



The Wildlife Society

Western Section

President's Message

Douglas A. Bell, Ph.D.

With the passing of the summer solstice we transition from the busy spring field season to the busy summer field season, which in California, at least, keeps many of us putting in long hours in all kinds of habitats. This is not a complaint - many of us are indeed very fortunate to have a position that allows us to work outside with wildlife. To paraphrase that famous bumper sticker: "The worst day in the field still beats the best day in the cubicle".

It seems like the breeding season is getting more protracted every year or perhaps just my perception of it is changing. Regardless, I had the opportunity to band prairie falcons again this season (Picture 1, page 2), both on and off the job. Qualitatively, prairie falcon productivity seemed to be up in the north and down in the south of the State. Courtesy of Bob Stafford of the California Dept. Fish & Wildlife, the Chimineas Ranch Board of Directors,



and Kathy Sharum and the Bureau of Land Management, we were able to look for falcon nests in and around the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Sara Snyder took time out of her very busy schedule to assist in this effort. Although we did not find any active falcon nests, this field trip allowed one to see how the landscape in the Carrizo is changing as industrial-scale solar projects move in. Once again, the contrasts between costs and benefits of all forms of energy production weigh on the mind. Clearly, we need lots of energy and we need to combat climate change, sooner rather than later. Closer to home, I continued research supported in part by the East Bay Regional Park District to improve

golden eagle risk mapping for repowering wind turbines in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area. To this end, with the assistance of Dan Driscoll of the American Eagle Research Institute, we outfitted a nestling golden eagle with a GPS-GSM (Global Positioning System-Global System Mobile Communications) satellite transmitter (Picture 2). This bird will hopefully allow us to track her as she fledges in the

(Bell, cont'd on page 2)

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(Bell, cont'd from page 1)

immediate vicinity of the Altamont. I say hopefully because I could paraphrase yet another bumper sticker, "technology happens", or rather, it sometimes "doesn't happen", but that is another story.

Speaking of technology, the Western Section and your local chapters of the Wildlife Society continue to offer many workshops and programs designed to improve our skills. According to Wikipedia, the root of the word technology is "techne", from the Greek, which means "art, skill, cunning of hand". In addition to learning about technology and techniques, it takes skill and a dose of art to apply them. I believe our workshops are the perfect venue for this dual role and everyone stands to benefit from a workshop, whether beginner or expert, student or teacher. For example, one course just wrapping up (August 5-16) on "Vertebrate Zoology: Techniques for Wildlife Studies" was offered to college students through the Western Section and California

Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. This course provided hands-on experience and instruction for students in many wildlife techniques plus offered substantial opportunities for mentors and professionals to interact with course participants. This is just one example of the efforts of the Western Section's Professional Development Committee. If you are interested in course and workshop offerings, please check with your local chapter or our [website](#) for listings and updates.

We are extremely fortunate to have an active and engaged Board. They make my job doable, and I thank them for it. Our President-Elect, Natasha Dvorak and team have been diligently preparing for our upcoming annual meeting, to be held Jan. 27-31, 2014 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. A Call for Papers is going out soon, so be sure to keep this on your radar screen. Please join me in welcoming our newest Board member, Erin Aquino-Carhart, who is

Chair of our Conservation Committee. Please feel free to contact her (see the end of our Newsletter for all Board member contacts) if you have a conservation issue you think the Western Section should address or even just to just to say "Hi". I would also like to remind the student chapters to update the Western Section as soon possible with your Board changes that occur with the new academic year. In this vein, I congratulate Allyson Gaarder on becoming President of the student chapter at UC Santa Barbara for the 2013-14 academic year. I mention Allyson because she is the first new officer in a student chapter that I have heard about! As with all things Western Section, please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or ideas at any time. I would love to hear from you. Thanks!



*Picture 1. Prairie falcon nestling prior to banding.
Photo: Paul Miller, EBRPD.*



*Picture 2. Golden eagle nestling with GPS transmitter.
Photo: Doug Bell, EBRPD.*

President-Elect Message

Natasha Dvorak

Last year's conference celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. This month I got to watch it in action, unfolding in a live time line of events here in Sonoma County where I reside. My role in this particular saga has been to interpret and apply the provisions of the various project permits for the protection of wetlands, rare plant potential, and California red-legged frogs. These actions also protect our clients by maintaining their compliance with state and federal laws protecting biological resources. There is inevitable grey area resulting from permit language brevity, construction conditions, species movement patterns that change by season, the larger context missing from permits when applications are unavailable for review, and so on. In this case, ancillary activities in a long-cultivated agricultural field were not squarely described in project permits. I pressed for full-time monitoring of trenching activities in the ag fields because it was the letter of the law in the federal permit to monitor activities outside of the fenced work area and because a riparian corridor and palustrine seasonal wetlands were proximate. Our client accepted the recommendation.

Imagine the surprise when our experienced construction monitor called to report an endangered species in a pipeline trench. "It's a California tiger salamander," he said. Not a red-legged frog? I thought to myself incredulously.



President-Elect, Natasha Dvorak, holding the California Tiger Salamander found at a Sonoma County Construction site.



"Are you sure?" I asked. "This project is beyond its known range. Could it be an arboreal salamander?" It was, in fact, more than four miles farther than the nearest known outlier for CTS of the Sonoma County population. Nope. This senior construction monitor knew his stuff.

Everything worked according to script. The heavy equipment operator noticed a critter drop from the excavator bucket into the trench and called the attention of the monitor. The experienced monitor identified it immediately as a California tiger salamander and stopped construction. The construction team obliged without argument. The monitor called it in to me and I headed out to the site while our senior biologist, awaiting pictures from the monitor and a second opinion from me, tentatively notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Identification was confirmed and relocation approval was granted. Identifying a suitable relocation spot was tricky—underscoring the importance of preparing in advance capture and relocation plans for species covered under project permits. An amended biological assessment was prepared and submitted to the Service for review and expedited approval. As I write this, several weeks later, the project remains shut down but permits are anticipated soon.

It's an interesting multi-faceted story involving biology, land ownership, regulation and policy, construction and monitoring, business and contracts. As a biologist, it's exciting to know that this little guy (or gal) popped up in an unexpected location—underscoring (perhaps a little too boldly for this example!) the importance of carefully interpreting the data in the California Natural Diversity Database. Whether it has persisted on the margins of a cultivated ag field or is traveling to or from an area breeding pond is fun to ponder. That it has, its presence will surely challenge the accepted notions of salamander distribution in Sonoma

(Dvorak, cont'd on page 4)



Past-President

Linda Leeman

Are you looking for ways to connect with other wildlife professionals? Do you have great ideas and enthusiasm that you are willing to share? Are you interested in getting more involved in the Western Section? Now is your chance! We are currently accepting nominations for the 2014 Western Section President-Elect. If you know someone who would make a great leader of the Western Section (including yourself), please send contact information to the Elections Committee Chair, Linda Leeman lwleeman@gmail.com.

Serving in a leadership capacity for Western Section for the past two and a half years has been a deeply rewarding professional and personal experience for me. Now it is time for another wildlifer to step up. The position requires some time and energy, but there is lots of support and fun along the way. I have enjoyed working with the executive board and other volunteers, who contribute in so many ways to our profession.

When elected, the President-Elect serves one year before ascending to President for one year, and then Past-President for one last year. Major responsibilities are: as President-Elect to serve as Committee Chair for the Annual Meeting, as President to serve as the head of the Section and preside over all Section business, and as Past President to serve as an advisor to the President and President-Elect and provide continuity to Section operations. The three-year commitment goes by pretty fast and can be one of the most rewarding professional experiences one could have. Please consider making a nomination of an admired colleague or yourself. If you have questions, please feel free to email or call me.

A full description of the responsibilities can be found in our Operations Manual and can be viewed at: <http://twswest.org/policies.php>.

(Dvorak, cont'd from page 3)

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 information to the Elections Committee Chair, Linda Leeman lwleeman@gmail.com.

County. Sonoma County, with its rich agricultural traditions, has much land under private ranching and farming ownership, which contributes to "missing puzzle pieces" of species information and leaves me wondering how many local ranchers and farmers know they have endangered species and have contemplated or participated in Safe Harbor Agreements. Who will absorb the cost of the project's multi-week shutdown, to the tune of at least \$25k per day in equipment costs alone? Were the dozens of workers absorbed on other jobs, temporarily, or is their seasonal income taking an unexpected hit? Next time, will the heavy equipment operator call attention to the little critter he sees drop from the lift bucket? I hope "the system" is set up to reward positive compliance and that the answer would be an unequivocal "yes".

Treasurer's Report

John McNerney



The Western Section remains financially strong. As of July 1, 2013, the Section's total monetary assets were \$247,435. This includes moneys held in two Charles Schwab investment accounts (Donaldson Trust and WS general investment), in addition to the Section checking and savings accounts.

The two investment accounts continue to generate very little interest, mainly due to the continuing lethargy of the economy. However, the market is slowly picking up steam and we are anticipating better returns in the near future. The Board has approved the investment of an additional \$20K in the general investment account. Interest generated by these investments will be used to support the Section's student and professional development programs and initiatives.

Section Representative Report

Don Yasuda

My term as Section Representative expires at the Milwaukee Annual Conference and while it's always a bit sad to leave something you've done for 6 years, it is also exciting to hand over the position to someone new who can offer a fresh perspective and fresh energy to help Council manage our Society. We had two very qualified candidates and I'm pleased to announce that Cynthia Perrine has been elected to serve as your next Section Representative. Please also help me extend a hearty Thank You to Jeff Lincer for running for this position. It is not a simple request to ask for a three year commitment but both Jeff and Cynthia showed their commitment to you by accepting the nomination. Cynthia will begin her term at the second half of the Milwaukee Conference.

Speaking of Milwaukee, registration is open now and you can save money by registering early, before September 6. Registration information for the October 5-9 Conference is on the main TWS web page. It looks to be another information filled Conference. If you are facing challenges getting approval to attend the Conference by your employer, please let me know. We have already heard that the Department of Interior has issued a memo restricting attendance. As I hear of these barriers, I'll alert TWS Executive Director Ken Williams and TWS Director of Membership Marketing and Conferences Darryl Walter along with TWS Council. Council is concerned that members have opportunities for professional development and collaboration with their peers that furthers science-based management of wildlife resources.



Donate to the Western Section Endowment Fund!

The Endowment Fund was established 2007 with a \$38,000 bequest from the estate of Section member Douglas Donaldson. The current balance of this fund is \$40,500. The goal of the fund is to accumulate a core of principal that will not be depleted. Interest generated from the fund is used to support the Section's education, outreach, and scholarship programs. The fund is administered by three Trustees, including the Section Treasurer and two other Section members appointed by the President. Currently, Treasurer John McNerney, former Treasurer Gary Falxa, and Past-President Marshall White are the Trustees. The Endowment Fund principal receives input from all bequests, life membership dues, and donations specifically made for the fund.

Please consider adding to the Endowment Fund by making a donation or becoming a Lifetime Member of the Section. Donations to the fund are tax-deductible. A lifetime membership is only \$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!!

Professional Development Committee

Rhys Evans

Since our January-February meeting in Sacramento, the Professional Development Committee has once again presented several workshops, including Bat Ecology, Acoustic Monitoring for Bats, and Remote Cameras (cosponsored with the SF Bay Chapter). Thanks for the 738th time to Dr. Joe Szewczak and Dr. Dave Johnston for "Bats;" and to Dr. John Perrine and (soon to be Dr.) Katie Moriarty for Cameras. Cynthia Perrine also deserves a ton of appreciation for all of these!



Right around publication time for this newsletter we are cooperating with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on Field Techniques in Wildlife Studies.

A Burrowing Owl Workshop is coming up Aug 26-27 in Elk Grove (south of Sacramento); this is being organized entirely by the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter. For more info, contact Angela Calderaro at: sac-shasta "at" gmail "dot" com.

There are of course many interesting and worthwhile events associated with the TWS Annual meeting in Milwaukee (Oct 5-9). Check the national TWS website, of course...

Next is...January, 2014! (Watch our website for anything else that might pop-up before that).

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society and the Department of Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management at California State University-Chico, will be held from January 6-10, 2014 in Chico, CA.

Late January (and into early February), in association with the 2014 annual meeting (at which we will celebrate the Western Section's 60th anniversary!), we're planning full-day (Tuesday, Jan. 28) Symposium "Greater Sage-grouse: Policy, Biology, and Threats to Persistence." Wilderness First Aid will be repeated, and in 2014, we're again offering it immediately AFTER the annual meeting (i.e. Saturday and Sunday). Finally, there are several other events which aren't quite ready for publication. Many more details will be provided in the coming months – 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!

Questions on any of this stuff? Contact your Professional Development Committee. Ideas for other events? Ditto.

Conservation Affairs Committee

Erin Aquino-Carhart

Please join us in welcoming the new Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee, Erin Aquino-Carhart. Erin was appointed to this position in July by the TWS-WS Executive Board.



In the few weeks since Erin has taken on this position, she has both finalized introduction letters to decision makers which were reviewed by President Doug Bell and will be distributed to three government organizations and she has contacted Patrick Parenteau to express interest in the House Committee hearings re: ESA efficacy and possible reform with the assistance of Laura Bies, Director of TWS Government Affairs. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Erin by email at erinaquino@gmail.com.

Awards and Grants Committee

Richard Burg



TWS-WS Sponsors New Quiz Bowl Buzzer with a \$750 Gift

The Western Section-Wildlife Society approved a grant in the amount of \$750 to purchase a new buzzer system for the Quiz Bowl. The old system developed a significant electrical issue during last year's TWS Portland Conference. The grant, in addition to \$500 provided by TWS, will allow the Quiz Bowl committee to purchase a new system including wireless hook-ups, carrying case, stopwatches, and timers.

TWS-WS Awards Humboldt State University Graduate Student with \$1,000 Grant

In May 2013, the TWS-WS awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,000 to Jennifer Brown, a Humboldt State University graduate student seeking to assess *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) prevalence and infection intensity on Jamaica's frogs in relation to canopy cover on small scale landscapes in coffee farms. According to Ms. Brown, researchers have previously studied this interaction on both small and large scale tropical landscapes. Her research will focus on 18 small, Jamaican coffee farms, with varying canopy cover types with the goal of finding an optimal vegetation structure type that promotes a balance between frog richness and sublethal Bd infections thus allowing local land owners to adjust their agriculture practices permitting both optimal coffee yield and frog biodiversity.

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 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://www.tws-west.org/grants.php>

AWARD 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 below awards please contact the Award and Grants Committee Chair richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov by 12/1/2013.

- 1) **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.
- 2) **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.
- 3) **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.

Help Needed on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee!

Please contact President-Elect and Program Chair Natasha Dvorak, ndvorak@esassoc.com if you want to join the planning committee for the 2014 Annual Meeting in Reno.

We are currently looking for session chairs, and also considering topics for the breakfast roundtable discussions.



Prairie Falcon nestlings; approx. 29 days old, Diablo Range, CA, 21 May, 2013.

Photo by Doug Bell.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting
January 27 to January 31, 2014
Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada



Please note: The Conference format is changing slightly for 2014 in response to comments and suggestions provided by members. Tentative schedule below.

Monday, January 27

8:30 to 5:00 p.m.: CA/NV Golden Eagle Working Group (tentative) *

Tuesday, January 28

8:30 to 5:00 p.m.: CA/NV Golden Eagle Working Group Continues *
 8:30 to 5:00 p.m.: Sage Grouse Symposium *
 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Western Section Executive Board Meeting (all members welcome)
5:00 p.m.: **Official Conference Opening** Registration and Exhibit Hall Open
 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.: Welcome Reception, Photo Contest, Taco Buffet and No-Host Bar *

Wednesday, January 29

7:30 to 9:30 a.m.: Breakfast Roundtables *
 10:00 to noon: Keynote Address & Dialogue: Ken Mayer
 Noon to 1:00 p.m.: Leader's Lunch *
 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.: Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum
 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.: Poster Reception *
 -with Hors d'oeuvres and Grand Sierra Hosted Cocktail Bar
 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.: Chapter Meetings

Thursday, January 30

8:00 to noon: Plenary Session
 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Resume Workshop for Undergrads
 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.: HSU Reunion
 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.: No-Host Cocktail Reception
 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.: Annual Awards Banquet, Raffle, & 60th Anniversary Celebration *

Friday, January 31

8:00 to noon: Concurrent Sessions
 8:30 to 10:30: Resume Workshop for MS/Ph D
 10:30 to noon: Job Seeker's Panel
 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.: Career Fair
 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.: Student-Professional Lunch
 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.: Advocacy Workshop (tentative)
 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.: Conservation Affairs Committee Meeting
 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.: Resume Critiques
 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.: Top 10 Wildlife Apps (tentative)
 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.: Conference Planning Committee Wrap-Up Meeting
 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.: Student Activities - Green Fire Program, Sagehen Station, Truckee, CA *

Saturday and Sunday February 1-2, 2014

8:30 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday: Necropsy Workshop (tentative) *
 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. each day: Wilderness First Aid * (Sagehen Station, Truckee, Ca.)
 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. each day: Cybertracker Evaluation*

* Requires separate registration fee

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

Plenary Session Theme

Harnessing Citizen Science Toward Greater Conservation

What do the Section's 3,000+ wildlife species and 1,000 wildlife professionals have in common with the year 2014? Roughly 42 million people. Combine that with urban sprawl, 472,000 lane-miles of roadways, a ~0.75 percent population growth rate, climate change, and sea level rise, and our wildlife conservation goals seems more tenuous than ever. With only 1 wildlife professional for every 15,000 people or so, it seems a winning strategy to not only enhance relationships with like-minded citizens but engage them in data collection and applied research as we face serious issues relating to population growth, urban expansion, climate change, and other wildlife challenges. Points to be considered include increasing public participation in scientific research, creating effective study designs, establishing trust and data reliability, and using technology tools. The plenary session will present the views and experiences of representatives from academia, 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:

- Web and GIS Technologies for Wildlife Science and Conservation
- Wildlife Technologies (non-GIS)
- Anticipating and Responding to Urban Growth and Climate Change
- Wildlife Diseases and Pathology
- Island Biogeography and Mainland Applications
- Energy Expansion and Conservation in Nevada and California Deserts
- Understanding and Managing Road Impacts

The following will be expanded into multiple sessions based on papers received:

- Ecology and Conservation of Birds
- Ecology and Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles "Year of the Snake"
- Ecology and Conservation of Mammals

Note: Session titles may be added or changed at a later date based on papers received.

Check http://www.tws-west.org/ac2014_conf.php for an updated list of technical sessions and schedule.

Poster Session:

A poster session will be held on the evening of Wednesday, January 29, 2014. At this time, authors will be available to answer questions about their posters. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and the Grand Sierra will be serving complementary beer, wine, cocktails and soft drinks. Posters will also be available for viewing at other times 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.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

Call for Papers and Posters:

All papers associated with the general meeting will be presented Wednesday through Friday, January 29 to January 31. 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 18, 2013. 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 in the example below. 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://twswest.org/index.php>. Oral and Poster Presenters are expected to pay the conference registration fee and cover their own travel and lodging expenses.

OTHER INFORMATION:

PRE- AND POST CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOPS: The Professional Development Committee is developing pre-conference symposia including a Sage Grouse Symposium, a Necropsy Workshop, and a Wildlife Tracking and Observer Reliability course. 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.

PHOTO SHOW: A slideshow will be displayed at the Welcome Reception at our upcoming annual conference. The content is up to you! Send in your photos of wildlife, coworkers, TWS workshops, study animals, unexpected situations, beautiful locations, etc. Help us celebrate wildlife and the wildlife profession! Please send photos in jpg format to evelarrucea@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS: Opportunities abound. We are looking for Session Chairs and Planning Committee Members as well as helpers to work onsite during meeting in January. Please contact candace.renger@gmail.com if you are interested.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

AWARD 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 below awards please contact the Award and Grants Committee Chair richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov by 12/1/2013. See page 8 for a list and description of the awards.

STUDENTS: As usual, we will have lots to offer! Resume workshops, career fair, networking with professionals and travel scholarships. Check our website [HERE](#) for more information or contact the Awards and Grants Committee Chair (richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov) additional details.

GRANTS: In pursuit of the objective to encourage high standards of professional achievement, the Western Section has established an honoraria fund to assist our members' participation in professional meetings, conferences, symposia and other continuing education activities. <http://twswest.org/grants.php>

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 but pre- and post Conference Symposia and Workshops might). Additional information will be provided in the final conference program.

PLANNING COMMITTEE OPENINGS: Please contact President-Elect and Program Chair Natasha Dvorak, ndvorak@esassoc.com if you want to join the planning committee for the 2014 Annual Meeting in Reno. We are currently looking for session chairs, and also considering topics for the breakfast roundtable discussions.

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, 2013 at candace.renger@gmail.com

TRANSPORTATION TO RENO: Did you know that you can take Amtrak directly from the SF Bay area to Reno and arrive in time for the 2014 Welcome Reception on Tuesday night? For \$~150 round-trip, you can depart from Emeryville at 9 am and arrive at 4 pm in Reno. The return from Reno to Emeryville leaves at 8:30 am and returns at 4:10 pm. Getting on that same route in Sacramento is \$130, departing at 11 am and returns daily from Reno at 2 pm. Another option is Megabus (megabus.com) which from San Francisco to Reno costs \$14 each way - at least 2 trips daily. From Sacramento, that price drops to \$1-\$14. Let the pros do the driving so you can finish reading that new issue of *The Wildlife Professional* on the way to the conference!

MEETING REGISTRATION: On-line registration for the Western Section Annual Conference is expected to open approximately November 1, 2013. Visit <http://twswest.org> to register.

VENUE INFORMATION AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: The 2014 Annual Conference will be held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. The Grand Sierra is conveniently located 1.5 miles from the Reno International Airport. Grand Sierra Resort provides complimentary shuttle transportation every ½ hour to/from the Reno Airport. Grand Sierra will also provide transport to/from Amtrak – advance shuttle reservations required.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 -- CONTINUED!

Please stay at the Grand Sierra Resort and use our room block so we can meet our contractual obligations with the hotel.

Grand Sierra Resort
2500 E. 2nd Street. Reno, NV 89595
Phone: 775-789-2129 / 800-648-5080



[Link to Online Hotel Reservations at the TWS-WS Discounted Group Rate](#)

Reserve your sleeping room online through the Passkey link above and receive a \$10 Grand Sierra food credit coupon.

Special per-night room rates for conference attendees who book by Tuesday, January 14, 2014.
Please indicate that you are a member of the Wildlife Society – Western Section.

Room	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Grand Sierra Rooms:	\$70	\$70	\$90	\$110
Luxury Summit Rooms:	\$84	\$84	\$104	\$124

+13% Tax

The larger Luxury Summit Rooms have a butler's pantry with microwave and mini refrigerator.
 All Luxury Summit Rooms are on the upper floors and have a separate elevator.

Any questions about the 2014 Annual Meeting?

If so, please contact Meeting Planner Candace Renger.
candace.renger@gmail.com or (510) 527-5627



Program Director News

Cynthia Perrine

Western Section is holding for our first field camp from August 5-16, at Swanton-Pacific Ranch. We have 6 wildlife professionals joining us as mentor-instructors and 12 students are registered, representing several universities. Participants receive hands-on instruction and are assessed on field skills that include the following -- GPS, map, and compass navigation, bird mist-netting, point-counts, and nest surveys, small mammal, reptile and amphibian survey techniques, target shooting, darting and restraining large mammals, and tracking. Expect an overview of the field camp as part of the 2014 annual meeting and also in the next newsletter.



I compiled results from the 2013 Members' Survey and shared this report with our Executive Board at their April meeting. Thanks to everybody who participated in the survey! We know it was thorough, okay... It was LONG! But, we were long overdue in gauging preferences and level of satisfaction with our current member services. Respondents provided both positive reinforcement of current activities and price-levels and constructive suggestions for improving member services and programs. The board and contract staff have made immediate adjustments to a few services, and the 2014 Annual Meeting in Reno will offer an adjusted schedule. For more, see the Annual Meeting overview in this issue of the newsletter. A copy of the survey report will be posted under the resources tabs on the Western Section website.

Annual Conference Planning rounded out my major efforts this quarter, including a visit to the Reno Grand Sierra Resort in May with President-Elect Natasha Dvorak and Conference Planner Candace Renger to finalize revisions to the schedule of events and room designations. I'm developing new components for the conference, including breakfast roundtables and a keynote address with Ken Mayer to offer a thought provoking dialogue about scientists' role in resource management and species recovery. Thanks to our conference planning committee for collaborating to make this a great educational event for our Section membership!

I'll deliver two presentations at the Milwaukee TWS conference – one on our 2012 pilot Conservation Education program, "Get Outside" and another on the Section's long-successful workshop and professional development program. I've also been invited to speak in a symposium looking at the changing role of women in the wildlife profession.

Finally, I'm honored to have been elected Western Section Representative to The Wildlife Society Council – thanks to all who voted for me and thanks to Jeff Lincer for running. My term will commence in October of this year and I'm ready to embrace this new chapter in my TWS service. However, as the Section Representative is an officer with an Executive Board vote, I am prepared to resign my contract staff position as Program Director effective in October. It's been a pleasure working with the Section in various roles for the past 13 years and I look forward to a few more!

Central Coast Chapter

Wendy Knight

The Central Coast Chapter has met several times this summer. They gathered together to watch the movie "The Condor's Shadow", had a successful Board Meeting and they held a San Joaquin Kit Fox Workshop on the Carizo Plain. This is in addition to the monthly happy hour they host for Cal Poly students and Wildlife Professionals at Pappy McGregors. Be on the lookout for more information on the Chapter Symposium planned for November 2013 which will focus on local Chapter biology, wildlife and consulting activities.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Chapter

Adam Yaney-Keller



The Cal Poly Chapter has 66 members as of press time and they have established some goals for the upcoming months which include creating a closer relationship with the Central Coast

Chapter, continuing to build up their membership base and creating closer bonds within their membership group. They strive to facilitate professional and academic development within their Chapter members while creating an active and fun program centered around wildlife and the environment.

In addition to sending a large group to the 2013 TWS-WS Annual Meeting, they have also hosted a Wildlife Roundtable and Career Symposium, attended monthly Happy Hours with the Central Coast Chapter, held a Northern Elephant Seal viewing camping trip at San Simeon State Park, and they have hosted numerous other workshops, seminars, and field trips. The Happy Hours continue throughout the summer on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

Southern California Chapter

Jeff Lincer



The SoCal Chapter is happy to announce two recent and successful events, including a well-attended Fairy Shrimp Workshop (March 26-28) and a social gathering for Chapter Members and their families, which was held at Societe Brewing Company June 20th. "My Urban Eats" provided a food truck with delicious dinners. The SoCal Chapter will host another social at Society Brewing, which is located at 8262 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, on Thursday, August 8th. Check out their website for more info: <http://www.societebrewing.com/wordpress/tasting-room/tasting-room-calendar/>. Other upcoming events include lectures on General Insects, Raptors, and other wildlife, a lecture and field day Viewing Migrating Birds, and workshops on Mohave Ground Squirrel Survey and Handling, Vernal Pool Invertebrates, and Arroyo Toads. The chapter is also exploring possible camping trips on the Channel Islands and the Mojave National Park. Alicia Hill has joined Callie Ford on the Chapter Event Committee and the Chapter membership now exceeds 100. 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.

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Report

Laura Patterson

The Professional Development Committee has been really busy this year already. We had an amazing turnout at our first mixer of the year at Fox & Goose in Sacramento. Since the last newsletter, we've hosted another lunch time brown bag seminar, this time on ecohydrology of vernal pools and potential effects of climate change. We partnered with Westervelt Ecological Services to help clean up Steelhead Creek in Natomas during Creek Week. We put together a student-professional nature hike at Stebbins Cold Canyon... I caught a striped gopher snake! This was the second year in a row we partnered with the UC Davis Student Chapter on a student-professional networking night. And most recently we organized a gathering at a River Cats game.



We're excited to announce that we're hosting a Burrowing Owl Workshop on August 26 – 27 at the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's Bufferlands in Elk Grove. There will be field and lecture components that can be signed up for separately. Also, they purchased some killer schwag with burrowing owl images on them. I can't wait to get my pint glass, how about you? Here's the link on our website for more info: http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/upcoming_events.php.

We're always looking for speakers for our brown bag seminars and the upcoming Natural Resources Symposium, which will be held on November 6th. Send submissions to sac.shasta@gmail.com.

We still have academic scholarships and travel grants available for deserving members. The next deadline for academic scholarships is December 1st. More info at: <http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/scholarships.php>.

For more information on not only Chapter activities, but job announcements, events of interest, and training opportunities, check out our newsletter, the Magpie, on our website as well as the other links for more current events. *****NOTE NEW ADDRESS***** <http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/index.php> And if you haven't already, you really should "Like" us on Facebook!



San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Jessica Martini-Lamb



The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter has a new, and complete, Board in 2013. Please welcome: Matthew Bettleheim, Chapter President; Mandi McElroy, President-Elect; Rachel Danielson, Treasurer; and Susie Bennett, Secretary. A big thank you to Natasha Dvorak, now Past President (and our new Western Section President-Elect) for her outstanding work as President in 2012. Brian Pittman has graciously continued as editor of the Chapter Newsletter, the Wandering Tattler. We also have several new committee chairs to welcome: Tammy Lim, Professional Development, and Melissa Newman, Conservation Affairs.

The Chapter Board has been hard at work on a number of exciting activities. A survey of the membership via Survey Monkey concluded at the end of June to receive feedback from the membership on the types of events they would like to see the Chapter offer. We have several new ways to outreach to Chapter members and the general public. There is now a Google Group for communicating directly with Chapter members and a presence on Facebook via a Facebook group and a Facebook page. The Facebook group is a private group intended to provide the chapter membership a place to share stories, swap tips, post job listings, and query colleagues for identification tips. The Facebook page is a public page to share news articles, photos, and wildlife-related information.

Please follow the links below to add yourself to the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Facebook page or group:

- Click to visit the new [Facebook page](#) – To "like" the new page, click "Like".
- Click to visit the new [Facebook group](#) – To "join group", select the settings option "Join Group" (located below the banner of faces, immediately to the left of the "gear" icon).

Through the end of July, members can vote on a logo for the Chapter. Matthew and Mandi obtained ideas from members at the March mixer (see below) and worked with a Bay Area artist to develop multiple concept logos. The Chapter Board narrowed down the choices to the final two logos currently open for the Chapter vote. We look forward to sharing the Chapter's new logo in the next newsletter!

In addition to updating communications with the membership, the Chapter has held a number of events this past spring. There was a mixer on March 27 at the Pyramid Brewery in Berkeley, a tide pool event in Marin County in April, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum of Vertebrate Biology at UC Berkeley in June. The Chapter and Western Section also co-hosted a Remote Camera workshop held at Pepperwood Preserve in Sonoma County in June.

Possible upcoming events include a New Zealand mud snail training event, a Canid Tracking workshop (similar to the event held in 2012), and an event associated with National Public Lands Day in September.

Check out our Facebook pages or website for more information on future events or to contact the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Board.

Hawaii Chapter

Rachel Sprague

The Hawaii chapter stands strong at 45 members and they signed up an additional 15 new members at the Hawaii Conservation Conference earlier this year. They are continuing to increase membership interest through their Facebook page and they are discussing ways to increase participation that will add value to Hawaii's wildlife and conservation community.

The Chapter was able to fund several grants this year for seabird conservation and wetland restoration being administered through the Hawaiian Electric Co. and TWS-HI Chapter project to reduce seabird fallout, Kawainui March Coastal Restoration/Castle Foundation.

The Hawaii Chapter is planning on issuing a newsletter this month, and they will work on field trips, bylaw revisions, and skills workshop planning to support wildlife professionals in the main Hawaiian Islands in the upcoming months.

Most recently, they announced the completion of two board meetings, a general membership meeting at the Hawaii Conservation Conference (where they also sponsored prizes for best student presentations and hosted a table in the exhibit hall), and work for the Coalition for the Protection of Cats and Wildlife. Their work with the coalition includes building relationships between the Hawaii Chapter and the coalition to find common ground and discuss potential ways forward for sensitive wildlife areas on the edge of urban areas where fed cat colonies are more likely to occur.

The Chapter also signed on to a letter with 26 local and national organizations (representing more than 4 million members) encouraging Hawaii's congressional delegation to support federal funding for the NMFS Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Program. Hawaiian monk seals are the only marine mammal endemic to the US and Hawaii and is critically endangered with a population of 1,100 individuals and falling.



The Hawaiian Monk Seal is the only marine mammal endemic to the US and Hawaii and is critically endangered with a population of 1,100 individuals and falling. Photo by The Marine Mammal Center.

UC Santa Barbara

Allyson Gaarder

TWS@UCSB is a rather new and small club on campus with about 10 consistent and perhaps 30 inconsistent members. The meetings are biweekly and they host activities approximately once every two months. The meetings and adventures are informal and friendly but still educational and unique! The Chapter is currently searching for a new faculty advisor for the 2013-14 school year.

During meetings, the group presents and discusses current issues in environmental and wildlife studies as well as graduate and undergraduate projects underway at UCSB. Recently, they watched a short documentary produced through Blue Horizons titled No Otter Zone. They also had Nancy Callahan from the Wildlife Care Network attend a recent meeting as a guest speaker.

In the past year, the UCSB Chapter has hosted a bike ride to the Ellwood Butterfly Preserve, a Scat-and-Track trip around our local college town (skunk, raccoon, cat, dog, bird and rat tracks were located), a trip to Tejon ranch for hiking and bird-watching, a screening of Green Fire – A History of Aldo Leopold, and a whale-watching trip.

There is a huge list of possible trips for next year so keep in touch if you are interested in joining them. Trips considered include: the Ojai Raptor Center, OstrichLand in Solvang, ecological restoration at Coal Oil Point Nature Reserve, and a tour of the Marine Mammal Center. They also hope to attend beach and town clean-ups, a tour behind-the-scenes of the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, and other fun activities that get them outside together doing good work for the environment and the wildlife around us.

Their main method of advertisement this year was through custom printed tank tops with the slogan “Let’s Get Wild, The Wildlife Society @ UCSB.” Perhaps they should bring some to sell at the 2014 TWS-WS Annual Meeting next January in Reno, Nevada. They would definitely be big hit!



Did you know that you can take Amtrak directly from the SF Bay Area/Sacramento to Reno and arrive in time for the 2014 Welcome Reception on Tuesday night?

For \$~150 round-trip, you can depart from Emeryville at 9 am and arrive at 4 pm in Reno. The return from Reno to Emeryville leaves at 8:30 am and returns at 4:10 pm. Getting on that same route in Sacramento is \$130, departing at 11 am and returns daily from Reno at 2 pm.

***Let Amtrak safely take you over the Sierra Nevada!
You can even finish your presentation while you travel to the conference!***

**Announcement!****NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP****January 6-10, 2014**

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society and the Department of Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management at California State University-Chico, 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® 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 14 years experience facilitating the Natural Resources Communication Workshop.

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

University Continuing Education Credit: Participants receive 1-unit CSUC Continuing Education credit. The workshop qualifies for a maximum of 42 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, 2013 (Thursday)**. 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 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, 2013 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:

Dr. Jon K. Hooper
 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 2014 workshop will not only learn professional tips for using PowerPoint, but also will gain exposure to Photoshop Elements (digital photo editing software).

Upcoming Events

Burrowing Owl Workshop

August 26-27, 2013. Sac-Shasta Chapter
Elk Grove, CA

TWS National Meeting

October 5-9, 2013
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Natural Resources Communication WS

January 6-10, 2014
Chico, CA

Western Section Annual Meeting

January 27-31, 2014
Reno, Nevada

Greater Sage-grouse Symposium

January 28, 2014
Reno, NV

Wilderness First Aid

February 1-2, 2013
Truckee, CA

Western Section Annual Meeting

January 28-30, 2015
Santa Rosa, CA

Note to California employees -

Start planning early to attend the 2014 Western Section Annual Meeting in Reno!

*Research out-of-state travel request
guidelines for your organization, consider
travel grants from your chapter and
Western Section, and consider submitting an
abstract for poster or oral presentation.*

*Western Section will post justification
letters of support on our website for you to
reference in your requests. Hope to see you
there as we celebrate 60 years of Western
Section and our 60th Annual Meeting!*

Raptors of the Northwest Symposium **February 5-7, 2014**

It is my pleasure to announce the "Raptors of the Northwest Symposium" to be held in conjunction with several other meetings and symposia, including the annual meeting of the Washington Chapter-TWS, and the 4th International Burrowing Owl Symposium. The specific dates for the Raptors of the Northwest Symposium are February 5-7, 2014; although, the other meetings/symposia will overlap and/or extend past these dates. The venue will be the Red Lion, in Pasco, WA, which is ¼ mile from the Pasco Airport.

The geographic areas to be focused on during the symposium are the NW U.S. states, including Alaska, and the Western Canadian Provinces. The theme will be the critical challenges to raptor conservation and management and relating research to those needs. Both diurnal and nocturnal raptors will be addressed.

We want there to be widespread and diverse geographical and organizational involvement and support from as many agency, academic, NGO sectors, and other land management stakeholder groups as possible; so if you have suggested contacts, we would welcome them.

For more information on the Joint Meeting, or to submit an abstract (for all meetings), click [here](#).

See you in Pasco! Jeffrey L. Lincer, Ph.D. Raptor Symposium Organizer (JeffLincer@gmail.com)



Book Review

Color Catalogue for Field Biologists

by Gunther Köhler

Review By TWS-WS Member Matthew Bettelheim

Color Catalogue for Field Biologists, by Gunther Köhler, Herpeton (<http://www.herpeton-verlag.de/>), 2012, 49 pages, € 24.80 (~\$32.00).

For years, when it came to describing a species in the field, the gold standard in color standards was Frank B. Smithe's "Naturalist's Color Guide". The Smithe Guide provided a palette of 182 color swatches against which to compare and discern the colors in a hummingbird's ruby gorget feather or the cobalt venter scales of a "blue belly" western fence lizard. Much like the Munsell color system – familiar to many through the Munsell soil color charts used in the field by soil scientists for, among other things, wetland delineations – the Smith Guide was the go-to-guide for wildlife biologists and taxonomists who needed to record accurate and reproducible species descriptions. When the Smith Guide went out of print in 1981, it left a gap in the suite of references available to scientists.

With the publication of Gunther Köhler's Color Catalogue for Field Biologists, that gap is once again filled. Picking up where the Smithe Guide left off, the 'Köhler Catalogue' builds off the 182 original swatches with an additional 118 swatches that span the spectrum from Kingfisher Rufous and Pistachio to Light Russet Vinaceous and Cinnamon Drab. The Köhler Catalogue boasts many features, amongst them an English/Spanish translation, an introductory glossary of terms (e.g. stipples vs dots), photographic figures illustrating key terms, and a primer on preparing color descriptions in life. The heavy card stock, heavy duty front and back covers, and spiral-bound spine show that the Köhler Catalogue is meant to get dirty.

Although the guide is geared toward herpetologists (the terms and photographs, for example, illustrate the art of describing amphibians and reptiles), even Köhler admits its utility for ichthyologists, ornithologists, entomologists, botanists, and – although he neglects to mention them – mammalogists. But no matter the taxon, nowadays when you find yourself at a loss for words to describe a new species or a new specimen – be it bird or bee – you can turn to the Köhler Catalogue.

Matthew Bettelheim is a wildlife biologist, science writer, and natural historian in the San Francisco Bay Area. Matthew's writing portfolio includes feature articles in outlets like Bay Nature, Berkeley Science Review, Inkling Magazine, Earth Island Journal, and Outdoor California.

To read more of Matthew's work, please visit his website <http://bioaccumulation.wordpress.com>.



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