



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



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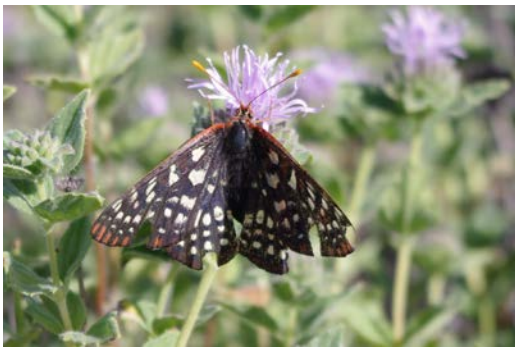
March 2014

CHAPTER NEWS

Justin Garcia

Happy 2014 to the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter (Chapter) of The Wildlife Society! The Board is currently planning Chapter events for the year, which are geared towards professional development and social interaction among wildlife professionals in the Sacramento Valley and Northeastern regions of California. We look forward to seeing you at one or many of the Chapter events! Read on for more details.

For Chapter updates and notifications, please visit our website <http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/index.php> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Shasta-Chapter-of-The-Wildlife-Society/108639722498005>.



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President's Message

Lily Douglas

Greetings, fellow wildlifers! For those of you that don't know me yet, my name is Lily Douglas and I'm your 2014 Chapter President. I've been involved in the Chapter for a while now, from workshop attendee to interested observer, then finally jumping into the Professional Development Committee and eventually being nominated for the Board. I've always enjoyed being involved with the Chapter's passionate members and hope to help the Chapter continue to be successful in this coming year. Thank you all for this opportunity!

I'd like to thank last year's Board, whose hard work gave us a great year of networking and professional development under the leadership of now Past-President, Carlos Alvarado.

Although this year's Board is chock full of enthusiastic new members, we're grateful for the continued assistance and guidance of all our past Board members. And I'd like to welcome all of our new Board members for 2014. It's going to be a good year!

As I write this, the Professional Development Committee is already planning some great activities for the coming year. We're hosting a Swainson's Hawk Workshop in April, already highly popular. Plans are in the works for a student-professional hike and a number of brown bag talks. Anyone is welcome to help out, so please don't hesitate to



contact the Committee Chair or any other members of the Board. Or, simply let us know what events you would like to see.

Make sure you get all of our announcements by ensuring you're on our Chapter email list. You can also check our website or follow us on Facebook. Don't forget that all Executive Board meetings are open to all members. And always feel free to contact myself or any other Board member if you'd like to participate. This year, we have even more encouragement to reclaim the Chapter of the Year title. Last year's winner, the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, has proposed a friendly wager. The stakes are high: a six-pack of local beer. So let's make this year the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter's best yet!

Scholarships

Tracy Walker

The Chapter awarded a \$402 scholarship to Dr. Darla DeRuiter, Feather River College in Quincy, CA, and a few of Dr. DeRuiter's students were able to attend the Western Section Annual Conference in Reno. We have a new 2014 budget for travel and academic scholarships. The next deadline for academic scholarships applications is **June 1, 2014**. Travel scholarships are due at least two months before the event. We also now have a scholarship available for TWS certification. Get your application in if you are interested! See our website for details on how to apply.

Executive Board Happenings

New officers and committee chairs were nominated at the January 7, 2014 board meeting in Sacramento, and later introduced at the Western Section Annual Conference meeting in Reno.

On February 18, 2014, the board discussed the Chapter's successes at the Annual Conference, the *draft* Western Section Strategic Plan, starting a Conservation Affairs committee in the future, the Chapter budget for 2013 and proposed 2014 budget, and various ideas for Chapter events this year. The Board voted and approved a Swainson's hawk workshop in late spring/early summer of 2014 (see below for more details).

Our 2014 officers and committee chairs are:

- **President: Lily Douglas**, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
- **Vice President: Cassidee Shinn**, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW);
- **Treasurer: Sean Marquis**, Biologist, CalTrans;
- **Secretary: Ona Alminas**, recent graduate;
- **Chapter Representative to the Western Section: Hal Holland**, Westervelt Ecological Services;
- **Newsletter Editor: Justin Garcia**, Environmental Scientist, CDFW;
- **Membership Coordinator: Melinda Dorin-Bradbury**, biological consultant;
- **PDC Chair: Rhiannon Klingonsmith**, Cardno ENTRIX;
- **Technology Chair: Erin Aquino-Carhart**, Environmental Scientist, CDFW;
- **Scholarship Committee Chair: Tracy Walker**, Wildlife Biologist, AECOM; and
- **Northern (Shasta) Representative: Heather Kelly**, North State Resources.

More detailed biographies can be found at:

http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/board_members.php.

Our Next Board Meeting

Our next Board meeting will be held in **May**, **date/time/location TBD**. Please feel free to attend or let us know if there is a topic you would like us to discuss. Check with our website or a board member for board meeting details.

Membership

Melinda Dorin-Bradbury

Our chapter membership numbers for 2014 are starting out really strong with 169 members. We have several events planned for the year and our membership number usually climbs throughout the year as people take advantage of member discounts on workshops and socials. We continually compile membership numbers from Western Section, National and through Chapter

events. If you think you are a member but do not receive emails please contact me at melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net. Membership is still only \$10 for the year. The membership form can be found on the chapter's website (<http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/membership.php>).

Professional Development Committee (PDC) Report

Rhiannon Klingonsmith

The PDC has had some great discussions and ideas for this year. Scheduled events include a brown-bag seminar with Dave Wyatt on **April 18**, a student-professional hike at Table Mountain Ecological Reserve on **April 26**, and a Swainson's hawk workshop this **spring/summer**.

Other tentative Chapter events for 2014 include:

UC Davis student-professional mixer (**April or May**); additional brown-bag seminars throughout the year; restoration projects; birding with an avian specialist and BBQ at **Cosumnes River Preserve (May)**; **Spring Mixer** in the southern area of the Chapter (**May**); **Fall Mixer** in the Chico area (**August or September**); **River float** and BBQ in the northern region (**July or August**); camping trip at **Lassen Volcanic National Park**, with short group activities (e.g., GPS/compass/map reading) and time to hike, bird, botanize, and enjoy the beauty of the park (**August or September**); and an **Eagle workshop** in the **fall/winter**.



Lassen Peak with Lake Helen in the foreground.

The PDC is currently considering the above members-only events among other options, and the

time/date/locations are TBD. Please be sure to periodically check out the Chapter's facebook page and upcoming events webpage for more information: http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/upcoming_events.php

Treasurer's Report

Sean Marquis



2013 Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Actual Budget:

Expenses (-):

\$ 663.46 – Board meetings
 884.44 – Social events
 2,898.25 – Workshop preparation fund
 1,000.00 – Community outreach
 2,378.78 – Merchandise purchase
 700.00 – Previous year's expenses
 165.20 – Mailbox & postage

Total: \$8,690.13

Income (+):

\$ 1,300.00 – Membership dues
 12,223.96 – Workshop gross revenue
 486.00 – Merchandise sales
 102.67 – Account dividends

Total: \$14,112.63

Net (+): 5,422.50

UC Davis Student Chapter Update

Janette Perez-Jimenez

The UC Davis Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been committed to bringing students with educationally enriching and fun activities that bring our members closer to wildlife and related issues through presentations, professional networking, and hands-on field experiences. So far, we have had some exciting events for our members.

In the fall, we had Professor Wouter van Hoven from the University of Pretoria give a presentation on the delicate balance between wildlife conservation and private ranching in South Africa. We went to Colusa Wildlife Refuge and learned about its diverse waterfowl population and the importance of saving wetlands under the guidance of Professor Bob McLandress, former California Waterfowl Association president. Our upcoming events include a trip to Ano Nuevo State Park to

observe elephant seals and a professional mixer which will offer networking opportunities to our members.

Our professional mixer is tentatively planned to occur on a Thursday night in **late April or early May**. If you are a professional in a wildlife-related field and would like to offer your insight regarding your profession, please email jperezjimenez@ucdavis.edu

Please visit our website for updates on future events <https://sites.google.com/a/ucdavis.edu/wildlifesocietyucd/>

UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014 Swainson's Hawk Workshop

The Chapter is hosting a workshop in the Sacramento area to inform interested scientists about the protection, conservation, recommended survey methods, and current research on the state-listed threatened Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). The workshop will be taught by Mike Bradbury, who is a current member of the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee.

There will be one classroom day on **April 17, 2014** and three nesting season field surveys, during pre-nesting (**April 18 or 19**), post egg-laying (**May 9 or 10**) and pre-fledging (**June 27 or 28**) stages.

This workshop combines lecture, discussion and demonstrations to introduce participants to species identification, nest and breeding ecology, population trends, types and effects of disturbance, protection requirements, and survey methods designed to locate Swainson's hawks during the nesting season.

48 maximum participants for classroom and field days! A limited number of classroom-only spaces will be available, as well. Registration rates are \$325 for Chapter member and \$345 for non-members for both classroom and field days, and \$95 for Chapter members and \$115 for non-members for the classroom only day.

Registration is now open, for more details visit: http://www.tws-west.org/upcoming_events.php. Contact Melinda Bradbury (melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net), if you have any questions.

Brown Bag Seminars for 2014

Ona Alminas

Bring your lunch and enjoy our next Brown Bag Seminar to be held **Friday, April 18th** from 12:00-1:00pm at **Sacramento City College (SCC)**, located at 3835 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento. We will be at the southwest end of campus in Lillard Hall, lecture room L103. Presenting "White-nose Syndrome - an encroaching threat to Western North America's bats", Dave Wyatt, Professor at SCC and co-chair of the California White-nose Syndrome Steering Committee, will discuss the spread of white-nose disease and its potential ramifications for west coast bat populations, once the disease reaches our coast. For more information and specifics about access/parking, please contact Ona Alminas at chondestes44@gmail.com.

The Chapter is looking for other interested speakers and abstracts for upcoming brown-bag topics. Please send your abstracts to Rhiannon Klingonsmith at rklingonsmith@hotmail.com. Brown bag seminars are generally from noon to one. Attendees bring their lunches to listen to local scientists or policy makers give short, informal presentations about their work. Check the Chapters upcoming events webpage or facebook page, or your email, for the schedule of this year's brown bag seminar series.

Student-Professional Hike

Ona Alminas

The student-professional hike is planned for **Saturday, April 26, 2014** at the **Table Mountain Ecological Reserve**. This unique volcanic area harbors an immense diversity of plants, ideal to suit the curiosity of any budding botanist (no pun intended). We're hoping Feather River College, Chico, UC Davis and Sacramento region students will join environmental professionals for the tail end of the bloom for a sack lunch and great discussions during the 2.5-3 mile roundtrip hike. Meet time at

the Reserve is planned for 9:30am; carpooling is strongly encouraged. Please RSVP to the event on our chapter Facebook page or email RSVP with any questions to Ona Alminas at chondestes44@gmail.com.



Table Mountain Ecological Reserve; photo courtesy of Esther Burkett.

Nature Bowl 2014

The Chapter made a donation to the 2014 Nature Bowl. The CDFW offered coaches' workshops in January and February, and the teams prepared for the semi-final competitions. Semi-finals are from **March 14 through May 6** at various locations in the Sacramento Valley and northern Sierra, and the final competition is on May 17, 2014.

TWS Western Section Announcements and Workshops

Western Wildlife – Now Accepting Papers

Please consider submitting your manuscripts to the Western Section's new journal, *Western Wildlife*, formerly known as the *Transactions of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society*.

Western Wildlife is an open-access, peer reviewed journal that publishes original research, reviews, perspectives, and correspondence on the ecology, natural history, management, and conservation biology of animals.

Submit materials to Dr. David Germano at dgermano@csu.edu. Papers will be peer-reviewed and then published on-line once accepted by the editor.

Bat Ecology and Field Techniques Workshop

The Bat Ecology and Field Techniques workshop will be held **May 29-June 1, 2014** at **Chimineas Ranch and Carrizo Plain Ecological Area (San Luis Obispo County)**, and taught by Dr. Dave Johnson and Dr. Joe Szewczak.



This workshop combines lecture, discussion and demonstrations to introduce participants to the ecology and conservation of California bats, covering species accounts, physiology, anatomy, behavioral ecology, conservation issues, and mitigation strategies. Field techniques of mist-netting, assessing species presence or absence, and acoustic monitoring will be demonstrated with participants gaining hands-on experience in mist-net set-up and acoustic monitoring and analysis. Evening field excursions typically capture a half dozen bat species and allow practice in extracting, handling, as well as collecting and recording data from captured bats.

Handling bats is not a requirement of this workshop; participants will learn valuable field techniques with or without handling. To handle bats, participants must provide proof of rabies vaccination or sufficient rabies antibody titer results affirmed by a physician's note within past 3 years.

20 participants maximum! Registration rates are \$520 for Western Section members, \$555 for non-members, and \$200 for students and new professionals.

Non-invasive Acoustic Monitoring of Bats in the Field Workshop

The 2014 Non-invasive Acoustic Monitoring of Bats workshop will be held **May 2-5, 2014** at **Yosemite National Park and Midpines**, California, and taught by Joe Szewczak, Ph.D.

This workshop will introduce participants to noninvasive acoustic monitoring and species identification of bats. Beginning with the fundamentals of acoustics to interpret the biology and ecology of echolocation, participants will work to understand how bats use sound and how we can interlope into this realm to survey and monitor bats. From this foundation, participants will then learn the theory and practice of recording and analyzing ultrasonic bat vocalizations to interpret bat activity and species presence. Field outings will provide hands-on experience in deploying equipment and acquiring data to process. Tools and techniques for both short term and long-term passive monitoring of bats and automated data processing will be demonstrated. Participants will recognize the acoustic characteristics of western North American bats essential for species discrimination. Full spectrum acoustic techniques will be emphasized, as recommended by the new USFWS guidelines for Wind and Wildlife when species ID is important.

Participants will not handle bats during this workshop, although instructors may demonstrate mist-netting and handling for participants.

20 participants maximum! Registration rates vary from \$385-480 for Western Section members, \$430 for non-members, and \$100 for students and new professionals. Meals are not included, and dorm lodging is limited to ten participants.

Registration is now open for both Western Section workshops; for more details visit: http://www.tws-west.org/upcoming_events.php. Contact Cynthia Perrine (perrine.cynthia@gmail.com), if you have any questions.

TWS National Announcements

Pittsburg: Call for Papers and Posters

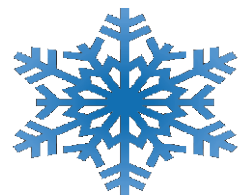
Contributed papers and posters on topics of wildlife ecology, management, conservation, education, or policy are invited for the 21st Annual Conference of the Wildlife Society. The submission deadline is **April 25, 2014**. The annual conference is being held in **Pittsburg, Pennsylvania** from **October 25-30, 2014**. For more information visit: <http://wildlife.org/abstract2014>.

PAST EVENTS

Holiday Mixer

Ona Alminas

For a few winters now, Sac-Shasta chapter has teamed up with the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) and the American Planning Association (APA) to host a holiday mixer. Our past holiday mixer was held on December 12, 2013, at Gallery 21ten in Sacramento. Well over 50 environmental and planning professionals and students enjoyed a tasty array of h'ordeuvres and a great networking opportunity with colleagues, agency staff, planners and friends. Holding our mixer at Gallery21Ten also provides opportunity to get a glimpse of the work by some of the region's most talented artists. Several galleries and artists' studios harbor completed and works in progress on display, which many attendees enjoyed. Special thanks to Janet Dallas (AECOM), Tracey Ferguson (Atkins Global), and Angela Calderaro (CDFW) for their assistance to make this event a huge success!





Past-president Carlos Alvarado thanks AEP and APA and welcomes Lily Douglas as the chapter's new president!

Nature Bowl 2014 – Semi-Finals

Ona Alminas

In addition the chapter's donation of \$500 to support CDFW's annual Nature Bowl, Secretary Ona Alminas volunteered at the 2014 semifinals. The Nature Bowl 2014 semifinal on March 18 hosted by the American River Conservancy at Marshall Gold Discovery State Park couldn't have had been witness to more lovely spring-like weather. Well over 35 third through sixth graders from eight schools in the El Dorado County region impressed judges with their environmental and wildlife awareness. While several concurrent events kept the students thinking on their toes and working together to solve problems during the Nature Investigations, Nature Relay and Bell Ringers question answering, I helped with judging the Enviro-mercials, for which students prepared a one-minute presentation on an environmental issue in their region with potential solutions and community actions. Students are judged on their selection and thoroughness discussing a regionally pertinent issue, creativity, consultation with regional experts and other references and responses to questioning. I was impressed by the students'

regional insight on issues such as urban/bear conflicts, invasive aquatic species, bee colony collapse disorder and water conservation, among others. It was an exciting and beautiful day, with Lake Forest (El Dorado Hills) and Latrobe (Shingle Springs) elementary schools advancing to the Naturebowl Finals.



Taylor Cavin, Environmental Education Coordinator for the American River Conservancy presents at the Nature Bowl awards ceremony.

2014 TWS-Western Section Meeting in Reno, NV

Ona Alminas

The 2014 Western Section Annual Conference held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, NV January 28-31 was a blast! We successfully promoted our chapter via an information table where we drew interest in attending the chapter Members meeting the evening of Jan. 29, while making impressive sales from burrowing owl drinking glasses and t-shirts (thanks to Lily Douglas, Rhiannon Klingon-Smith, Erin Aquino-Carhart, Casidee Shinn and Carlos Alvarado for their sales efforts). The Chapter members meeting was a huge success, with over 30 attendees and strong representation by professionals and students alike from the far reaches of the Sac-Shasta's chapter boundaries (including Chico, Redding, Modoc and Quincy areas).



Following the welcome evening taco bar reception, Ken Mayer opened the keynote session the following morning with several other California and Nevada agency and organization representatives to discuss their perspectives in serving leadership roles in the wildlife field. Leadership perspectives came from state government, federal and non-profit sectors, but all speakers stressed a unifying challenge of balancing interest group agendas with conservation and policy-based decision making. As the panel was all-male, also noted was the growing permeation of female leaders in what was historically a male-dominated wildlife profession, and the mentorship involved (particularly at the government levels) in supporting emergent women leaders.

The following morning the conference main theme, "Harnessing Citizen Science Toward Greater Conservation" was thoroughly examined in the plenary session with seven speakers discussing public engagement in wildlife research, biomonitoring and long-term data reporting. Many speakers emphasized the significance of public involvement via on-line data entry and tracking methods, such as inputting pollinator information for the Great Sunflower Project (Gretchen LeBuhn, SFSU), roadkill observations for the California Roadkill Observation System (Frasier Shilling, UCD) and accessing repository of citizen science projects across the U.S. via Citizen Science Central (Tina Phillips, Cornell). Aside from challenges associated with ensuring data quality control from collective plethora of information, the panel discussion highlighted the benefit of citizen involvement, which can improve socio-ecological awareness and community unity.

Aside from the 14 concurrent sessions boasting student ingenuity in wildlife research as well as reports from the private and agency fronts, the evening poster session was a great way to network and check out other wildlife research from the region, and as far as Africa and South America. The Western Section's 60th Anniversary and awards were celebrated at the banquet, made memorable by humorous stories from TWS field excursions, touching acceptance speeches and the huge raffle! For students, opportunities abounded with career outreach and networking, resume workshop, job interview panel, all of which I

personally benefitted from. The conference was followed by two days of tracking workshops, wilderness first aid and others at Sagehen Field Station outside Truckee. Hope to see you at the 2015 Annual Conference at Santa Rosa's Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel!



Over 30 Sac-Shasta new and existing members gave input to members of the 2014 board at the members meeting Jan. 29 at the Annual Meeting in Reno.

JOB and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Open Exam bulletin for **Environmental Scientist** (multiple State agencies) is at the following website: <http://jobs.ca.gov/Bulletin/Bulletin/Index?examCD=9PB01>. If you are on the Environmental Scientist list, you can check for vacancies at http://jobs.spb.ca.gov/wvpos/search_p.cfm?classcode=0762.

For the latest information on seasonal openings with CDFW, visit <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/jobs/vacancies/seasonal.asp>.

Check out The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Careers Online at <http://careers.wildlife.org> and the TWS-West job site at <http://www.tws-west.org/jobs.php>.

For local job announcements, check: <http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/jobs.php>.

If anyone has job or volunteer opportunities to post in our next newsletter, please contact the editor.

NOTICE

Wildlife Tours

Weekend guided tours are now being conducted at the **Gray Lodge Wildlife Area** in **Gridley, CA**. Each walking tour through this premier birding spot highlights migratory waterfowl and other wetland wildlife. For more information, call (530) 846-7505, or email Lori.Dieter@wildlife.ca.gov. Minimum group size is 18 people.

Join **Cosumnes River Preserve** staff and visitors for several events this spring, from guided vernal pool hikes at Rancho Seco Recreation Area's Howard Ranch, to kayak paddling in the Preserve, bird walks and habitat restoration opportunities. Check out the Preserve's webpage for upcoming events throughout April and May!
<http://www.cosumnes.org/upcoming-activities/>.

Other Events and Items of Interest*Drought Science, Policy and Management Summit*

The University of California **Drought Summit** will be held on **April 25, 2014** at the State Capitol in Sacramento. This event will bring together a wide range of experts from across the state for thoughtful discussion of California's drought and water supply issues. Experts will engage with water managers and policymakers on how best to manage current and longterm water shortages. Topics range from agricultural production and employment to wildfires, public health and welfare, the economy, energy production and use, fish and wildlife, and water conservation. Chapter members are encouraged to attend and participate in the summit. More information can be found at: <https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/research>.

California Native Plant Week

The 4th annual **California Native Plant Week** will be **April 12-20, 2014**, and is a reminder that adding California native plants to urban and suburban gardens and landscapes can provide a net water savings during California's current and future droughts, while also providing natural food sources

for California's native pollinators – birds, bees, and butterflies. For more information regarding native plant week and water conservation, visit: <https://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/nativeplantweek/> and <http://www.saveourh2o.org/>.

Earth Day

April 22, 2014 marks the 45th anniversary of **Earth Day** (<http://www.earthday.org/>). Be sure to tune into PBS on Earth Day and watch "**A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for A Living Plant.**" Sacramento's Earth Day celebration will be held on **Saturday, April 19, 2014** at Southside Park in downtown Sacramento. The theme of this year's Sacramento Earth Day celebration is "water scarcity and how we can adapt to using less." For more information visit: <http://www.sacramentoearthday.net/>.

Public Comment Period

The CDFW is seeking public comment on proposals to list the **Northern spotted owl** (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) and **Townsend's big-eared bat** (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) as an endangered or threatened species. All comments received by **May 1, 2014** will be evaluated prior to submission of the CDFW report to the Commission. For more information visit: <http://cdfgnews.wordpress.com/2014/01/21/cdfw-seeks-public-comment-related-to-northern-spotted-owl/> and <http://cdfgnews.wordpress.com/2014/01/07/cdfw-seeks-public-comment-related-to-townsend-big-eared-bat/>.

The public comment period has been extended for the **Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan** and associated **Draft EIR/EIS** by 60 days, for a total 180-day review. The comment period began on December 13, 2013, and will now conclude on **June 13, 2014**. This extension will allow the public more time to review and comment on the public draft documents. For more information visit: <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/Home.aspx>.

Remember

By National membership vote and a change in bylaws, Associate Wildlife Biologists and Certified Wildlife Biologists must minimally be members in good standing of The Wildlife Society to retain their Certifications. An updated certification directory is available by contacting Shannon@wildlife.org.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter welcomes comments and input from our members. If you have suggestions for articles, questions you want answered, things you'd like to see us do, or events to announce, please let us know! Contact any one of the Board member.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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