



The Wildlife Society

Western Section

President-Elect Message and Santa Rosa Conference Update

Don Yasuda



Things are getting exciting as the Annual Conference approaches – and also a bit stressful! Thanks to the hard work of our conference planner and the many volunteers on the various planning committees, the conference is coming together nicely. The Conference registration [website](#) is now open with early registration rates through December 19th and the Conference hotel is taking [reservations](#), but you should hurry as the very reasonably priced room block will sell out fast. Check the website for updates!

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

The **Plenary session** is confirmed and I hope you are as excited as I am that we will once again have an influential panel of speakers that span federal to state to local governments. To discuss the **Plenary theme of “Advancing Wildlife Conservation through Integration and Alignment in Planning”** we have lined up:

- **Jim Kenna**, California State Director for BLM and Co-Chair of the CA Biodiversity Council
- **Denny Grossman**, Senior Advisor for Environmental Science and Policy, CA Strategic Growth Council
- **Debra Schlafmann**, LCC Coordinator, CA Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- **Barnie Gyant**, Deputy Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service
- **Bob Neale**, Stewardship Director, Sonoma Land Trust
- **Jim Branham**, Executive Director, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

(Yasuda, cont'd on page 2)

In This Issue:

Executive Board Reports.....	1-4; 12-14
Annual Meeting 2015 Update..	5-11
Election Info.....	15-19
Committee Reports.....	20-23
Wildlife Confessional.....	24
Chapter Reports.....	25-30
Volunteers Wanted.....	31-32
TWS National 2015 Meeting.....	33-34
Seeking Award Nominations.....	35
Western Wildlife Submissions.....	36
Announcements.....	37-39
Contact Information.....	40

(Yasuda, cont'd from page 1)

There were many great abstracts submitted in response to the call for papers and we have determined the concurrent sessions and secured the session chairs.

The **Concurrent Sessions** are:

Wednesday

- Mesocarnivore Techniques & Ecology, Chair Esther Burkett, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- Ecology and Management of Birds, Chair Jeff Alvarez, The Wildlife Project
- Wildlife Techniques / Wildlife Diseases, Chair Jenny Rechel, USDA Forest Service/ Mike Ziccardi & Kristen Gilardi, Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center, UC Davis



Thursday

- Ecology and Management of Birds / Landbirds and Forest Management, Chair Chrissy Howell, USDA Forest Service
- Ecology and Management of Reptiles and Amphibians, Chair Dave Cook, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Ecology and Management of Mammals, Chair Brian Cypher, CSU Stanislaus, Endangered Species Recovery Program

Friday

- Climate Adaptation Strategies / Effects of Drought on Wildlife, Chair Jeff Lincer, RICA
- Collaboration in Support of Wildlife Conservation / Linking Research to Policy and Management, Chair Lucy Harrington, Westervelt Ecological Services/ Mike Westphal, Bureau of Land Management
- Grasslands and Wildlife Conservation, Chair John McNerney, City of Davis

We have a variety of Pre-Conference symposia that span from the tiny Amargosa vole in the Mojave Desert to the conundrum of managing barred and spotted owls in the Pacific Northwest. We round out the symposia tackling the challenges and dangers of marijuana cultivation on wildlife, habitats, and the wildlife profession. This year we are fortunate to repeat the scientific and technical writing Pre-Conference workshop and will also offer wilderness first aid following the Conference.

We also have the usual Conference attractions, like a Keynote from **Ellie Cohen with Point Blue Conservation Science**, the Poster Reception where you can talk with poster authors, and the Exhibitor Hall with many vendors of interest to wildlife professionals. We are also repeating our Breakfast Roundtables given the positive feedback we received from last year. If you've been to our Conference in the past, you know we have a variety of events designed to support our student and early career professional members, such as the popular resume workshops, a job interview panel, a session on how NOT to give a scientific presentation, and the Career Fair. This year the Post-Conference student weekend will be held in Point Reyes National Seashore. Many students gain valuable experience giving presentations and preparing posters but a major benefit of attending the Conference is the professional networking that occurs during the sessions and at other social events.

(Yasuda, cont'd on page 4)



Past-President

Douglas E. Bell

As this is my last Past President's message for the Western Section, I will try to be brief this time! Our golden eagle work at the East Bay Regional Park District continues with many collaborators. I am including here a couple photos from the release of a golden eagle that was recovered in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area and successfully treated by Guthrum Purdin, DVM. Dr. Purdin was a former student in the Department of Biological Sciences at California State University Sacramento, where I used to teach. He went on to become

a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and is now Director of Veterinary Services at the Lindsay Wildlife Hospital. I mention this to show how connected we are in the wildlife and related professions. It really is a small world!

It has been an honor to serve you over these last three years, first as President-Elect, then President, and finally Past-President. I have been truly humbled by the experience. There is hardly another scientific organization that I know of that is as cohesive and responsive to its constituents and that enjoys such a dedicated Board and Staff. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over these years, including those who have served on our Board as Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, Chapter Representatives, Committee Chairs, Contract Staff, and the Annual Meeting Program Committee members and Session Chairs. Clearly, there are too many people to list here, but I would especially like to thank those who have worked very closely with me and who have been instrumental in advising, mentoring and, at times, prompting and/or prodding me: Rhys Evans, Linda Leeman, John McNerney, Don Yasuda, Cynthia Perrine, Janine Payne-Schneir, Janae Scruggs, Jeff Lincer, Natasha Dvorak, Mike Chapel, Candace Renger and Eric Renger. I thank Reg Barrett for bringing me back into the fold of The Wildlife Society, Armand Gonzales for convincing me to run for President-Elect, and Linda Connolly for being a gracious counterpart during our then-election. I thank my partner, Erika Walther, for cheerily tolerating the time commitments required of the position. For those I have not named, my apologies, but I am nevertheless grateful for all you have done.

I am proud of participating in an organization that is moving ahead and looking forward to meeting the growing challenges to wildlife and the wildlife profession. We have gone through the strategic planning process, we are revamping our Operations Manual, and we are refining our By-Laws as needed. It has been gratifying to see more student participation on all levels and more outreach. I thank those who have contributed to these efforts, and especially the students and early profes-



Guthrum Purdin, DVM, releasing a GPS-transmitted golden eagle at Las Trampas Regional Wilderness on November 10, 2014. This eagle was recovered injured in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area on September 25, 2014. She was treated at the Lindsay Wildlife Hospital in Walnut Creek, CA and rehabbed at the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center in Morgan Hill.



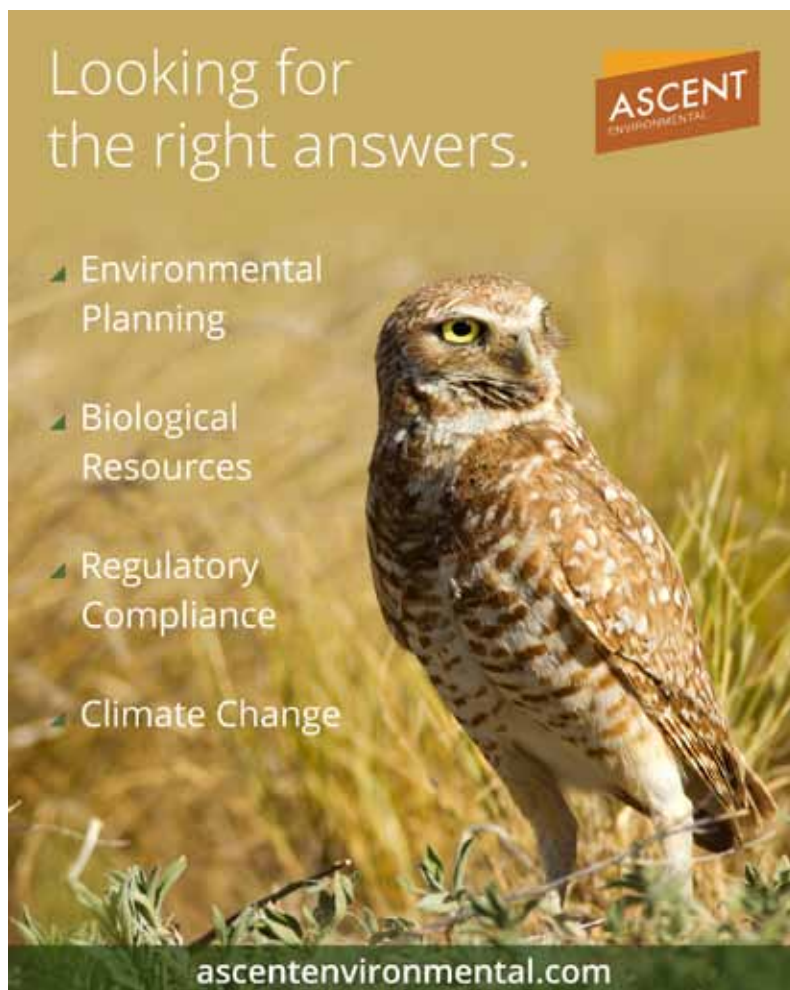
*The eagle is airborne!
Photo: K. Shawn Smallwood.*

(Bell, cont'd on page 4)

(Bell, cont'd from page 3)

sionals who are stepping up their participation in their local chapters and the Western Section. This brings me to our upcoming election for President-Elect of the Western Section. We have two amazing candidates, Rachael Sprague, who is from our Hawaii Chapter and who works for NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service based in Honolulu, and Esther Burkett, a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) in the Nongame Wildlife Program at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in Sacramento. They both have superb qualifications, they are excellent role models for the wildlife profession and they have served The Wildlife Society on many levels. I would say more, but I would prefer that you read their candidate statements and formulate your own decision. The good news is that regardless of the election outcome, this is a win-win. The Section wins because we have two great candidates, and the candidates win because they know they are helping our organization in immeasurable ways, regardless of the election's outcome!

I look forward to continuing to serve The Western Section in 2015 and beyond. Thank you.



(Yasuda, cont'd from page 2)

Speaking of social events, there will be the Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening and our Awards Banquet, where we recognize individuals and groups for their contributions to wildlife conservation, on Wednesday evening. We are trying something a little different this year by having a Watershed Restoration Field Day on Tuesday with the STRAW program. This outdoor event will be a great way to get your hands dirty while networking with colleagues and friends and will be a great way to frame the Conference week. Other TWS events include Chapter meetings, meetings of the Conservation Affairs and the Professional Development Committees, and our Annual Member's Business Meeting (refer to related newsletter article).

I hope by now, you are as excited for the end of January as I am when we can gather in Santa Rosa. All the information you need is found on the Conference website: <http://twswest.org/santarosa2015/>. I look forward to seeing you at the Conference and look forward to serving you as President in 2015.

Schedule of Events

Monday, January 26

- 7:30am to 9:00am: Registration
- 8:30am to 5:30pm: *Owl versus Owl: The Conundrum of Managing Barred and Spotted Owls in the Pacific Northwest**
- 9:45am to 10:00am: Refreshment Break
- Noon to 6:00pm: So. Sierra Nevada Fisher Working Group
- 1:00pm to 5:30pm: Technical Writing Workshop (Day 1 of 2)*
- 2:45pm to 3:00pm: Refreshment Break
- 7:00pm to 9:00pm: Registration Packet Production



Tuesday, January 27

January 26-30, 2015

- 7:00am to 8:30am: Registration
- 8:00am to 2:00pm: Watershed Restoration with Point Blue, Off-site (Advance Registration required)
- 8:00am to 5:30pm: *Marijuana Cultivation and its Impacts on Wildlife, Habitats, and the Wildlife Profession**
- 8:00am to 5:30pm: *The Amargosa Vole: Emergency Conservation in an Era of Shifting Environmental & Biopolitical Climates**
- 8:30am to 5:30pm: Technical Writing Workshop (Day 2 of 2)*
- 9:45am to 10:00am: Refreshment Break
- 10:00am to 4:00pm: Western Section Executive Board Meeting (all members encouraged to attend!)
- 1:00pm to 5:00pm: Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Working Group
- 2:45pm to 3:00pm: Refreshment Break
- 4:00pm to 7:00pm: Vendor Hall Setup
- 6:00pm to 9:00pm: Official Conference Opening. Registration & Vendor Hall
- 7:00pm to 9:00pm: Welcome Reception/Photo Display/Nacho Bar with No-Host Bar * (requires ticket)

Wednesday, January 28

- 7:00am to 7:00pm: Registration & Vendor Hall
- 7:30am: Breakfast Roundtable: *Linking Research on Climate Change to On-the-Ground Management * (requires ticket)*
- 8:00am to 10:00am: CA Fisher Working Group
- 9:00am to 10:00am: Conservation Affairs Committee Meeting
- 10:00am to 5:00pm: Speaker Practice Room
- 10:00am to 11:30am: Keynote Address & Dialogue: *Ellie Cohen, President and CEO of Point Blue Conservation Science*
- 11:30am to 1:00pm: TWS-WS Retirees Meeting (Bring your own lunch)
- 11:30am to 1:00pm: Lunch Break (on your own)
- Noon to 2:00pm: Poster Setup
- 1:00pm to 5:00pm: Concurrent Session: Mesocarnivore Techniques & Ecology
- 1:00pm to 5:00pm: Concurrent Session: Ecology and Management of Birds
- 1:00pm to 5:00pm: Concurrent Session: Wildlife Techniques & Wildlife Diseases
- 2:00pm to 7:00pm: Poster Viewing & Student Poster Judging

Annual Meeting 2015

2:25pm to 2:40pm:	Refreshment Break
3:00pm to 5:00pm:	Resume Workshops for Undergrads
5:00pm to 6:00pm:	Humboldt State Alumni Reception
6:00pm to 7:00pm:	No-host Cocktail Reception
7:00pm to 10:00pm:	Member's Banquet/Section Awards & Dutch Raffle* (requires ticket)

Thursday, January 29

7:00am to 8:00pm:	Registration & Vendor Hall
7:00am to 4:00pm:	Poster Viewing & Student Poster Judging
7:30am to 8:30am:	Professional Development Committee Meeting
7:30am to 8:30am:	Western Wildlife Meeting
8:30am to 12:30pm:	Concurrent Session: Ecology and Management of Riparian Birds & Landbirds and Forest Management
8:30am to 12:30pm:	Concurrent Session: Ecology and Management of Reptiles and Amphibians
8:30am to 12:30pm:	Concurrent Session: Ecology and Management of Mammals
9:55am to 10:15am:	Refreshment Break
10:00am to Noon:	How Not to Give a Scientific Presentation
10:00am to Noon:	Resume Workshop for Undergrads (Repeat)
Noon to 5:00pm	Speaker Practice Room
12:30pm to 2:00pm:	Lunch Break (on your own)
2:00pm to 5:00pm:	Plenary Session: <i>Advancing Wildlife Conservation through Integration and Alignment in Planning</i>
3:30pm to 3:50pm:	Refreshment Break
5:00pm to 6:00pm:	Annual Member's Meeting, Member's Forum & Raffle, NEW DATE!
6:00pm to 8:00pm:	Poster Reception, Dry Creek Ballroom, NEW DATE!
8:00pm to 9:30pm:	Chapter Meetings, NEW DATE!

Friday, January 30

7:00am to 12:30pm:	Registration & Vendor Hall Open
8:00am to 10:00am:	Resume Workshop for MS/PhD Students
8:30am to 12:30pm:	Concurrent Session: Climate Adaptation Strategies & Effects of Drought on Wildlife
8:30am to 12:30pm:	Concurrent Session: Collaboration in Support of Wildlife Conservation & Linking Research to Policy and Management
8:30am to 12:30pm:	Concurrent Session: Grasslands and Wildlife Conservation
9:55am to 10:15am:	Refreshment Break & Silent Auction Closes (Pick up Silent Auction winnings by 12:30pm)
10:00am to 11:00am:	Job Interview Panel
10:00am to 12:30pm:	Career Fair
10:30am to 12:30pm:	Resume Critique w/ Barbara Peters (requires appointment)
1:00pm to 2:00pm:	Annual Meeting Planning Committee Wrap-Up Meeting
2:00 pm and on Student Weekend*	– (Clem Miller Environmental Education Center, Point Reyes, CA)

Saturday and Sunday January 31 – February 1, 2015

8:00am to 5:00pm each day:	Wilderness First Aid * – (Point Reyes, CA) (requires pre-registration)
Saturday and Sunday	Student Weekend continues* – (Point Reyes, CA) (Requires pre-registration)

* Requires separate registration fee

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE MEETING:

<http://twswest.org/santarosa2015/>

On our website:

- Read Plenary and Keynote Speaker Bios
- View Concurrent and Poster Session Abstracts
- Learn about Santa Rosa, the venue, and lodging options
- Sign up to carpool to the meeting
- On-line registration for the Western Section Annual Meeting is now open. (Register by December 19th for the lowest rate). Follow this link to the on-line registration form:

https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2015_reg.php



Thank you!

2014 Annual Meeting Sponsors

Bighorn Sheep Annual Meeting Gold Sponsors



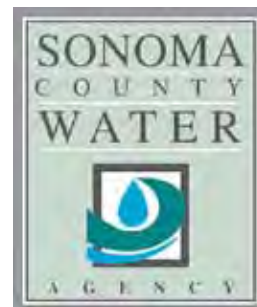
Sea Turtle Annual Meeting Bronze Sponsors



Breakfast Roundtable Sponsor



Watershed Restoration Day Sponsors



Point Blue™ Conservation science
for a healthy planet.™

*This list includes sponsors as of December 15, 2014.

Carbon Offsets and Reducing the Ecological Footprint of our Meeting:

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society is proud to partner with Point Blue Conservation Science to offset the carbon and ecological footprint of the Santa Rosa 2015 Annual Meeting. Over the past several years, the Western Section has collected donations from meeting attendees with the proceeds used to fund local restoration projects that will offset the carbon footprint of the annual meeting. This year, each meeting registration fee includes a \$5 surcharge for carbon offsets and ecological karma. The Western Section will match this surcharge meaning that \$10 per paid registration will be donated to Point Blue to conduct climate-smart habitat restoration in the North Bay Area and provide science education to students and community members.

Call for Raffle and Auction Donations

Generous tax-deductible contributions (Federal Non profit ID # 95-4470836) to the Western Section raffles have allowed us to help support the educational and professional development of the next generation of wildlife biologists and managers. During the course of our four day conference, raffle and auction contributions will be displayed with donor information in a public place accessible to all conference attendees. The raffle will take place during our awards banquet where donors are acknowledged prior to each item being awarded. In addition, the Western Section will recognize contributors on our website, <http://www.tws-west.org>, on a donor sheet handed out in the registration packets each registrant receives, in the conference program, and on a poster board displayed with the prize items.

Suggested donations include, but are not limited to, artwork, hunting or fishing trips, vacation home stays, camping equipment, outdoor clothing, optics, navigation equipment, gift certificates, etc. Cash donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase appropriate raffle items. Please contact [Sandra Hunt von Arb](#) and/or [Lisa Ollivier](#) if you would like to donate an item to the raffle and/or auction.

Contributions can be sent (UPS, FedEx, US postal) to:

TWS-Western Section
PO Box 6756
Albany, CA 94706

We need your photos! Win an iPad! 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 ewelarrucea@gmail.com. Each person that submits a photo(s) for the Tuesday night wildlife gallery will be entered in a drawing for a brand-new iPad! The drawing will be held on Tuesday evening at the Welcome Reception and participants need not be present to win.

NEW! Watershed Restoration Field Day with Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW Program

- Tuesday, January 27, 2015 – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the Santa Rosa Hyatt lobby at 8 a.m.
- Thank you to Sonoma County Water Agency and Point Blue Conservation Science for sponsoring this field day.

Join us for an unprecedented conference event that is entirely outdoors! Network with colleagues, meet new people and catch up with old friends – all while restoring a local watershed!

Western Section professionals and students are invited to join Point Blue Conservation Science's award-winning [STRAW program](#) in a watershed restoration field project. The STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed) program coordinates and sustains a network of teachers, students, restoration specialists and other community members to plan and implement watershed studies and restoration projects. STRAW's watershed science education activities emphasize project based learning and offer an integrated learning experience for students to work together, connect to their local watershed, and be empowered by their actions. Each year approximately 3,500 students participate in 50 restoration work days, often planting 4,500 native plants!

The field day will be an opportunity for Western Section professionals and students to work together on a revegetation project in beautiful Sonoma County. Professional biologists know that strong bonds between colleagues are built by sharing time in the field together. This will be a great opportunity to learn about STRAW's on-the-ground restoration and contribute directly to important restoration efforts, all while sharing experiences with other professionals and students.

Rain or shine, but heavy rain or mud may cancel the event. Transportation will be provided from the conference hotel to the site and back. Light breakfast snacks and a simple lunch will be provided. All necessary tools and equipment will be provided. Participants should bring their own personal gear (boots, hat, rain gear, water bottle) and come prepared for a fun day in the field!

More details about the field day location are coming soon! There is no fee to attend, but space is limited, so please RSVP when registering.

Breakfast Roundtable:

- Linking Research on Climate Change to On-the-Ground Management
- Wednesday, starts promptly at 7:30 am. Requires separate registration fee.
- *Thank you to PG&E for sponsoring the Breakfast Roundtable

The objective of the Roundtable is to provide more opportunities for conference attendees to exchange ideas and cultivate productive professional relationships. The theme of the breakfast roundtable this year is "Linking Research on Climate Change to On-the-Ground Management."

To encourage conversation, the (round) tables will seat 6-8 people and the rooms will not be too loud. We will set each table with background information, introduce the topics, provide simple guidelines, and end the event with a summary of ideas from each table.

Call 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 richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov about the required supporting material.

- **Raymond F. Dasmann Award for 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.

A Note from the Treasurer

John McNerney

As of September 1, 2014, the Section's total monetary assets were \$274,158. This includes money held in two Charles Schwab investment accounts (Donaldson Trust and Section general investment), in addition to the Section checking and savings accounts.

The Section's finances remain strong. This year the Section Board was again able to approve funds to help support student research and travel and sponsor TWS Annual Student Quiz Bowl. Below are some of the grants and sponsorships that the Section has supported in 2014 to date:

- Five \$300 student member travel grants to attend the Western Section meeting in Reno.
- \$2,000 sponsorship of the TWS Annual Student Quiz Bowl.
- \$1,200 sponsorship to support Western Section member Brian Cypher's attendance, and receipt of the TWS Fellowship Award, at the national conference in Pittsburg, PA.

There are still funds available to support student travel to the 2015 annual conference in Santa Rosa, CA. Student members are encouraged to apply for up to \$300 of travel support. Funds will go quickly so apply soon! Hope to see you in Santa Rosa!



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 with 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>

Section Representative to Council

Cynthia Perrine

Thank you for your continued support as I serve Western Section as Representative to Council. I'm learning a lot and participating in as many relevant initiatives as my personal time will allow. The longer I serve with these dedicated Council members, the more humbled I am by their level of expertise and commitment to The Wildlife Society. A favorite aspect of attending national conferences as I did in Pittsburgh is the chance to meet and converse with our hard-working staff at TWS headquarters in Bethesda, MD.



Council Meeting

The most recent council meeting was held from October 24 and October 29 during the TWS Conference in Pittsburgh, PA and I was appointed Chair of the Diversity Subcommittee, and I also serve on the COWCH, Fellows, and Group Achievement Subcommittees. I am also temporarily serving on the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee for Raleigh 2016 planning and on Ad-Hoc Subcommittee for Conference Continuity, established at the 10/29/2014 Council meeting to address the former lack of continuity between conference planning committees. The next council meeting is scheduled for March 9-10, 2015 in Omaha, Nebraska as part of the North American Wildlife Conference.

Additional, key TWS updates:

A new TWS website <http://www.wildlife.org> went live on October 19th – take a look and provide feedback to TWS via twsw@wildlife.org.

The following new staff members are on board at TWS in Bethesda:

- a. Nancy Sasavage, Director of Publications and Communications
- b. Maria Simmons, Subunits Coordinator msimmons@wildlife.org
- c. Zahir Shad, Digital Content,
- d. Lilly Matheson, Program Assistant

Council activities included the following: reviewing 990's for 2013 (12 months) and 2014 (1st 6 months) and accepting these IRS documents for submission to the IRS; approving Military Lands and Early Career Professional Working Groups as fully chartered working groups; officially adopting TWS Strategic Plan (posted to the TWS website); Approving TWS Operations Plans for 2014-2015; Appointing Tom Decker chair of Editorial Advisory Board [New Western Section members on the EAB is San Francisco Bay Wildlifer Matt Bettelheim and Vandenberg AFB Biologist Rhys Evans].

Proposed changes to certification were also discussed but none approved pending further review and recommendations by the Certification Review Board and ad-hoc Certification Program Advisory Committee.

(Perrine, cont'd page 14)

(Perrine, cont'd from page 13)

The 2014-2015 Leadership Institute Member Teams presented the following:

(1) Promoting Diversity in reference to the Certification Program; (2) Gender and Race as current issues in Science and Wildlife – Recommendation to Chapters and especially student chapters to find local initiatives to cooperate with and volunteer time and leadership on their K-12 programs; (3) Consider establishing high school chapters within urban areas, possibly in cooperation between TWS and state agencies, and Increasing outreach beyond TWS and beyond the wildlife profession to include a more diverse student population

Coming up soon, expect new and revised direction on logo use and unified 'branding' of TWS. The Governmental Affairs Department is revising our approach to Position Statements creating a 'Core Values and Principles' document to guide TWS, Section, Working Group, and Chapter comments and participation in legislative activities. TWS' Conservation Affairs Network is still building capacity and most Sections have established Conservation Affairs Committees (Western Section has long had such committee) and additional Chapters are forming committees with CAN leadership. New Western Section Vice-Chair Steve Juarez joins Conservation Affairs Committee Chair Erin Aquino-Carhart in shepherding this important Network within Western Section.

Program Director News

Three cheers for Strategic Planning? As many of you know, the Executive Board has been in the process of a planning effort since September of 2013. We are excited to report that your "StratPlan" 2014 is now in final draft form and is ready for member review.

The final draft of the Strategic Plan is posted to the Western Section web site under "About Us" tab. Members who wish to review the Strategic Plan and provide Executive Board with feedback and comments on Section initiatives, please complete the survey found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WesternSectionStratPlan2014>

The five Strategic Goals outlined in the plan are as follows:

- Increase member involvement
- Develop and implement communication plans
- Enhance careers of wildlife professionals
- Be an active voice for science-based information
- Have funds to run programs

Once member input is incorporated into the Strategic Plan, the next step is to create operations plans that will guide Section business operations and new initiatives. Drafting these operations plans on behalf of Western Section is part of my Program Director contract. The Ops Plans will guide the business end of things.

One thing is clear -- member involvement is a critical cornerstone of all initiatives included in StratPlan 2014! President-Elect Don Yasuda outlines several new subcommittees that will be established to address components of the plan. Please consider being more involved in your Chapter or Section leadership to help implement the plan to serve membership and help our profession serve the wildlife resources we work so hard to manage and conserve.

Proposal for Bylaws Amendment

The Bylaws of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society were last amended and approved one year ago on January 29, 2014. Bylaws describe the privileges and duties of members and set up the framework for the Section. Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Section members and are adopted when approved by the parent Society. In the course of operations, the Executive Board periodically identifies proposals for change. In the November Executive Board meeting, the Board identified the following proposed changes.

- **Add a Youth member dues category**

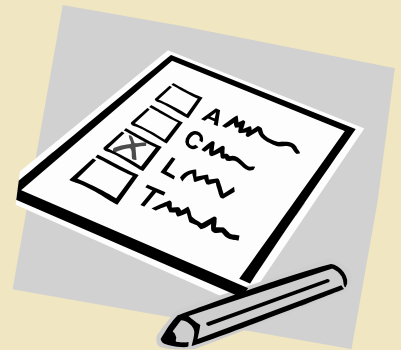
Add a new Item 5 to Article V: Membership, Section 5: Dues to allow for a Youth category for members up through high school or secondary education program with dues set at 25% of Standard dues. Some Section activities suitable for younger-aged participation are limited to members only. The current Student member dues category is defined as a member enrolled in college level curricula or attending a post-secondary school. Under the current bylaws, students in high school would not meet the definition of a Student member and would technically default to paying standard dues. Adding a Youth member category is preferred over expanding the current Student member category to keep the Student member category focused on outreach and services for college level members.

- **Change to nominations for President-Elect**

Add a new Clause D to Article IV: Voting, Elections and Officers, Section 1: Nominating and Elections Committee to allow submission of a slate of one nominee for President-Elect to the membership in the rare event that a second nominee cannot be secured in a timely fashion. In many years, the Nominating and Elections Committee has had to contact up to 20 candidates for President-o..... Elect in order to identify two qualified and interested nominees. In some years, the two nominees are not identified until just prior to meeting the required 30 day notice for voting. The proposed change would allow the Nominating and Elections Committee to submit a single candidate if they have made a good faith effort to contact at least 20 bona-fide candidates for the second nomination for President-Elect and all have declined the nomination. The intent is to always have a slate of two qualified candidates; however, this Clause allows the timely balloting prior to the Business Meeting at the Annual Conference where Officers are installed. In addition, a minor change is also proposed to re-order the Clauses in Section 1 to be more logical.

2015 Election Info

Please Vote!



**Voting will close on
January 19, 2015**

The Western Section
is offering and
encouraging
electronic voting!

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

Click [HERE](#) to review candidate statements, bylaw edits and to vote:

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

Additions shown in underlined text and deletions shown in ~~strikeout text~~. Major changes **bolded**. Notes added in **[bold and brackets]**. The full text of the proposed bylaws can be found at <https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/statements2015.html>. Members who are current in their dues may vote for or against the bylaws changes at https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/elec2015_reg.php.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 5. DUES - Annual dues shall be payable by each member to the Treasurer. Annual Section dues also may be paid to The Society's Headquarters office, along with Society dues, and subsequently will be remitted to the Section. Dues are payable on the membership anniversary date.

Clause B - DUES CATEGORIES. The Western Section recognizes the following dues categories for both Regular and Associate Members:

1. Standard. Standard dues are paid by members not entitled to other dues categories.
2. Life Member - A member who pays full Life Member dues is exempt from paying subsequent annual Section dues.
3. Retired - A member retired from full-time employment who has paid Standard dues for at least three years is entitled to dues set at 50% of Standard dues.
4. Student - A member enrolled in college level curricula or attending a post-secondary school is entitled to dues set at 50% of Standard dues.
5. **Youth – A member enrolled in a high school or secondary education program or younger is entitled to dues set at 25% of Standard dues.**
6. ~~5-~~ Early Career Professional - A member who is: a) recently employed in an entry level position; b) in a less than full time position; or c) a recently graduated student who is seeking employment in the wildlife profession is entitled to dues set at 50% of Standard dues for a period generally not to exceed five years. Members are expected to pay Standard dues if they are financially capable.
7. ~~6-~~ Honorary - Honorary Members are exempt from annual Section dues.

ARTICLE VI. VOTING, ELECTIONS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. NOMINATING AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE - The three-member Nominating and Elections Committee, selected by the Board (Article IX, Section 1), shall prepare a slate of two (2) candidates for each of the following positions: President-Elect, and Section Representative to The Society.

Clause A - All nominees must be Regular Members (Article V, Section 1).

Clause B - Prior approval shall be obtained from candidates.

Clause ~~D~~C - Additional nominees may be added to the Nominating and Elections Committee's slate upon the signed support of six (6) or more members, provided prior approval has been obtained from each nominee. **[Moved from old Clause D]**

Clause D – If the Nominating and Elections Committee has contacted at least 20 bona-fide candidates for a second nomination of President-Elect and all have declined, a slate of one (1) candidate may be submitted to the membership for the position of President-Elect.

Clause ~~E~~ E - The nomination slate for President-Elect shall be submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to balloting.

~~Clause D – Additional nominees may be added to the Nominating and Elections Committee's slate upon the signed support of six (6) or more members, provided prior approval has been obtained from each nominee.~~ **[Moved to new Clause C]**

Clause ~~E~~ F – The nomination slate for Section Representative to The Society shall be submitted to the Nominating Committee of The Society.

President-elect Candidate Statements

Esther Burkett

I am humbled and honored to be nominated as a candidate for President-Elect of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society. This is an important time for our profession as we confront renewable energy issues relative to wildlife conservation, global warming and sea-level rise, balancing of water resource needs, invasive species, ongoing land use conflicts, fiscal constraints, etc.! Clearly, there is much yet to learn in order to conserve viable wildlife populations, and much to be done.

I served as president and newsletter editor of the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter in the past, and organized monthly Brown Bag Seminars during lunch hour in Sacramento. I've attended as many Western Section meetings as possible over the last 20+ years and have been inspired by the presentations and the membership, and I appreciate the management-oriented nature of Western Section conferences. I've enjoyed being a session chair and part of the career fair for several years.

I attended Chico State University and then Humboldt State University, earning a B.S. in Wildlife Management. My interests included carnivores, raptors, predator-prey relationships, population ecology, and land use planning, including CEQA. I was anxious to put my degree into action upon graduation and obtained a seasonal job at Honey Lake Wildlife Area working a hunter check station for waterfowl and pheasant hunters, along with other duties, for 3 seasonal terms. I'm grateful for the exposure to hunters the job gave me because I learned of their conservation interests and love of the outdoors, and could see they were passing it on to their children.

Trying to get on with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) in a permanent capacity was difficult, and more seasonal jobs included firefighting and recreational technician work with the U.S. Forest Service. After raising and stocking fish at Fillmore Fish Hatchery for the Department, I then worked as manager of Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Orange County, with emphasis on recovery of California least tern, light-footed clapper rail, and Belding's savannah sparrow, along with many other tasks, including EIR and EIS review and preparing Department comments on projects.

I currently work for the Department in the Nongame Wildlife Program (NWP), in Sacramento, CA. The NWP work involves statewide coordination for wildlife conservation and recovery. I came into the position in 1991, at the height of the controversy over federal listing of the northern spotted owl, and when a petition for state-listing of the marbled murrelet was working through the Department. Concern over the status of fisher was also high at that time, and I soon found myself immersed in these 3 species.

Endangered species conservation is a particular interest of mine, and my work in the Department has included scientific reports and input related to state-listing decisions for the marbled murrelet, Scripps's murrelet, burrowing owl, and fisher, along with state-delisting of the California brown pelican.

My work also involves working with interested parties, researchers and working groups to identify wildlife research and monitoring needs, and obtaining funds and managing field staff or contracts for such work. Having scientific information to rely upon is vital to help avoid impacts on wildlife from projects, and for leveraging effective mitigation. This is where scientists play a huge role through field studies and research, and publication of results.

Over 30 years of work as a wildlife biologist in the Department has required the need to develop and maintain working relationships with a diverse array of partners and stakeholders. Learning to listen to other viewpoints and to engage in civil and scientific dialogue is one aspect of our work as biologists and western section members that I value.



(Burkett, cont'd on page 19)

President-elect Candidate Statements

Rachel Sprague, Ph.D.

Aloha Western Section members. My name is Rachel Sprague and I am honored to be running for president-elect of TWS Western Section. I am nearing completion of two years as the president and chapter representative of the Hawaii Chapter, and was the vice president of the chapter prior to that. I am proud to be involved in such a wonderful organization, have greatly enjoyed being a chapter representative on the Western Section Executive Board, and now hope to take an even more active role in the organization.

I have been entranced with wildlife since my days as a little kid catching frogs and turtles in the local pond, and I have been lucky to experience a wide variety of different habitats and taxa in my career so far. My wildlife work has taken me from small seabirds on an island in the Bay of Fundy, to capturing herps in Texas, to behavior and physiology studies on albatross in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and sparrows in the high Sierras, to releasing captive-bred endangered songbirds in the Channel Islands, and now, management and recovery of the world's only tropical seal and the most endangered pinniped in the western hemisphere. Along the way, I earned my Ph.D. from the University of Montana in fish and wildlife biology and am currently the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Coordinator for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu. As the recovery coordinator, I work with state and federal agency partners, military, NGOs, volunteers, fishermen, community members, and other interested stakeholders to educate, build partnerships, develop policy, address human-wildlife conflict, use the best available science in our management, and work toward coexistence between humans and monk seals.

If the breadth of my experience has taught me anything, it is that a successful wildlife biologist needs not only a strong foundation in science, but also training and skills in successfully dealing with conflict, politics, and the complexities of conservation in today's society. The Western Section of the Wildlife Society has the distinction of encompassing some of the highest species diversity and endangered species density in the country, as well as areas with some of the most intense human development and complicated stakeholder communities. I will work with the Section and our chapters to ensure that we continue our focus on supporting our membership and efforts that will help you in both the wildlife and human challenges of your work, providing greater value and continuing skills development at every step along the way – from students, to early professionals, to career professionals.

I believe the Western Section can continue to be a national leader within TWS by offering cutting-edge trainings and opportunities to help our professionals meet the changing needs of the field, being a rational and active voice in providing the best scientific expertise to managers, and bringing some of the country's best managers, scientists, and students together for our outstanding our annual meeting to learn from each other. I have enjoyed being a part of the Executive Board's strategic planning efforts over the last year to make our Section even better, and hope that I will have the opportunity to help implement that plan.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as the Western Section's President-elect. Please support our wonderful society by taking the time to vote and make your voice heard. Thank you!



President-elect Candidate Statements -- continued

(Burkett, cont'd from page 17)

Should I be elected to this position, I will work diligently to carry out the tasks and serve western section members. I will listen to your input and be available to discuss, and I look forward to meeting with the various chapters. I am genuinely interested in people and place a high value on effective working relationships. I will work hard toward continued professional development, including high quality annual conferences, mentoring of our youngest members and encouraging close communication and outreach with student chapters and college students. When I look back on my college years and work history, it is clear to me how important it is to have mentors assist in professional development, from scientific aspects to people-skills.

Thank you for your consideration of me as a candidate for the President-Elect position, and for your support of the Western Section and wildlife conservation. Regardless of the outcome of the election, I will continue to assist in section activities, and encourage those of you who have been wondering if you can help, to please get involved.



Photo by Beth Savidge, Davis CA



Photo by Cayce Wallace, Davis CA

Conservation Affairs Committee

Erin Aquino-Carhart



CAC activities have been fairly quiet in the past few months, but I'm excited by the prospect of a Vice-Chair to partner with and build some enthusiasm for our committee. For those of you who are still unsure of whether participating in CAC is for you, I have a few examples of actions you could lend your expertise to.

Call for Public Comments – Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Critical Habitat Designation

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has reopened the public commenting period on the proposal to designate ~550,000 acres of critical habitat for the western Distinct Population Segment of the yellow-billed cuckoo. FWS is looking for information on the following:

- Yellow-billed cuckoo biology and habitat
- Principal habitat elements/Biological features of critical habitat
- Selection criteria for habitat units
- Justification for exclusions from critical habitat

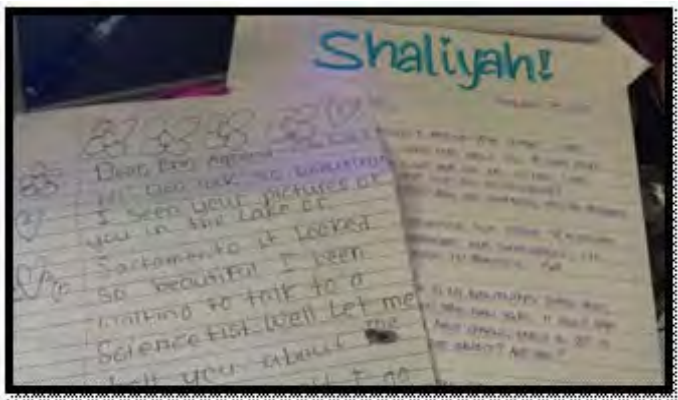
Comments are due by January 12, 2015. For more information, click [here](#).

Outreach and Mentoring – Encouraging the Next Generation of Scientists

I have recently become a volunteer for a wonderful program called “Letters to a Pre-Scientist” (LPS). LPS is the brainchild of 6th grade science teacher, Macon Lowman, and is a volunteer-driven initiative that pairs scientists with middle school students as pen pals. Its purpose is to teach children how science and technology are applied in the real world and encourage underserved students' interest and pursuit of science.

I was so excited by this program that I signed up as a volunteer the moment I learned about it. And when I was able to participate, I didn't hesitate to volunteer as a pen pal and to visit a class via Skype as a guest speaker. While writing my first letter last month, I happily included photos of myself in the field and punctuated my enthusiastic handwritten scribbles with smiley faces and colored markers. As I eagerly awaited my pen pal, Shaliyah's, response, I shared my excitement and admiration of LPS with my colleagues (and anyone else who would listen -- heh). When the letter finally arrived, it made my day. Shaliyah is very sweet and spoke of wanting to see different animals and have adventures. I remember being that kid, which is why LPS has been so important to me.

Three schools are currently in the program – 2 in North Carolina and 1 in California. Whether LPS can expand into other areas depends upon able and available volunteers and funding. I want to encourage their expansion and our participation in this and similar programs. The program is also accepting donations of envelopes and stamps for the children's letters. For more information of LPS, visit their website at www.prescientist.org.



This quote really speaks to me and is what motivates me to be more involved in outreach.

To learn more about CAC, participate in our activities, or suggest actions/programs we should take on, please contact your faithful Chair, [Erin Aquino-Carhart](#), but the super fun option is attending the CAC meeting at Santa Rosa and chatting with me in person. I hope to see you there!

Awards and Grants Committee

Richard Burg

TWS Fellows Award Presented

The Wildlife Society Council presented **Brian Cypher** with the TWS Fellow in recognition of his exceptional service to the wildlife profession on Sunday, October 26, during The Wildlife Society's 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This award recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession. TWS Fellows are appointed for life and serve as ambassadors of The Wildlife Society. Brian has a long history with TWS-WS and we wish to congratulate him on this achievement.



TWS Distinguished Service Award Presented

On Sunday, October 26 during The Wildlife Society's 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, The Wildlife Society Council presented **Brad Valentine** with the TWS Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his exceptional service to TWS. This award recognizes individuals who have worked throughout their careers in a variety of ways to further the mission of The Wildlife Society and could always be counted on to serve when needed. Brad has over 30 years of service to TWS-WS and we wish to congratulate him on this achievement.

Membership Report and Members Mailing List - by Don Yasuda

Our 2014 Section membership remains in the 800 to 900 range with membership as of the beginning of November at 810. This includes 606 regular members, 100 student members, 50 new professional members, 31 retired members, and 23 life members. Memberships for the majority of our members expire around the end of the calendar year, meaning most of you will soon receive a renewal notice, maybe even before you receive this newsletter. Please help ensure the Section has the financial resources to continue to provide the quality Annual Conference and professional development workshops that you've come to expect by renewing on-time. If your membership has lapsed, please show your support for the Western Section by reinstating your membership again.

The Western Section has been using a Yahoo group called TWSWSMembers to share official information with our current and past members. With changes in how Yahoo groups are managed in the last year, it has become increasingly difficult to use this as a means to quickly share information with our members. We are now using Constant Contact to share official news of the Western Section. We will be working to refine our mailing lists over the next several months and would appreciate feedback from you on how this new process is working. We are importing email addresses for all current and past members into the new database so chances are you are already subscribed. If not, - click [HERE](#) to get added to our new mailing list. If you have difficulties signing up for the mailing list, please let me know at dyasudaTWS@gmail.com.

Professional Development Committee

Rhys Evans



Your Professional Development Committee is developing THREE pre-conference symposia, one Pre-Conference Workshop and we are again offering Wilderness First Aid on the weekend after the 2015 annual conference. And a weekend just for students. Here's more info!

Owl versus Owl: The Conundrum of Managing Barred and Spotted Owls in the Pacific Northwest

MONDAY, January 26th, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

In September 2013 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the lethal removal of Barred Owls from 4 experimental areas in the Pacific Northwest to better understand how the range expansion of barred owls has affected threatened spotted owl populations. This issue has raised the management conundrum of killing one owl species to save another with the inherent ethical, legal and feasibility concerns. In this symposium, we will provide the background that led to the current management decisions concerning barred and spotted owls, the current population status of the two species, and current research on the feasibility, effectiveness, and response of northern spotted owl populations to lethal removal of barred owls. The symposium will end with a panel discussion with the audience to explore long-term barred owl management across the Pacific Northwest to benefit northern spotted owl populations.

The Amargosa Vole: Emergency Conservation in an Era of Shifting Environmental & Biopolitical Climates

TUESDAY, January 27th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Amargosa vole has one of the most restricted ranges of any mammal in North America. Distributed disjunctly in less than 1 square km of remnant wetland habitat in the Amargosa River in the Mojave Desert, it was listed as endangered by federal and state agencies in the early 1980's. It was virtually ignored for decades, but over the last five years a series of studies on its distribution, genetics, demography, population dynamics, habitat use, habitat condition, and disease all point to it being one of the most endangered mammals on the North American continent. The conservation landscape for the vole includes: (1) it occurring in one of the most isolated and sparsely populated regions of the continental U.S.; (2) limited resources for it and other endangered species; (3) policies and plans of multiple federal, state, and private conservation organizations; and, (4) short and long-term climatic variation and how these influence the vole's remaining habitat. Despite the isolated setting of the vole, the process of conserving its population represents a more general situation of how to implement effective management actions in an environment of competing interests, diminishing resources, and considerable political and environmental uncertainty. This session will explore the dimensions of these competing interests and uncertainty and how a multi-institutional team has worked collaboratively to forge effective short-term actions that benefit the vole and the Amargosa wetlands.

Marijuana Cultivation and its Impacts on Wildlife, Habitats, and the Wildlife Profession

TUESDAY, January 27th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Marijuana cultivation, whether "trespass grows" on public lands or private land cultivation, occurs throughout California. Due to the widespread nature of this activity and its currently conflicting state and federal regulations, California's water, wildlife, fish and diverse habitats and the safety of natural resource professionals are at risk. The fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) was proposed by USFWS to be listed as threatened with one of the significant threats as illegal marijuana cultivation and its associated toxicants. This symposium will bring together an interdisciplinary group of individuals working towards understanding and addressing the impacts that marijuana cultivation has on California's natural resources, and developing potential solutions to these problems. Talks from law enforcement, scientists, state and federal biologists, and remediation experts highlighting what we know and don't know, information needs, and future directions surrounding the issue will provide the foundation of this symposium.

(Evans, cont'd on page 23)

(Evans, *cont'd from page 22*)

Scientific and Technical Writing – From Field Work to Final Draft

MONDAY, January 26th, 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. AND TUESDAY, January 27th, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

TWS-WS was frequently asked to offer a report writing workshop; it turns out one of our members has prepared one. It was a great success in 2012 and 2013, so we're offering it again in 2015! Learn career-assisting techniques for technical writing in an interactive workshop format immediately before the 2015 Annual Meeting. 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!

Maximum Registration: 30. Early registration is encouraged because the workshop may be cancelled if there are fewer than 12 registrants by the cut-off date of January 10th. We will maintain a waiting list if there are more than 30 registrants. A maximum of five students (or early professionals within six months after completion of a degree) can register at the discounted rate. Pre-Registration preferred because "walk-up" registration may be limited. A detailed list of topics and more information is available to help you decide to register for this workshop!

Wilderness First Aid

SATURDAY, January 31 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 pm. AND SUNDAY, February 1, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 pm. Clem Miller Environmental Education Center, Point Reyes, CA.

In addition to a half day of outdoor scenario practice of first aid and leadership skills, this class focuses on practicing skills and covering: 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 skills 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.

Class fee (\$240) includes all meals Friday dinner through Sunday lunch and rustic bunk housing Friday and Saturday nights at the Point Reyes Environmental Education Center. Please note there is no electricity or heat in the bunk houses. The bunk houses do have a plethora of natural light in the daytime from an expansive ceiling filled with windows and skylights. Hot showers are available in the bath house. The main lodge is heated by a cozy wood stove. Group cleaning effort and help with cooking appreciated and required. Be sure to pack a flashlight, pillow, towel, travel mug and warm sleeping bag as well as warm clothing. For more information on the Point Reyes Environmental Education Center please visit their website.

For more information on the location: <http://www.ptreyes.org/school-program/clem-miller-environmental-education-center>

Student Weekend

FRIDAY, January 30, SATURDAY, January 31 AND SUNDAY, February 1. Clem Miller Environmental Education Center, Point Reyes, CA.

Join us for an event-packed weekend for students interested in getting experience in the field. Hosted at the Clem Miller Environmental Education Center in Marin County, we will have access to some of the west coast's most picturesque birding hotspots, marine protected areas, and wildlife destinations. Here, you may be lucky enough to see peregrine falcons, gray whales, elephant seals, and migrating coho salmon. Activities include (but are not limited to) a bird-banding demo, wildlife monitoring projects and habitat restoration, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Marine Mammal Center, night hikes, and surveys for Threatened red-legged frogs with veteran biologists Gary Fellers and Pat Kleeman. You will have the opportunity to learn about environmental management practices, interact with accomplished professionals, and get face time with actual wildlife conservation projects in the field.

The registration fee includes 2-nights dorm housing and meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. We will do our best to accommodate special diets however those with severe food restrictions should be prepared to bring their own food. Cleanup and cooking participation will be appreciated and required. Lodging will be in bunk style cabins with no heat and no electricity. Bring a flashlight and a warm sleeping bag. Plenty of natural light is available in the cabins in the daytime due to ceilings filled with skylights and windows. Hot showers available in the bathhouse. The group lodge has plenty of heat from a large woodstove. For more information, please contact Student Weekend Chair: Ivan Parr, ivan.parr@urs.com For more information on the location: <http://www.ptreyes.org/school-program/clem-miller-environmental-education-center>



Call for Submissions

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society is excited to announce a call for submissions for consideration in The Wildlife Confessional, an anthology of stories by wildlife professionals about their adventures, misadventures, revelations, reflections, mishaps, and pivotal experiences in the field.

In its finished form, The Wildlife Confessional will serve three primary purposes:

(1) to record the oral histories, memories, and experiences of wildlife professionals in a way that promotes collegiality and camaraderie, (2) as a recruiting tool to educate and attract students to enter the field of wildlife biology and join The Wildlife Society, and (3) to apply money raised through book sales to support student involvement in the society by funding scholarships, grants, and training opportunities.

The Wildlife Confessional will endeavor to show the humor and poignancy in the day-to-day adventures that sometimes define and enlighten us or that, sometimes, we'd rather forget.

Submissions Guidelines

Who Can Submit: Anyone in the wildlife profession (wildlife biologists, game wardens, land managers, researchers, students) with a good wildlife story to tell. If you've told – or been told – a good yarn over a campfire or a cold beer or a long car ride... yep, *those* are the stories we're looking for. Now's the time to put your story on paper, or to nudge that old-timer collecting dust in the corner office to tell theirs...

Subject Matter: Submissions can be humorous, reflective, poignant, inspirational, but should ultimately embody professionalism and a respect for the natural world; submissions should be non-fiction, but should *not* be technical or how-to in nature.

Submittal Deadline: Submissions must be received no later than May 15, 2015.

To Learn More: <http://thewildlifeconfessional.wordpress.com/>

Nevada Chapter

Mackenzie Jeffress

The Nevada Chapter currently has 39 members. Recent events included the annual Nevada Chapter and UNR Student Chapter BBQ. The BBQ was held in Reno in September. Over 100 people attended from UNR and several different agencies. The Nevada Chapter funded the event and the UNR Student Chapter helped with logistics.

The Nevada Chapter issued two newsletters in 2014 which were distributed via email to our members. This is currently our primary source of communication with our members.

Coming soon! The NV Chapter Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 11-12, 2015, at the Nevada Department of Wildlife Office's Commission Hearing Room in Reno, NV. Invited presentations will focus on the following concepts: 1) Introduction into population estimation: Tools available for management and conservation and 2) the use of habitat models in conservation: An understanding of the goals and processes. A call for papers and details regarding registration will be distributed soon. Abstract submissions for 20-minute oral presentations are to Daniel Gibson (dnone@gmail.com) by December 18th. Registration is \$20 for students and \$50 for general members.

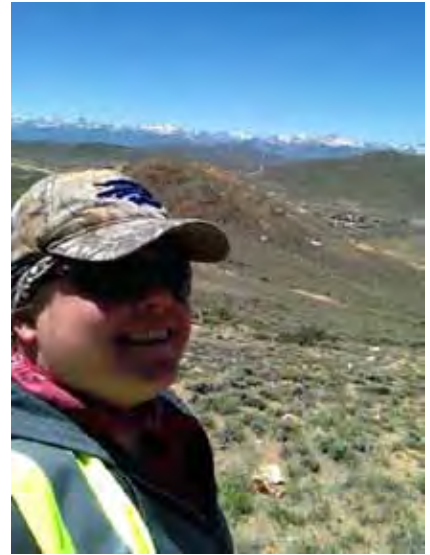


Nevada Chapter Members enjoying the Student Professional BBQ in Reno this past September.

University Nevada Reno Student Chapter

Jamie Chambers

The UNR Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy and productive semester! Students enjoyed a variety of club events ranging from recreational to intellectual. Club hikes to Grover Hot Springs State Park and Eagle Falls in Lake Tahoe provided club members with opportunities to explore areas outside of Reno while building long lasting friendships. Other events aimed to enhance the technical skills of our students, including a telemetry outing with former President Tony Bush, contributed to their overall wildlife knowledge in their pursuit to obtain meaningful experience pertinent to their field of interest following graduation. Lastly, our Grad Life Event Series, which has featured talks from well-respected graduate students on campus, have empowered our club members with valuable information about the skills and expectations of students pursuing masters and doctorate degrees.



As the fall semester winds down, our student chapter looks ahead to exciting upcoming spring events including the Western Section Conference and Conclave. Specialized committees for each of these events within our chapter have provided terrific leadership experience for our club members as we strive towards increasingly innovative planning and fundraising efforts. Other annual events, including the 2015 Sheep Show hosted by The Wild Sheep Foundation, provide our club members with great networking opportunities through volunteerism.

We look forward to meeting fellow TWS representatives in the months ahead, and on behalf of the entire UNR Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, we hope you have a happy and safe holiday season.

Jamie Chambers is a fourth year undergraduate at the University of Nevada, Reno pursuing B.S. degrees in both Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and Biology. Jamie is interested in the spatial and behavioral ecology of a broad range of mammals from cetaceans to lagomorphs. She is also the Director of Outreach, as well as a Junior Editor, for the newly launched Nevada State Undergraduate Research Journal. Jamie enjoys fishing, birding, wildlife photography, and traveling in her spare time, and has ambitions to pursue to M.S. degree in the near future!

Grad Life Event: Part 1
Hosted by the UNR Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Join us **Tuesday, September 30th @ 5:30PM** for the Grad Life lecture series event (Part 1 of 4) **DMS Room 104**. This event will feature talks from the following graduate/doctoral students:

Danielle R. Walsh
Danielle is a graduate student studying under Dr. Kelley Stewart, whose research interests include mule deer population ecology and resource selection. The title of her talk is: "Balancing life in Reno with catching mule deer adults and newborns in Oregon."

Angela Hornsby
Angela is a doctoral student studying under Dr. Marjorie Matocq, whose research interests include historical biogeography, ancient DNA, and phenotypic adaptation to climate. The title of her talk is: "M.S. and Ph.D.: the similarities, the differences, and how they will affect your (real) life."

Questions regarding this event should be emailed to unrtws@gmail.com

Wildlife Society Student Chapters



Nevada Student Chapter Club Hike.



Nevada Student Chapter Telemetry

SF Bay Chapter

Matthew Bettelheim

This summer the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter kicked into gear by volunteering their time to participate in restoration efforts at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Redwood Creek (July 26), hand-watering plants and collecting blue rye grass seeds. Next up was a return visit to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore to view tule elk (August 23) and an evening hike on Mount Diablo in search of wandering male tarantulas (September 13). As fall set in, we visited the next in our series of workshops - the Advanced Camera Trapping Workshop October 3-5 at Pepperwood Preserve. The sold-out event was a big success! Other featured events included the owing walk at Point Reyes (November 1), a macroinvertebrate study at Sausal Creek (November 2), an evening mudflat and tide pool trip at Pillar Point, Mavericks (November 8), and kayaking on the Delta (November 9).



This fall our chapter also joined forces with our local East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for the first annual Gourmet Greens and Beasts Feast (October 12) in Tilden Park. This fabled fête pitted wildlife biologists (The Wildlife Society members) against botanists (the Native Plant Society members) in a battle of wits and gourmet grub. On the menu (and in our satiated bellies) were such delicious dishes as garden sage chips (w/ sea salt and olive oil), *Vitis californica* Jelly (w/ crackers), smoked wild salmon spread, raw Piñon Pine Nuts, garden beet and goat cheese salad (w/ walnuts and green lettuce), local wigeon/pintail duck breasts in raspberry chipotle, venison fajitas (w/ bell peppers), wild plum and home grown Asian pear crisp, organic lemonade (spiked w/ backyard Meyer lemons), and an assortment of beer and wines. There was also a rousing game of plant/wildlife jeopardy and a scavenger hunt that left participants breathless in a race to key out clues with foottraces and field guides, and a bevy of plants for the plant auction thanks to Native Here Nursery and the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Based on attendee feedback, the event is a go for 2015, so we hope you'll keep us in mind throughout the year so that we have a bounty of gourmet grub to share at next year's feast.

Our last scheduled event before the 2015 conference will be a trip to Santa Cruz to visit monarch butterflies in the morning, followed by tide pooling at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in the afternoon (January 17, 2015). So stay tuned!

UCSB Student Chapter

Katelyn Pilcher

November was busy for USSB Student Chapter members! They held a Mammal Track and Sign Workshop (UCSB Version) which was led by President Louie Ocaranza who passed on skills attained from the Earth Skills workshop. They also had a trip to Oso Flaco State Park in November where they practiced some mammal tracking and went on a group hike. And finally they participated in a tour of Coal Oil Point Reserve, a protected beach that is part of the UC Reserve System, and is home to the Western Snowy Plover and the California Least Tern.

In the winter quarter there are plans for a UCSB Specimen Collections Tour to be led by the curation director at UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration. There are also plans for a presentation by Skie Bender from Wolf Haven International during the winter quarter. This lecture will be on the role of the wolf in its ecological system. UCSB Student Chapter also has a beach cleanup, a potential fundraising activity, and will host an Eyes in the Sky Program in the Spring quarter where Audubon Society board member Andy Lanes will introduce their Eyes in the Sky program and discuss possible internships for students.

So Cal Chapter

Jeff Lincer

Upcoming Events include lectures on general insects, raptors, and other wildlife, a lecture and field day viewing migrating birds, and workshops on the Mohave ground squirrel survey and handling, Hermes butterfly, and vernal pool invertebrates. The chapter is also exploring possible camping trips on the Channel Islands and in Mojave National Park.



In an effort to better include members from throughout the chapter's large and elongated service area, we are planning one or more multi-location events for Orange County, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial Counties. We are looking for volunteers to be the contact 'chair' for those counties to help plan coordinated events. Please email [Jeff Lincer](#) if you are interested, and/or if you know of an office/agency that might be willing to host a social get together with local chapter members.

We continue to discuss the need for reviewing goals and objectives and how we can improve our support to members in areas outside SoCal. We are also increasing our infrastructure for supporting the Chapter activities with the expansion of our Event Committee.

Our current Chapter membership now exceeds 100. We added several new members at each of our past events and others have signed up online, as well. Interested in becoming a Chapter Member? Please contact [Wendy Loeffler](#).

Central Coast Chapter

Wendy Knight

Summer and Fall 2014 Chapter Activities included a Chapter Board Meetings, a Mammal Track and Sign Workshop with Jim Lowery from Earth Skills, a Chapter logo competition (we have received several great entries and hope to have product by the conference), a Chapter lecture series and social hour at Creekside Brewing with a speaker from State Parks and a successful kit fox workshop in July at Chimineas Ranch, Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo County.

Upcoming Events include more Chapter lecture series and social hours, a campout, a Chimineas Ranch house work day, and a Central Coast Chapter Symposium planned for late February.



Central Coast Chapter members learn to track with Jim Lowry



San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Jeff Davis

We held a TWS Certification Workshop October 18, 2014 in Fresno. Sixteen people attended. Rhys Evans provided an overview of the program and detailed instructions and guidance on completing the application, which the majority of attendees indicated they would likely complete and submit. We were slightly over budget on food, but the low registration cost (\$20) encouraged some people to attend who may not have attended otherwise.

We continue to plan for a botany workshop to be held in the Southern San Joaquin Valley in April 2015. We've completed about 50 of the approximately 70 one-page species accounts for a guide to the plants of the southern San Joaquin Valley that workshop participants will receive.



We have 258 active members, an all-time high.

- Information, including our most recent newsletter, can be found on our website: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/sanjoaquin/>
- We also have a [Facebook](#) page



Cal Poly Student Chapter

Brooke Wainright

The Cal Poly Student Chapter has been busy providing hands-on experiences, professional development, social activities and club meetings!

Hands-on experience

- Necropsies with Tony Frazier
- Bat habitat restoration with Tony Frazier

Professional development

- Research opportunities in the department
- Career Symposium Committee
- Wildlife Conservation Network

Social Activities

- Backpacking trip to Big Sur (Oct. 25)
- Wildlife pumpkin carving
- Welcome Bonfire at Grover Beach

Club, Conservation, and meetings

- T-shirts expected before end of quarter
- Adoption of Poly Canyon
- Marine Mammal Center, Zoo to You, Swanton Pacific, Wildlife Jeopardy

Major activities coming up include:

- Central Coast Happy Hour
- Leave No Trace workshop and camping trip with Tony Frazier
- Western Section Conference
- Wildlife Club Career Symposium
- Radio telemetry hide-and-seek
- Chartered fishing trip

Hawaii Chapter

Rachel Sprague

The Hawaii Chapter is going strong with a current member count of 55! In July, they sponsored the Hawaii Conservation Conference and also presented cash prize awards for best student posters and presentations. They had an exhibit table for all 3 days of the conference and sold t-shirts, signed up new members, and distributed information about the Western Section and national organization.

This summer they also co-sponsored "Honolulu Nerd Nite" – Featuring talks: "The Hawaiian Monk Seal History Mystery," Dr. Charles Littnan; "Poop-covered Mucus Balls," Jonathan Sprague (about Hawaii's endemic tree snails); and "Shark Bait," Kevin Lino (benefits and tribulations of the towed diver survey method to count fish populations and do other marine research.). This event had great attendance and the Nerd Nite organizers said it was one of their favorite nights ever.



In August they held an ESA Section 7 training with instructors from USFWS Ecological Services Office. A total of 31 attendees participated from organizations like the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Oahu Army Natural Resources Program, Federal Highway Administration, Hawaii Trust for Public Land, NOAA Fisheries, state and county Highway Divisions, Hawaii Office of Planning, and several graduate students.

The Chapter supported a poster made by the Conservation Council of Hawaii with a wood block print of a Hawaiian Monk Seal with biological and cultural information on the back. This support allowed poster to be printed and distributed to every school in the state and all members of CCH.

Upcoming Activities include revising chapter bylaws to conform with national and section standards (and may expand the chapter to the US Pacific Islands), workshops to support wildlife professionals in the main Hawaiian Islands, board elections, and trying to increase membership interest. The Hawaii Chapter has been successfully reinstated with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and several grants for seabird conservation and wetland restoration being administered through TWS-HI chapter (e.g., HECO (Hawaiian Electric Co.) project to reduce seabird fallout, Kawainui Marsh Coastal Restoration/Castle Foundation).

North Coast Chapter

Sandra Hunt-von Arb (alternate for Lisa Ollivier)

The California North Coast Chapter successfully held their first annual Wildlife Conference this year, co-sponsored with the Humboldt State University Wildlife Department. It was a great success and feedback has been positive. Most attendees hope this becomes an annual event. Since it was our first conference our financial goal was not to lose too much money, but it went so well, we actually ended up in the black and split proceeds with the HSU Wildlife Dept.

We also held our annual Fall Mixer to celebrate the end of field season as well as to welcome students. We had a potluck BBQ, photo contest, food contest, and some good interactions between professionals and students. Over 100 attended the event. The HSU Wildlife Department and HSU Student Chapter both helped with advertising and encouraging students to attend. The Chapter will also hold a winter mixer this month as well as hold a Mentor Session with students. We are adding a mentoring program for the Western Section Annual Meeting so Students have familiar faces at the Western Section Annual Meeting and can also have a professional guide them through the conference.

Coming soon is the first call for papers second annual Wildlife Conference (April 2015) which will once again be co-sponsored with the HSU Wildlife Department. And, the Beast Feast will return and it will be held the day after our Wildlife Conference. This is a student chapter event that the professional chapter helps with.

Chapter membership remains strong with 80+ members.

Call for Volunteers: Section Committees

Why would anyone who already has an overflowing plate with work or school and life in general volunteer from 3 to 40 plus hours a month for the Western Section? I say it's because of a commitment to their career choice that is more than just professional, it's personal.

If you are a current volunteer or have volunteered in the past for the Section, thank you and I hope you continue. If you have not, please take a look at the many Western Section standing and ad hoc committees and see if something interests you. We are trying to increase opportunities for member involvement, by seeking individuals to serve on several committees in 2015. Different committees have different levels of activity to meet your available time. The President appoints members to the committees and as your incoming President I would like to provide instructions to committees shortly after the Annual Conference. The only requirement for participating on a committee is that you are a current Section member. Chairpersons of committees must be both a member of the Section and also a member of TWS at the national level. If you are interested in serving on a committee or have questions about a committee, please sign up during the Member's Business Meeting at the Annual Conference or email President-Elect Don Yasuda (dyasudaTWS@gmail.com) prior to the Annual Conference if you will not be able to attend.

The committees seeking members are:

Standing Committees described in Section Bylaws (Chairperson)

- Nominating and Elections Committee: Seeks nominees to run for President-Elect. (Past President)
- Professional Development Committee (PDC): Plans and coordinates Professional Development workshops and events. (Jessica Martini-Lamb)
- Program Committee: Develops and arranges the program for the Annual Conference. (President-Elect)
- Conservation Affairs Committee: Reviews and provides recommendations for action on wildlife conservation related affairs to the Executive Board. (Erin Aquino-Carhart and Steve Juarez)
- Financial Review Committee: Reviews financial records and support documents of the Section. (Past President)
- Awards and Grants Committee: Seeks and reviews nominations for Section awards and grants and assists Section Representative with seeking and preparing nominations for TWS awards. (Rich Burg)
- Student Affairs Committee: Promotes increased student involvement and provides opportunities to enhance student experiences. (Mandi McElroy and David Wyatt)
- Newsletter and Outreach Committee: Solicits and prepares content for Section member publications such as the Section newsletter. (Debra Hawk)
- Western Wildlife: Prepares and publishes Western Wildlife, the Section's scientific publication (Bridget Sousa)

Ad hoc Committees (appointed by President)

- Professional Affairs Ad Hoc Committee: Encourages membership in the Section and encourages Certification of eligible professionals through two subcommittees

- **Certification Subcommittee:** Promotes TWS Certification to members and agencies within the Section. (Rhys Evans)
- **Membership Services Subcommittee:** Addresses services provided and wanted by members and manages the Section member database and mailing list. (Don Yasuda)

In addition, I plan to add several new Ad Hoc Committees

- **[NEW] Ethnic and Gender Diversity in the Wildlife Profession Ad Hoc Committee:** Review the ethnic and gender diversity of the Section membership and assess diversity of students and wildlife professionals within the Section area and provide recommendations on how the Section can improve its outreach and representativeness. (Vacant)
- **[NEW] Early Career Professional Ad Hoc Committee:** Work with the Student Affairs Committee and Professional Development Committee to assess needs and opportunities to provide services for wildlife professionals entering their careers that better ensures their career success and their contributions to wildlife conservation. (Vacant)
- **[NEW] Enhance Careers Ad Hoc Committee:** Review the strategic approach to professional development available to members and develop processes such as a 5-year Professional Development Plan to guide planning for the Professional Development Committee and identify opportunities for networking and collaborating with other organizations. (Vacant)
- **[NEW] Board Operations Ad Hoc Committee:** Review Executive Board operational models and develop new tools and procedures as needed to ensure effective operations methods. (vacant) Seeking committee members who are former Section Board members and members who have knowledge of executive board Rules and Regulations from service to other organizations.
- **[NEW] Members Advisory Ad Hoc Committee:** Given specific charges each year. The focus for 2015 is to evaluate membership dues and make a recommendation to the Section Executive Board on if dues should be raised or not. (Vacant)

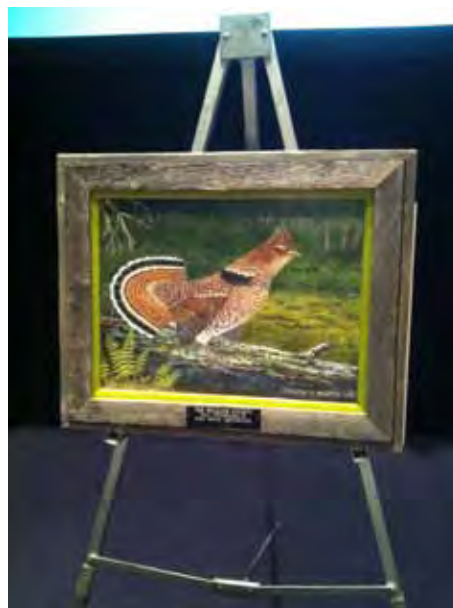
Why You Should Attend the 2015 Member's Business Meeting at the Annual Conference:

Discussion of Dues Increase and New Section Ad Hoc Committees

At the Member's Business Meeting at the Annual Conference (immediately after the Plenary Session and before the Poster Reception on Thursday), we will seek member input on the topic of raising member dues. Our operating expenses come primarily from revenues from our Annual conference, professional development, and membership dues. With rising costs, we struggle to keep Conference registration and fees low and conference amenities high while considering the revenues needed for the next fiscal year. The Western Section dues have remained at \$20 for the last 15 years and it is timely for us to consider raising the dues as we strive to increase member services. In the past, we know that any consideration of a dues increase has been controversial. At the Member's Business Meeting we will have some time to hear your support or your concerns and I will charter a Members Advisory Ad Hoc Committee of Section members to evaluate the pros and cons of raising member dues and provide a recommendation to the Section Executive Board for consideration, including how and when any recommended changes should be implemented. So in addition to attending the Business Meeting to sign up for existing and new committees, please plan to attend to share your voice on this or any other TWS issue or concern that you have or to share your thanks and appreciation for those that run the Section. If you cannot attend the meeting, feel free to share your thoughts with us.



Photos from TWS Meeting 2014 - Pittsburgh, PA



Humboldt State University Quiz Bowl Champs (Again!)



Congratulations HSU! Quiz Bowl champs once again at Pittsburgh 2014 TWS Annual Meeting. This year, the Western Section sponsored the prizes. Congrats also to 2nd place University of Maine, and SUNY-ESF 3rd place

TWS Seeking Nominations for TWS Awards

More details can be found at www.wildlife.org/get-involved/awards and nominations can be e-mailed to tws@wildlife.org or submitted through Western Section Representative to TWS Council, Cynthia Perrine perrine.cynthia@gmail.com

February 15th is the deadline for submitting a nomination to TWS, including a brief description of the nominee's professional contributions, leadership attributes, and TWS service.

- **2015 TWS Fellows**

Up to two Fellows may be awarded per year from each Section. This award recognizes current TWS members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession and have been members for at least 10 years. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors of The Wildlife Society and are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession. TWS Fellows are appointed for life.

Past Western Section members awarded Fellows' designation include Brian Cypher (2014) and Marti Kie (2010).

- **The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award**

One awarded per year to a Western Section member. This award recognizes TWS members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on at least 20 years of membership and their actions to further the mission of the Society. The member is someone who is/was 'always there' and could be counted on to serve the chapter, section, or international organization. The recipient receives an award lapel pin and plaque during the Awards Ceremony at the TWS Annual Conference. Western Section recognizes these members as part of the Western Section Awards Banquet held in January each year.

Past Western Section members receiving Distinguished Service designation are Bradley Valentine (2014), Mike Chapel (2013), and Marshall White (2012)

- **The Group Achievement Award**

One nomination per Section forwarded to TWS Council for deliberation. This designation recognizes an organization's outstanding wildlife achievement that is consistent with and/or assists in advancing the objectives of The Wildlife Society. The organization selected for the award can be private or governmental. The activity of past recipients has been primarily regional, national, or international in scope. Accomplishments, while they may be long-term, should be of significant importance within the last three years. Examples of prior award winners can be found on TWS' website: www.wildlife.org/group-achievement-award

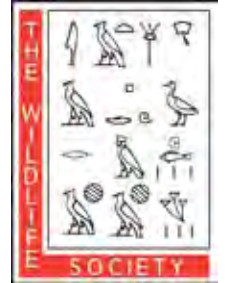
- **The Diversity Award**

One nomination per Section forwarded to TWS Council for deliberation. This designation recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting ethnic and gender diversity in the natural resource professions, especially wildlife conservation and education. Recognized activities may focus on encouraging ethnic and gender diversity in the workforce, academic enrollment, or organizational membership. Examples of prior award winners can be found at www.wildlife.org/diversity-award



NOW ACCEPTING PAPERS FOR THE WESTERN SECTION'S NEW JOURNAL

WESTERN WILDLIFE



Please consider submitting your manuscripts to the Western Section's new journal, *Western Wildlife*, formerly known as the *Transactions of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society*.

Western Wildlife is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research, reviews, perspectives, and correspondence on the ecology, natural history, management, and conservation biology of animals.

Submit materials to David Germano at

dgermano@csu.edu

Papers will be peer-reviewed and then published on-line once accepted by the editor

Visit the Journal's website for updates

<http://www.wjournal.org/>

Western Wildlife 1:1-7 • 2014
Submitted: 1 October 2013; Accepted: 5 December 2013

SEASONAL SPATIAL PATTERNS OF TWO SYMPATRIC FROGS: CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG AND AMERICAN BULLFROG

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Abstract.—The introduced American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) has been implicated in the decline of native amphibians. Bullfrogs have become widespread in California and are a threat to the native California Red-legged Frog (*Rana drynocephala*). The two species are ecologically similar, and the bullfrog is a predator to the red-legged frog that may influence its habitat use patterns. We analyzed the spatial and temporal locations and body sizes of both frog species within a large, fishless seasonal marsh during 1996. Overall, California Red-legged frogs and American Bullfrogs showed similar spatial distributions; however, seasonal changes were observed. California Red-legged Frogs increased their mean distances between conspecifics in the marsh seasonally from winter through summer while frog numbers decreased. In contrast, bullfrogs showed the opposite pattern where mean distances between conspecifics decreased over time, but the abundance of bullfrogs increased from winter through summer. During each season the mean distances between red-legged frogs and bullfrogs was greater compared to distances to their respective conspecifics, except for spring when bullfrog conspecifics were slightly more distant than red-legged to bullfrog distances. American Bullfrogs were significantly larger than California Red-legged Frogs at our site. Our findings suggest that frog abundance, which is strongly influenced by breeding behavior, changing habitats, and possibly predation risk of red-legged frogs by bullfrogs are the dominant factors driving the spatial patterns observed at Lodi Marsh. Also, once winter breeding was completed, California Red-legged Frogs seemed to avoid predation by American Bullfrogs by spatial separation within the marsh or by leaving the marsh altogether.

Key Words.—amphibians; distribution; *Lithobates catesbeianus*; predator avoidance; *Rana drynocephala*; size

INTRODUCTION

Unlike most birds and reptiles, ecologically similar species of amphibians have been found to overlap spatially more often than expected at random (Holer et al. 2004). This spatial overlap is likely due to limited resources such as breeding ponds (following the resource tracking hypothesis), suggesting that resource effects override direct interspecific competition or predation (Holer et al. 2004). However, ecologically similar species should spatially partition the use of these resources at a microhabitat scale if predation, in fact, influences amphibian assemblages (Scoll and Collins 1992).

The American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) [*Rana catesbeiana*] is native to eastern North America and are among the largest amphibians on the continent (Ilary and Whelan 1984). Adult bullfrogs are a gape-limited, sit-and-wait predator that can take relatively large prey (Ilary and Whelan 1984). Within their native range, bullfrogs play an important role in structuring amphibian assemblages through intraspecific predation and competition (Werner 1994; Hecnar and McCloskey 1997).

In its introduced range, the American Bullfrog has been implicated in the decline and extirpation of many native pond frogs (Licht 1974; Nussbaum et al. 1983; Hayes and Jennings 1986; Kiesecker and Blaustein 1997; Kupferberg 1997; Rosen and Schwalbe 2002) and is an invasive species in the western United States (Moshaka 2005). In California, American Bullfrogs were first in-

troduced in 1896 (Jennings and Hayes 1985) and now occur throughout the state except in desert and alpine areas. American Bullfrogs are known to prey on a variety of native aquatic and terrestrial vertebrate species in their introduced range (Ilary and Whelan 1984; Wu et al. 2005; Govindarajulu et al. 2006), including the California Red-legged Frog (*Rana drynocephala*) federally listed as threatened (Moyle 1973; Cook and Jennings 2001; Cook 2002). The California Red-legged Frog and American Bullfrog are ecologically similar. Both frog species are highly aquatic and mainly nocturnal (Lannoo 2005; Stebbins 2003; Storer 1925; pers. obs.). Maintaining endangered species populations where the invasive bullfrog is established is challenging, but is imperative for conservation efforts.

Seasonality of available habitat and animal activity play important roles in spatio-temporal frog assemblages (Kopp and Eterovick 2006) and may contribute to the persistence of red-legged frogs despite the predatory effects of the larger bullfrogs (Adams et al. 2011). Nonetheless, seasonal variation in activity of the California Red-legged Frog (e.g. breeding phenology) along with spatial distributions has not been assessed in the presence of American Bullfrogs. Complex interactions between pond breeding species are often difficult to discern, but microcosm experiments have elucidated some of these interactions (Luckinbill 1973; Morin 1986; Wilbur 1987; Kiesecker et al. 1998; Hero et al. 2001). However, few studies have examined this in a natural field setting. The

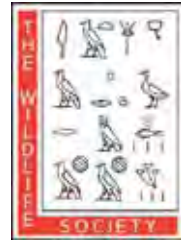


photo by H. Clark



photo by H. Clark

NEVADA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



2015 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

We are opening the Call for Papers for the 2015 The Wildlife Society-Nevada Chapter Annual Meeting. We hope you will consider submitting a paper for the rejuvenated Nevada Chapter.

We are soliciting abstracts for 20-minute oral presentations for the general meeting. Abstract content for the general meeting should be related to the study, management, or conservation of wildlife and habitats preferably in Nevada; however, study systems outside of Nevada will also be considered. Presentations may consist of either final or interim original research results. The conference program and session chairs will evaluate submitted abstracts to determine the final session agenda.

Additionally, we will be organizing a collection of invited presentations which will focus on either population estimation strategies or the use of habitat models in a conservation framework. Individuals interested in participating in the invited presentation session should contact Daniel Gibson (dnonne@gmail.com) for more information.

Invited presentations will focus primarily on these concepts:

- Introduction into population estimation: Tools available for management and conservation.
- The use of habitat models in conservation: An understanding of the goals and processes.

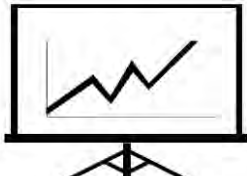
Instructions for submitting abstracts

Please submit abstracts (< 300 words) to Daniel Gibson at (dnonne@gmail.com) by January 9th.

The **2015 Annual Meeting** will be held in the Commission Hearing Room at the NDOW Office (1000 Valley Road, Reno, NV) on **February 11th to the 12th**. The technical sessions will be from 1 PM to 5 PM on the 11th and 8 AM to 12 PM on the 12th. A social gathering will be the evening of the 11th and the Chapter Business Meeting will be the afternoon of the 12th. A more detailed itinerary will be provided at a later date.

Registration

All presenters and attendees must register and pay the appropriate **conference registration fee**, which will be **\$20 for students and \$50 for general members**. Although you may register at the door, we are encouraging early registration via mail. To do so, please send your name, email address, and affiliation along with a check payable to "Nevada Chapter, TWS" to Derek Hall, 6816 Beach Nest Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89130. And if you haven't already, this is a great time to pay your 2015 Chapter membership dues (just \$10.00).

**Announcement!****NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP****January 5-9, 2015**

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's PowerPoint software. The workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

Workshop Content:

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

Instructor: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Professor, Calif. State Univ., Chico (Certified Wildlife Biologist, Certified Interpretive Trainer, Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, 35+ years teaching communication workshops around the country). Dr. Hooper will be assisted by Ms. Kim Rubin, who has experience as a tour guide and environmental interpreter. She has 15 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, 2014 (Friday). 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 \$795. 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, 2014 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 2015 workshop will not only learn professional tips for using PowerPoint, but also will gain exposure to Photoshop Elements (digital photo editing software).

Upcoming Events

2015

January 5-9

Natural Resources Communication Workshop.
Chico, CA

January 26

Spotted Owl /Barred Owl Interactions
Symposium. Santa Rosa, CA

January 26-27

Technical Writing Workshop. Santa Rosa, CA

January 27

Effects of Marijuana Plantations on Wildlife
and Wildlife Biologists. Santa Rosa, CA.

January 27

Amargosa Vole: Emergency Conservation
Symposium. Santa Rosa, CA.

January 28-30

TWS Western Section Annual Meeting.
Santa Rosa, CA.

January 31-February 1

Student Weekend. Point Reyes, CA

January 31-February 1

Wilderness First Aid. Point Reyes, CA

February 11-12, 2015

NV Chapter Annual Meeting. Reno, NV.

October 17-21

TWS Annual Meeting. Winnipeg, Manitoba.

July 2015

5th International Wildlife Management
Congress. Sapporo, Japan

2016

January 26-29

TWS Western Section Annual Meeting.
Pomona, CA

TWS-WS Working to Improve Email Communication



Constant Contact Newsletter Emails Coming Your Way Soon....

The Western Section is moving away from our Yahoo Group email communication system in favor of more dynamic emails hosted by Constant Contact. The new system will provide better service to our members by allowing us to send more personalized (and attractive!) emails that are friendly to mobile devices. Our mailing list users will enjoy the one-click unsubscribe option and the easy ability to update email profiles and addresses.

We will automatically add all current and past members to our new mailing list and we will invite all Yahoo Group users to join. Feedback appreciated!

To join our new group - [click here!](#)

Donate to the Western Section Endowment Fund

The Donaldson Endowment Fund was established in 2007 with a \$38,000 bequest from the estate of Section member Douglas Donaldson.

Interest generated from the fund is 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.

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.



The Wildlife Society Western Section

P.O. Box 6756
Albany, CA 94706

<http://twswest.org>

This newsletter is published three times a year:

April 15, August 15 and December 15

Contributions are due 30 days prior to each publish date.
Email contributions to candace.renger@gmail.com

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