



The Wildlife Society Western Section

Vol.51, No. 1

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2005

A few issue highlights:

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President's Message

Summer greetings! While staying close to home, I'm enjoying some urban wildlife: an immature sharp-shinned hawk making a closer acquaintance with the neighborhood's thriving pigeon population.

Our Executive Board is pleased to be communicating with you again after a newsletter hiatus. During our recent financial crisis, we shifted to electronic communications posted to the Section Web site and members' listserver. Unfortunately, limited enrollment in the listserver prevented many of you from receiving our important news. Therefore, we are distributing this paper copy to re-connect with you and will resume an annual paper newsletter, distributed in Fall, to the full membership. This annual letter will contain elections and annual conference information. The remaining quarterly newsletters will continue to be posted to the website, as this saves time, money and resources. To stay informed of all your Section's news, please sign up for the listserver (*see Page 12*).

Our organization has survived a challenging period. As John Harris shared in his past-president's message and letter distributed at the 2005 annual meeting, "I remain

confident that the Section will emerge from this rebuilding process as a premier professional development and support organization." We have, thanks largely to the dedicated volunteers on our Executive Board. Everyone has taken on additional tasks but a few specific folks deserve special recognition: Mike Chapel, Rhys Evans, John Harris, Kevin Hunting, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Katie Moriarty, and Don Yasuda. Without their dedication and hard work, our Section would be sunk!

Your Section has undergone a complete shift in business operations, relying once again on volunteers for its daily operations. The last year we were strictly a volunteer organization was 1993! It's a lot of work to provide top quality services and resources to student and professional wildlifers and a lot of fun too. Our Executive Board has lots of great ideas for helping their fellow biologists better conduct their job duties and more satisfactorily maneuver through their careers. But the ability to implement these ideas is limited by the involvement of fellow members. For the Section to reach its full potential, we need more volunteers! The Board members' "day"

Continued on Page 8.



Is NPS Pinnacles biologist Jim Peterson instructing an owl workshop? No, to get the story see Page 14.

Confirm your Western Section membership
Is your membership current? Your mailing label can tell you... *See Page 12 for more details.*

Mark Your Calendars!
Western Section 2006
Annual Conference

Doubletree Hotel
Sacramento, CA

February 8-11

Upcoming Events

Rhys Evans

There are many interesting events coming up from the TWS-WS Professional Development Committee! We encourage members to regularly visit our website for current information, because some events are still finalizing dates and locations. But here are some dates you can mark on the calendar:

July 15, 2005

TWS Certification Workshop. San Diego, CA. TWS encourages professionals to attain professional certification as a means of demonstrating your education, work experience and qualifications as a wildlife biologist.

**** Certification Workshops** - if you're interested contact your chapter rep to start the planning; all we need is a classroom! These are best when there are only 10-12 participants, costs are minimal.

August 2 - 3, 2005

Bio-Statistics: Capture and Recapture Analysis using Program Mark and WINBugs. Arcata, CA Dr. Howard Stauffer will repeat his highly successful workshop, this time on the HSU campus, in a PC computer classroom. Registration opens in June.

September 8 - 11, 2005

Bat Ecology & Field Techniques. Hastings Reserve, Monterey County.

The Workshop includes extensive, hands-on techniques and ecology studies, so hands-on that partici-

pants are required to show evidence of rabies vaccinations. Registration opens in July.

October 17 - 19, 2005

Ecology and Management of Bats Symposium, Sacramento, CA.

This event will be held just prior to, but independent of the North American Symposium on Bat Research, also in Sacramento, so true bat lovers can get two cool events in one trip! Noted experts Dixie Pierson and Pat Brown will lead many other presenters for in-depth discussions of everything you need to know about Chiropterans... Registration opens in August.

February 2006

TWS Certification Mini-Workshop. Sacramento, CA.

A one-half day (not the typical full day) certification workshop before our annual meeting.

Fisher and Marten:

Moving Science and Management Forward

February 7 & 8, 2006

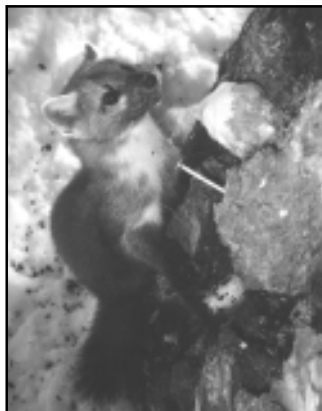
Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento

Preceding the Western Section Annual Conference, this symposium will present new scientific information on the fisher and marten and will explore management needs of these species in California.

Goals:

- * Provide updates on the science and conservation status of fisher and marten in California.
- * Provide a forum for land managers and regulators to discuss with researchers the information needs and possible approaches for fisher conservation on private and public lands in California.
- * Identify and describe specific parts of comprehensive state-wide conservation strategies for fisher and marten in California.

The format will be one full day of invited presentations by researchers on new or updated scientific information and a half-day of discussions of management-oriented issues. Registration materials and additional information will be available at the Western Section website by late summer or early fall.



Dates to be determined:

March 2006, TENTATIVE. ESA Section 7 Consultation. 2 or 3-day workshop. This is intended to cover much more than the successful 1-day seminar we offered a few years ago, yet it's not quite as intense as the 5-day class offered by USFWS.

Fall 2006

Raptor Ecology Symposium

Bird Survey and Management techniques

Use of Remote Cameras

And more to come...

Mohave Ground Squirrel Workshop Wrap-Up

Rhys Evans

The Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*) is listed as Threatened by the State of California and is a key species to be covered under the West Mojave Plan. And they're definitely a species that would get an "awwww, how cute" from just about any audience.

TWS West recently sponsored a two-day workshop, featuring presentations by Dr. Phil Leitner, Dr. John Harris, Dr. Tony Recht and other recognized experts. Participants learned about ecology, behavior, vegetation preferences, habitat evaluation, genetics and status of this species. A day in the field was also included, demonstrating trapping grids, field techniques, radio-telemetry, species identification, and more. The best part yet – every field trip participant got to see at least one of these elusive little creatures, and most of us got to see antelope ground squirrels, too. Speaking of the species in focus, a 3-year old female (nicknamed "Sheila" by the researchers) preened and posed enough photos for her own 12-month calendar. Another group met Sheila's "granddaughter."

Sixty-four participants had their brains filled with biology, and we also tried to fill their stomachs with pizza, cookies and sandwiches.

On behalf of The Western Section,



John Harris poses with a Mohave ground squirrel during the field portion of the workshop.

we'd like to thank our workshop sponsors (in alphabetical order): E-Corp, ESA Inc., Eremico Consulting, HT Harvey and Associates, T. Leslie Corporation, and Sharon Romero and Associates.

And worthy of even more gratitude are the instructors and guest presenters: Phil Leitner, John Harris, Tony Recht, Kayce Bell, Jeff Aarhdahl, Becky Jones, Kathy Buescher-Simon and Mark Hagan. Edwards Air Force Base provided participants with compact disks containing tons of background information.

Plans are already in the works for a repeat of this successful workshop in the spring of 2007! Keep an eye on our website for details on this and MANY other professional development opportunities sponsored by **your** Western Section!

Your Professional Development Committee...

Rhys Evans

We're here to help you reach your professional goals, by providing training opportunities for the fresh out of school biologist to the soon-to-retire old folks, and every level in between! If you have ideas or would like to help organize a workshop or other Professional Development event, contact your local Chapter Rep or the PDC!

I'm happy to welcome Denise Walker-Brown as co-chair of the committee. *Contact information for the Professional Development Committee and the Executive Board can be found on Page 16.*

Past - President's Message

John Harris

This letter to members was included in 2005 Annual Meeting materials:

Many of you are aware that the Western Section experienced a financial crisis during 2004. Because this crisis affected the ability of the Section to communicate with the membership, and because members may not have a complete picture of the year's events, I would like to briefly describe what happened. I believe that the Section has weathered the crisis and is in a good position to become stronger over the next year.

Although the 2004 conference was financially successful, it was preceded by a sharp drop in revenues at events of the preceding year or more. At the end of March, when I received a final accounting of our status following the conference, the Section's balance was insufficient to cover outstanding bills. At that time, the Section was in debt by approximately \$15,000, and had upcoming summer bills for insurance, accounting services, and workman's compensation that totaled nearly \$5,000. The Section had no choice but to lay off its paid staff: Executive Director Barbara Rocco and Membership Coordinator Danielle Szalas. This was a painful decision given the outstanding service provided by both Barbara and Danielle.

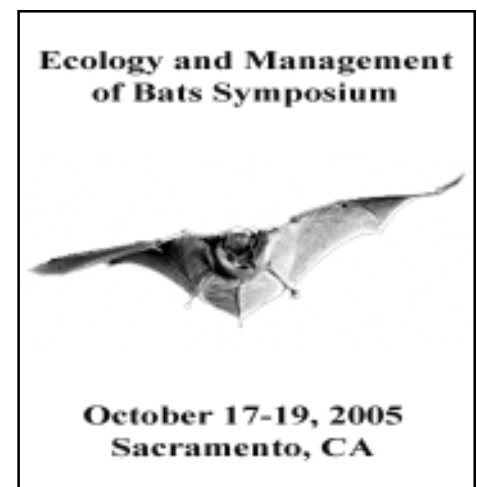
Considerable discussion followed among the members and/or officers of most of our chapters, as well as among the Section Executive Board membership and other se-

nior members of the Section. All agreed on the need to develop a short term plan to bring the Section into a stable financial position and to guide operations in the near future. Two immediate actions taken in late March and April were the appointment of an interim Treasurer and the arrangement of loans from two chapters. Because we could no longer rely on the services of an Executive Director to manage the Sections finances, I appointed Mike Chapel to serve as interim Treasurer. I am grateful to him for his service in this difficult time. This position, in accordance with the current bylaws of the Section, has not been a voting Executive Board position, though the Board is developing a proposal to revise the bylaws to re-establish a Treasurer position. The Section arranged two loans of \$5,000 each from the California North Coast and Hawaii chapters. These loans, in combination with other revenues during summer months, allowed the Section to pay off the bulk of its debts by early fall. Subsequently, the Section has received a loan of \$8,400 from the Southern California chapter which has been held in reserve, and a donation of \$1,000 from the San Francisco Bay Area chapter. The Executive Board took additional measures to reduce spending to the bare minimum and has been looking at a number of ways to reduce operational expenses of our business.

The Executive Board has also, with strong support from the chapters, undertaken an analysis of the Sections financial performance over

the past decade and the development of recommendations for the Section's business practices for the near future. We began by studying profit and loss statements, revenues and expenses for the annual conference and professional development activities, balance sheets, tax returns and payroll records going back to 1993, and we also have solicited feedback from recent Section Presidents. A 5-year plan for professional development workshops has been prepared by the Professional Development Committee. Some of this analysis will be presented at the past officer's planning meeting and the members business meeting on Friday.

I want to thank the membership and chapter officers for feedback and discussion during this time, and especially want to thank everyone who has helped out with volunteering to get Section business done. I anticipate that the Section will be in a positive financial position by the end of our 2005 conference and I remain confident that the Section will emerge from this rebuilding process as a premier professional development and support organization.



Section Representative

The Wildlife Society Council March Meeting Highlights*Marti Kie*

The Wildlife Society Council held a planning session on March 13-14 and a business meeting on March 15, 2005 in Bethesda, Maryland. The following actions were taken.

Actions/Updates

▲ Approved new strategy for TWS publications to improve access, focus content, meet member needs for more management/issue - oriented information, optimize revenues, and improve operating efficiencies (see next three items).

▲ TWS has partnered with BioOne for electronic publishing of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* and online distribution to library subscribers and subscribing TWS members beginning with 2004 and 2005 volumes.

▲ TWS will pursue a co-publishing agreement with an outside firm to take over the production and marketing of the *Journal* and *Bulletin* beginning with 2006 volumes. This will result in the reduction of 3 TWS staff positions later this year.

▲ The *Journal* and *Bulletin* will be combined into a single, peer-reviewed journal with 8 issues a year beginning in 2007. A new membership magazine will be created in 2007 to include information from *The Wildlifer*, management/issue - oriented articles, and departmental content from the *Bulletin*. New names are under consideration for the combined journal and new magazine to better reflect content.

▲ Selected the Florida Chapter to host the 15th An

nual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Miami, on November 8-12, 2008.

▲ Agreed to appoint a committee to prepare a technical review on Impact of Wind Farms to Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat.

▲ Approved a final position statement on Global Climate Change and Wildlife.

▲ Approved a dues waiver for deployed Reserve and National Guard personnel while activated.

▲ TWS' online store will be expanded to include TWS-logo merchandise in the near future.

▲ Agreed to launch a search for an executive director.

Pending

▲ 6th Edition of the Techniques Manual is expected to be published in June 2005.

▲ A survey of state and federal wildlife professionals was conducted to assess attitudes toward sustainable use of wildlife resources; final report is pending.

▲ The following technical reviews are underway: (1) Baiting and Artificial Feeding of Game Wildlife Species, (2) Lead in the Environment and its Implications to Policy Makers and Fisheries and Wildlife Professionals (in partnership with American Fisheries Society), and (3) Practical Ways to Improve Implementation of the Endangered Species Act.

▲ Position statements are under development on the following topics: (1) Shooting Preserves (revision), (2) Wildlife Needs in Forest Management (revision), and (3) Scientific Peer Review (new).

Items of Interest: Barbara Rocco and Danielle Slazas

As outlined in John Harris' Past-President's message, the Section's dire financial straits forced us to bid farewell to our paid staff in March of 2004. Barbara Rocco was hired by Barry Garrison in 2000 to fill the Section's opening for a part-time Executive Secretary. She jumped into the job with a full-speed-ahead attitude and a passion for helping to get tasks completed. She helped Barry organize a very successful 2001 Annual Conference in Sacramento and facilitated the local logistics for the 2001 TWS annual

meeting in Reno. She grew the Section's capacity to include monthly (as opposed to annual) membership renewals and, to fill the increased need for managing the membership database and operations, assisted in hiring Danielle Slazas as membership coordinator.

Danielle and Barbara were a dynamic team who worked hard to steadily increase the Section's business capacity. Danielle maintained the membership database and assisted Barbara with conference registrations, materials, and member-

ship tracking and renewals. Barbara repeatedly secured corporate/agency sponsorships for conferences and workshops, facilitated logistics of annual meetings, and relieved the board of the "headaches" of various registration logistics and hotel contracts and negotiations. She brought in ideas about a K-12 education program and resurrected Section merchandising to help us identify Wildlifers in our midst and generate a small profit.

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Executive Board Meeting Minute Summary (From Jan. 19-20 and May 20-21)

Katie Moriarty

Website Revision: Finally, the archaic website we all know and love will soon be a thing of the past. The board has recently approved a website revision that will be completed by Firman's Web Design; the same company that re-designed the Sacramento-Shasta web page. Although it is difficult to estimate when the final product will be hitting your computer screens, the change should provide the membership with a new and exciting interface for accessing information about Section activities, people, and events.

Electronic Transactions? Another astonishing change is coming to your computer screens. Our new Transactions Editor has been busy at work, scanning the dusty library of previous Transactions (*see Garrison's report on Page 7*). Although document text is not yet searchable, the spreadsheet-like database will allow members to query for keywords, titles, and authors. In addition, the electronic submission guidelines for the Transactions are now online. Check out the new updates!

Finances: As many of you know, the Section weathered a difficult financial period and was forced to drastically cut costs and borrow short-term money to meet existing program needs. The good news is we have turned the corner and are well on the way to fiscal solvency. Three chapter loans and net income from the last annual conference provided a much-needed lift to right our financial situation. Thanks to the efforts of Past-president John Harris, President Cynthia Perrine, and Treasurer Mike Chapel, the Section now sports a completely revised budgeting and accounting system capable of attributing costs and ex-

penses to individual events. Life membership, student services, annual meeting money, and other income sources will be allocated into different sub-accounts.

Bylaws: Presently, the bylaws to the Section need revision. Since a vote by the membership is required for the recommended changes to become binding, the board decided to conduct a thorough review of the existing by-laws and capture all needed changes during one membership vote. Watch the next newsletter and the Section web site for additional information regarding these changes. Highlights include:

- Creation of a board Treasurer position (formerly an executive director function)
- Re-alignment of voting privileges and responsibilities for the executive board
- Restructuring of some standing committees including the finance committee
- Alignment of the by-laws with current practices

Dave Smith, Hawaii Chapter, has volunteered the Hawaii chapter to pay for a bylaw revision. The bylaws need to follow a template, and the lawyer can look through our present bylaws and give us advice.

Chapter Workshops Coordination: To improve and better define collaboration between the Section, Chapters, and organizations with similar education and member service goals, the Professional Development Committee embarked on a process to establish co-sponsorship guidelines. This system spells out the fiscal and logistical responsibilities of the Section and cooperators. Coordination includes the op-

tions of insurance, use of the Section webmaster, and credit card machine with a minimum of 90 days advanced notice. In years past, Section involvement has been more of a hindrance than a value to chapters. Chapters are free to have their own workshops without coordination, but we want to avoid conflicts with concurrent workshops and best use our web space. If chapters request support from the Western Section, they need to provide a workshop budget. Items to include are the break-even point and a contingency plan if registrations are low or costs run high. The Section will work with the chapters to develop a list of support items. The protocol for chapter coordination has been drafted and will be available online soon. If you have more questions, contact our Professional Development Committee.

Rolling membership: The section presently has a rolling membership whereby members receive Section membership benefits for 12 months beginning on their individual membership date. This system presents challenges in maintaining Section membership records, especially without paid staff, and is not consistent with the parent TWS annual membership cycle that more or less follows a calendar year. After careful consideration, the section has decided to go back to annual renewals that take effect in April of each year. With a major revision of the membership database this spring, Don Yasuda sent out membership renewal notices for the 2005 calendar year in June. Electronic renewal e-mails were sent and the mailed newsletter will serve as a renewal reminder for those without valid e-mail addresses in our database.

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Barry Garrison

Beginning with the 2005 issue, I am replacing Brian Cypher as Editor of the *Transactions of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society*. Brian did an outstanding job as Editor for the last five years, and the Western Section owes Brian a debt of gratitude for his great work maintaining the fine tradition of the *Transactions*.

The *Transactions* are one of the oldest, continuously published wildlife journals in the western United States, and it is an important and scholarly publication. I would like to encourage all Western Section members to submit manuscripts on any topic of wildlife research, conservation, or management that they think would be useful to Section members. Papers generally should focus on wildlife topics in the Western Section boundaries of Nevada, California, Hawaii, and Guam, but general papers are also accepted.

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In the future, initial renewal notices will be sent out in December with a final notice in February. Since most of our communication with our members will be via e-mail, please ensure we have your current e-mail address.

Rebuilding partnerships: A goal for the coming year is to rebuild partnerships. We had a successful joint workshop with The Society of Wetland Scientists in April. There is a tentative commitment of co-sponsoring the Annual Meeting of Fire Ecologists in 2007. The California Native Plant Society is planning a meeting in Summer 2006, and the American Fisheries Society will have a large meeting in 2007. Partnerships may not need to be large, but we would like to increase our communication

We are particularly interested in manuscripts from students, particularly graduate students, seeking to publish their work.

The *Transactions* has several benefits for prospective authors. First, there is rapid publication turnaround as the *Transactions* are published once a year so authors will see their work in print more rapidly than other journals. Second, page charges are waived if you are a member of the Western Section. Third, most papers in the *Transactions* are peer-reviewed so authors receive thorough and professional reviews of their work by their peers which strengthens the paper's scientific value and credibility. Fourth, authors do not have to be Section members nor have presented their papers at an Annual Conference of the Western Section. Lastly, the *Transactions* are distributed to all Section members as part of their membership dues so

with our peer professional organizations. If you belong to, or have information on, other organizations that that we could partner with, please let us know.

National meeting: The section is planning to submit a bid for the 2009 National Wildlife Society Meeting. Our Section hosted the meeting in 2001 and there were several concerns regarding hosting that meeting expressed by the board and by members. Since that time, there have been modifications with the protocol for hosting the meeting and the Parent Society would have a paid staff member to help the Section with planning, which addresses most of the concerns from 2001. The location of the conference is still in the works, but the bid is due this July so we'll know soon!

Transactions Editor

authors benefit from wide readership.

Manuscripts are due by May 1 of each year, and the *Transactions* guidelines are posted on the Western Section's web site under "Resolutions, Policies, and Statements" at www.tws-west.org. The *Transactions* are usually published to coincide with the Section's Annual Conference the following year. Electronic submissions of manuscripts as MS-Word files are encouraged and preferred. See the guidelines for submission instructions.

Future plans for the *Transactions* include posting all articles on the Section's web site which will expand readership even further. I'm looking forward to working with prospective authors. For more information please contact me at 916-358-2945 or bgarrison@dfg.ca.gov.

Executive Board Minutes Continued

Awards: There was no Chapter of the Year award this year due to lack of submittals and an awkward situation with some chapters loaning the Section money. The Yoakum Award was awarded to Brad Valentine for his dedicated service to the Section. It was the first presentation of the award in 4 years. Dave DeSante received Conservationist of the Year; this award is presented to individuals or groups whose programs enhance wildlife conservation within the Section. Peter Bloom was given the Dasmann Award which recognizes an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources management and understanding. Karen Swaim will be starting the Robert Stebbins' Award for students (*See Page 13*).

Conservation Affairs Committee

Kevin Hunting

The goals of the Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) are varied and include: identifying and monitoring legislation relevant to the Section membership; preparing letters and other correspondence to legislative staff and Senate and Assembly Committees expressing the Section and Wildlife Society position on Bills as they move through the process; identifying agency policies or programs that may affect wildlife management in the Section and corresponding with agency decision makers to forward the Sections position; and identifying projects resulting in land use changes that may affect wildlife and collaborating with others to become involved in the CEQA review process. In addition, the CAC identifies issues affecting the Section and its membership that may require clarifying position statements and prepares those statements for review by Section leadership.

During 2004, the Fire Policy group made some progress on the wildlife and fire position statement drafted in 2003. New information generated during the annual conference at the fire session will be considered as the policy develops. We hope to broaden cooperation in its development and add technical specialists to the advisory and review groups originally recruited to work on this policy.

One of our Section Members, Cynthia Wilkerson, agreed to take on development of a position statement on the affects of roads in wilderness and other natural areas on wildlife. Cynthia prepared a working draft that we reviewed and we hope progress continues on preparing a draft position on this issue.

Conservation Affairs activities since publication of our last printed newsletter also included providing comments on the following bills during the legislative review process:

SB418 Streambed Alteration Agreements (Sher, D-Stanford): Would standardize reporting and application requirements for the SAA process, require applicant accountability for mitigation, and empower the CDFG to revoke permits.

SB643 Agricultural Land Protection Act (Aanestad, R, Grass Valley): Would impose certain duties on conservation land owners to prevent "damages" to adjacent agricultural land owners and authorize these land owners to recover financial damages from government entities owning and managing conservation lands.

SB412 Endangered Species Recovery Strategy Program (Florez, D - Shafter): Would repeal existing pilot Recovery Program Strategy statutes which identify the Greater Sandhill Crane and 4 "other" species and would authorize the DFG to develop and implement a pilot Recovery Strategy for the coho salmon instead.

SB657 Fully Protected Species (Florez, D-Shafter): Would repeal the pilot Recovery Program Strategy, eliminate the Fully Protected designation, and place those taxa currently designated as fully protected on a new Candidate list.

Finally, the CAC prepared and submitted comments on the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Draft EIS (USFS) and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Monuments Land and Resource Management Plans (BLM).

The CAC's scope and effectiveness is limited only by participation of Section membership. Please contact Kevin Hunting (khunting@dfg.ca.gov) if you would like to get involved or simply would like your name added to our direct email list for draft documents. Letters and positions generated by the CAC can be viewed on the TWS Western Section website by accessing <http://www.tws-west.org/> then selecting "Resolutions, Policies, and Statements". To obtain current information on the status of bills referred to in Section letters, go to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.



President's Report Cont.

Continued from Page 1

jobs are not any less complicated or less time-consuming than any other Section member. These folks have simply chosen to channel some effort into volunteer service to their profession. If you're ready to devote some time to your Section, contact a Board member today! Sure, you can do it right after you check your e-mail, your voice-mail, your in-box, your calendar...

Best, Cynthia

California North Coast Chapter

Gary Falxa

It has been a mild winter and spring on the north coast, where fall 2004 started on a hot note, with a Crested Caracara treating locals to a taste of warmer biomes. On September 4, local biologist and birder Ron LeValley spotted the vagrant along Highway 101 between Eureka and Arcata. Over the next week or so, people reported caracara sightings from coastal Humboldt and Del Norte counties, likely the same bird. Observers reported single caracaras from Mendocino and Sonoma counties earlier last summer, suggesting a single bird 'on the road'. The nearest populations of this widespread neotropical raptor are in extreme southern Arizona and northwestern Mexico, and this was the first sighting in Humboldt County. To see a photo and more details, check out Rob Fowler's article in the winter issue of the Marten, the chapter's newsletter, at <http://tws-cncc.org/>.

On to chapter business—membership, at about 122 total, and bank balance (\$14,500) have remained stable over the last year, which is encouraging given the tight economy in our area. Last December, we held our annual winter mixer at the Korb Schoolhouse, where students and professionals gathered over BBQ chicken to socialize, vie for door prizes, and hold chapter elections. The undisputed new offices include Jeff Stoddard as HSU student representative to CNCC, Lisa Ollivier as CNCC president-elect, and Sandra Hunt-von Arb as our new secretary. In addition, Wendy Mellberg volunteered to take over as editor of the Marten.

This May, we co-sponsored a set of workshops on the management and protection of springs, headwaters, and other wetlands in managed coastal forests. There were two 2-day sessions in the chapter area and they were very well attended. The session in Fort Bragg brought over 50 individuals and the session in Arcata-Korb had over 70. A third session focusing on inland forests was cosponsored by the Sacramento-Shasta chapter, and occurred in Redding. FRAWG (Forest Reptile and Amphibian Working Group) co-sponsored all three sessions. One of the goals of this series was to get people from different perspectives together to discuss how to better protect habitat for forest amphibians during forestry operations. Classroom sessions and field trips were followed by moderated discussion groups which provided a variety of constructive ideas concerning headwater amphibian conservation.

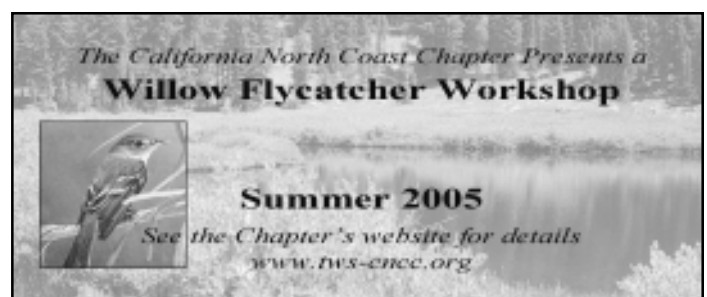
The annual professional-student Spring Banquet was



A Crested Caracara in Humboldt County??

held April 9, which featured a talk on mountain lions and jaguars in the Southwest borderlands. This event brought an unprecedented number of students and the raffle raised funds for the Humboldt State University student chapter.

The chapter is also planning several professional development activities, including local workshops on West Nile Virus and wildlife, and on willow flycatcher survey techniques. The CNCC is holding a Willow Flycatcher Workshop this summer. The goal of the meeting is to help biologists identify willow flycatchers and their habitat, and to provide a working knowledge of the survey protocol. The all-day workshop will include a morning classroom session at HSU, and an afternoon field session in habitat on the lower Eel River. Registration for the 2 sessions is separate, and is limited to 24 for the field session, so early registration is recommended. The registration deadline is July 1. Registration forms and other information can be found at the chapter website, <http://tws-cncc.org>.



Sacramento-Shasta Chapter

Melinda Dorin

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter has been busy planning workshops and getting caught up from 2004. We had three workshops for this spring. The first was a Tracking and Nature Awareness Workshop that occurred on April 26-27 2005 at the Cosumnes River Nature Preserve. It was well attended and was a good learning experience for all involved. The second was a Ecology and Management of Forest headwaters, Seeps, Springs and Wetland Habitat workshop was held June 2-3, 2005. Part of that workshop was held at Shasta College in Redding and part of it was held in the field. Finally an Aspen Meadow and Restoration Workshop is scheduled for July 26.

The Chapter has also been working to update our website and it is finally finished! You can find the site at www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/. If anyone has jobs or events that they would like us to post, please let me know. The Chapter has started out the year doing well financially and



The Tracking and Nature Awareness Workshop: Rick Berry with Children of the Earth Foundation. The above photo features the class looking at tracks in sand and talking about how different impressions are made.

our membership is stable at about 150 active members. We continue to try and find outreach opportunities and ask our membership what kinds of events they would like to see. If you have ideas for outreach to members or the community at

large please let us know. We are always interested in hearing from you.

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Jessica Martini-Lamb

Volunteers have been busy working on Chapter events and activities. The Chapter held a successful **Western Pond Turtle Workshop: Ecology and Conservation** at Sonoma State University on April 16 and 17, 2005. The workshop provided professional biologists with a background on conservation issues of the western pond turtle, recent research findings, and practical understanding of field methods. Participants learned how to identify turtles, their life history and habitat requirements, taxonomy and evolution; potential causes of declines, survey techniques, regulations and permits, and

management plans. The workshop's Saturday session included presentations and a short field trip to an on-campus pond where turtle identification, visual surveys for basking turtles, and trapping techniques were discussed. Following the Saturday presentations, a social campout was held at Spring Lake located near Santa Rosa. The campout included a Saturday BBQ dinner and a Sunday breakfast.

Chapter volunteers are also in the process of planning future events, including raptor and conservation genetics workshops. Chapter volunteers are also assembling the

Chapter's Bay Area Directory of Biologists. Volunteers have been working on the directory's format and framework and the directory may be ready to accept information soon.

We are looking for nominees for candidates for chapter elections. Candidates are needed for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Chapter Representative. If you are interested, please contact Jessica Martini at (707) 547-1903.



Youthful assistants in a restoration project.

Bill Standley

The Hawaii Chapter currently has over 50 members and a treasury balance of approximately \$37,000. In 2004 the Chapter launched its web site hosted on the Western Section TWS server at <http://www.tws-west.org/hawaii/>. The Hawaii Chapter Board donated \$1,000 towards The Wildlife Society Endowment Fund as part of the Endowment Campaign to Sustain Wildlife Conservation. The Chapter Board loaned the Western Section of the Wildlife Society \$5,000 to help them recover from two years of operating deficits. The Chapter President also traveled to the Western Section Annual Conference to accept the award for Western Section Chapter of the Year 2004. The Hawaii Chapter also won the award in 2001.

The Chapter sponsored a Breakfast Tailgate Social at the Hawaii Conservation Conference in June 2004 and a good time was had by all. The Chapter held its annual wildlife management workshop in October 2004, and focused on introduced predator control techniques. Abstracts of the presentations are posted on the Chapter's web site.

The Chapter continues to support a variety of restoration projects:

Hamakua Marsh Restoration and Community Development Project, Oahu. This is an ongoing cooperative program with the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, and Ducks Unlimited. Activities during the past year included a boundary survey, debris cleanup, access road maintenance and native tree planting, boundary fencing, sanctuary sign installation, portable Solar pump purchase and wetland habitat enhancement. The project currently has 19 partners including local businesses, private non-profit organizations, charitable foundations, and county, state, and federal agencies.

Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project. TWS-HI is the fiscal sponsor for the \$170,000 Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, spear-headed by the Off-shore Islands Restoration Committee. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources administers the 1.1 sq. kilometer Lehua Island State Seabird Sanctuary, which supports at least 10 species of nesting seabirds totaling over 30,000 individual birds, 22 native plant species, and a variety of native insects and marine organisms. Several alien species are established on Lehua, including rabbits, rats, cattle egrets, barn owls, ants, and a variety of weeds. The Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project will fund removal of rabbits from the island, and will lay the groundwork for future rodent removal by conducting a rodent population assessment and the preparation of NEPA documents

Hawaii Chapter

needed prior to aerial broadcast of rodenticides on the island. In late December 2004 the Hawaii Chapter signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative to manage an additional \$80,000 of mitigation funding which will help with the control of introduced cattle egrets, barn owls, rats and rabbits on Lehua.

Laysan Duck Population Monitoring. The Hawaii Chapter is a Co-operation fiscal sponsor for the \$5,000 Laysan Duck Population Monitoring project. The goals of this monitoring are to (1) evaluate mortality, survival, sex ratios, and reproduction of Laysan ducks, and (2) provide baseline population data to guide translocation decisions and to evaluate the response to management.

Kalaeloa Anchialine Pool Restoration Project, Oahu. The Hawaii Chapter is fiscal sponsor for this \$2,000 project that will restore anchialine pools to an area where they formerly occurred in the Kalaeloa area of Oahu.

The Annual Meeting was held in January 2005 and new Board members were elected: Brenda Becker, Nancy Hoffman, David Smith, and Bill Standley. Many thanks go to outgoing Board members Paul Conry and Fern Duvall. Thanks also go to Ed Johnson, who volunteered to be the new Conservation Affairs Committee Chair.

Lehua Island



Membership Notes

Don Yasuda

After much delay, Western Section membership renewal notices via email were sent out on June 4th and 5th. It has taken quite a while to get the database in order and we apologize for the delay. We currently have 636 paid members for 2005. There are 716 renewals to process for members that joined in 2003 or 2004 but have not renewed for 2005. Of those, 654 had an email address in our database and of those there were 137 rejected addresses. If you did not receive an email notice from me then it means one of two things:

- 1. You have already paid for your 2005 calendar year membership; or**
- 2. We do not have a valid email address for you!**

Your mailing label for this newsletter shows the year of expiration for your membership as shown in our database as of early June. If we do not have a current email for you then your mailing label will say "No Email" after your membership number and we will be sending you a renewal letter by postal mail shortly. However, to save us postage costs, you can renew via the methods listed below and send an email message to me at: dayasudaTWS@comcast.net.

The preferred method of renewal is via electronic payment over the internet, although we also accept checks

or credit card information through the mail. With the development of the national office's new on-line store, we are recommending that new and renewing members use their site <https://store.wildlife.org>. You do not have to create an account when you checkout, however, if you do the computer will retain your address for future visits to the store. We will also continue to accept renewal payments via the secure on-line form at our Section's website (<https://secure.securedata.net/tws-west/memberform.html>). If you're curious, we recommend the national office's site because they have direct credit card processing and can handle a larger volume of business than we can on our current website. In the future we hope to update our website to accommodate easier membership processing.

Your continued support of The Western Section allows us to: provide a quality Annual Meeting and Conference; provide many excellent Professional Development workshops and symposia; be active in Conservation Affairs; support our members through grants; and recognize our members for their outstanding contributions to our profession.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be updating the membership list and membership directory on our website (<http://www.tws-west.org>) and will be able to keep it updated more frequently. As always, if you have questions regarding your membership status or have updated address and/or email information, please contact me at dayasudaTWS@comcast.net.

2006 Annual Conference of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society

February 8-10
Sacramento, CA

Kevin Hunting, President-Elect

What: The 2006 Annual Conference of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society

When: 8 – 10 February, 2006 (Field trips tentatively planned for Saturday February 11).

Where: Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, CA

The 2006 conference will include concurrent technical sessions focusing presentations on research and issues facing wildlife professionals in the Western Section. We anticipate a general call for papers in late summer 2005 and encourage presentation of both completed original research projects and preliminary or interim study results. The deadline for submission of abstracts is Friday, October 7, 2005. Please mark your calendars and watch the electronic and print newsletters for more information and the call for papers later this summer.



GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

Proposals are limited to four pages

A **TITLE PAGE** with the following information only: project title, applicant's name, institutional affiliation, address, degree being sought or highest degree obtained, telephone number, fax number, email address, total budget, amount requested from TWS, and desired starting date.

The title page should also include a brief **ABSTRACT** of the proposed project, stating the purpose, methods, and significance of the project to conservation.

An **INTRODUCTION** explaining the rationale for the project, specific goals and objectives, and hypotheses to be tested.

METHODS and **PLAN OF ACTION** describing data collection methods, sample size, detailed timetable, including the project's completion date.

A project **BUDGET** is required.

DATES: Applications will be reviewed in mid September 2005. Proposals must be received by 30 August 2005.

A status report and a presentation at the Annual Meeting or Transaction paper is expected for grants.

Completed applications should be submitted to:

The Wildlife Society
Western Section
Attn: Awards and Grants Chair
PO Box 3275
Oakland, CA 94609-0275

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) has historically supported conferences, symposia and studies through grants and scholarships to students in wildlife and ecology programs and related fields. Previous projects supported by TWS-WS include: Survivorship of Western Snowy Plover Broods in Humboldt County, Northern Goshawk Nesting Habitat on the North Coastal Region of Northern California, Humboldt State University Wildlife Conclave Team, and The Sierra Nevada Science Symposium.

Scholarships are intended to help defray costs of attending annual professional meetings while the grant program funds wildlife studies and presentation of interim or final results at the Western Section annual conference.

Announcing Grant in Honor of Robert C. Stebbins

The Western Section is pleased to announce the initiation of a new grant program to support student research projects in herpetology, funded by a generous gift from Swaim Biological Consulting. The grant honors Dr. Robert C. Stebbins, who has taught and mentored many Western Section members and is known for his Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians as well as numerous scientific publications.

The Stebbins grant will fund up to \$500.00 in research expenses and will be awarded annually. An application describing the proposed project and its relevance to wildlife management should be sent to the Awards and Grants Chairperson. In addition, an electronic version should be provided.

Student Grants and Scholarships

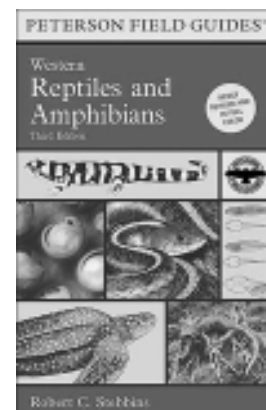
Eligibility Criteria:

Membership by the applicant or, in the case of grants, at least one member of the study team in the Western Section of The Wildlife Society.

Application Process:

Scholarships – Send a brief letter to the President of the Western Section describing the intended use of scholarship funds and amount requested. A statement that alternate funding is not available from any other source must be included. Requests must be received 60 days prior to the event for which scholarship funding is being requested. See "Grant Application Information" for details and address.

For more information and grant review criteria, please visit our web site at www.tws-west.org



"Robert C. Stebbins is emeritus professor of zoology and emeritus curator of herpetology at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley. He has traveled extensively, published numerous books and articles, and produced two documentaries. He started drawing in his teens and has spent more than sixty years studying and painting reptiles and amphibians."

-Western Reptiles and Amphibians

Bat Ecology and Field Techniques



*Karen Swaim and Kim Briones get practice keying a *Myotis*.*

In the final week of summer, 2004, the Section sponsored a workshop titled, "Bat Ecology and Field Techniques" at the Hastings Natural History Reservation in Carmel Valley. Section members Joe Szewczak and Dave Johnston, from Humboldt State University and H. T. Harvey and Associates respectively, presented current information on bat life history, adaptations, and physiology, acoustic monitoring and net set-up, capture techniques, keying and identification, and mitigation considerations.

Stephanie Remington assisted the instructors and led a discussion on conservation issues. The group took an evening field trip to Pinnacles National Monument to set up mist-nets and acous-



Participants, Instructors, and Sponsor Helen Johnson take a break for a photo opportunity at Hasting's Reservation.

tic monitoring equipment.

The workshop was well-attended and well-received with 22 participants from throughout California, and one from Hawaii. Hastings provided a gorgeous setting and fabulous classroom facility for the workshop and the field trip. Despite our netting success being hampered by a storm moving in, was both enjoyable and informative. We caught one bat during the trip, *Myotis volans*, a California species of special concern. We were all caught by surprise to net a great-horned owl early in the evening. Two participants received generous registration scholarships to

attend, sponsored by Ms. Helen Johnson of Monterey County. Helen joined us for the first afternoon and was eager to meet with all of the participants and learn about each person's job and career. Many thanks to Helen for her support, to Mark Stromberg from Hastings and Jim Petterson from Pinnacles for their facilities' cooperation, and to our top-notch instructors for making this an informative, entertaining, safe, and exciting workshop. Those who missed out are in luck, we'll offer this again in September 2005 (See Page 2).

Statistics Workshop

Statistics Workshop on Capture-Recapture Analysis: Frequentist Statistical Analysis using MARK and Bayesian Statistical Analysis Using MARK and WinBUGS! This workshop will be held at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California from August 2-3, 2005. It will provide a hands-on practical introduction to the analysis of marked data for natural resource sci-

entists and managers using MARK and WinBUGS statistical software. Instructor Howard Stauffer will illustrate both the frequentist and the Bayesian approaches to statistical inference with MARK and WinBUGS software.

The Section would like to thank the many volunteers from last year's session in August.



Last year's workshop in Arcata brought attendees from all over the nation..



by Cynthia Perrine

415 biologists, including 95 students, attended the 2005 Annual Meeting, held in Sacramento January 19 - 21. The meeting included concurrent and plenary sessions, a career fair, student - professional lunch, an exhibit hall with 11 exhibitors, and our annual awards banquet. This was a volunteer-run event for the first time in over a decade. Many, many people deserve considerable applause for helping to make it a success. We'll do our best

2005 Annual Conference

to ensure that future conferences will not include exposure to the modern model-search world (sorry folks!) and we'll do what we can to eliminate possessed audio configurations in sessions. We assure you that our session chairs and program committee will continue to work hard to offer an interesting, up-to-date, and varied forum for exchange of wildlife research and tools. Join us next year - we'll be in Sacramento again (*see Page 12*).

2005 Annual Conference - Student Papers and Posters

by Rhys Evans

I had the pleasure to coordinate the judging of student papers and posters this year, and am pleased to provide the results. Thirteen students participated this year. A few quick thoughts, first:

- It takes some courage to get up and present results in front of an audience, so all competitors deserve congratulations.
- Several students (and other presenters) had to fight with the "Evil Spirits of Salon B." We can hope that the lights and the microphone will be tamed by next year.

I'd like to thank the judges: Brad Valentine, Steve Juarez, Scott Osborn, Kevin Hunting, Kathy

Buescher-Simon, Rich Burg, David Smith, Katie Moriarty, and lastly, Gary Falxa, who took an especially heavy load of judging this year.

Here are the results!

Student Posters

(4 posters were judged, two prizes awarded):

- ✧ **2nd Place** (\$75): *Lyla Hunt*, UC Davis, Predator Avoidance Strategies in a Sympatric Population of Sceloporous Lizards
- ✧ **1st Place** (\$100): *Emily Bjerre*, Humboldt State, Optimal Grit Acquisition by Black Brant

Student Papers

(9 papers were judged, three prizes awarded):

- ✧ **3rd Place** (\$50): *Rebecca Green*, Humboldt State, Evaluation of the CWHR Model for American Marten in Sequoia/Kings Canyon NPs
- ✧ **2nd Place** (\$100): *John Perrine*, UC Berkeley, Food Habits of Red Fox, Marten and Coyote in the Mountains of Northern California
- ✧ **1st Place** (\$150): *Evelyn Sequin*, UN-Reno, Distribution and Activity Patterns of Pygmy Rabbits in Nevada and California

Items of Interest: Rocco and Slazas Continued

Continued from Page 5

A revision of the by-laws in Winter 2002 created the position of Executive Director to streamline the Section's business practices and to further increase its capacity. Barbara Rocco was appointed into this position in May of 2003. As our Executive Director, she helped to outline an Education Program that would update our own "Golden Wildlife" curriculum to use in K-12 and marketed the program to local businesses for support. She continued

organizing the logistics of professional development opportunities and coordinated the planning of an excellent Western Section 50-year celebration and annual conference in Rohnert Park.

The Section is a better organization because of both Barbara and Danielle's efforts over their years on staff with us and we sincerely Thank them for their contribution to the stewards and professional biologists of the Western Section.

Wetlands and Wildlife

Just a quick additional note to inform members that our April 8 - 9, 2005 Wetlands and Wildlife Workshop, a joint meeting with the Society of Wetlands Scientists, was a smashing success - huge kudos to Jessica Martini and others!



The Wildlife Society
Western Section
P.O. Box 3275
Oakland, CA 94609

Confirm your Western Section membership!!!

*Is your membership current? Your mailing label can tell you.
See Page 12 for more details.*

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