



The Wildlife Society Western Section

Vol.51, No. 2

Fall Newsletter 2005

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President's Message

Cynthia Graves Perrine

Across the Western Section and beyond, the school year has begun. Whether on a quarter or semester schedule, students are busy racing through those first few weeks and trying to establish a schedule. Where do wildlife students go to find resources about our profession? Do they know that the Society and our Section exist and can provide valuable information to help them along in their educational and career pursuits? Maybe, maybe not.

I had a discussion recently with a "young professional" colleague about our respective college experiences. She, like I, wanted to pursue a wildlife career and found a good university wildlife program of study – eventually. And she, like I, didn't know about The Wildlife Society until relatively late in our respective collegiate educations. Further, she and I neither one fully understood the distinction between TWS, the Western Section, and the student chapter at our university until we actually joined the leadership of these. How can the Society be a good resource to students when it's so darn difficult to

know what, who, and why we are and see how we can help them?

Inspiring and cultivating young people to join our profession may be something our society values; how do we achieve this? Should we leave it to zoos and other outreach programs when most of us will never be involved with polar bears, giraffes, or chimpanzees? The wildlife in our geographic region could certainly provide a hook; tule elk, red-bellied newts, otters, Pacific fishers, and great-horned owls are no J. Fred Muggs. In talking with my colleagues, most of us find our profession to be rewarding. Yet, we do a relatively poor job of showing youth that being a wildlife biologist is a realistic, rewarding, and thoroughly enjoyable career choice for those willing to stick with it.

We need to try and reach those students seeking a wildlife career but who haven't been exposed to wildlife professionals, especially if their university doesn't have a major in "wildlife." A project is underway, drawing from the Golden Wildlife program of the 1980's, that uses pre-made Powerpoint slide-shows to introduce youth to the wildlife and



2006 Annual Meeting

The Section is offering four workshops, a *Martes* Symposium, and field trips **in addition** to the standard meeting events. See Pages 10-11 for more details.

career opportunities in a particular region. We plan to provide the slide-shows to our contacts in colleges and universities with biology departments that may or may not have specific "wildlife" majors. So far, the set for the North Coast Chapter area is nearly complete while other regions are under construction. In the show, we introduce some key regional issues and explain who TWS is and what the Section and chapters have to offer student

(Continued on Page 9)

Upcoming Events

Your Professional Development Committee has several upcoming events in the next few months. Additional information on all of these is or will be available on our frequently updated website www.tws-west.org, click on "Meetings and Workshops."

There's the annual **Communications Workshop** in January. This one has been so successful for so long that I honestly sometimes forget about it. Dr. Jon Hooper deserves our immense appreciation. This workshop 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 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 (*See Page 9*).

Wildlife Society Certification mini-workshops. We've recently completed these workshops in San Diego, Fresno and Sacramento. Professional Certification is strongly recommended by The Wildlife Society, as an indication of an individual's education and professional experience. There are two levels, **Certified Wildlife Biologist** (generally at least a BS degree and five years actual experience as a professional biologist) and **Associate Wildlife Biologist** (degree, but less experience). Certification is looked upon favorably by employers, regulatory agencies and outsiders to our profession. This Workshop is also quite cheap, but the certification application itself has an additional fee. If you think you'd like to attend or perhaps help us to organize one in your area, contact the PDC or your chapter officers.

Preceding the annual meeting next February, we have a one-and-a-half day **Martes Symposium** (*See Page 6*), and four half-day workshops on **Wednesday afternoon** (*See Page 10*).

Workshops :

- * **Section 7 ESA Workshop** (Spring). Using lecture, discussion, negotiation and even some role-playing, learn tricks of the consultation process from some of our region's experts. This is planned to be more than the 4-hour workshop we sponsored in 2001, but less than the five-day course offered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- * Workshop on "capturing" wildlife with **Remote Cameras** (summer). The technological advances in this field in the last few years have been astounding. The goal of this workshop would be to provide a comprehensive introduction to camera trapping equipment and methodology, such that participants would have the basic knowledge to implement their own surveys. Topics to be addressed would include framing research question / objectives; sampling considerations; choosing equipment; field set-up, monitoring and trouble-shooting; data collection, storage and analysis. The workshop would be a mix of lecture, demonstration, hands-on field experience / training and discussion.
- * **Raptors Symposium** (Autumn). This will feature presentations on virtually every raptor species in the west. We'll provide plenty of information as we develop this event, which is sure to be a headliner next fall.

As always, if you have ideas for workshops, or if you'd like to help organizing one, let the PDC co-chairs know about it!

Again, check www.tws-west.org for more information on these events and other ones that are too early in development for a formal announcement...

Thanks!

Rhys Evans and Denise Walker-Brown
Co-Chairs, Professional Development Committee
The Western Section of The Wildlife Society

Bat Workshop Wrap-Up

Cynthia Perrine and Katie Moriarty

Of the 25 bat species in California, only seven remain unlisted under state or federal listing. The remaining 18 range from federally endangered to proposed species of special concern. Once a topic seldom breached – unless rabies, eradication from buildings, or Dracula were discussed – it seems that bats are increasingly in the spotlight.

The Section sponsored its second Bat Ecology and Field Techniques workshop at Hastings Natural History Reservation in Carmel Valley. Section members Joe Szewczak (Humboldt State University), Dave Johnston (H. T. Harvey and Associates), and Stephanie Remington (Southern California) were valuable instructors. They presented current information on bat life history, adaptations and physiology, acoustic monitoring, net set-up, capture techniques, keying and identification, conservation, and mitigation considerations. The three class days were packed with lectures. And each night consisted of field techniques with mist-nets and acoustic monitoring equipment; the last night included a trip to Pinnacles National Monument as this location is potentially species rich.

The workshop was well-received with 11 participants from throughout California, and one from Duke University in North Carolina. Hastings provided a gorgeous setting and fabulous classroom facility for the workshop and the field trip. There were 7 bat species



*Joe Szewczak demonstrates proper handling and distinguishing features of this pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) during the mist netting session in Pinnacles.*

caught and an eighth species heard; 12 captures overall. This was a change from last years' single capture; many of the participants were able to learn proper net extraction, handling, and processing techniques.

One participant received a generous registration scholarship to attend, sponsored by Romero Enterprises. Bat enthusiast Helen Johnson arranged for the workshop to be video-taped; the following week the documentary was shown on Monterey's public television station. The workshop was also highlighted in two Monterey county newspapers! Many thanks to Romero Enterprises and 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.



Scott Crosbie and Katie Moriarty help set the 30' high mist net.

The Wildlife Society Names New Executive Director

Submitted by Marti Kie

Dr. Michael Hutchins of Silver Spring, Maryland, has been selected as Executive Director of The Wildlife Society (TWS). The announcement was made by President Richard A. Lancia and President-Elect Robert Brown.

Hutchins was selected from over 40 highly qualified candidates and interviewed in person by the TWS Council and staff in early August, and the decision was unanimous. He officially takes on his new duties on September 1.

Hutchins is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Maryland's Graduate Program in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development, Senior Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Behavior and Conservation, and Executive Director of ZooThink, Inc., a Maryland-based consulting company that assists zoos, aquariums, conservation organizations, government wildlife agencies, and natural history museums in finding solutions to complex problems. He received his Ph.D. in 1984 from the University of Washington, where he studied the behavioral ecology of a free-ranging, introduced population of Rocky Mountain goats in Olympic National Park.

Hutchins gets around. In his previous duties—including 15 years as Director/William Conway Chair, Department of Conservation Science, for the American Zoo and Aquarium Association—he has dived with manta rays on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, tracked jaguars in the Brazilian



Michael Hutchins, the new Executive Director of the Wildlife Society.

Pantanal, avoided fer de lances in Costa Rica, and helped to band Magellanic penguins in Patagonia. He has authored over 190 technical and popular articles and books, covering various topics in wildlife management, conservation, and science.

"We are excited to have someone as qualified and enthusiastic as Michael," said President Dick Lancia, "and about the chance to work with him to achieve the Society's mission."

Hutchins added, "I am very enthused about the potential of this organization to have a real and lasting impact on wildlife conservation and science in North America and worldwide. I look forward to meeting and working cooperatively with the TWS membership to reach our shared goals."

Ecology and Management of Bats Symposium



October 17-19, 2005
Sacramento, CA

*The Western
Section's completely
new and revised
webpage is coming
to your computer
screens soon!*

*Look for our
Winter Newsletter
for more details.*

Rich Burg

The Awards and Grants Committee received two requests for grants this year and are currently reviewing them. Additionally, the committee has been working diligently on acquiring nominees for the various awards to be presented at the annual conference and is accepting nominations from the Section Membership at large for candidates for the following Section Awards:

Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year

The “Dasmann Award” is presented by the Western Section to Professionals making 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.

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.



Peter Bloom was awarded Professional of the Year in 2005; here he is featured with a Swainson hawk.

Awards and Grants Committee

James D. Yoakum Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment to The Western Section of The Wildlife Society

The “James D. Yoakum Award” is intended to recognize individuals who have provided outstanding, long-term service, support, and commitment to the Western Section of The Wildlife Society.

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee must be a member of The Wildlife Society and of The Western Section and must have dedicated a substantial amount of time, energy, and personal sacrifice to furthering the Section’s goals and facilitating its programs and operations. The Award recognizes service to the organization rather than contributions to wildlife management and conservation, which are recognized by the Section’s two other major awards, the “Raymond F. Dasmann Award for Professional of the Year” and the “Conservationist of the Year Award.”

Nominations should include a summary as to why you are nominating this person. Summaries should include education history, professional experience, personnel service, research, previous awards received, and/or other accomplishments.

The nominations can be mailed to the address below or e-mailed to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair at rburg@parks.ca.gov.

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



Brad Valentine receiving the Yoakum Award during the Section’s 2005 Annual Conference.

Don Yasuda

Whew! our membership database is finally getting in shape and we want to thank everyone for their patience with us this year as we work to simplify and streamline our administrative process. Hopefully, all current members for 2005 received a paper Spring/Summer newsletter and noted your current membership status on the mailing label. We sent out the newsletter to all 2005 members plus all 2004 members who had not yet renewed for this year. (And I'm SURE everyone with a 2004 expiration has renewed for 2005 by now!)

And speaking of renewals, it's almost that time of year when we will be asking you to renew for the 2006 calendar year. You may recall that the Western Section has returned to a calendar year membership dues schedule. So here's the strategy that we will use for Western Section renewals. If you belong to TWS (National), they will send you a paper renewal notice. Please renew your Section and any Chapter memberships using their renewal process. For those that don't belong to National, I will be creating a mailing list to send out an email renewal notice. We still encourage you to use TWS' website Store (https://store.wildlife.org/?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=TWS&Category_Code=SM) to renew for the Section and Chapters to reduce our burden of credit card processing. You can use their site even if you don't wish to join at the TWS level. Of course you

still have the option to use our own Western Section website to renew (<https://secure.securedata.net/tws-west/memberform.html>), and Yes, we still support memberships by good old "snail mail"! In designing our new website, we are looking to incorporate an easy to use Membership page. Stay tuned.

In addition, a few of you have "overpaid" your Section membership, meaning that you've paid twice (or even three times!) and have expiration dates of 2006 or beyond. I'll be attempting to contact those of you in this category soon to remind you that you do not have to pay Section dues for the 2006 year. But, please remember to renew any Chapter memberships.

Finally, the Western Section heavily relies upon e-mail communications with its members in an attempt to reduce expenses (postage) and conserve resources (paper and fuel to deliver mail). We have created a Yahoo Group site (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TWSWSMembers/>) that we use as our mailing list. About a year ago we sent out an invitation with a voluntary sign-up to join the list. We only had about 250 members sign up. Since we are using this as our method of distributing the electronic newsletters and sending notice of upcoming workshops and other important Section business, we have begun directly adding members to this list. Unfortunately, Yahoo limits me to only adding 10 members a day. Many of you may have received the email notification that I've added you in the last sev-

Membership Committee
eral weeks. If you want to add yourself to this list, you can go to the group site at the URL above or send a blank email to: TWSWSMembers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

As always, if you have questions regarding your membership status or have updated address and/or email information, please contact me at diasudaTWS@comcast.net.



Fisher and Marten in California

Moving Science and Management Forward
Feb 7 & 8, 2006 – Sacramento

The symposium will provide updates on research and management efforts and the status of fisher and marten in a series of invited talks by experts. The speakers will synthesize available information to provide comprehensive overviews on their topics. In addition, the symposium will provide a forum for wildlife managers, scientists, and representatives of regulatory agencies and other organizations to exchange ideas and identify critical information needs.



J. Thompson

Barry Garrison

Review of papers for publication in the 2005 volume of the "Transactions of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society" is ongoing. Currently, there are six papers under review for the current volume. At this time, the plan is to have the 2005 volume printed and available for Western Section members at the 2006 Annual Conference in February 2006 in Sacramento. Section members who do not attend the Annual Conference will be mailed the 2005 volume after the

conference. The 2004 volume is still being produced and should be mailed to Section members before the end of the year. All published papers from the 1966 to the 2002/2003

volumes of the "Transactions" have been posted on the Section's web site along with a chronological index that wildlifera can use to access the papers. Authors and keywords are also in the index. After distribution to Section members, papers from all future issues of the

Transactions Report

"Transactions" will be posted on the web site shortly thereafter. The web address to access the papers is www.tws-west.org, and the "Section News" page must be linked to get more information about the online "Transactions" papers. Generous donations by Dr. Marshall White, a lifetime member and Past-President of the Western Section, made it possible for the Section to post the "Transactions" on the Section's web site.

Jessica Martini-Lamb

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter's next meeting and social will be held at the Pyramid Alehouse in Berkeley on Thursday, November 10, 2005, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Chapter members and those interested in learning more about the chapter are welcome to join us for food and beverages. This will be a great opportunity to connect with other Chapter members, learn more about how you can get involved in Chapter activities, and discuss the latest wildlife topics (like the new California red-legged frog survey protocol) with your colleagues. Look for notices via email and postcard or check the Chapter's website at www.tws-west.org/bayarea for updates.

Speaking of the Chapter's website, take a look at the recent updates the next time you are surfing the Internet. Chuck Brown has provided the Chapter with a long overdue update of the site. Most of the pages are still being updated, so check back regularly for the latest information.

The Chapter's last newsletter included several draft policies prepared by Chapter President, Doug Padley. If you have any comments or questions about the Scholarship, Newsletter, or Privacy policies, please contact Doug (see the Chapter web page for his contact information).

As always, we are looking for candidates for Chapter

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

board positions. Positions available include President-Elect and Chapter Representative. If you are interested, please contact Doug Padley or Jessica Martini (see the Chapter website for contact information), or come by the Pyramid Alehouse on November 10th! Being a Chapter officer is a great opportunity to meet new friends and colleagues, to work on activities you have wanted the Chapter to become involved in, and to give back to The Wildlife Society.

**The Wildlife Society
San Francisco Bay Area
Chapter Meeting**

Meet other Chapter members, find out about upcoming events, and discuss chapter elections.

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2005
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Pizza and appetizer buffet,
and drinks provided



Pyramid Alehouse
901 Gilman St.
Berkeley, CA
510-527-9090

Questions? Call
Christine Gaber at
510-839-5066



Hawaii Chapter Report

Bill Standley and David Smith

The Hawaii Chapter sponsored a Breakfast Tailgate Social the morning of the second day of the Hawaii Conservation Conference (July 29) on the boardwalk along the Ala Wai Canal in Waikiki. We had a good turnout of Hawaii Chapter members and their guests.

The Hawaii Chapter provided \$1,000 in funding, matched 2:1 for a total of \$3,000 that allowed 30 University of Hawaii *Hawaiian Internship Program* (HIP) interns and 12 leaders to attend the conference free of charge. The HIP internship program allows students of Hawaiian decent and other Hawaii-born students to gain valuable summer work experience with conservation agencies and organizations.

Wetland Management in the Hawaiian Islands Workshop

The Hawaii Chapter scheduled its annual wildlife management workshop focused on wetland management and research on October 6 & 7, 2005 at the Koolau Golf Club in Kaneohe. Workshop partners included the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, Ducks Unlimited, and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. Proceedings will be posted on the Chapter website (www.tws-west.org/Hawaii).

Hamakua Marsh Ecosystem Restoration and Community Development Project

-This is an ongoing cooperative program with the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the Natural Re-

sources 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. The Chapter is currently managing a \$26,000 wetland restoration segment designed to restore wetland habitat for native Hawaiian water birds by grading a four acre area within the Hamakua sanctuary.

Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project

-TWS-HI is the fiscal sponsor for the *Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project*, spear-headed by the Offshore Islands Restoration Committee. At 1.1 sq. kilometers, the Lehua Island State Seabird Sanctuary supports at least eight 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* has completed preparation of the Lehua Island Rabbit Eradication Work Plan, in cooperation with Island Conservation, along with the supporting NEPA documents. Plans call for the removal of rabbits from

the island during the winter of 2005/2006.

The Hawaii Chapter has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative to manage mitigation funding which will help with the control of introduced predators such as cattle egrets, barn owls, rats and rabbits on Lehua Island.

Laysan Duck Population Monitoring

- The Hawaii Chapter is a cooperating fiscal sponsor for the 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. Federally endangered Laysan ducks have been successfully translocated to Midway Atoll, and investigations are currently underway to consider expanding the translocation program to Kure Atoll, at the end of the Northwest Hawaiian Island chain.

Kalaeloa Anchialine Pool Restoration Project

- The Hawaii Chapter is fiscal sponsor for this project that in the process of restoring anchialine pools to a area where they formerly occurred in the Kalaeloa area of Oahu. Several pools have been excavated, and the native *Opae ula* shrimp, who are the target species for restoration, have showed up in large numbers.

Natural Resources Communication Workshop: January 9-13, 2006

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section, 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 (i.e., PowerPoint images). 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.

Instructors: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Professor, Calif. State Univ., Chico (Certified Wildlife Biologist, Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, 30 years teaching communication workshops around the country)

Mr. Ethan Rotman, Ca. Dept. of Fish and Game (Coordinator, Fishing in the the San Francisco Bay Area, 20+ years professional experience as an environmental interpreter and communicator)

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

University Credit: Participants receive 1-unit CSUC Continuing Education credit; the workshop is worth 32 hours of continuing wildlife education credit through The Wildlife Society's Professional Development Program (Category II).

Application Procedure: The initial deadline for applications is **Friday, October 31, 2005**. 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 \$645. The workshop will be limited to 16 participants. 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, and (3) any special reasons why you feel you should be chosen as a participant. In your application, include your address, phone number, fax number, and email. To apply or for more information, write or call:

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President's Message Continued

(Continued from page 1)

and professional wildlifers.

Through outreach programs like the one mentioned above, we aim to involve more students in our Section activities and generate interest in our profession. This project is just one of many planned for our Section's new Student Affairs Committee. In addition, this committee will use our web page to provide specific resources to students. Resources that outline federal and state hiring

procedures, describe resume development, suggest job seeking skills, link to certification guidelines, coordinate mentoring opportunities, provide scholarships, and more. My vision for this committee is to provide an informative, responsive, and up-to-date resource for students at every pre-professional stage. And maybe, with a little marketing, future wildlife students will know where to look for help along the way to a long and successful wildlife career.

Featured Workshops - Wednesday, February 8th

The Section is offering a series of workshops immediately preceding the conference on Wednesday afternoon February 8th. Please monitor the Western Section web site and the winter 2005 Western Section newsletter for additional information and registration materials. Registration discounts for early registration and for registered conference participants.

Wildlife Management and Research Funding

This workshop will feature representatives from government and non-government organizations that offer both competitive and non-competitive funding sources for wildlife management and research activities. Participating organizations will provide written materials and guidance on accessing funding for specific management and research projects and will participate in a panel question and answer session at the conclusion of the workshop.

Technologies for Assessing and Monitoring Wildlife Populations

We anticipate this workshop will consist of a series of hands-on sessions demonstrating the use of new and emerging technologies for measuring wildlife population parameters. This workshop will focus on recent advancements in hardware being used in wildlife research and monitoring. Advancements in handheld GPS devices, wildlife GPS tagging devices, handheld computers, remote camera stations, and wildlife recording equipment are all potential tools to be presented and discussed.

** For more information please go to our website at www.tws-west.org **

Avian Issues Associated with Energy Facilities and Infrastructure

This half-day Symposium will focus on the latest research results obtained by the Energy Commission-sponsored Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program and administered by the U.C. Santa Cruz - Predatory Bird Research Group. The goal is to provide a forum for all interested parties to discuss key findings and identify future research needs related to avian issues with energy facilities and associated infrastructure. Topics will include, reducing avian collision with wind turbines and conductors, identifying and retrofitting high electrocution-risk distribution poles, and tools intended to convey technical information.

Wildlife Society Biologist Certification

This workshop will provide you with the tools and knowledge needed to start the process of certification. Professional Certification is strongly recommended by The Wildlife Society, as an indication of an individual's university and continuing education, and their professional experience. There are two levels, Certified Wildlife Biologist (generally at least a BS degree and five years actual experience as a professional biologist) and Associate Wildlife Biologist (degree, but less experience). Both current students and practicing professionals are welcome to attend.

“Monitoring Wildlife Populations: State of the Science”

The advent of multi-scale population monitoring, ecosystem-based community assessment methods, and pervasive use of advanced analytical and statistical tools has changed the way we view and apply monitoring. The plenary and concurrent technical sessions will explore these topics and describe current landscape-level monitoring programs from determining factors contributing to population decline and vulnerability to supporting regional-scale planning and management efforts.

Ecology and Management Sessions:

- ✦ **Amphibians and Reptiles:** Hartwell Welsh, Research Scientist, Redwood Sciences Lab, U.S. Forest Service
- ✦ **Forest Carnivores:** TBA
- ✦ **Small Mammals:** Dr. John Harris, Mills College, Past-President, TWS Western Section
- ✦ **Shorebirds:** Dr. Mark Colwell, Chair, Wildlife Department, Humboldt State University
- ✦ **Landbirds:** TBA
- ✦ **Seabirds:** Gerry McChesney, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ✦ **Raptors:** Allen Fish, Director, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory
- ✦ **Bats:** Betsy Bolster, Staff Environmental Scientist, CDFG

Conservation Planning Sessions:

- ✦ **GIS and remote sensing:** Larry Fox, Humboldt State University
- ✦ **Regional Conservation Planning:** TBA
- ✦ **Mitigation and Conservation Banking:** Tina Bartlett, Staff Environmental Scientist, CDFG
- ✦ **Water and Wildlife Issues:** Marti Kie, Department of Water Resources, Colorado River and Salton Sea Office

Ecosystem Research and Management Sessions:

- ✦ **Desert Systems:** Rhys Evans, Ecologist. Dept. of Defense and Amy Fesnock, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ✦ **Riparian Systems:** Geoffrey Geupel, Terrestrial Ecology Division Director, Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Plenary Session

The plenary session will be held Thursday morning and will consist of a keynote address followed by a series of speakers discussing regional monitoring programs. Speakers currently confirmed for the plenary session are:

Keynote Address: Dr. Judd Howell, Director, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, U.S.G.S., Patuxent, Maryland

Plenary Speaker: Dr. Peter Stine, Director, Sierra Nevada Research Center, U.S.F.S., Pacific Southwest Research Station

Plenary Speaker: Dr. Robert Fisher, Zoologist and Research Professor of Biology, U.S.G.S., San Diego, CA

Plenary Speaker: Dr. Brenda Johnson, Natural Communities Conservation Program, Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA

See you in Sacramento!!!!

Field Trips!!!!



The Section is collaborating with the Central Valley Bird Club (<http://www.cvbirds.org/>) to offer 3-5 birding excursions to various known bird observation sites in the Sacramento region. In addition, we anticipate offering the following trips Feb. 11th:

- Tour of the Wildlands, Inc. wetlands mitigation bank
- Tour and demonstration of the raptor banding program at the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory
- Tour of the Sacramento County Bufferlands habitat restoration program



The Wildlife Society
Western Section
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Oakland, CA 94609

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The 2006 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will have four workshops, a variety of symposia topics, and several field trips - look inside for details.

Officers, Chapter Representatives, and Committee Chairs

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