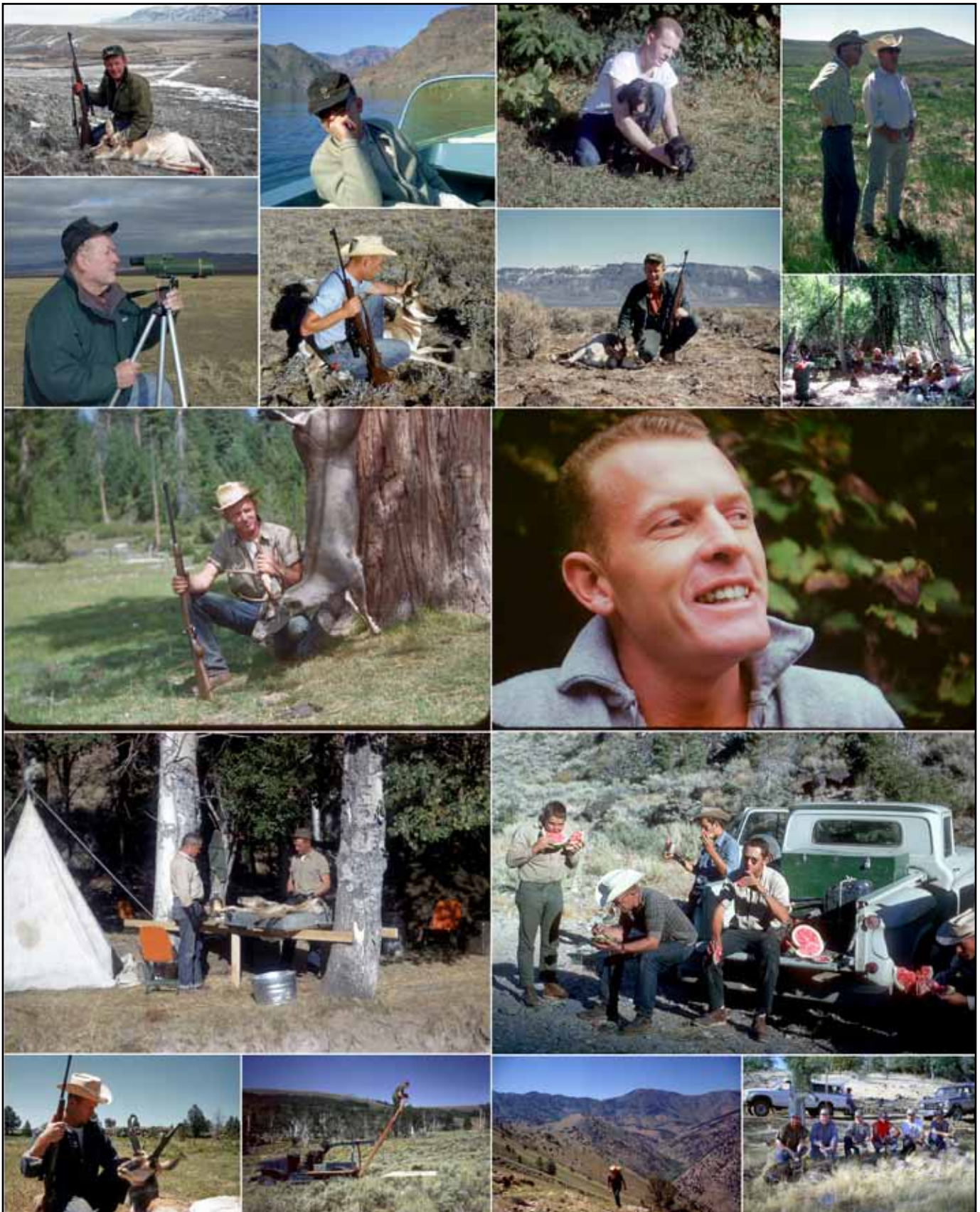
- **Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award**

The "Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award" is bestowed to a professional within California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam who has contributed to our profession by assisting the continued development of students and/or young professionals.

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any member(s) of the Wildlife Society-Western Section, who is responsible for mentoring young professionals over their career in the Western Section geographic area.

"Wildlife has been my entire life. All my life."

Jim Yoakum June 14, 1926 - November 21, 2012





TWS-WS is collecting memories and stories of Jim to post online and share with our friends and colleagues.

Please submit your story or memory by clicking [HERE](#).

JAMES “Jim” DONOVAN YOAKUM

June 14, 1926 - November 21, 2012

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society lost a dedicated member on November 21st, 2012 with the passing of Jim D. Yoakum. Jim was a valued guardian, advocate and friend of pronghorn antelope, and he devoted his professional life, including 25 years of his retirement, to researching, writing, speaking, and occasionally hunting the spritely pronghorn.

Born in Templeton, California, Yoakum served the Navy from June 1944 to June 17, 1947. Using the GI Bill, he was the first in his family to attend college, graduating with a degree in wildlife management from Humboldt State in 1953. Jim proceeded to Oregon State University on a fellowship; not surprisingly, his thesis paper under Dr. Art Einarson was on Oregon's pronghorn antelope population. Jim graduated in 1957.

That same year Jim was hired as the BLM's first wildlife biologist, stationed in Ely, Nevada, where he wrote a newspaper column on wildlife. His writing and photographs attracted the attention of Nevada BLM Director J. Russell Penny, who wanted Jim to highlight BLM's role as maintaining important wildlife habitat. Eventually Yoakum published the first brochure featuring wildlife on public lands, encouraging them to use color photographs, despite the federal agency's sense of thrift.

As BLM's wildlife representative, Jim had a number of demands on his time. Among them, rebuilding bighorn sheep populations on BLM lands. When the Devil's Hole pupfish was threatened with extinction from groundwater pumping, Jim attended the fledgling Desert Fishes Council meetings. Yoakum ran the wrath of Nevada BLM Director Nolan Keil (1966-1972) when he transferred funds from Elko to Las Vegas and built a wild horse exclusion fence to protect pupfish, but Udall praised Yoakum's valiant effort.

During those formative years with BLM, Yoakum initiated contact with Foresta Institute for Ocean and Mountain Studies, located in Washoe Valley, and contributed to the Endangered Species Committee, attempting a “Redbook” for Nevada, similar to the IUCN Redbook. In 1967, utilizing the Foresta library and other sources, Yoakum published the first bibliography on pronghorn antelope. Soon after, Foresta's Director, Dr. Richard G. Miller, recruited Jim to study the Vicuna in Peru, then imperiled by hunting to obtain its fine fur, which Secretary of Interior Udall supported.

(Yoakum, cont'd on page 33)

(Yoakum, cont'd from page 32)

Unusual for most BLM employees who relocate every few years, Yoakum spent his entire career as a wildlife biologist in Nevada first assigned to work on Nevada issues, and then out-stationed on special projects from the national office.

He purchased land in Verdi on the California-Nevada border in 1967, and this became his home -- shared by his dogs, his garden, his various collections of pronghorn art, Navy plates, and where he hosted numerous friends. Jim also raised pronghorn to study their eating habits, and owned two bobcats, one of which was featured in Walt Disney's "The Living Desert".

After retiring from BLM in 1986, Yoakum continued working with pronghorn as a consultant and researcher, and also taught classes at the University of Nevada, Reno. He continued to publish papers and give presentations, numbering over 50,000 photographs and 50 published reports. His magnum opus, a compilation of 30 years of research was published in 2004, with author Bart W. O'Gara, who predeceased the release, is titled PRONGHORN, Ecology and Management. The 6.13 pound and 903 page book reflects the dedicated work and respect for pronghorn by many researchers. Yoakum focused on pronghorn habitat needs and food habits, a focus in line with his love of the outdoors. Yoakum and O'Gara were the winners of The Wildlife Society's Outstanding Editorship Award for 2005.

He was a strong and dedicated supporter of the Biennial Pronghorn Workshop, this year celebrating its 25th meeting. In 2002 he received its Berrendo Award, given to an individual or group who have made great contributions to management or research for pronghorn, and the group has offered an award in his name.

Yoakum was an advocate for all wildlife professionals, and was active in The Wildlife Society, especially TWS Western Section. Working with other wildlife professionals in Nevada, The Wildlife Society published a tape called "Silver Mammals" which was distributed to Nevada schools and libraries, and led production of "Golden Wildlife," a series of photographs with accompanying natural history summaries about California wildlife. Yoakum served on most positions of the Executive Board, including the post of President from 1970-71. The Section awards a James D. Yoakum Award, which recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding, long-term service, support, and commitment to the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, and must have dedicated a substantial amount of time, energy, and personal sacrifice to furthering the Section's goals and facilitating its programs and operations. The Award recognizes service to the organization rather than contributions to wildlife management and conservation.

Jim is quoted as saying, "Wildlife has been my entire life. All my life." His friends who shared his love of wildlife and the outdoors, enjoyed his social, hospitable, well-read, sometimes dogmatic, conversation might protest just a little, pointing out that he was a good friend and colleague as well.

- Tina Nappe/Cynthia Perrine/Peter Bradley

2013 Election Info

Please Vote!



**Voting will close on
January 28, 2013.**

The Western Section
is offering and
encouraging
electronic voting!

Members can read
the candidate
statements, and then
cast an on-line vote!

Click here for:

[Candidate Statements](#)

[Online Ballot](#)



The Wildlife Society Western Section

P.O. Box 6756
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<http://twswest.org> (new!)

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