



The Wildlife Society Western Section

Vol.53, No. 1

Winter Newsletter 2007

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President's Message

Julie Vance

It is hard to believe that almost another year has gone by and we are already almost to the holidays, closely followed by our 2008 Annual Conference in Redding. It seems that we just all parted ways at the 2007 Annual Conference in Monterey! Being conference chair for the Monterey conference was especially challenging for me since I brought my first child into the world just a month before the conference. However, despite this extra planning challenge, the Annual Conference turned out to be a tremendous success. This would not have been possible without the assistance of many dedicated members who served as session chairs, committee chairs, and many other dedicated volunteers that are needed to make a conference an enjoyable and professionally enriching experience.

Many of our members may be wondering why they haven't received any newsletters from the Western Section recently. Our Western Section Board members have had a lot of major changes occur this year, and we unfortunately missed getting our summer newsletter out.

We have had two of our board members add a new family member (congratulations are due to Rich Burg and Cynthia Perrine), another has a child on the way (by the time you are reading this, congratulations are due to Denise Walker-Brown), and several others that have endured major moves and new jobs. Despite all of this "turmoil" that is a normal part of our daily lives, our Section board members have continued to be committed to serving the membership. I am constantly amazed at the amount of personal time that everyone so willingly commits to the Society and profession as a whole.

We also lost one of our board members in June. Barry Garrison's unexpected death hit all of us really hard, and we miss him terribly. As many of you know, Barry was an active Section member and officer who made a significant impact as a Western Section leader and through his many contributions to the profession.

Since the Monterey conference, we have been quite busy. The planning for the 2008 Annual Conference is well underway, and our solid financial situation is allowing us to commit more financial resources to

grants and student outreach. We have already seen positive results from our past outreach efforts, and these additional resources should really help educate young and soon-to-be-professionals about the wildlife profession and the Wildlife Society. We are also actively assisting the "National" Wildlife Society with its Annual Conference in Monterey, which will be at the same location where the Western Section had its 2007 Annual Conference. We are also getting ready to debut a new Section website, so stay tuned! I am really excited about all of the positive changes that are on the way.

I hope that this message finds all of you well, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Redding in February.

*See Page 12 for 2008
Workshop Information*



4th Annual Bat Ecology and Field Techniques Workshop

Katie Moriarty

Of the 24 bat species in California, only seven remain politically unlisted. 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 becoming more and more in the spotlight.

In September the Section sponsored its 4th Annual Bat Ecology and Field Techniques Workshop. For the first time it was located at Sagehen Creek Experimental Forest, Truckee California. 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. Because of the amount of information, the three class days were packed with pleasant outside lectures. Each night consisted of field techniques with mist-nets and acoustic monitoring equipment; the last night included a short trip to Antelope Valley where a beautiful flight corridor filled with moths provided all participants the opportunity to handle bats and see different species.

The workshop was well-received with 21 participants from California to Arizona. Sagehen provided a gorgeous setting and diverse educational facilities for the workshop. There were 7 bat species caught with a few additional heard and well over 30 captures throughout the 3 nights. Many of the participants were able to learn proper net extraction, handling, and processing techniques.

Several participants received a generous registration scholarship to attend. Previous workshop sponsor Ms. Helen Johnson attended the first two days of the workshop, traveling from Salinas to meet this new group of scientists. It's always great to have Helen in the field with us. Many thanks to Helen for her support, to Jeff Brown from Sagehen, to Cynthia Perrine and Mehrey Vaghti for the fine dining experience, and to our top-notch instructors for making this an informative, entertaining, safe, and exciting workshop.



Hawaii Chapter

Bill Stanley

The Hawaii Chapter currently has 49 members and had the annual membership meeting on July 25th in connection with the annual Hawaii Conservation Conference. The Chapter continues to serve as fiscal sponsor for several projects, including the Hamakua Marsh Ecosystem Restoration and Community Development Project, the Kaena Point Predator Proof Fencing Project, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Ecological Protection Protocols DVD, the Hamakua Marsh Ecosystem Restoration and Community Development Project, and the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project. Several other projects are in development, including rat eradication on Wake Island, invasive species control on Hawaii's off-shore islets, and habitat restoration for forest birds on the island of Hawaii.

Sacramento Shasta Chapter

Armand Gonzales

Chapter membership continues to hover around 120 people. We currently have about \$20,900 in the bank. We are planning our next Chapter Board Meeting for November 07, 2007. We will meet in the Sacramento area (location TBD—will be posted on our web site). We have not received any scholarship requests so no funds have been awarded this quarter. We met most recently on July 17, 2007.

The Chapter provided \$1,000 for University of Hawaii Hawaiian Internship Program students to attend the Hawaii Conservation Conference and held a breakfast social for the students at the conference. The Chapter also provided \$500 for student awards for best presentation and poster at the conference. Both sponsorships were matched by other organizations.

Chapter board member Katie O'Neil got some wonderful chapter t-shirts made using art work by fel-

low board member Ron Walker and sold all but a few at the Hawaii Conservation Conference. Katie also put together a great newsletter for the chapter which was sent to members via email, distributed at the Hawaii Conservation Conference, and made available on the chapter web site.



Agenda items included a discussion of the bylaws. We will be reposting changes on our website and requesting an electronic vote from members. The Magpie newsletter was sent out in September. We had to cancel the willow flycatcher workshop scheduled for this past summer but will try to reschedule and possibly expand to include the great-gray owl for a combined workshop at Sage Hen

in the Spring, 2008. We also discussed whether underwriting TWS Certification cost for members would be an appropriate use of scholarship funds. We held a social at Yolo Wildlife Area on September 22 that was well attended. We held our 2nd Annual Natural Resources Symposium on October 30 at CSUS. We had twelve speakers and more than fifty attendees.

Attention Western Section Members:

**Don't forget to vote on-line for your next President-Elect & bylaws revision!
See pages 15 - 17 for more detailed information, candidate statements, and bylaws text.**

TWS Western Section's Representative to Council

Marti Kie

Council conducted a wide variety of business during its meeting of 21–22 September 2007, including the following actions: (1) Reinstated funding to support student conclaves starting in 2008 (something we had reluctantly suspended during the budget crisis a few years ago); (2) Approved creation of a new TWS/Caesar Kleberg Award for Applied Science, enabled by a new endowment from the Kleberg Foundation; (3) Approved creation of an advisory/oversight board for the Journal of Wildlife Management; (4) Approved new guidelines to facilitate the establishment and success of TWS Working Groups; (5) Agreed to establish a committee to develop a position statement on lead introduced into fish and wildlife habitats by hunters and anglers; (6) Approved the wildlife priority issues for the TWS Government Affairs Program; (7) Agreed that draft position statements on oil and gas development, wind energy, and wildlife fertility control are ready for member review; (9) Voted affirmatively to continue publishing *The Wildlifer*, with emphasis on electronic distribution; (10) Approved the 2007 budget and the proposed budget for 2008 (both firmly in the black!)

The efforts and achievements of TWS staff on behalf of Council and the membership in the last 12–18 months has been amazing. TWS has: launched the new publication, *The Wildlife Professional*; combined the *Bulletin* and the *Journal* into one publication with improved format, more content, and much greater speed in getting re-

sults into print; rebuilt the TWS electronic infrastructure including a vastly improved website; opened the TWS online store; initiated email blasts so that important announcements reach TWS members; digitized all TWS publications and opened the legacy collection (1937–95) to the world; made all publications 1995 and beyond available electronically to member-subscribers (no charge) and others on a pay-per-view basis; created a new Canadian Section; launched the TWS Leadership Institute; and linked with mainstream media by joining the Environmental News Network. Staff and Council also continue to work on our Strategic Plan and our efforts to develop a certification program for Wildlife Technicians and conservation law enforcement officers.

During the conference I had the opportunity to speak with some of the volunteers working on the 15th Annual TWS Conference which will take place in Miami, Florida November 8–12, 2008, and it sounds like they've got things well underway to provide the members with a memorable experience. Note the November date, Council decided that meeting during a hurricane was not one of the experiences we wanted to remember, so requested that the meeting be moved to a time supposedly outside of hurricane season. The Western Section will have its work cut out for it to be as prepared at this time next year for our hosting of the 16th Annual TWS Conference in Monterey, California September 20–24, 2009.

Please consider becoming part of the team of volunteers that make these conferences the successes they have been so far. Contact one of the Section officers and let them know you want to help!

This is the last report I'll be making as the Section's Representative to Council as my second term ended in Tucson and Don Yasuda's first term began. I can't emphasize enough how being an active part of the Section has enriched me, both professionally and personally. The opportunity to work with the other members of Council, and the members of the Section's Executive Board these past 6 years have provided me a network of professional contacts, and friends, that I would never have otherwise had. I strongly recommend being active at any level TWS offers, be it chapter, committee, Section or National.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve; it was a privilege and a pleasure.

**TWS - Western Section
Annual Conference**

~

Redding, CA

February 5-9, 2008

**Great topics like Northern
Spotted Owl, Native Red Fox,
Statistics Workshops**

TWS Western Section's Representative to Council

Don Yasuda

I attended my first TWS Council meeting at the 2007 Annual Conference in Tucson in September as the incoming Western Section Representative. As we've all known, Marti Kie has served the Section well over the last 2-terms (6 years) and it was abundantly clear that she's well respected and was very active with the Council. She's left big shoes to fill and we owe her a big thank you for her service.

I'm excited to begin my term and have already been thrust in the midst of things. In addition to the standard Committees and Subcommittees that Section Reps belong to (Group Achievement Award and COWCH Project), I've joined the Membership Subcommittee and the Subcommittees for Technical Reviews of Impacts of Biofuels Pro-

duction on Wildlife and the Public Trust Doctrine. I'm also on the committee guiding the TWS Leadership Institute.

Recent interpretations of government ethics rules are having a significant effect on the ability of Federal employees to participate on professional society boards. TWS Council is strategizing with other professional societies like AFS and SAF on effective ways to address this issue. It should be noted that these recent rulings only affect positions on Executive Boards and not general membership. With concerns for declining membership at the national and Section levels, it must be addressed so our Executive Board and for TWS Council can have the opportunity to reflect and represent the diverse na-

ture of our membership.

Over my 3 year term, I will be trying to get out and about and meet with each of our Chapters to ensure I represent the Section's interests. I welcome and seek input from Chapters and individual members on issues and concerns and ideas that are relevant for discussion at TWS Council. Please feel free to contact me at dyasudaTWS@comcast.net or by phone at (530) 621-0366.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Annual Conferences and other events over the next few years.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Osborn

I began my term as Treasurer at the end of the 2007 Annual Conference in Monterey. I want to thank the previous Treasurer, Gary Falxa, and all the Executive Board members for helping the Section regain its financial footing after the problems of the recent past. In addition to keeping the Western Section in a stable and positive financial condition, my goals for this year included developing contracts with persons who provide services to the Section, and establishing an Endowment Fund for supporting the Section's education and outreach activities.

The Section's current financial status is good. As of September 30,

2007, the Section's bank accounts had \$95, 313, including \$20,570 in a certificate of deposit account which is held as the beginning of a prudent reserve. Over time, we intend to add to the prudent reserve to provide for a full year's worth of operating expenses. We have also begun allocating a portion of each year's budget for the expenses associated with hosting the 2009 TWS Annual Conference in Monterey, California.

We've made some progress on my goals for the year. We now have contracts for folks providing book-keeping, mail, and credit card transaction/conference registration services. Within a month I

hope we will have hired a website administrator to take over the final stages of development and the on-going maintenance of the Section's new website. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information on the Board's proposed bylaws to establish an Endowment Fund for the Section. I hope you'll take some time to review the proposed bylaws and vote to approve them. Doing so would be a valuable investment in the future of our profession.

President-Elect

Rhys Evans

If I made one legitimate campaign promise, it was that, unlike Julie and Cynthia, I wouldn't get pregnant while trying to organize an annual meeting. I'm very pleased to report that I kept my promise! Admittedly, it would have been rather strange (and physically impossible...).

But I did change jobs, move several hundred miles, leave the country for a while to attend a 50th wedding anniversary party, and I rode my 250th roller coaster. If I can do all that, and those other two can have a child while planning an annual meeting, what's keeping YOU from volunteering to be on our Executive Board or running for office?

The 2008 meeting of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society is looking great! I simply want to implore you to look at our website, because the meeting schedule is changing, things are being added almost daily (or so it seems). I dare not tell you much here, because in the time the newsletter is edited, reproduced, mailed, and even then, depending

upon how long it sits on your bathroom counter before you actually read it, I can guarantee that much of what I tell you that's accurate today could change (all for the better, I'm sure).

But, with that caution, here goes: We meet in Redding, February 6-8, 2008. A 1½ day symposium, "The Northern Spotted Owl in the 21st Century: Confronting the Management Challenges of Cumulative Habitat Effects and the Barred Owl," is scheduled for Feb. 5-6. A ½ day symposium, "Conserving California's Native Red Fox: Recent Research and Management Implications," is scheduled for the morning of February 6th (this one is partially funded by the California Department of Fish and Game). The "main meeting" kicks off on Wednesday afternoon (also Feb. 6); poster session and chapter meetings will be held that evening... Plenary, annual meet-

ing, technical sessions, awards banquet and some fine music are on the agenda for Thursday... The career fair, student-professional lunch and many other technical sessions on Friday.... Field trips on Saturday. Simply said, don't miss it! This is the best opportunity all year to visit with friends and make new ones; socialize with experienced biologists and full-of-new-knowledge students, learn about the latest research and newest cool techniques... And while some might think that Redding is less appealing than beautiful, coastal Monterey, I assure you that Redding has some VERY cool things to see.

SO, will you NOW please go check for updates on our website. It's, of course, www.tws-west.org

We hope to see you in Redding, February 5-9, 2008!

Membership Committee

Don Yasuda

Ahhh, fall is in the air which means it's time to prepare for the upcoming holidays and for renewing your Western Section membership!

Our current membership stands at **649** members. Of these: **12** are full Life members; **2** are new Life members making the first of 3 installment payments; **70** are Student or Young Professional memberships and **565** are regular memberships. In addition, of the total,

204 came from Annual Conference registration, **303** came from TWS, **121** came from our web site or direct payment, and **7** came from workshops. This compares to **748** members for 2006. Question: What happened to the other **99** of you? Why didn't you renew your Section membership in 2007?

WANTED: Secretary for TWS Western Section Executive Board

Seeking active, highly motivated person to join the team.

Interested?

Please contact Rhys Evans
sirsnav@verizon.net

Continued on page 14

Awards and Grants Committee

Rich Burg

Western Section Travel Grant Policy

Purpose and Objectives

In pursuit of the objective to encourage high standards of professional achievement, the Western Section has established an honoraria fund to assist participation in professional meetings, conferences, symposia and other continuing education activities.

Eligibility

Applicants must be current dues paid members of the Western Section. Funds will not be provided when employer or agency funds are available to the applicant. Applicants must not have received a Travel Grant (from TWS-WS) in the current year.

Non-TWS and International Conferences/Symposia

Travel grants to International and non-TWS conferences/symposia will only be reviewed by the Awards and Grants Committee if the requester is presenting a paper or poster at the subject conference. A travel grant may be granted contingent upon the papers acceptance by the program committee.

Review and Approval of Grant Requests

Requests for funding must be submitted to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair. Proposals will be reviewed on a continual basis and support will depend on fund availability. The Awards and Grants Chair shall distribute copies to all Board members for review and consideration. Approval of requests will require a majority vote by the TWS-WS board.

Priority will be given to attendees of TWS meetings (Parent, Western Section, Chapters) and to attendees presenting a poster or paper at a given conference, symposium, etc.

A maximum of two grants may be awarded for a particular meeting.

Combined requests for shared expenses for the same meeting by two or more students will be considered.

Amount

In most cases, the amount of an award may only cover a portion of the total cost of attending an event. Applicants should consider the award only as a supplement to other funding sources. Individual awards/reimbursement will not exceed \$300.00 per applicant per event or per year.

Conditions

Travel awards are to be used only for registration fees, meals, lodging, and or transportation expenses. Rates of reimbursement shall be as follows

Mileage (personal vehicle) may be claimed at the rate of:

- ^a 48.5 cents per mile (if no Government Owned Vehicle available)
- ^a Reimbursement may be claimed for the actual cost of a meal, not to exceed \$6.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 for breakfast, lunch and dinner, respectively.
- ^a Reimbursement may be claimed for the actual cost of lodging, not to exceed \$75.00 per night.

Administration

Western Section funds will be budgeted in the spring of each year.

Requests/applications should be submitted to the Awards and Grants Chair. Each applicant must submit a written request at least 60 days in advance of attending an event. The application must clearly state the amount of support requested and identify how costs will be incurred. A statement that alternative funding is not available from any other source must be included in the application.

Applicants must submit receipts for reimbursement. A statement of the professional benefits derived from attending the event and a summary evaluation of information gathered must accompany the receipts.

To apply for a travel award, submit:

1. Application form (Word);
 2. abstract of paper/poster (if presenting)
 3. Evidence of acceptance of the abstract (if required), and
 4. draft text of paper/poster to be presented (2-4 pages)
- Failure to provide the above requested material will disqualify the applicant.

Application and all requested materials should be submitted to: rburg@parks.ca.gov or Western Section of The Wildlife Society, Attn: Cynthia Perrine, PO Box 13543, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3543 All requested material shall be submitted at least 60 days in advance of attending an event.

Awards & Grants Committee

Continued from Page 7.

Grants Available from the Western Section

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) has historically supported conferences and symposia and studies through grants. Board members review all funding requests and make selections based on the following criteria:

- Consistency with TWS purposes and objectives as cited in the Western Section By-Laws
- Timeliness and relevance: Local, regional, or national level
- Proposals must demonstrate a clear need for funding and should define a time-line for project implementation/Endorsement and/or financial support of local TWS Chapter
- Demonstration of shared costs; a detailed budget showing amount and use of TWS-WS grant is required
- Quality and brevity of submitted request
- Availability of funds and amount of funding requested
- Applicant must be a member of TWS-WS
- Conference or symposium organizers receiving grant funding must submit a schedule of proposed sessions
- Ability of the applicant to successfully implement the proposed project

Conditions: Submitted requests should attempt to address the above-listed criteria. Grant recipients must submit a report to the Executive Board at the conclusion of the event or study. In addition, if the recipient conducted a study, they must present either preliminary or final findings from that study at the annual conference. This reporting requirement will be included in a letter from the Section which accompanies the actual disbursement of the grant.

If interested in submitting a grant request, download the application form (found on-line).

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.

The Conservationist of the Year Award

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

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

Nominations should include a summary (or resume/curriculum vita) 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 e-mailed to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair at rburg@parks.ca.gov or mailed to the following address.

**The Wildlife Society-Western Section
Attn: Awards and Grants Chair
PO Box 13543
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3543**

Barrett A. Garrison "Mentor of the Year" Award

The Wildlife Society-Western Section is pleased to announce the creation of an award for Mentor of the Year. The purpose of the award is to recognize a member of the Western Section (or anyone?) who has contributed to the wildlife profession by assisting the professional development of students or new professionals.

This award is named in memory of Barrett A. Garrison. Barry was a true professional dedicated to both his profession and his family. His love and concern for the natural environment allowed him to combine his commitment to public service with his research interests.

As a mentor, Barry guided and empowered, shaped and promoted, encouraged and challenged, and offered both emotional and intellectual support to many a young professional. Barry was genuinely concerned with the success of the whole person.

“Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education”

Schedule-At-A-Glance (*see website for updates*)

Tuesday, February 5th

9:00 to 17:00 No. Spotted Owl Symposium (*Page 10*)

18:00 to 20:00 Welcome mixer, social, symposium poster session

Wednesday, February 6th

8:00 to 12:00 No. Spotted Owl Symposium

8:00 to 12:30 Red Fox Symposium

13:30 Conference Welcome

14:00 to 17:00 Concurrent Sessions

17:00 to 20:00 Welcome mixer, social, annual conference poster session

19:30 to 21:30 Chapter Meetings

Thursday, February 7th

8:30 to 10:00 Plenary Session

10:00 to 12:30 Concurrent Sessions

13:30 to 15:30 Concurrent Sessions

16:00 to 17:30 Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum

19:00 Annual Award's Banquet & Raffle (ticketed)

Friday, February 8th

8:30 to 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

13:00 to 16:30 Concurrent Sessions

12:00 to 13:30 Student Leadership Lunch and Career Fair

16:30 Western Section Board meeting

Saturday, February 9th

Field Trips

Plenary Theme:

The Role of Non-Governmental Organization's in Wildlife Management and Conservation

Session Chairs:

Plenary: Rhys Evans

Posters: Amy Fesnock

Carnivores: Ben Sacks

Conservation and Management of Military Lands:

Kirsten Christopherson

Raptors and Regional Conservation Plans:

Jeff Lincer

Climate Change: Kevin Hunting

Amphibians and Reptiles: Dave Cook

Understanding Southern California's Ecosystem and

Species Diversity: Melissa Busby

Management and Action in Northern California:

Joe DiDonato

Shorebirds and Waterfowl: Ahmed Soliman

Managed Forests: Keith Hamm

Ungulates or Large Mammals: Steve Kohlmann

Wildlife Response to Restoration: Chrissy Howell

Statistics Overview for Professionals: Howard

Stauffer

Abstracts must be submitted on-line with an easy, interactive form at www.tws-west.org

Quick Planning Notes

2008 Meeting / Airport Information: Redding Airport (code RDD) has more than 20 flights daily from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Arcata. Or fly to Sacramento (SMF), Oakland (OAK) or San Francisco (SFO) for scores of other origins/destinations. The Red Lion offers a free shuttle from Redding Airport, and TWS West is facilitating ridesharing from Sacramento, the North Coast and the San Francisco Bay Areas.

The Redding meeting venue is smaller than most previous host locations, so please make your hotel reservation early (details on our website). We're probably going to fill up the entire hotel with biologists, students, resource managers and bureaucrats (oh, my!). And the hotel will accept *per diem*!

Field Trips: Trips to Whiskeytown Lake's "new" waterfall, the Turtle Bay Exploration Park, and other great locations!!

Student Events at Annual Conference: Resume' Workshop, Career Fair, Student Leadership Lunch

Students Interested in Volunteering: Contact Katie Moriarty (ktmoriarty22@yahoo.com) to assist with running powerpoint, packet assembly, etc. Discounted registration to those who assist with the conference.

The Northern Spotted Owl in the 21st Century: Confronting the Management Challenges of Cumulative Habitat Effects and the Barred Owl

February 5 & 6, 2008

Biologists, foresters, and land managers with an interest in the Northern Spotted Owl are invited to attend a one-and-a-half day symposium immediately preceding the Western Section Annual Conference in Redding. New scientific information on the NSO and habitat management under the “no-take” process of the California Forest Practice Rules, as well as the effects of Barred Owl on surveys and site occupancy, will be presented. Panels of scientific experts and agency personnel will discuss the implications of the new information and will strategize conservation and regulatory efforts for the NSO. The emphasis for management discussions will be on California populations of NSO, with new information from other areas of the west coast and elsewhere will be presented as applicable.

Confirmed speakers currently include: Alan Franklin, Lowell Diller, Brian Woodbridge, Mark Higley, David Wiens, Dennis Rock, Scott Gremel, and Jim Thraillkill.

Conserving California’s Native Red Fox: Recent Research and Management Implications

Feb 6, 2008 - 8 am to 12pm

The native red fox is one of California’s most elusive and poorly understood species. Recent research has shed new light on its origins, distribution and ecology, with some surprising findings. This symposium will provide an in-depth review of this current research and its management implications, presented by a variety of agency and academic scientists. The session will conclude with an hour-long panel discussion and question-answer session featuring additional experts on fox ecology and management. The California Department of Fish and Game has provided a generous sponsorship to keep registration costs low. Limited to 75 participants. Pre-registration strongly encouraged.

Confirmed speakers and topics:

- ◆ **Keith Aubry**, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station - “Evolution and quaternary zoogeography of the North American montane red foxes”
- ◆ **Ben Sacks**, Sacramento State University / UC Davis - “Native red foxes in the Sacramento Valley: Research update and implications”
- ◆ **Pete Figura**, California Department of Fish and Game - “Winter surveys for Sierra Nevada red fox and American marten near Lassen Volcanic National Park”
- ◆ **Casey Cleve**, Sacramento State University - “Using GIS to predict potential Sierra Nevada red fox distribution in California, Nevada and Oregon”
- ◆ **John Perrine**, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo - “Developing an integrated, statewide research and management plan for Sierra Nevada red fox”

Friday Workshop: Statistics Review for Professionals

How are YOUR statistics? Do you feel you need to go back to school?

Attend a workshop on Friday morning (February 8th) of the Annual Conference for a quick refresher. The workshop will conflict with the concurrent sessions. Additional information on page 12.

Sign up and more information at www.tws-west.org.

**An Introduction to Bayesian Statistical Analysis and Inference
February 7, 2008, 8 am to 4:30 pm**

Dr. Howard Stauffer will present an introduction to Bayesian statistical analysis and inference. This workshop will present an introduction to Bayesian statistical analysis and inference including the following topics

- Fundamentals: overview, Bayes Theorem, historical background, choice of priors, conjugate priors (beta conjugate for binary data, gamma conjugate for count data), examples
- Bayesian hypothesis testing: frequentist versus Bayesian hypothesis testing, Bayes factors, an example – population monitoring
- Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods: ergodic Markov chains, Metropolis-Hasting Algorithm
- WinBUGS software applications

Intended Audience: Researchers, students, state and federal regulatory biologists, government and private wildlife biologists, foresters and land managers and others with an interest in Bayesian Statistics.

Goals: provide an introduction to Bayesian statistical analysis and inference, including

- the fundamentals
- Bayesian hypothesis testing
- Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods
- WinBUGS software applications

Schedule:

- 7:30-8:00 am Registration
- 8:00-9:00 am Fundamentals I – overview, Bayes Theorem, historical background
- 9:00-10:00 am Fundamentals II – choice of priors, conjugate priors, examples
- 10:00-10:30 am Coffee break
- 10:30-noon Bayesian hypothesis testing – frequentist versus Bayesian, Bayes factors, an example
- noon-1:00 pm Lunch (provided)
- 1:00-2:00 pm Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) I – ergodic Markov chains, Metropolis-Hastings Algorithm
- 2:00-3:00 pm Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) II – Introduction to WinBUGS software
- 3:00-3:30 pm Break
- 3:30-4:30 pm Markov chain Monte Carlo III – Examples

Participants should bring a laptop and power cord. Necessary software will be provided.

Maximum registration: 22

Student tuition waivers may be available, depending upon total registration numbers. Contact deniselwalker@hotmail.com for further information.

Attendance at this workshop will preclude attendance at the Conference Plenary and some concurrent sessions.

**2008 Annual Conference - Annual Award's Banquet
February 7, 2008 - 7:00 pm**

Fine food, a memorable raffle, great music, dancing, recognition of awards winners and much more!

Don't forget to purchase your ticket when you register for the Conference.

Review of Traditional Frequentist Statistical Analysis and Inference and an Overview of Contemporary Statistical Methods

February 8, 2008, 8 am - 12 pm

A half-day session led by Dr. Howard Stauffer, reviewing traditional frequentist statistical analysis and inference and providing an overview of contemporary statistical methods. The session will also include an overview of Bayesian statistical analysis and inference, generalized linear modeling, and mixed effects modeling.

This workshop will present a review of traditional frequentist statistical analysis and inference and an overview of some contemporary statistical methods, including the following topics

- review of traditional frequentist statistical analysis: how to interpret the meaning of parameter estimation, confidence intervals, and Neyman Pearson hypothesis testing
- overview of Bayesian statistical analysis and inference: fundamentals, Bayes Theorem, conjugate priors, MCMC analysis, and WinBUGS software
- overview of generalized linear modeling: fundamentals, link functions, generalized error, and maximum likelihood estimation
- overview of mixed effects modeling: dependent data, generalization of multiple linear regression, random effects

Intended Audience: State and federal regulatory biologists, government and private wildlife biologists, students, researchers and others with an interest in refresher course for statistics.

Number of Workshop Participants: 50-65. A nominal additional fee is required.

Attendance at this workshop will preclude attendance at some concurrent sessions.

Save the Dates:

TWS National Conference

Miami, FL: November 8-12, 2008

MONTEREY, CA
September 20-24, 2009

Student Resume Workshop

*This **free** student-focused event will occur during the Section's 2008 Annual Conference in Redding.*

The Annual Conference is a venue to present research, obtain training, learn about current methods, new technology, and network. It is a wonderful event for students to experience real-world biology and meet possible employers. Take advantage of the Resume Workshop as another benefit of conference attendance!!!

Resume Workshop - February 7 (3:00-5:00 pm)

- ⇒ *Learn about format and content in federal and private resumes.*
- ⇒ *Get hints on cover letters.*
- ⇒ *Take home example resumes and cover letters*
- ⇒ *See where to find the best job searching sites and how to most effectively use them.*

Barbara Peters, former Career Counselor for the Natural Resources and Sciences at Humboldt State University, will be presenting. Mrs. Peters has been working with wildlife and natural resource students for 30 years.

Career Fair - February 8

The Career Fair is a place for students to discuss career choices, the job market, and job qualifications with practicing professionals from the Western Section.

Why Wildlife Biologists do not Fear the Apocalypse

Or, put another way, what do wildlife biologists have in common with Irish monks of the 12th Century?

A brief musing by Tom Roberts

Don't let me get carried away with this thought that has just occurred to me. I love my job, at least the parts that have me watching the sun come up in the Altamont Hills; finding the owls nesting in the levees around the broccoli fields in Calexico; trying to get a little more cold water into the Klamath River for thirsty salmon. I sleep pretty well, and many of the things that wake me up in the middle of the night have nothing whatever to do with the natural resources to be looked after, on my watch. They are the quotidian cares of middle age, really. House repairs. Money in the bank. The neighbor who plays the saxophone all the time. Personality conflicts at work. Aging parents. What I should have said....

But I don't worry about global warming. Why not? Well, because we've been here before, with acid rain, the hole in the ozone, deforestation of the Amazon, suburban sprawl, all of which have written doom on the walls of the lives of three generations of biological practitioners. Don't get me wrong, these were no false alarms. I suppose we may have seen the effects of them directly, and certainly seen them indirectly, with the declines of, say, neotropical songbirds. We may have even been comforted, or at least made thoughtful, by careers watching nature adapt and soldier on, gained a sense that ecosystem collapse is only the collapse of the *human* ecosystem, that life will go on, playing by the rules we've come to understand, just as it did in the Permian Extinction.

More optimistically still, there may be salvation in nature's servomechanisms, also known as the Gaia Hypothesis, whereby change in one direction (say for example, towards global extirpation of everything) is countered by change in another, much the way mammals thermoregulate. There is already a smidgen of this creeping into the literature: those ice-sheets breaking up with dire consequences on krill and whales and flooding in your basement may be unforeseen "hot spots" for ocean life. USD marine scientist Ron Kaufmann proposes that these icebergs hold trapped organic material that could be thousands of years old, and these are released as the

icebergs melt — feeding the growth of marine life and counteracting global warming.

But...no. We won't get away that easy. So why, by and large, are I and my colleagues still the cheerful, scruffy lot we always were, showing up for work, carrying the tiger salamander tenderly out of harm's way, sparing the odd tree, keeping silt out of the odd stream, publishing technical reports tracking weed spread, and writing reams of regulatory paper interpreting regulations, all of which, in the end, seem unlikely to save us from ourselves?

The reason, I mused recently, is that we have more in common with the Irish monks of the ninth century than with the holocaust deniers of global warming or with those who believe that sky is falling in our lifetimes. I do not mean by this living simple lives of contemplation behind secure walls, practicing conservation in our little plots of barley and flocks of sheep. Nor do I mean that we have a brother (sister) hood which gives us solace. Both may be partially true, but consider this. In the margins of the manuscripts they copied, religious and scientific texts they may not have wholly understood, the Irish monks wrote little poems about their cats, commentaries on the text, lists of things to do after work, items of gossip. They appear to have been healthy. They worked on steadily, in silence, for centuries. They were, in essence, well-adjusted and reasonably happy in their work. This in a world busy destroying itself and destroying the very items of human knowledge they protected for posterity *without any guarantee that posterity would ever happen*.

By some estimates 50% of all ancient Latin manuscripts in existence were copied by Irish monks. And in this fragment of historical lore, I find the important lesson: God (or Gaia) does not want us to despair. He (She) expects us to labor on with no real hope because it's worth doing, no matter what happens, because an idea or an organism has its own independent value in its own time. And because we know the value, and the beauty, our mission in the world makes sense. No matter what happens. Sleep well.



Barry Garrison

Born June 25, 1958, in Ventura, CA, Barry left us too soon on June 8, 2007. Barry grew up in Sacramento and attended Orange Grove Elementary, Churchill Middle and La Sierra High schools. He also attended American River College and later earned a B.S. from Humboldt State University and a M.S. from Virginia Tech in Wildlife Biology. For the past 12 years, Barry has resided in Davis, CA. Barry is survived by & deeply loved by his broken-hearted family: wife of 24 years, Catherine (Cathie) Vouchilas and precious children, Nicole (15 yrs) and Christopher (11 yrs); loving parents, Lowell and Colette Garrison; best friend & brother, Mark; and sisters, Nicole Eastly & Jennifer Harrison; as well as numerous beloved nieces & nephews, in-laws, friends and colleagues. Barry was first and foremost a doting husband and father that was very engaged in his children's lives, participating in various youth sports and cub scouts. He shared his love of wildlife with his wife & children and enjoyed exploring the great outdoors together. Barry enjoyed a distinguished career as a respected Wildlife Biologist working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and for the last

18 years, the California Department of Fish and Game, assessing and protecting fish and wildlife resources throughout the state. He has been an active member and leader of The Western Section of the Wildlife Society.

Membership Committee

Continued from page 6

So that means that you should be getting an email renewal notice from me in the coming weeks (or have already gotten it – if I'm on the ball). I hope that the email address that we have on record for you is correct so we don't have to send you a paper renewal notice. We have increased our effort to reduce our paper consumption and fuel use associated with postal delivery of renewal notices. For those of you that also are members of TWS (National), you should renew for the Section (and your Chapter) when you renew at the new TWS secure on-line store (<http://store.wildlife.org/>). Note that the on-line store has been re-done and still has some areas under construction. As of early October, the on-line renewal only included your 2007 categories and there is no option to add Section and Chapter dues. Hopefully this will be fixed soon. You can also pay your Section (and Chapter) renewal dues online at our website (<https://securedata.net/tws-west/memberform.html>). And finally you can also renew when you register for the 2008 Annual Conference;

however, please try to remember when you renew as we always get some members who renew more than once!

Remember that we have a Yahoo Group list (<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/TWSWSMembers/>) that we use to regularly share information about Section events and Section information. Members are automatically added to this list when they join. This is currently our primary means of electronic communication with you so if you choose to unsubscribe, please regularly check our website so you don't miss out on information or opportunities. We try to keep the number of emails down to just a few messages a month so as not to inundate you. Information on managing your subscription is contained at the bottom of each email message.

Finally, as always, please help us keep our membership database up to date by sending me your change of address or change of email information to me at dyasudaTWS@comcast.net.

Scott Osborn - President-elect

Personal Information: Born 1961, married with one daughter, age 3 years.

Education: University of California, Irvine, B.S. Biological Sciences (Ecology emphasis), 1983. University of Arizona, Tucson, Ph.D. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 1991.

Current Position: Staff Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Game, Coastal Timberland Planning Unit, Eureka CA (since 1999).

TWS Involvement: Member of TWS since mid-1990's. Formerly active on Board of California North Coast Chapter (Newsletter Editor, Treasurer). Served on Western Section Executive Board as Chapter Representative from CNC Chapter (2002-2003), currently Western Section Treasurer (2007). Organizing committee member for several CNC Chapter and Western Section workshops including "Fisher and Marten in California: Moving Science and Management Forward" (Sacramento, 2006) and upcoming "The Northern Spotted Owl in the 21st Century: Confronting the Management Challenges of Cumulative Habitat Effects and the Barred Owl" (Redding 2008).

Candidate's Statement: If elected, I will have three goals for my Presidency: 1) Continue to develop continuing education opportunities, 2) Develop education and outreach programs for undergraduates in biology, and 3) Maintain the Section's financial stability.

I'm constantly amazed at the pace at which science and technology progresses. Since I completed graduate school in 1991, it seems like entirely new sets of tools have been developed to test inferences and describe relationships (using information theory and Bayesian statistics) and to study populations (using new techniques in genetics). Methods for tracking individuals and mapping habitats (using new generations of tracking techniques, GPS, remotely-sensed data, and GIS) have likewise progressed dramatically. The complexity of these subjects makes it necessary to work collaboratively with experts from other disciplines. However, I believe it is necessary for all of us to have a familiarity with the current tools of our trade to aid in evaluating others' work as well as planning our own. I would work with the Professional Development Committee to develop a curriculum of continuing education opportunities on these and other topics.

I'm also aware that our profession has experienced a significant "graying" trend over the past 20 years. At the Department of Fish and Game half of the supervisory biologists will be eligible for retirement in four years. I think it's essential that we continue to reach out to young biologists and let them know how important and fascinating wildlife biology is, as well as to make TWS relevant to their needs as young professionals. The Student Affairs Committee and the Executive Board have worked on these issues and there are more ideas that should be pursued.

I was on the Executive Board just as the financial crisis of a few years ago was developing. Thankfully, the Section leaders took action to remedy the problem, both by reducing our costs and developing several revenue-generating events. We're back on a solid financial footing, but as Treasurer I'm keenly aware that we cannot be complacent. It is essential that we continue to keep the Section's costs down and generate revenue each year to support our various activities, including scholarships, grants, and mentoring activities.

Of course, there are many other tasks the President must carry out during the 3-year tenure of office. This particular cycle also has the added responsibility of hosting the 2009 TWS national conference in Monterey. I will do my best to meet these responsibilities and it is only because of the commitment and professionalism of the other Executive Board members, and the Section membership as a whole, that I think I will be able to meet this challenge.

Instructions for Voting

1. Log onto the Western Section Web site, www.tws-west.org
2. From the home page, click on the link "2008 Voting for President Elect and Bylaws Revision."
3. Record your votes and supply your e-mail address (to verify voting eligibility).
4. Send the vote by clicking the "submit" button.
5. Verify that your vote was received by confirming e-mail message to address supplied.

Election Tallies and Eligibility

Votes will be tallied by Past-President Kevin Hunting and all votes will remain confidential.

You are eligible to vote in the election if you are a *current* Western Section member.

Bylaw Revisions

Scott Osborn

Proposed Bylaws Change – Establishment of Western Section Endowment Fund

The Executive Board has prepared the following proposed addition to the Western Section bylaws. The new bylaws would establish a non-wasting endowment fund to provide a stable source of funds for scholarship, education, and outreach activities. The bylaws would require transparency and accountability for management of the endowment fund. Three Trustees would manage the fund, calculate the amount available for expenditure, and provide annual reports to the Executive Board and membership. While the bylaws don't require it, the current Executive Board anticipates the Operations Manual will specify that investment in socially- and environmentally-responsible funds will be required for the fund. Use of the fund to "bail out" the Section in a financial crisis could only occur with the specific approval of the voting membership.

TWS – Western Section Bylaws

Proposed Revision to Article VIII – Management and Finances

Section XX. Endowment Fund – The Western Section shall maintain an Endowment Fund, the goal of which is to accumulate a core of funds that shall not be depleted. The interest generated from the Fund shall be used to support the Western Section's education, outreach, and scholarship programs.

Clause A. Trustees. The Endowment Fund shall be managed by three Trustees, who shall be members of the Western Section. The Treasurer of the Western Section shall be an ex officio Trustee. The other two Trustees shall be appointed by the President, who should if possible select individuals with relevant investment experience. Appointed Trustees may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board. A mandatory vote on the removal of the Trustees shall be made if the Fund's investment return in each of three consecutive years is

less than the annual rate of increase measured by the S&P 500 index.

Clause B. Contributions to the Fund. The Endowment Fund shall be established with an initial amount determined by the Executive Board and shall receive monies from all Life Memberships, and from donations, bequests, and other sources as determined by majority vote of the Executive Board.

Clause C. Investment. The Fund shall be invested as determined by unanimous agreement of the Trustees. If the Trustees cannot decide how to investment of the Fund, the Executive Board shall do so by majority vote.

Clause D. Management of the Principal. The principal of the Endowment Fund shall be calculated by the Trustees at the end of each fiscal year. The principal shall be valued as the sum of the initial endowment by the Executive Board, plus Life Membership dues

payments made after the establishment of the Fund, plus all other allocations made to the Fund by the Executive Board, plus an amount equal to the annual rate of inflation multiplied by the previous year's principal. If the total value of the Fund is less than the calculated principal due to poor investment performance, then the principal shall equal the total value of the Fund. The Trustees may not recommend, nor may the Executive Board approve, any expenditure of the Fund principal without approval of a majority vote of the Section membership.

Clause E. Funds Available for Expenditures. At the end of each fiscal year, the Trustees shall determine the funds available for expenditure by subtracting the principal amount from the total value of the Endowment Fund.

Clause F. Annual Reporting. The Trustees shall make an annual report to the Executive Board describing the total Endowment Fund value, amount and calculation of the current principal, and amount of the funds available for expenditure. The annual report shall also list the investments made with the fund and describe the performance of the investments.

Clause G. Allocation of Available Funds. Funds determined

by the Trustees to be available for expenditure may only be used to support the Western Section's education, outreach, and scholarship programs. The expenditure of funds may be recommended by the Student Affairs Committee, Awards and Grants Committee, or Professional Development Committee, or by other Executive Board members, or by Section members. Allocation of available funds shall be decided by majority vote of the Executive Board.

*California Central Coast Chapter
announces their first
Research Round-Table:*

An informal arena for presenting current research and management projects with break-out sessions for further discussion.

February 27th, 2008 in San Luis Obispo

Details TBA, contact Bill Tietje for more information: btietje@co.slo.ca.us

**California Native Plant Society
2009 Conservation Conference**

January 17 - 19, 2009

(Immediately preceding TWS Western Section conference)

Where: Sacramento Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel, Sacramento, California

Description: You won't want to miss this event that will convene the greater community of conservationists in one forum to learn about strategies and solutions for conservation in the 21st century. Coordinated by CNPS and jointly sponsored by environmental consulting firms, non-profits and state and federal agencies, the conference will offer concurrent and plenary sessions, symposia, workshops, banquet photography contest, and exhibit hall. Visit cnps.org for details!

Volunteers for planning and implementation of this conference are needed! Contact Josie Crawford, jcrawford@cnps.org to learn more.

Strategies & Solutions



CONSERVATION
CONFERENCE

Monterey 2009

September 20 – 24

Seeking Subcommittee Chairpersons and Volunteers for Arrangements

Planning is underway for the Western Section to host the 2009 TWS Annual Meeting in Monterey, California. Arrangements Committee co-chairs John Harris and Cynthia Perrine seek volunteers to serve on various subcommittees. Depending on the task selected, commitments are required from February 2008 through September 2009.

Volunteers (Chairs, if known, are noted) are needed for the following subcommittees:

Audio Visual and Computers (Don Yasuda) – Assist determination of equipment needed and oversees operation of all audio visual and computer equipment during the conference.

Field Trips Subcommittee (Steve Juarez) – Coordinates optional field trips and reservations

Fundraising (Rhys Evans) - Solicit silent auction items and assist with other fundraising

Local Information – Obtains information on the local area with where to go, what to do, where to eat, maps

Meals and Entertainment (Julie Vance) - Assist in selecting menu choices and farewell bbq music/entertainment.

Media Relations and Photography – Generates local, regional and statewide media coverage of the conference through news releases and selects photographer for the conference events.

Merchandise – Helps select conference logo and conference items for sale

Photography Contest – Coordinates photography contest

Student Activities (Katie Moriarty) – Organizes career oriented and social activities for students including student chapter breakfast/workshop, student dinner, student-professional mixer, job board, awards

Student Quiz Bowl (David Juliano)– Organizes and conducts the student quiz bowl.

Volunteers – Recruits and schedules volunteers for assistance on-site during the conference



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Jim Yoakum - Historian



The 2008 Annual Conference and Election Material

Have you renewed your membership for 2008? Don't panic if your mailing label says "expires 2007" but you have recently renewed. There is a several week lagtime in updating the database.

Calendar of Events

2007

December 4-6, 2007 ~ Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Conference, Sacramento, CA

2008

January 7-11, 2008 ~ Natural Resources Communication Workshop, Chico, CA

February 5-6, 2008 ~ TWS - WS Symposium, Redding, CA

The Northern Spotted Owl in the 21st Century: Confronting the Management Challenges of Cumulative Habitat Effects and the Barred Owl

Conserving California's Native Red Fox: Recent Research and Management Implications

February 6-9, 2008 ~ TWS - WS Annual Conference, Redding, CA

Statistics Workshops: Bayesian and Refresher

Annual Banquet, Awards, and Raffle

Student Resume Workshop, Career Fair and Lunch

February 27, 2008 ~ California Central Coast Research Round Table, San Luis Obispo, CA

November 8-12, 2008 ~ TWS National Conference, Miami, FL

2009

January 17-19, 2009 ~ CNPS Conservation Conference, Sacramento, CA

January 21-23, 2009 ~ TWS - WS Annual Conference, Sacramento, CA

September 20-24, 2009 ~ TWS National Conference, Monterey, CA