

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT | THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY – WESTERN SECTION



S. Kong

Western Section

Events, Outreach, & Accomplishments



The Wildlife Society (TWS), founded in 1937, is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The Western Section serves in California, Nevada, Hawai'i, and Pacific Islands, including Guam.

*Report produced by Melissa Krause, whose time was donated by Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc.*

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## OVERVIEW

### Mission

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is committed to a world where humans and wildlife co-exist. Our mission is to represent and serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, students, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and habitats worldwide.

We work to ensure that wildlife and habitats are conserved by providing sound information and management actions that carefully consider science and social needs. We support and develop professional wildlife managers, disseminate wildlife science, advocate for effective wildlife policy and law, and build active support of an informed citizenry.

We actively manage forests, conserve wetlands, restore endangered species and their habitats, conserve wildlife on private and public lands, manage game species, resolve wildlife damage and disease problems, and enhance biological diversity. TWS members are active across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The Wildlife Society provides essential and practical support for wildlife professionals, and maintains a vibrant member network for exchange of information and ideas. TWS publishes research, policy, and practical information in peer-reviewed journals, participates in or convenes coalitions and partnerships for using science to inform policy and management, and engages the wildlife professional community in dialogue around solutions to complex conservation issues.

### Area of Organization

The Western Section serves three states: California, Nevada, Hawai'i (and Guam and the U.S. Pacific Island territories) and eight geographically defined chapters: Nevada, Hawaii, California North Coast, Sacramento-Shasta, San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and California Central Coast. We also support seven student chapters at Humboldt State, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Barbara, San Francisco State, and University of Nevada, Reno.

### Section History

The Wildlife Society, founded in 1937, is an international nonprofit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The Western Section formed in December 1953 at UC Berkeley as the California Section, with A. Starker Leopold as the first President. The first annual meeting was held in February 1954 at UC Davis. The Section changed its name to the California-Nevada Section in 1964 and to the Western Section in 1970.

## 2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Daniel Airola • <i>Conservation Research and Planning</i>
<b>Past-President</b>	Kelly Holland • <i>GEI Consultants</i>
<b>President-Elect</b>	Katie Smith, <i>WRA Environmental Consultants</i>
<b>Section Representative to TWS</b>	Kelley Stewart • <i>University of Nevada, Reno</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	Bridget Sousa • <i>Swaim Biological, Inc.</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	John McNerney • <i>City of Davis</i>

### Committee Chairs

<b>Awards and Grants</b>	Richard Burg • <i>CA Dept. Fish &amp; Wildlife</i>
<b>Communication Content Editor</b>	Suzanne Marzcek • <i>San Diego Zoo Global</i>
<b>Conservation Affairs</b>	Kelly Holland • <i>GEI Consultants</i>
<b>Diversity Committee</b>	Bayan Ahmed • <i>CA Dept. of Water Resources</i>
<b>Historian</b>	Don Yasuda • <i>USDA Forest Service</i>
<b>Membership Services</b>	Sam Sosa • <i>US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
<b>Professional Development</b>	Janine Payne • <i>Independent</i>
<b>Student Affairs</b>	Katie Smith • <i>WRA Environmental Consultants</i> , Elizabeth (Lizzi) Meisman • <i>GHD Inc.</i>
<b>Western Wildlife</b>	Howard Clark • <i>Colibri Ecological Consulting</i>

### Contract Staff

<b>Program Director</b>	Cynthia Perrine
<b>Project Manager / Meeting Planner</b>	Candace Renger
<b>Workshop Manager</b>	Ivan Parr
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Mike Chapel
<b>Webmaster</b>	Eric Renger

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*Thank you!!!*

## Chapter Representatives

### California Central Coast Chapter

Andrew Domingos  
*Caltrans*

### Hawai'i Chapter

Angela Amlin  
*NOAA Fisheries*

### Nevada Chapter

Mitchell Gritts  
*Nevada Dept. of Wildlife*

### California North Coast Chapter

Elizabeth (Lizzi) Meisman  
*GHD Inc.*

### Sacramento-Shasta Chapter

Bonnie Peterson

### San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Kathleen Grady  
*Swaim Biological, Inc.*

### San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Randi McCormick  
*McCormick Biological*

### Southern California Chapter

Colleen Wisinski  
*San Diego Zoo Global*



## Student Chapter Representatives

### Humboldt State Chapter

Jessica Hernandez

### UC Davis Chapter

Bruce Markman

### Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Chapter

Sophia Jones

### UC Santa Barbara Chapter

Jenna Stuck

### UC Berkeley Chapter

Isaac Aguilar

### San Francisco State Chapter

Noelle Kasilly

### University of Nevada, Reno, Chapter

Molly Farro



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY – WESTERN SECTION PAST PRESIDENTS

**A. Starker Leopold** 1954-1955  
**Walter Howard** 1955-1956  
**Frank Kozlik** 1956-1957  
**Ray Dasmann** 1957-1958  
**Chuck Fisher** 1958-1959  
**Hank Hjersman** 1959-1960  
**Harold Bissell** 1960-1961  
**William Graf** 1961-1962  
**J. Harold Severaid** 1962-1963  
**Don Kelley** 1963-1964  
**Howard Leach** 1964-1965  
**Joe Hendricks** 1965-1966  
**Phil Arend** 1966-1967  
**Bruce Browning** 1967-1968  
**Stan Harris** 1968-1969  
**John Cowan** 1969-1970  
**Jim Yoakum** 1970-1971  
**Mert Rosen** 1971-1972  
**Marshall White** 1972-1973  
**Richard Laursen** 1973-1974  
**Dick Teague** 1974-1975  
**Dick Hubbard** 1975-1976  
**Doug Donaldson** 1976-1977  
**Lew Nelson** 1977-1978  
**Brian Hunter** 1978-1979  
**Hal Salwasser** 1979-1980  
**George Tsukamoto** 1980-1981  
**Dean Swickard** 1981-1982  
**Kent Smith** 1982-1983  
**Robert Fields** 1983-1984  
**Judy Tartaglia** 1984-1985  
**Donald Armentrout** 1985-1986  
**James Brownell** 1986-1987  
**Steve Holl** 1987-1988  
**John Kie** 1988-1989  
**Robert Schmidt** 1989-1990  
**Scott E. Frazer** 1990-1991  
**Ann H. Huffman** 1991-1992  
**Richard Williams** 1992-1993  
**Richard Anderson** 1993-1994  
**Marti Kie** 1994-1995  
**Mike Chapel** 1995-1996  
**Dale McCullough** 1996-1997  
**Reginald H. Barrett** 1997-1998  
**Dean Carrier** 1998-1999  
**Linda Spiegel** 1999-2000  
**Michael Morrison** 2000-2001  
**Barry Garrison** 2001-2002  
**Catherine Hibbard** 2002-2003  
**Lowell Diller** 2003-2004  
**John Harris** 2004-2005

**Cynthia Graves Perrine** 2005-2006  
**Kevin W. Hunting** 2006-2007  
**Julie Vance** 2007-2008  
**Rhys Evans** 2008-2009  
**Scott D. Osborn** 2009-2010  
**Armand G. Gonzales** 2010-2011  
**John McNerney** 2011-2012  
**Linda Leeman** 2012-2013

**Douglas Bell** 2013-2014  
**Natasha Dvorak** 2014-2015  
**Don Yasuda** 2015-2016  
**Rachel Sprague** 2016-2017  
**Rocky Gutierrez** 2017-2018  
**Jeffrey Davis** 2018-2019  
**Matthew Bettelheim** 2019-2020  
**Kelly Holland** 2020-2021  
**Daniel Airola** 2021-2022



## 2021 RECAP: A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2021 was another year of challenges for the Western Section and the world as a whole. The availability of effective COVID-19 vaccines returned of a semblance of normality to our lives, only to be threatened again by the Omicron variant and widespread misinformation and public resistance to vaccines. All that and drought, major fires, and continue social and political turmoil that has threatened our very democracy.

The Western Section, however, adapted and progressed. We maintained our long-standing programs, developed new services, and are looking ahead to our future needs. We have focused on serving established and former professionals, supporting young professionals, and encouraging students to join our profession.

By all accounts, despite being held virtually, our annual meeting was an unqualified success. And preparations for our first hybrid in-person and virtual meeting are proceeding smoothly. We are so grateful to our Meeting Planner, Candace Renger, and all of our contractors and volunteers. **You make it work!**

We made substantial progress toward achieving our commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Embracing diversity is not just the right thing to do but also is critical to ensuring the future of the wildlife resources in our Section. Specifically, we established a Board position for the chair of the Diversity Committee and began the process of hiring a DEI consultant to assist in improving our outreach, communications, and programs. We had our first annual meeting session dedicated to Traditional Ecological Knowledge which included unique resource management perspectives from native Hawaiians. We established a robust Ombuds program to protect members from harassment and unprofessional conduct, and to protect ethical standards of our profession.

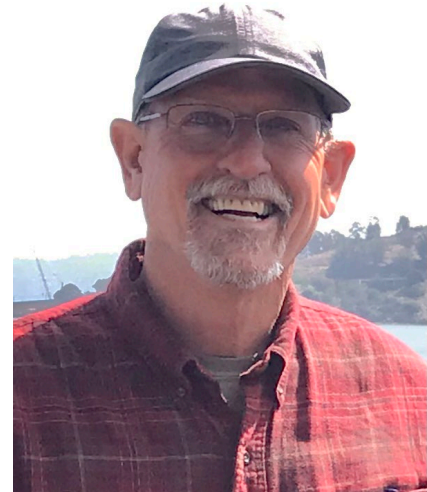
We continued presenting workshops on key topics for our members via online platforms and are looking forward to a return to in-person events in 2022. We finalized our Strategic Plan to guide future efforts in enhancing the careers of wildlife professionals (and those pursuing the profession) and serving as a voice for science. We contributed valuably to several key policy issues, including proposed changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, Federal funding for wildlife programs, and the 30 by 30 initiative.

Our world is changing fast with population increase, increasingly urbanized populations, concentration of wealth and power, and misrepresentation of science. We wildlife professionals are among the key guardians of biodiversity at the local, regional, national, and global levels. Don't ever forget, we are important, even if underappreciated.

I feel honored to have served (finally!) as the Western Section President with so many capable and dedicated officers, Board members, contractors, and members. Let's all wish for a more normal and productive 2022, full of accomplishment and satisfaction in wildlife conservation. I look forward to seeing you, in person or virtually, at the Annual Meeting in February.

Sincerely,

*Dan Airola, President*



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



### Treasury

Checking	\$173,930
Savings	\$32,175
Investments	\$308,589
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> (as of December 31, 2021)	<b>\$514,695</b>

### 2020 Operational Expenses

General Admin & Communications	\$10,000
Board and Committee Activities and Strategic Plan Implementation	\$6,172
Contract Staffing	\$58,700
Donations, Awards, and Grants	\$5,659
Other	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b> (as of December 31, 2021)	<b>\$78,213</b>

### 2021 Income

Annual Meeting Revenue	\$18,844
Membership Revenue	\$26,523
Workshop Revenue	\$9,054
Other	\$1,095
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> (as of December 2021)	<b>\$54,422</b>

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I. Parr

## MEMBERSHIP

### Members in Good Standing

<b>Regular:</b> 615	<b>Life-Full:</b> 43	<b>Life-Partial:</b> 5	<b>Honorary:</b> 2
<b>Student:</b> 171	<b>Supporting:</b> 9	<b>New Professional:</b> 105	<b>Contributing:</b> 3
	<b>Retired:</b> 48	<b>Youth:</b> 1	
<b>TOTAL:</b> 1,002			

**DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP:** As in 2020, 2021 was a rough year for many. In spring 2020, we recognized that some members were being hit hard financially by the pandemic, and the Board voted to offer free or discounted Section membership to those who are facing such financial hardship. We ask that members pay their dues on the honor system at the rate they feel comfortable paying — either no cost, 50% discount, or full cost. This discount was extended through the end of 2021. This is one of the ways we've tried to give back to our members during the pandemic. With gratitude, we acknowledge the members who are more financially secure who have either become life members and/or elected to sponsor memberships. Thank you for supporting the Section during this difficult time!



## 2021 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

### In Memoriam



**Jim Brownell, 1936-2020.** Jim Brownell worked for many years as a scientist at the California Energy Commission. He was a consummate and dedicated professional who served the Western Section as the (then) Sacramento Chapter President and as Section president. Jim was a calm and collegial presence who encouraged and mentored many early professionals.



**Dr. Stanley "Doc" Harris, 1929-2020.** Dr. Harris was a friend, mentor, and colleague to legions of professional biologists, ornithologists, and birders. Doc's career at HSU spanned five decades and he also served as Western Section President. Dr. Harris is in the hearts and minds of those he inspired to investigate the natural world in which we live.



**Geoff Monk 1954-2021.** A long-time Western Section member, Geoff worked in Northern California for many years, where he made extensive contributions to wildlife conservation. Geoff was among the handful of biologists who were most instrumental in recovering the Peregrine Falcon in California during the period when egg-shell thinning depleted the population. He went on to establish a successful consulting firm that employed, trained, and mentored many Western Section biologists and was extensively involved in conserving vernal pools, other wetlands, and Tiger Salamanders among many species.



Sequoia Ecological

## Raymond F. Dasmann Award

### Dr. Geoffrey Geupel

Geoff Geupel was presented with the 2021 Dasmann Award, which recognizes outstanding contribution to wildlife resources management and understanding in California, Nevada, Hawaii, or Guam. After completing a Biology degree from Lewis and Clark College in 1978, Geoff launched into a long career, beginning with small mammal inventory of grasslands in Oregon. After a few years, he dove into ornithology and went on to complete post-graduate work at the University New Mexico and at Michigan State University. He has worked for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory – now Point Blue Conservation Science – for over 40 years, starting as a staff biologist in the land bird research program, onto a research biologist for the Antarctic research program, and moving on up to the Director of Strategic Partnerships. Throughout this long career, Geoff has been involved with and contributed to numerous organizations, including ours.



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S. Kong

## Conservationist of the Year

### Biologists without Borders

Biologists without Borders is a non-profit organization, founded by Western Section member Sue Orloff, that is dedicated to protecting threatened species and their habitats through scientific research. Their approach also helps build bridges among U.S. scientists and their colleagues overseas. They work to provide equipment, funds, and volunteers to respond to key threats to species and their habitats. Most of their work focuses on priority research projects in southern Africa.

## James D. Yoakum Award

### Kent Smith

Jim Yoakum was one of Kent's friends and mentors over many years. As such, this award has special meaning for Kent, who has said this award will continue to inspire him to keep working with the Western Section. Kent noted that over his 50 years of involvement in TWS and the Western Section, he has been blessed to know and work with some of the brightest minds in the wildlife profession. Kent served on numerous committees and subcommittees at both Section and National level including TWS-WS President, Vice-President, Past-President and Newsletter Editor. He has attended nearly every Western Section Annual Meeting going back to 1971! Further, his mission has been to always mentor young professionals and to encourage Section membership. He is a current member of the Retiree Committee.

## TWS Distinguished Service Award

### Karen Swaim

The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award recognizes members who have made a long-term commitment to further the mission of the Society. The Section nominated Karen for her long service at the chapter, section, and international levels. Karen has participated in many committee meetings during annual conferences to ask, "who needs what, and how can I help?" She repeatedly volunteers as a mentor-instructor for Section's annual Field Camp and encourages her staff to mentor as well. She also was instrumental in developing the Section's Career Panel and Career Fair. She is a top financial supporter of our annual donation drawing, often passing out her tickets to those who don't have them. She purchases extra annual meeting banquet tickets for the Section to provide to those who can't afford the hotel prices. Early in the Section's workshop program expansion, Karen participated in nearly every topic offered and brought staff with her. Karen has regularly served as a mentor to members to learn about wildlife consulting and has mentored some of the Section's recent transformational leaders.



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## TWS Fellows Award Recipient

### Cynthia Perrine

Cynthia Perrine was recognized as a Fellow in 2020 to recognize current TWS members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession. TWS Fellows serve as TWS ambassadors and are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both the society and the wildlife profession. Cynthia serves as our Western Section Program Director as an independent contractor where she supports the Board and Executive Committee. She has served as President, Section Representative, and California Central Coast Chapter Representative to the section, and she has been active in student engagement, serving as professional liaison between the Cal Poly Student Chapter and the Wildlife Society. As program director, she created a K-12 outreach pilot program on wildlife science, wildlife stewardship, and STEM education. She is active in Women of Wildlife, has given presentations at WOW events at the TWS Annual Conference. She has received several awards including the TWS Distinguished Service Award for her service to TWS and the Western Section, the James D. Yoakum Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment, and the California Department of Fish and Game Director's Outstanding Service Recognition.



I. Parr

### Mike Chapel

Long-time section member Mike Chapel was recognized as a TWS Fellow in 2021. Mike has served us in many roles, including as Chapter and Section President, as well as Section Treasurer. Since 2006, he has served as the Section's bookkeeper. Mike is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and worked for many years as the US Forest Service's Regional Forester's liaison with other federal and state agencies. Mike was previously honored with the Western Section's Raymond F. Dasmann and James D. Yoakum Awards. Mike also currently serves as the leader of the Section's retiree committee and as a representative to TWS' national retirees committee. Mike advises us in wisely managing the section's finances. His pragmatism, calm demeanor, humor, and forward-thinking attitude are a source of strength and inspiration for many members.

## Western Section Chapter of the Year

### California Southern California Chapter

The Southern California Chapter, the TWS-WS 2021 Chapter of the Year, had a busy year despite the pandemic. They supported registration of three students to the Western Section Annual Meeting and provided travel funding for four other students to attend. The Chapter conducted a wintering shorebird identification course with both a lab and field components. Two other workshops were cancelled due to COVID-19. They also held both mixers for San Bernardino/Riverside and Orange County members and a BioBlitz at the Crosby Open Space Hike and Wildlife Survey. In policy, the Chapter sent comment letters on proposed changes to National Environmental Policy Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and Army Corps Nationwide Permits, and helped developed the Section's letters.

## Outstanding Mentor Award

### Jeffery Lincer

Longstanding member and Southern California Chapter representative Jeff Lincer was recognized with The Outstanding Mentor Award for his contributions in assisting the continued development of students and young professionals. Jeff is well known and respected for mentoring biologists at all levels, and he has a wealth of experience to share. He sees mentorship as an integral part of being a wildlife professional and encourages others to embrace mentoring roles. Jeff views knowledge as something that should be shared widely and generously, and he not only mentors but teaches people how to become mentors in turn.

## Student Presentation Winners

### Oral Presentations

- 1st – Ellie Bolas:** The evolutionary history of Island Spotted Skunks on the California Channel Islands.
- 1st – Kristin Brunk:** Management reduces density of a highly subsidized generalist Predator in a protected area.
- 2nd – Vanessa ZoBell:** Playing in traffic: investigating impacts of commercial shipping on baleen whales and identifying effective solutions.
- 2nd – Phoebe Parker-Shames:** Consequences of cannabis: examining the spatial overlap of cannabis with aquatic and terrestrial habitats.
- 2nd – Christine Wilkinson:** Quantifying wildlife responses to conservation fencing in Africa.



## Poster Presentations

**1st – Madison Dunlap:** Adding scent: exploring improvements to pan trapping to monitor pollinators.

**2nd – Scarlett Stromer:** Comparison of endoparasite abundance and species richness in relation to the body condition of two Roosevelt Elk herds in Northern California.

**3rd – Ryan Vosbigain:** Drivers of movement and density of San Joaquin Antelope Ground Squirrels in the Carrizo Plain.

## Student Research Grants

**Evelyn Lichwa:** Evaluating factors influencing Mexican Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) home range patterns; implications for management and livestock conflict.





## COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Conservation Affairs

Throughout 2021, the Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) met monthly and was very busy tracking and responding to a number of policy proposals flowing out of Washington D.C. The Committee (and several Section Chapters) submitted comment letters on the Notice of Intent for a proposed rule to codify incidental take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as well as proposed changes to the definition of habitat in the Endangered Species Act. In 2022, CAC will continue tracking updates to policies and regulations, advocating and organizing support for Recovering America’s Wildlife Act and the Migratory Bird Protection Act, and reaching out and engaging with our elected officials at Section and Chapter levels. We hope that you will join us in these efforts! Find out more by emailing [conservation@tws-west.org](mailto:conservation@tws-west.org).



### Professional Development

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) remained engaged and hard at work throughout the year, even though the Section and many of our chapters were forced to suspend in-person workshops. Despite the dearth of professional development opportunities at times, we met monthly and continued striving toward our goal of having more consistent representation from all chapters. Thankfully, our intrepid Workshop Manager, Ivan Parr, helped us brush up on our Zoom skills and transition to the online workshop format without a hitch.

The PDC brainstormed with Ivan and voted to approve the content and locations of a range of learning opportunities, both online in 2021, and in anticipation of our impending return to in-person workshops in 2022. Be sure to read about the impressive list of offerings in the Workshop Report below under **Events**. Perhaps the PDC’s most useful function this year was to support each other during a difficult time. As always, the section-to-chapter collaboration and chapter-to-chapter support remain crucial facets of our committee’s work.

### Diversity

The Diversity Committee met several key goals in 2021. We organized a Diversity Workshop with the help of the Western Section Board, the NorCal Chapter, and Conservation Unlimited. We prepared several skits showcasing the importance of various diversity topics, which we will be showing throughout the Annual Meeting. We also prepared and issued an RFP to hire a new Diversity Consultant to train the Western Section Board. We will continue to work on hiring a consultant in 2022.





A. Rogers

The Diversity Committee also has new merch being sold at the Annual Meeting this year. The design is by our very talented Diversity Committee member: Kieran Hughes. Pick up a shirt or sticker at the registration table and student affairs committee table!

## Student Affairs

Wildlife Biology is not a career for the faint of heart. Challenging field conditions, dangerous animals, and an uphill battle against ecosystem collapse await any who dare to tread this path. And that's AFTER you make it through one of the challenging academic wildlife programs and navigate an increasingly competitive job market. Students who embark upon this path should be applauded and supported in meaningful ways. The Student Affairs Committee has continued to support Western Section students through monthly virtual Career Builder events. These workshops allow students and early career professionals from all over the country to learn about the Wildlife Society, ask questions about grad school, practice writing small grant proposals, and much more.

The January 2022 Career Builder Saturday will be an expanded, full day pre-Annual Meeting event with four different events: two presentations, a career panel, and a training.



We moved some of these events that typically occur during the Annual Meeting to the week before the Meeting so that students will be able to focus more on networking and attend concurrent sessions in Reno. During our monthly Student Affairs Committee meetings, we continue to develop ideas for better events and resources to support our students and early career professionals. Our committee grows stronger every year and we are excited to take the tools we have developed during the COVID-19 pandemic and use them to continue to meet the needs of the students of the Western Section in the years to come.

## Communication and Outreach

Working closely with Candace Renger (Project Manager/Meeting Planner), Janine Payne (Professional Development), and Ivan Parr (Workshop Coordinator), Suzanne Marczak regularly advertised Section news, new workshops, Annual Meeting updates, and individual Chapter events through the Section's Constant Contact digital newsletter and Facebook posts. Our bi-weekly Constant Contact mailing list includes 4,779 people.

We also operate the following virtual communication platforms:

[TWS Western Section Slack Workspace](#)

[TWS Western Section Facebook Page](#)

[TWS Western Section Instagram](#)

[TWS Western Section Twitter](#)

[TWS Western Section LinkedIn](#)

[Student Affairs Committee Facebook Page](#)

[Diversity Committee Facebook Page](#)

[Diversity Committee Instagram](#)

## Western Wildlife Journal

*Western Wildlife* - the journal of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society - continues to be a research outlet for Western Section members. Eight papers were published in the journal in 2021 (Volume 8). Topics range from the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) to the Pacific Marten (*Martes caurina*). Journal staff strive to help seasoned researchers and graduate students alike share their discoveries in the field by assisting with peer-review, editorial contribution, and final publication. *Western Wildlife* accepts papers ranging in a variety of topics and taxa with the idea of providing a platform to unite researchers from a variety of backgrounds with the goal of publishing a quality product that will benefit the continual professional development of our membership.



WEBSITE: <http://wwjournal.org>

## AD HOC COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Ombudsperson Program

In 2019, an ad hoc Committee reviewed The Wildlife Society's and the Western Section's policies to determine if they adequately addressed discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying. Based on this review, the Section prepared a *Draft Charter and Operating Procedures for an Ombudsperson Program*. In February 2021 the Western Section Board approved the "Office of Ombudsperson Program."

The purpose of the Ombuds program is "to maintain the Section's standards for professional behavior regarding the practice, learning, training, publishing, and communication of science by outlining a process for reporting and addressing violations." During fall 2021, the Section's Executive Committee, under the leadership of ad-hoc Committee Chair Kelly Holland, solicited recommendations for nominees to serve in the inaugural program, and after evaluation, selected three Section members to serve as our Section's first Ombuds: Natasha Dvorak, Wendy Loeffler, and Eveline Larrucea.

The Ombuds' role is "to hear and to respond appropriately to charges of unprofessional behavior (as defined in the TWS Code of Ethics) by any Section member or registered participant in Section activities, which includes Section events (i.e., annual meeting, workshops), Section-sponsored activities (i.e., field trips), or in the governance of the Section through its committee structure, whether in person, digitally, or through social media outlets." The Section's Ombuds Program provides a mechanism for reporting concerns to the Ombuds either in person or online.

Please visit our website ([www.tws-west.org/ombuds](http://www.tws-west.org/ombuds)) for more information about this Program, to file a report, or to contact one of our Ombuds.



## EVENTS

### 2022 and Future Annual Meeting Arrangements

Our 2022 Annual Meeting will be held February 7-11, 2022 at the Peppermill Hotel in Reno NV. For the first time, the meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting, to address uncertainties of the continuing COVID-19 epidemic.

Our Plenary theme for the 2021 Annual Meeting is **Symbiosis: Rethinking Relationships for Ecological Conservation**. The Plenary speakers will be:

- **Tiana Williams-Claussen**, Director, Yurok Wildlife Department
- **Luka Zavas**, Outreach Associate, American Bird Conservancy
- **Marcus Blum**, Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Nevada, Reno.

The Keynote speaker will be **Heather Reich**, Bear Biologist for the State of Nevada who will discuss management of bears and humans in Nevada.

In a session-ending capstone presentation, **Dr. Chris Schell, Dr. Christine Wilkinson, and Tyus Williams**, from UC Berkeley will discuss how science communication is a part of their wildlife research.

In 2023, our 70th Annual Meeting will be held in Riverside, California, at the Riverside Convention Center. We plan to meet at the Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp, California, in 2024. And we will meet again at the Peppermill in Reno, Nevada in 2025. Contracts are currently in negotiations, and the Board will discuss further at future meetings.



I. Parr

## Workshops

Our 2021 Professional Development Workshop program continued to operate online due to COVID-19. Workshop Manager Ivan Parr and Professional Development Committee chair Janine Payne continued to work hard to bring professional training to members in 2021 and to plan a dynamic 2022 program with in-person and virtual events.

Workshops offered in 2021 included:

- Advanced Bat Acoustics Master Class
- Drone Applications for Wildlifers
- Rare Bumblebees
- West Coast Sea Turtles
- The Bird Course: A Bird's Eye View

Workshops in planning and in preparation for 2022 include

- Tricolored Blackbirds
- Advanced Bat Acoustics
- Bat Ecology and Field Techniques
- Mohave Ground Squirrel
- Botany for Wildlifers
- An Introduction to Southern California Snakes
- Pleistocene California
- Skulls and Bones



**Western Section  
Workshops  
*Online!***



J. Ma

## Podcasts

### WESTERN SECTION PODCASTS - PRE-RECORDED ZOOM

Hosts: [Ivan Parr](#), [Lizzi Meisman](#)

Our dynamic podcast hosts interviewed Western Section Members and other professionals:

- Kelly Holland and Dan Airola
- Katie Smith and Randi McCormick
- Dr. Jen Hunter and Dr. Heather Constable
- Lizzi Meisman
- John McNerney
- Lara Brenner, The Nature Conservancy

Available online at: <https://tw-s-west.org/podcasts-2/>

# Western Section Podcasts



I. Parr

## 2021 Annual Meeting Summary

**68TH ANNUAL WESTERN SECTION MEETING** • 1 Jan – 5 Feb 2021:

### **“CONSERVATION IN CHALLENGING TIMES”**

Due to COVID-19, our Annual Meeting was entirely virtual for the first time. The meeting was a great success, thanks the hard work by Meeting Organizer, Candace Renger, as well as other Section Staff and volunteers.

### **KEYNOTES ADDRESS:**

**We have a Moral Obligation to Act: A Journey from the Arctic Ocean to the US Senate Race** - Merav Ben-David

### **PLENARY SESSION THEMES:**

#### **A New Era or More Gridlock? Policy Outlook for Wildlife**

Valerie Termini, Deputy Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mike Lynes, Director of Public Policy, Audubon California

Rachel Zwilliger, Water Policy Advisor, Defenders of Wildlife

#### **Projected Changes to Landscapes and Wildlife in a Dynamic Fire Regime**

Zack Steel, Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley

Hugh Safford, Regional Ecologist, US Forest Service and UC Davis

Rodney Siegel, Executive Director, Institute for Birds Populations

### **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Workshops:** Among our excellent regular workshops, we presented:

Workplace Safety - Diversity Considerations for Wildlife Professional's Inclusion

Publishing Papers and Peer Review

Wildlife Careers Symposium

**Technical Sessions:** New sessions included:

Incorporating Indigenous Ecological Knowledge into Wildlife Management

Feral Cat Management and Public Communication – Challenges and Solutions

Sage Grouse and Great Basin Ecosystems

Spotted Owl and Barred Owl Ecology and Management

Wildlife and Climate Change

Recreation and Human Impacts to Wildlife

**Poster Session:** >40 posters were presented virtually

### **Social, Work/Life, and Policy Discussions**

*BYO Breakfast Roundtables every morning on policy topics*

*Many “Birds of a Feather” member discussions on parenting/caregiving in a pandemic, pandemic field work solutions, QTPOC and LBGTQIA+ wildlifers, Women of Wildlife, student-professional mixer, retirees meet-up, and on and on!*

*Quiz Bowl*



A. Rogers



**ANNUAL MEETING PARTNER and CONDOR SPONSORS**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### The Wildlife Society (National)

Website: <http://wildlife.org/>

### The Wildlife Society (Western Section)

Website: <http://www.tws-west.org/>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/tws.western>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/WesternTWS>

**Written correspondence may be sent to the following address:**

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PO Box 6756  
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## Photo Credits:

Biologists Julie Woodruff and Amber Anderson Performing Wildlife Surveys (Cover) – by Stephanie Kong

Biologist Julie Woodruff with California Red-legged Frog (Chapter Representatives) – by Stephanie Kong

Biologists Stephanie Kong and Margaret Finch Performing Pond Surveys (Chapter Representatives) – by Julie Woodruff

Burrowing Owl (Financial Summary) – by Grace Mannell

Nuttall's Woodpecker and White-Breasted Nuthatch (Membership) – by Ivan Parr

Tule Elk (2021 Annual Award Recipients) – Provided by Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc.

Aerial Magpies Triptych (2021 Annual Award Recipients) – by Ivan Parr

Biologists Tashi MacMillen, Liz Lopez, and Brett Hanshew Performing California Tiger Salamander and California Red-legged Frog Surveys (2021 Annual Award Recipients) – by Stephanie Kong

California Tiger Salamander (2021 Annual Award Recipients) – by Ivan Parr

Biologist Brittany Willis Conducting Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Surveys, Pictured with Deermouse (2021 Annual Award Recipients) – by Ari Rogers

California Quail (2021 Annual Award Recipients) – by Ivan Parr

Western Pond Turtle (Committee Accomplishments) – by Ari Rogers

Burrowing Owl (Ad Hoc Committee Accomplishments) – by Julie Woodruff

Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse (Events) – by Ivan Parr

California Tiger Salamander Eggs (Workshops) – by Jessica Ma

Morro Shoulderband (Podcasts) – by Ivan Parr

Black Necked Stilt (2021 Annual Meeting Summary) – by Ari Rogers