



The Wildlife Society Western Section

President's Message

John McNerney

Welcome to the Summer 2011 newsletter! We hope that you will find this newsletter, like all others, informative and worthwhile.

I'm very happy to announce the recent incorporation of the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) Student Chapter to The Wildlife Society. Thanks to the efforts of two energetic students (Serra Hoagland and Lindsey Kaplan) and their faculty advisor (Dr. Frank Davis), we now have a fourth student chapter within the Western Section. We look forward to working with the UCSB Student Chapter and have much confidence in its success. Welcome aboard!

As reported in my last message, the Section's financial status is in good shape and we continue to move forward with new program development initiatives. Many of these initiatives focus on engaging K-12 students in an effort to introduce them to wildlife, wildlife



management concepts, and our profession. We've also been able to budget additional money in support of college and university student travel and research grants. (See pages 18-19 for more information.) Some of this money has been set aside specifically to help students travel to the upcoming TWS conference in Hawaii. All student members of the Western Section are encouraged to apply for this funding. Visit the Western Section's website <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western> for more information and application materials.

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) continues to work hard in planning and executing various workshops and symposia. We hope to advance efforts in soliciting feedback from agency and private sector employers regarding training needs. Such data

Wildflowers, Ansel Adams Wilderness
Photo by Candace Renger

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will be helpful in directing the PDC, and perhaps help foster training partnerships with state and federal agencies.

Our Student Affairs Committee has been busy engaging students and getting them involved with The Wildlife Society. Much of this effort

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has been focused on establishing a presence on social networking websites (ex. Facebook) and other electronic media resources. Co-Chairs, Kate Howard and Cynthia Perrine, have also been working hard to generate student participation at the TWS Annual Conference in Hawaii.

Planning efforts for the Western Section's 2012 Annual Meeting in Sacramento are in full swing. President-Elect Linda Leeman and the Program Committee continue to work diligently on crafting a program that is sure to stimulate thought, sharpen the mind, and

build and strengthen personal and professional bonds. I strongly encourage everyone to attend the Annual Meeting to not only learn and network, but to help support our Section's efforts in providing professional development opportunities and guiding the next generation of wildlife professionals.

President-Elect Message

Linda Leeman

Planning is well underway for the 2012 Annual Conference in Sacramento. We are excited about development of a great program. Details are found on pages 8-11 in this issue. I welcome any thoughts or suggestions you may have, so please feel free to contact me. Hope to see you soon in Sacramento!



Important News Announcement:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Review 100's of Species for Protection Under the Endangered Species Act

A Settlement Agreement between USFWS and environmental advocacy groups was reached earlier this summer, which requires USFWS to make initial or final decisions on whether to add hundreds of imperiled plants and animals to the federal endangered species list by 2018.

Many of the 757 species that USFWS will be reviewing are within the Western Sections' boundaries: 70 species occur in Hawaii, 54 occur in Nevada, and 51 occur in California.

The USFWS has prepared a six-year listing work plan that will enable the agency to systematically

review and address the needs of more than 250 species listed on the 2010 Candidate Notice of Review, to determine if they should be added to the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

In addition to addressing the needs of candidate species, the work plan will provide state wildlife agencies, stakeholders and the public with clarity and certainty about when listing determinations will be made.

Some of species affected by this agreement that occur in the Western Section are described below:

Pacific Fisher: The fisher, a

member of the weasel family, is an opportunistic predator that hunts exclusively in forested habitats. The west coast population of the fisher is endangered mainly because of loss and fragmentation of habitat due to timber harvest, roads, urban development, recreation, and wildfires. Other threats include small population sizes and isolation, predation, and human-caused mortality from vehicle collisions, poaching, and incidental capture and injury.

The Center for Biological Diversity petitioned to list the fisher as an endangered species in 2000. It was placed on the candidate list in 2004. Under the Settlement

President-elect's message continued from page 3...

Agreement, USFWS will rule in 2014 if it is proposed for listing or determine it does not qualify. If warranted for listing, the final rule will be issued in 2015.

32 Pacific Northwest Mollusks:

The Pacific Northwest is home to a unique diversity of mollusks found nowhere else on Earth. With colorful names like the evening fieldslug, cinnamon juga and masked dusksnail, these species recycle nutrients, filter water and provide important prey for birds, amphibians and other animals. Many species are threatened by logging, pollution and urban sprawl.

In 2008, the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned to list 32 Washington, Oregon and Northern California mollusks as endangered species. None are on the candidate list. Under Settlement Agreement, USFWS will issue initial listing decisions on all 32 species in 2011.

Greater and Mono Basin Sage

Grouse: Sage grouse are showy, ground-dwelling birds that perform elaborate mating dances, with males puffing up giant air sacks on their chests. The Mono Basin sage grouse lives in Nevada and California. The greater sage grouse lives throughout much of the Interior West. Both are threatened by oil and gas drilling, livestock grazing, development and off-road vehicles.

The Center for Biological Diversity and allies petitioned to list the Mono Basin sage grouse as an endangered species in 2005. It was placed on the candidate list in 2010. Under the Settlement Agreement, USFWS will rule in 2013 if it is proposed for listing or determine it does not qualify. If warranted for listing, the final rule will be issued in 2014.

The greater sage grouse was petitioned for listing in 2002 and placed on the candidate list in 2010. Under the Settlement Agreement,

USFWS will rule in 2015 if it is proposed for listing or determine it does not qualify. If warranted for listing, the final rule will be issued in 2016.

Scarlet Hawaiian Honeycreeper

(‘I‘iwi): This bright-red bird hovers like a hummingbird and has long been featured in the folklore and songs of native Hawaiians. It is threatened by climate change, which is causing mosquitoes that carry introduced diseases — including avian pox and malaria — to move into the honeycreeper’s higher-elevations refuges. It has been eliminated from low elevations on all islands by these diseases.

The Center for Biological Diversity petitioned to list it as an endangered species in 2010. It is not on the candidate list. Under the Settlement Agreement, USFWS will rule in 2016 if it is proposed for listing or determine it does not qualify. If warranted for listing, the final rule will be issued in 2017.

More information can be found at the following websites:**AP News Story:**

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hAM8HpEvu7-H8Gt_Xmz9QkectClw?docId=39a04adafec7427c96740c024026fb9c

USFWS News Release:

https://us.vocuspr.com/Newsroom/Query.aspx?SiteName=fws&Entity=PRAsset&SF_PRAsset_PRAssetID_EQ=127722&XSL=PressRelease&Cache=True

Center for Biological Diversity News Release:

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2011/species-agreement-07-12-2011.html

Past-President *Armand Gonzales*

I am now approaching my final few months as a member of the Executive Board. It has been a pleasure serving as President-Elect, President, and now Past-President over the past two and a half years. It has been a pleasure working with so many dedicated wildlife professionals who selflessly give their time and energy to providing the membership and the profession opportunities to think, learn, socialize, and most importantly, be part of a community of like minded people all trying to make this world a better place. It's been fun. I've had the opportunity to be in the trenches. I've been a part of the lively discussions and important decisions that will result in tangible benefits to the Section; which together with the opportunities I've had to recognize the accomplishments and promise of our members, through awards and grants, has been a most gratifying experience. I am deeply grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. I do have one final task though - one that requires your help. The Past-President is responsible for identifying candidates for President-Elect and I would like to ask you for nominations. When elected, the President-Elect serves one year before ascending to President for one year, and then Past-President for one last year. The three-year commitment goes by pretty fast and can be one of the most rewarding professional experiences one could have. Please consider making a nomination of an admired colleague or even yourself. Nominees must agree to run so no harm in offering a name.



A full description of the responsibilities of President-Elect is in our Operations Manual and can be viewed at:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=200&Itemid=351#Operations%20Manual



Sacramento Valley Red Fox.
Photo by Tim Ranstrom



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Section Representative Report

Don Yasuda



There hasn't been much interim activity for TWS Council since my last report on the March mid-year meeting. TWS elections have been held and Jon Haufler, Executive Director, Ecosystem Management Research Institute <http://www.emri.org/> will be the new Vice President at the Hawaii Conference. The summer edition of *The Wildlife Professional* is out. All members of TWS at the national level receive this member magazine. Don't forget that members can also check out the magazine (and past editions) online. The cover articles address the importance of workforce diversity for the wildlife profession. There are also articles on feral pigs, discussion of the North America Model of Wildlife Conservation, and some articles for students. As a member magazine, please consider submitting articles. One area that we are always looking for member material is the Field Notes section but the editors also encourage other articles and will work with you to help prepare the article. TWS has recently solicited for donations for this year's Investor's Campaign which will be to develop a video to commemorate The Wildlife Society's upcoming 75th anniversary. If you can, please consider contributing to this exciting effort. Two congratulations are in order. First, welcome to our newest Student Chapter - UC Santa Barbara. Second, congratulations to Cheryl Lohr, selected for the 2011 Leadership Institute. Finally, with the TWS Annual Conference approaching, please let me know if you have any issues or items to carry forward or convey at the TWS Council meeting.

Position Statements

Are you aware of the various position statements that TWS has published? You can see the list on the TWS website at http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=117&Itemid=299. Our newest position statement is on Feral Horses and Burros in North America and we are currently working on a position statement on Animal Rights. Position Statements are reviewed every five years and members have the opportunity to review and comment on draft Position Statements. Take a look at the list, you may be surprised at the breadth of topics covered.

TWS-WS Membership Committee Report

TWS-WS Membership is currently at 848. This is a very good number for us and an uptick from the last few years where we've been in the 750 range. Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership. If you still haven't renewed for 2011, please consider doing it as your dues help us continue to put on an excellent Annual Conference and Professional Development workshops and offer awards and grants to students and professionals. We are still slated to work on a unified membership database with TWS but things have been going slowly with some personnel changes at TWS. I still hope that we can initiate this for renewals this fall but with activities picking up for the Annual Conference, we'll see how it goes. As a reminder, the Section voted to synchronize our membership to a 12 month membership and to align a member's renewal to their TWS renewal date when they are TWS members. This will ultimately simplify a member's renewals. We have not incorporated this yet but I hope to begin the alignment by the end of the year or at the point that we begin the unified member database experiment.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Osborn



Current Assets. As of June 18, 2011, the Section's total monetary assets were: \$192,388.

Endowment Fund Update. The Endowment Fund and Section investment funds have been invested at Charles Schwab as directed by the Board. The initial endowment amount of \$38K is split roughly equally between four mutual funds: Ishares ftse Social Index Fund, Vanguard International Equity (non-US), Vanguard Energy, Vanguard REIT (real estate) fund. The Endowment Fund Trustees (currently Gary Falxa, Marshall White, and Scott Osborn) will report annually on the fund's performance and make recommendations for the amount of income that may be spent.

Investment Strategy Update. The \$123K allocated for general investment was recently moved from the Section's Wells Fargo account to Charles Schwab. Approximately \$110K will be invested in 6-month term taxable bonds and the rest will remain in the Section's Schwab money market account.

Summary. The Western Section continues to be in strong financial condition. Both the investment funds and the Endowment Fund should provide more investment income that may be used to promote the Section's student and professional development initiatives.

Donate to the Western Section Endowment Fund!

The Western Section established an Endowment Fund through a member-approved change to our Bylaws in 2007. The goal of the fund is accumulate a core of principal that will not be depleted. Interest generated from the fund will be used to support the Section's education, outreach, and scholarship programs. The Endowment Fund principal receives input from all bequests, life membership dues, and donations specifically made for the fund. The fund is administered by three Trustees, including the Treasurer and two other Section members appointed by the President. Currently, Treasurer Scott Osborn, former Treasurer Gary Falxa, and Past-President Marshall White are the Trustees.

The Endowment Fund was established with a \$38,000 bequest from the estate of Section member Douglas Donaldson. Please consider adding to the Section's fund by making a donation or becoming a Lifetime Member of the Section. Donations to the fund are tax-deductible. Lifetime memberships cost \$450, which may be paid in up to three installments. Either way, helping to increase the core principal in the Endowment Fund is a great way to support the Section's programs for students and education/outreach!

Secretary's Report

Janine Payne

It's been a busy year and this summer has been no exception. In June, I was fortunate to be a part of the Remote Camera Techniques Workshop on the Carrizo Plain. What an amazing workshop it was! We learned about everything from camera trap technology and set-up to considering the "to bait or not to bait" debate. We also learned valuable information regarding study design and data management. We truly had a wonderfully diverse group of wildlife professionals, including agency biologists, consulting agency professionals, and graduate students to boot! By day we alternated between lectures and deploying cameras in the field and by night we heard case studies from our esteemed instructors and socialized in the hot tub. ("Hot tub at a field station?!" you ask. Believe it or not, Chimineas Ranch comes equipped with a hot tub, which was greatly enjoyed by all.) If you have not yet attended one of the Western Section's Professional Development workshops, I highly recommend doing so.



In July, the Executive Board had a very productive meeting at the Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics in Placerville. It's so nice to see such great new energy coming to the Board through our newly revitalized Student Affairs Committee and the brand new UCSB Student Chapter! And of course, it's always great to hear from those dedicated individuals who have worked for so long in service to the Board as they develop and implement Section initiatives.

I've been busy at work on arrangements for the Hawaii 2011 conference as the Chair of the Merchandising Committee. By now, hopefully you've all seen the stunning conference logo designed by local U.S. Fish & Wildlife employee Elly Chen. We have all kinds of goodies in store for conference attendees, so please stop by the conference store and say hello. While you're there you can pick up a one of a kind dolphin sporting a TWS logo for the little one in your life.

Hope to see you in Hawaii!



Photo by Eveline Larrucea,
Trailmaster 1550 active infrared
triggered camera system.



Waikoloa, Hawaii - November 5-10, 2011

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS



THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
WILL BE HOSTING THE 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON

FEBRUARY 1- 3, 2012

AT THE RADISSON HOTEL IN SACRAMENTO, CA

Come join other wildlife professionals to learn about cutting-edge research, management issues, and conservation challenges. See old friends and network with other professionals.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 31 Pre-conference Symposia (details coming soon!)

Wednesday, February 1

Noon: Official conference opening
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.: Welcome mixer, social, and poster session
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Chapter Meetings

Thursday, February 2

8:30 to 11:30 a.m.: Plenary Session
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.: Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum
7:00 p.m.: Annual Awards Banquet and Raffle

Friday, February 3

8:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.: Student Leadership Lunch and Career Fair
4:30 p.m.: Western Section Executive Board meeting (all members are welcome)

PLENARY SESSION THEME

“Conservation in the Age of Litigation”

Litigation, and the use of the judicial system, has increasingly become more common in our society to settle disputes over natural resource management. Early environmental laws protected species from over-harvesting. With growing environmental awareness, key federal and state laws were enacted to protect natural resources, including Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, and California Environmental Quality Act. These laws and their regulations represent an evolving ethic to protect wildlife for their natural values, as well as aesthetic and moral reasons, to benefit future generations and to sustainably use and manage resources. With implementation of these laws and regulations, use of the courts to enforce the laws or find solutions to conflicts between resource conservation and consumption/development increased. Since the 1980s, deep polarization about resource issues has become the norm in our society as we struggle to implement these laws. Contentious issues have arisen, such as property rights, “regulatory taking,” protection of the commons, and environmental activism. More recently, diminishing non-renewable energy resources, climate change, and global needs for water, food, and fiber have further complicated the situation.

Environmental laws, court rulings, and threat of litigation have formed a legal landscape in which we, as wildlife biologists, now practice our profession. How does this legal landscape affect our actions to manage, research, and conserve species and their habitats? What role does advocacy play? How do we consider social, political, financial, or legal frameworks, while using sound science to inform our decisions?

The Plenary presentations and panel discussion will explore the idea of conservation in the age of litigation, drawing on our panelists’ backgrounds in applying environmental policy and regulation, judicial rulings, and settlement agreements to wildlife conservation and management.

The Plenary Session will be held Thursday morning. Speakers to be announced.

CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Technical sessions in the works include:

- Challenges of Natural Resource Management in a Changing Climate
- Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation
- Conservation Planning and Environmental Offsets: Tools for Species Recovery?
- Water Planning and Wildlife Conservation
- Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles
- Large Mammal and Big Game Ecology and Management
- Ecology and Management of Waterfowl and Wetlands
- Ecology and Management of Shorebirds
- Ecology and Management of Wildlife on Military Lands
- Conservation and Management of Carnivores
- Conservation and Management of Songbirds
- Wildlife Diseases and Pathology

Session titles may be added or changed at a later date. Check <http://joomla.wildlife.org/western> for an updated list of technical sessions and schedule.

POSTER SESSION

A poster session will be held for the Annual Conference on the evening of Wednesday, February 1, during the welcome mixer and social. Posters will also be available for viewing at other times and locations throughout the week. Those entering a poster for consideration must submit an abstract to the Session chairperson by November 1, 2011, and clearly indicate that it is a poster presentation. Posters should be no more than 4 feet high by 4 feet wide. Presenters must bring their own supplies (T-pins, push pins, etc.) to attach posters to the display boards. Display boards

will be provided.

CALL FOR PAPERS

All papers associated with the general meeting will be presented Wednesday through Friday, February 1-3.

We are soliciting abstracts for posters and 20-minute oral presentations for the concurrent technical and poster sessions. Abstract content should be consistent with technical session topics listed above, and may consist of either final or interim original research results. The conference program and session chairs will evaluate submitted abstracts to determine final concurrent session topics. In general, presenters should expect to speak for no more than 17 minutes, allowing for an introduction and limited Q&A after each presentation.

Abstract Submissions on-line at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/western>

Western Section website for registration and other conference information. The following provides an example of the abstract format.

ABSTRACT FORMAT EXAMPLE

Preferred Session: Ecology and Management of Shorebirds
Type of paper: Oral presentation

If a student, indicate if you intend to participate in the Student Judging.

Paper Title: **Status and Habitat Use of Long-billed Curlews in the Central Valley in Fall**

W. DAVID SHUFORD, PRBO Conservation Science, 3820 Cypress Drive #11, Petaluma, CA 94954, dshuford@prbo.org, (415) 868-0371x310; Co-authors: Gary W. Page; Gary M. Langham; and Catherine Hickey

Abstract: The long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*) – a large shorebird of conservation concern at the continental level – is a migrant and winter resident in California's Central Valley, where it concentrates primarily in agricultural lands. Despite recent estimates of the size of the curlew's North American breeding population, little is known about its abundance and habitat needs at migratory stopovers and wintering areas. To help fill these gaps, we coordinated three broad-scale surveys of curlews in the central and southern portions of the Central Valley in fall and winter in 2007-2008 and a more comprehensive survey of the entire Central Valley in August 2009. On the latter survey, we recorded 20,775 curlews in 197 flocks. In all years in autumn, the vast majority of curlews were found in irrigated croplands, primarily alfalfa and irrigated pastures, during this otherwise arid season. More frequent surveys at the local level in Solano County and more recent radio-telemetry studies indicate that some curlews shift their distribution from fall to winter. More work on fine-scale habitat preferences and movements in the Central Valley is needed to aid in the conservation of this at-risk shorebird.

The deadline for submission of both Oral Presentation and Poster abstracts is **October 30, 2011**. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words, excluding title and author addresses, should be in Arial 12-point font, and must adhere to format and layout elements provided in the example below. Indicate the preferred session and whether the paper will be an oral presentation or a poster. Student presentations are eligible for cash awards. Students should indicate their intent to compete for these awards.

Please submit abstracts electronically by filling out the interactive form on the Section website at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/western> (preferred) or by sending the files via email to the Program Chair, Linda Leeman lwleeman@gmail.com.

Speakers are expected to register for the conference and cover their travel and lodging expenses. See the

OTHER INFORMATION

PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA: The Professional Development Committee is developing a few pre-conference symposia adding even more outstanding educational and technical opportunities. Stay tuned for more details!

SPONSORSHIPS: We welcome potential sponsors to the meeting, individual events within the meeting or the pre-conference symposia. Organizations, agencies, consulting firms, chapters, individuals...let us know if you're interested. Sponsors can qualify for exhibit space, discounted or free event registrations, acknowledgement in the program and more. Opportunities start at \$250.

VOLUNTEERS: Opportunities abound. Please contact Lacey Kreiensieck at lkreiansieck@gmail.com if you are interested.

STUDENTS: As usual, we will have lots to offer! Resume workshops, career fair, networking with professionals, and travel scholarships. Check our website under "Resources" for more information or contact the Awards and Grants Committee Chair rburg@parks.ca.gov for additional details.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Members will be eligible to earn credit hours for Professional Development, Professional Development Certificates and for TWS Certification renewal (note: meetings such as this do not normally qualify for an initial TWS certification application). Additional information will be provided in the final conference program.

PUBLICATION IN THE WESTERN SECTION JOURNAL TRANSACTIONS: Presenters of papers at the Western Section's Annual Conference are encouraged to submit their papers for publication in the "Transactions of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society." There are no page charges for papers published by current members of the Western Section! Potential authors should review the guidelines for preparing and submitting manuscripts under the "Resources" tab on the Section web site at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/> or contact the Transactions Editor, David Wright dwright@

dfg.ca.gov.

WORKING GROUPS: The Western Section is pleased to help facilitate the meeting of several working groups during the annual conference, as has been done in the past. In order to ensure space is available and to help minimize scheduling conflicts, if you are interested in holding a working group meeting at the annual conference, please contact Scott Osborn, Working Group Coordinator at sosborn@dfg.ca.gov.

REGISTRATION: On-line registration for the Western Section Annual Conference is expected to open approximately October 20, 2011. Visit <http://joomla.wildlife.org/western/> to register.

HOTEL INFORMATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS: The 2012 Annual Conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. The Radisson Hotel is conveniently located 5 minutes from the Capitol, Old Sacramento, Cal Expo, Arden Fair Mall, Railroad Museum, and the Light Rail System. Please help keep conference registration rates low by staying at the Radisson hotel. The Radisson Hotel Sacramento is located at 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento CA 95815, Reservations: (888) 201-1718, Telephone: (916) 922-2020. More information at <http://www.radissonsac.com/>

Special per-night room rates for conference attendees. Please indicate that you are a member of the Wildlife Society – Western Section:

Room (Single/Double/Triple /Quad)
Standard Room (\$84/\$104/\$124/\$144)

+12% Tax and \$1.25 Sacramento Tourism Business Improvement District assessment fee

Professional Development Committee

Rhys Evans



We're pleased to inform you of the smashing success of several recent workshops and other events:

Bat Ecology in May – went great! Thanks to Drs. Dave Johnston and Joe Szewczak, and to Cynthia Perrine for awesome coordination (and cooking).

Acoustic Monitoring for Bats in June. Again, thanks to Joe Szewczak, and Cynthia Perrine who helped a lot with this one, too. Helen Johnson once again sponsored the two bat workshops this year. (Thanks, Helen; sorry I didn't get the chance to meet you!)

Remote Camera Techniques in Wildlife Studies in late June; many thanks to four, count 'em, four instructors: Drs. John Perrine, Eveline Larrucea, as well as Jerry Roe and Craig Fiehler.

PDC would also like to thank Jon Hooper and Kim Rubin for presenting the 41st iteration (!) of the Natural Resources Communication Workshop. Fourteen participants engaged in lots of hands-on lab time for creating computer-generated images in addition to the previous communications topics. Mark your calendars for 2012, the next offering of this outstanding workshop will be **January 9-13, 2012**. Dr. Hooper is also doing a mini-communication workshop in the North Coast area later this month.

Details of upcoming workshops and training opportunities will likely be announced on our website and via our yahoo group list before the next newsletter is distributed, so please stay alert!

What would **you** like to see next? I think we've clearly demonstrated that the 1.5 day, pre-conference symposium is a highly functional model, but as of right now, we don't have a firm topic for 2012 in Sacramento! (We do have a few small workshops in the plans). For this or any other ideas for a symposium or workshop contact the Professional Development Committee at sirsnav@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events

TWS National Conference

November 5-10, 2011

Waikoloa Village, Hawaii

Natural Resources Communication Workshop

January 9-13, 2012

Chico, CA

Instructors: Dr. Jon Hooper and Ethan Rotman

TWS-WS Annual Meeting

February 1-3, 2012

Sacramento, CA

TWS-WS Annual Meeting

January 30-February 1, 2013

Sacramento, CA



Program Director *Cynthia Perrine*

In September, I'll resume progress towards Western Section program development, focusing on four prioritized objectives:

- Professional development program planning
- K-12 outdoor education interface
- Needs assessment and survey
- Annual meeting site selection

Continuing the Section's field workshop program planning is a primary objective. I'll finish documenting the planning process for our field-based training program and propose revisions to our professional development program.



A new initiative is to outline a model for Western Section members to contribute directly to environmental education in their local communities. The proposed model is for wildlife scientists to co-lead outdoor workshops for educators and assist with regular monitoring of municipal areas with school-dependent children. This builds upon our plenary session at Riverside 2011, when we heard the value of scientist "face-time" with K-12 leading to a better civic understanding of science, and also creating avenues for an environmental or wildlife science career.

The annual members' needs assessment and survey related to training, expertise, outreach capacity, and members' services is in development. The information will help us work with members to improve the Section's outreach to students, assist with citizen science projects, develop professional development collaborations, and maintain member services such as publications and conference needs.

Assisting President McNerney in selecting a site for the 2014 Annual Meeting is the final priority. Reno, Nevada is the proposed location.

It's a pleasure to work with the Western Section of TWS Executive Board on these initiatives – thanks for the opportunity!

Burrowing Owl. Davis, CA.
Photo by John McNerney





Dye Creek Canyon.
Photo by Joe Szewczak

Bat Ecology Workshop Update

7 participants set 3 nets along Dye Creek on night 1, successfully netting 25 *Myotis yumanensis* from a maternal roost. The second night of netting along lower Dye Creek didn't yield any captures, but acoustic monitoring up the Dye Creek Canyon detected California myotis, western small-footed myotis, canyon bat, long-eared myotis, western red bat, big brown bat, pallid bat, hoary bat, Brazilian free-tailed bat, and western mastiff bat.



Joe Szewczak and Bat Ecology Student.
Photo by Cynthia Perrine

Bat Acoustics Workshop Report

The Acoustic Monitoring of Bats workshop was held on a soggy and wet weekend at Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz County. The 14 participants deployed acoustic detectors as teams, and all participants had the chance to learn wet-weather deployment and retrieval techniques. Ten species were detected –Townsend's big-eared, pallid, Yuma myotis, fringed myotis, Mexican free-tailed, little brown, big brown, Western red, hoary, and California myotis. Until next time! And.... congrats to "Team Sonobratz," honored for detecting the most diversity in one location in one night!

Humboldt State Professor Joe Szewczak taught his TENTH workshop with us this year! The Professional Development Committee honored his contribution to Western Section with a Life Membership.



Rainy and Wet Bat Acoustics Workshop Participants.
Photo by Cynthia Perrine

San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Linda Connolly



Social events: We are working to develop a social committee to plan several events each year intended to bring members and potential members together with no threat of a business meeting. Our first mixer was held July 27th in Fresno at a local restaurant and bar. The event was modestly attended but we expect a better turnout for events outside of the summer field season.

We are planning an event for the early fall at the California Living Museum (CALM) in Bakersfield. We made a donation to CALM earlier in the year in support of their kit fox rehab work, and we are working with them on a special presentation and tour for our members.

We have a Facebook page! The page has been up for a few months and is casually maintained by our current secretary. So far it seems to be effective in linking us up with other local groups such as Fresno Audubon, plus students and faculty at Fresno State.

Workshops: We are still working on developing a condor workshop. We have strong support from the Condor Recovery Program and they are helping with additional contacts and in securing a field location. We are beginning planning of our second small mammals workshop, likely to be held in early October.

In 2012 we are still considering blunt-nosed leopard lizard and San Joaquin kit fox workshops.

Humboldt State Student Chapter

Sam Aquilar

The Humboldt State Student Chapter hosted the Western Student's Conclave earlier this year. Schools from all over the west participated and we had students attending from Texas, Wyoming, and even a few from Canada and Hawaii!

Utah State fought its way to victory at this years Quiz Bowl and Idaho State came in a close second. Idaho has been chosen to host next year's Western Students Conclave.

During the Conclave we offered several local field trips such as birding expeditions, searching for herps in the Arcata Community Forest and Green Diamond's Dr. Lowell Diller also hosted an owling trip. Everyone enjoyed the local sights and we gave directions plenty of times for "that one tree you can drive through." A big thanks from everyone at HSU for the Western Section's sponsorship of this event!

The HSU Student Chapter conclave team will be competing in the national conference in Waikoloa, HI this Fall. We anticipate another strong showing and we also plan to field several students who will be volunteering their time at the National Conference.

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Report to Western Section

Laura Patterson

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter has been busy holding fun and educational events this spring and summer. We started out with a joint mixer between the UC Davis Student Chapter and ours in Davis on April 6th, which succeeded in bringing students together with wildlife professionals. We organized a BBQ at the Cosumnes River Preserve on May 1st where attendees toured a new riparian floodplain mitigation bank and were treated to a talk on bats before heading out to watch them emerge at dusk from a nearby bridge. In an effort to engage our northern members more, we held a social mixer in Chico on June 23rd that was well attended and garnered us some new members. And, finally, we sponsored a joint mixer with AEP and SacPEMA on July 21st at the River City Brewing Company in Sacramento, which attracted approximately 60 people throughout the night and also resulted in several new members to the Chapter. Attendees included employees from a variety of Federal, State and private entities in both research and regulatory fields, allowing for a diversity of networking opportunities. Our upcoming events include a BBQ and camping trip at TNC's Dye Creek Preserve between Chico and Red Bluff on September 23rd, a Halloween mixer on October 27th up north, likely in Redding; and a Holiday mixer in December in Sacramento.

We've held three free lunchtime Brown Bag Seminars so far this year. On April 12th, Tristan Edgarian, wildlife biologist with the CSU Stanislaus Endangered Species Recovery Program, discussed surveys for riparian brush rabbits in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and shared photos of a rescue effort when the San Joaquin River flooded this spring. On June 14th, David Wyatt, Sacramento City Community College professor, presented his interesting and entertaining findings on food habits of ringtails in the Sutter Buttes. On August 9th, Deanna Clifford, veterinarian and epidemiologist at DFG's Wildlife Investigation Lab, described the history, clinical presentation, and conservation impacts of White Nose Syndrome. Efforts to detect and mitigate human-associated spread of WNS and current areas of research were discussed. Our final brown bag of 2011 will be on October 11th when Chris Stermer of DFG talks about their research on great gray owls. Also, the Professional Development Committee is working on setting up a Certification Workshop in the northern part of our chapter sometime this fall.

In other news, we're really excited that Chapter membership is up this year to nearly 200 people! We're also happy to announce that we awarded an academic scholarship of \$1000 to Belinda Breen, a junior in Animal Science at UC Davis, interested in alleviating human-wildlife conflicts through understanding animal behavior. The next deadline for academic scholarships is December 1st. The Chapter has also contributed \$1,500 to National to help pay for the annual meeting in Hawaii.

As always, if you want more information on Sacramento-Shasta Chapter activities and events, check our webpage at joomla.wildlife.org/sacramentoshasta or "like" us on Facebook. Also, as a reminder, members are welcome to attend Board meetings and are encouraged to get involved, so that we can continue to offer more great opportunities for networking and learning and fun!

Awards Committee Report

Richard Burg

The Western Section recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to make contributions toward the Western Section's goals. If you know of a deserving nominee for any of the below awards please contact the Award and Grants Committee Chair rburg@parks.ca.gov about the required supporting material.



Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year

The “Dasmann Award” is presented by the Western Section to Professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources management and understanding in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam.

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any member(s) of the Wildlife Society-Western Section, who develops, applies, administers or completes an especially significant program of management, education, research or communications that results in an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources in the Western Section geographic area.

The Conservationist of the Year Award

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

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

Barrett A. Garrison “Outstanding Mentor Award

The “Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award” is bestowed to a professional within California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam who has contributed to our profession by assisting the continued development of students and/or young professionals. Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any member(s) of the Wildlife Society-Western Section, who is responsible for mentoring young professionals over their career in the Western Section geographic area.



STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS TO TWS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Wildlife Society-Western Section (TWS-WS) is announcing the availability of a limited number of travel grants for TWS-WS student members (Student Chapters, groups, and/or individuals) to The Wildlife Society (TWS) annual conference November 5-10, 2011 in Waikoloa, Hawaii. These funds can be used for partial reimbursement of registration, lodging, meals and transportation.

The amount of this award will only cover a portion of the total cost of attending this conference and applicants should consider the award only as a supplement to other funding sources. Priority will be given to groups of students and individuals gathering matching funding sources.

In addition, applicants must meet the following eligibility standards:

- A current dues paid members of TWS-WS (dues can be submitted with the application);
- Current student or recent graduate (degree received within previous year),
- **Not** have received a Travel Grant from TWS-WS in the past 12 months.

Application: Deadline is September 23, 2011.

Applicants must attach the following to an email to rburg@parks.ca.gov:

1. Completed application form (available on the TWS-WS website,) signed by student and advisor
2. Projected conference travel expenses
3. Budget showing any other travel funding

Reimbursement:

Approved applicants must submit receipts for reimbursement, a statement of the professional benefits derived from attending the event and a summary evaluation of information gathered.

Western Section Travel Grants



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.

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 if the applicant is presenting a paper or poster. Travel Grants may be approved contingent upon paper/poster acceptance by the program committee.

Review and Approval of Grant Requests

Travel Grants must be submitted to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair. Proposals are reviewed on a continual basis and award depends on fund availability. The Awards and Grants Chair distributes Travel Grant request copies to all Western Section board members for review and consideration. Approval requires a majority vote.

Priority is given to attendees of TWS meetings (Parent, Western Section, Chapters) and to attendees presenting a poster or paper at a given conference, symposium, etc.... Combined requests for shared expenses for the same meeting by two or more students will be considered and are preferred. A maximum of two grants may be awarded for a particular meeting (depending on funding).

Amount and Conditions

In most cases, the Travel Grant 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. Travel Grants are to be used only for registration fees, meals, lodging, and/or transportation expenses. Individual Travel Grants will not exceed \$300.00/applicant/event/year. Reimbursement rates shall be as follows:

- Mileage reimbursement is 48.5 cents/mile for a personal vehicle (if a Government Owned Vehicle is not available)
- Meal reimbursement is for actual cost, not to exceed \$6.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 for breakfast, lunch and dinner, respectively.
- Lodging reimbursement is for actual cost, not to exceed \$75.00 per night.

Each applicant must submit a written request/application to the Awards and Grants Chair 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 Grant, submit:

1. Application form (PDF, 25kB);
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).

Application and all requested materials should be submitted to: rburg@parks.ca.gov

Western Section Grant Policy

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) has historically supported conferences, 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 Meeting. 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 [ONLINE](#) and submit to: rburg@parks.ca.gov or Western Section of The Wildlife Society, PO Box 6756, Albany, CA 94706.



**The Wildlife Society
Western Section**
P.O. Box 6756
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