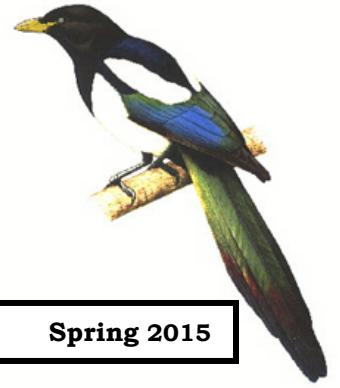




# The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 23, Issue 1

Spring 2015

## President's Message

*Carlos Alvarado*

Dear Chapter Members,

I would like to start this message to you all with a heartfelt thank you to your past, current and future Sacramento-Shasta Chapter (Chapter) Board Members. We all put a lot of hours to bring you the workshops, mixers and symposiums that we have come to expect from the Chapter. These events are a lot of work and your board members have spent a lot of their free time to plan and execute them (flawlessly, if I may add, minus some technical difficulties out of our control). We love what we do or otherwise we would not be doing it, right?

It is indeed a rewarding experience when we read your feedback after the workshops and events, when Western Section Board Members comment on the Chapter's workshops, or when other Chapter officers ask us how we do it. Well, we have an incredible team and I am very grateful to be able to work with your board members one more time.

This is my second go as President of the Chapter and I would like you to become involved with the board to carry this tradition that is now in its 49th year since the Chapter was first organized. I know that our Vice President Rhiannon Klingonsmith took a great responsibility since she will be at the helm in 2016, and I look forward to some great events to celebrate the Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I hope you will join us to celebrate, but also to prepare for next year events! As some of you may have noticed, we started this year with two great workshops; the Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle workshop and the Sandhill Crane Workshop that we co-hosted with the Sandhill Crane Technical Advisory Committee. We are planning some very informative brownbags, fun mixers and outdoor events, the 2015 Taxa-Derby Challenge, as well as the Natural Resources Symposium later this year. I look forward in seeing you at some of the events!

Stay Wild! - Carlos Alvarado

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**The 2015 Chapter officers and committee chairs are:**

**President:** Carlos Alvarado, wildlife biologist, Ascent Environmental

**Past-President:** Lily Douglas, fish and wildlife biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

**Vice President:** Rhiannon Klingonsmith, environmental scientist, California Department of Water Resources

**Treasurer:** Bonnie Peterson, wildlife biologist, Ascent Environmental

**Secretary:** Claudia Funari, wildlife biologist, Ascent Environmental

**Chapter Representative to Western Section:** Katie Smith, graduate student at UC Davis, and scientific aid, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

**Newsletter Editor:** Justin Garcia, environmental scientist, CDFW

**Membership Coordinator:** Melinda Dorin-Bradbury

**Professional Development Chairs:** Ona Alminas, environmental scientist, CDFW; and Breanna Duplisea, scientific aid, CDFW

**Technology Chair:** *vacant*

**Scholarship Committee Chair:** Tracy Walker, wildlife biologist, AECOM

**Northern (Shasta) Representative:** *vacant*

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**Executive Board Happenings**

New officers and committee chairs were nominated at the December 2, 2014 board meeting at Clark’s Corner in Sacramento and later introduced at the Western Section Annual member’s meeting in Santa Rosa.

On February 5, 2015 the board met at Red Rabbit Kitchen to discuss Western Section Annual Meeting outcomes, including planned workshops, upcoming events and public outreach activities, and possible Chapter merchandise ideas. The Board later approved to donate \$500 towards development of a water conservation education video by Bruce Forman of CDFW and the California Wildlife Foundation. The video is a sequel to 2008’s “Hey, Something’s Fishy at the River!” that focused on pollution threats to rivers and solutions for people to practice at their homes and neighborhoods, and will be distributed for free to all public elementary schools, select private schools and community venues in the Sacramento region. We also voted in our new treasurer, Bonnie Peterson at our board meeting on April 28, 2015. Welcome, Bonnie!

The Board is still seeking a technology chair and a northern representative to help us increase Chapter activities in the northern part of our region. If interested, please contact Melinda Dorin-Bradbury at [melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net).

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**Chapter Representative to the Western Section Report**

*Katie Smith*

The Western Section Executive Board met on January 27th, 2015 at the Hyatt Vineyard Hotel at the Annual Meeting of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society. The board discussed tracking volunteer hours for Executive Board members, as well as the possibility that chapters may be asked to track volunteer hours in the future for reporting to the Society. We discussed

changes to the process by which chapters obtain insurance for events. It was decided that chapters may pay a flat rate at the beginning of the year for unlimited coverage, or pay a per event rate. Since the Section



newsletter is becoming quite lengthy it was decided that the Constant Contact e-mail list and Western Wildlife would start playing a larger role in communicating news to the membership. We discussed the Operations Plans that Cynthia Perrine prepared which stemmed from the [Final Draft Strategic Plan](#) and include plans titled Communications, Enhance Careers, Active Voice, Engage Members – aka “Increase Member Involvement”, and Financial Stability/Business aka “Have Funds to Run Programs.” Each plan will have different Plan Managers who will come from the Executive Board and TWS staff and contractors.

Finally, we discussed the venue for the 2017 Section meeting. The Section is currently facing difficulties in obtaining venues because membership is large enough that smaller venues are becoming too small, but membership is also low enough that the Section is not competitive for larger venues. At the time Sacramento and Modesto were the most likely options. People were concerned that the Modesto venue would be loud due to its proximity to the train and that cars would not be safe parked overnight. It was decided that Candace Renger would look into other meetings that may be able to share the costs of getting a larger venue and solicit proposals from additional locations.

On March 2, 2015 the Executive Board met via conference call. The Board again discussed changing the format of the Section newsletter. The Executive Committee will consider it further. The operations budget for 2015 was approved. The venue for the 2017 was discussed again but the Board could not come to a decision. We discussed rotating between three general areas in the future, Santa Rosa, Reno and Southern California. The Board discussed working towards three in-person meetings a year and potentially doing conference calls in each month that didn't have an in person meeting.

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## Membership

*Melinda Dorin-Bradbury*

The Membership Coordinator has updated the Chapter membership numbers as of March 15, 2015. Due to the two workshops and a strong renewal rate by existing members at the Western Section meeting and through National we are headed into 2015 with 238 members. Watch for an email soon that confirms your membership status. We hope to also map where our members are so look for more information on our website as it becomes available. If you have questions about your membership please contact me at [melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net) or [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com).

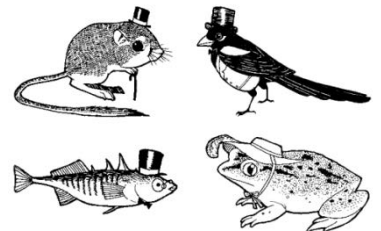
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## U.C. Davis Student Chapter Update

*Janette Perez-Jimenez*

UC Davis Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had an eventful start new year! We had presentations from bird enthusiasts Sara Kross, (PhD Candidate at UC Davis) who presented on the effects of birds in agriculture and Chad Wilsey (Spatial Ecologist for The Audubon Society), who presented on the future

**The Wildlife Society Chapter**  
At UC Davis





distributions and fate of North American Birds. Later in the quarter The Sacramento Zoo presented volunteer opportunities to our club members and offered insight on the role that zoos have on conservation projects. Our club also enjoyed a presentation by Bill Johnson, Regional Workforce Recruiter for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who offered helpful tips on how to search and apply for federal jobs.

If you found yourself at Picnic Day on April 18th, we hope you visited our information table in Academic Surge. We provided interactive games and face painting for children, in addition to offering more information about our chapter. The chapter hosted a series of events related to learning about subsistence with nature termed “Intro to the Wild.” Also, on Thursday **May 7th** from 6:00pm-8:00pm, we will be hosting our annual student-professional mixer at Sudwerk Restaurant and Brewery in Davis. This event is aimed to help students network with professionals and ask questions about possible career paths. If you are a professional in a wildlife-related career and would like to attend this networking event please email Janette at [jperezjimenez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jperezjimenez@ucdavis.edu). Please visit [our website](#) for event or check out our [newsletter](#).



UC Davis students enjoyed the Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Hike on April 11, 2015.

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### Conservation Affairs Committee

*Melinda Dorin-Bradbury and Claudia Funari*

The Wildlife Society is committed to a world where humans and wildlife co-exist. In 2014, the Sacramento Shasta Chapter Conservation Affairs Committee was re-established in order to support this mission in our geographic area. The Committee has been reporting items of potential interest and successful actions to the Board since its inception. We work closely with the Western Section and National Conservation Affairs Committees who have provided guidance on some of the early issues discussed. At the end of 2014, the Committee put together a comment letter due in early 2015 with input on the proposed Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo critical habitat proposal by the USFWS. That letter summarized and supported comments in the record by species experts to expand the critical habitat listings to private lands and to include additional historical range, stop-over, and non-breeding pair habitat. When the Chapter website is updated we will post the letter online; in the meantime please contact us if you would like to see a copy of the letter.

Although several people have expressed interest in participating in the Committee, we have only a couple of active people working on these critically important issues. The Committee needs more people devoted to helping the voice of the Wildlife Society be heard. We need energetic, enthusiastic and critically thinking people who can help develop well-thought out opinions on critical issues for our chapter so that lawmakers, policy makers and decision makers can be provided with intelligent, clear and detailed information that support wildlife and human co-existence! So, please contact me if you would like to participate. Most of our issues are



discussed over email with only a few business meetings planned. The time commitment for a committee member is devoted towards research on current issues as well as writing letters and recommendations on interested issues. Our goal for 2015 is to draft some short Committee working documents that set up the Committee rules to conduct committee business. Our next project is working on addressing local feral cat policies and pushing for more management of feral cat populations with local governments. Any thoughts? Want to help? We need your support, your energy, and your commitment to wildlife! If you know of any other issues that need chapter support, please let us know. As the Chapter Website is updated we will make full use of our webpage to keep the membership informed of conservation issues we are working on.



Over 40 attended the Sac-Shasta Chapter Members' Meeting at the Western Section Annual Meeting, January 29, 2015.

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### Scholarships

*Tracy Walker*

We had one early applicant for the travel award for the Sandhill Crane workshop in February and she was awarded the money, however, she was not able to attend the conference and thus the money is still available for other deserving applicants. The Chapter has not received any other applications, and I plan on sending a reminder email to all of our contacts at various colleges and universities to encourage students to apply. For more details contact Tracy at [tracy.walker@aecom.com](mailto:tracy.walker@aecom.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2015 Nature Bowl

[Nature Bowl](#) finals are quickly approaching! Teams of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders engage in natural science, sustainability and regional environmental issue awareness across the gold country and Sacramento regions. In addition the chapter's donation of \$500 to support CDFW's annual Nature Bowl, board members will be volunteering at the 2015 finals to be held at Sacramento State on **May 16th**.





## Brown Bag Seminars

Bring your lunch and enjoy our next Brown Bag Seminar, planned for Thursday **May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015** from 12:00-1:00pm at **CDFW's Wildlife Branch**, located at 1812 9<sup>th</sup> St., Sacramento. Dr. Melanie Gogul-Prokurat, Spatial Ecologist and Coordinator of the Conservation Analysis Unit at the CDFW Biogeographic Data Branch will present "GIS modeling: Sierra Nevada foothills Wildlife Connectivity Project." To better understand habitat connectivity between the Central Valley across the foothills to the northern Sierra Nevada mountains, fine-scale GIS models identifying core habitat patches were utilized for 30 focal species and species-specific data to model habitat suitability, barriers, and corridors between 271 landscape blocks representing protected lands.

Join us to learn a little about how CDFW processes spatial data and this neat California Essential Habitat Connectivity GIS modeling project! [For more information](#) and specifics about access/parking or to present at a future brown bag seminar, please contact Ona Alminas at [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com).

## Spring Mixer!

Come network with newly met biologists & wildlifers; have a beer with old friends! Join us Thursday **May 28th, 2015** from 5:30-8:30pm at **Kupros Craft House** (1217 21st St, Sacramento in the Upstairs Lounge). Get there early to enjoy some beer and appetizers on us (limited room space). Event is free to TWS members. If you would like to become a member, membership can be purchased for \$10 at the event (also provides your admittance to the event). We do ask that you [RSVP here](#) so we get a sense of who is coming! [For more information](#), please contact Ona Alminas at [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com).

## TWS Western Section Announcements

### *The Wildlife Confessional*

The Western Section is still accepting submissions for consideration in *The Wildlife Confessional*, an anthology of stories by wildlife professionals about their adventures, misadventures, revelations, reflections, mishaps, and pivotal experiences with wildlife in the field. Send your submissions no later than **May 15th, 2015**.

### *The 2015 Western Field Camp: Field Techniques in Wildlife Studies*

The [2015 Western Field Camp](#) will be held from **August 9-21st, 2015** at **Swanton Pacific Ranch**, near Santa Cruz. Field Techniques in Wildlife Studies is an intensive, resident field camp emphasizing wildlife identification and field techniques for vertebrates, and includes hands-on field time, data collection and team projects. Instructors include wildlife professionals from agency, academic, private and non-profit sectors. Informal time with mentor-instructors allows students to discuss career opportunities.





Participation is open to college undergraduates with junior standing or above, graduate students, and professionals who have completed pre-requisite course-work or equivalent. Contact Lead Instructor John Perrine, [jperrine@calpoly.edu](mailto:jperrine@calpoly.edu) with a brief (150-word) paragraph describing your interest in the camp, and a short list of previous coursework or equivalent to meet the prerequisites. The course is limited to 16 participants, so sign up asap!

*The 2016 Western Annual Meeting* will be held Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center - Pomona, CA, **January 26-29th, 2016.**

For more Western Section announcements, including details on upcoming workshops, please visit: <http://www.tws-west.org/announcements.php>

### TWS National Announcements

The Wildlife Society will hold its [22nd Annual Conference](#) in **Winnipeg, Manitoba** from **October 17-21st, 2015**. The meeting will include workshops, symposia, panel discussions, special poster sessions, contributed papers (oral presentations), and contributed posters. While the deadline has passed for contributed papers and posters, students may still submit abstracts for the [research-in-progress poster session](#) – the deadline is **June 18th, 2015**.

### PAST EVENTS

#### Bald and Golden Eagles in California and Nevada Workshop

Melinda Dorin-Bradbury



The Sacramento Shasta Chapter held a Bald and Golden Eagle in California and Nevada Workshop at Sacramento State University in January 2015. We partnered with the USFWS and CDFW to find speakers and content. Speakers

covered Natural History, the Regulatory requirements and the new Federal permitting guidelines for take and recent studies that covered topics such as range and threats to the species. Survey protocols, how to model take, and summaries of current surveys were also discussed. We had over 75 people attend for the two day workshop. One of the highlights was that the California Raptor Center brought a Golden Eagle to the workshop and spoke about rehabilitation.



Bill Thein from the California Raptor Center demonstrates with Sullivan, the golden eagle at the 2015 Bald and Golden Eagle Workshop hosted by our Chapter, USFWS and CDFW. Photo: Breanna Duplisea



## Sandhill Crane Workshop

Melinda Dorin-Bradbury

The Sacramento Shasta Chapter also sponsored a Sandhill Crane Workshop in Elk Grove that included a classroom and field session February 18-19, 2015. The workshop was attended by about 45 people who heard about the range, studies, population needs and management for the species. The Chapter sponsored by covering all the upfront costs of the workshop and helping with arrangements and supplies. The Chapter was reimbursed for all costs. All of the workshop profits went to the Sandhill Crane Technical Advisory Committee who is undertaking development of a conservation strategy for the species.



Nearly 50 attendees enjoyed the Sandhill Crane Workshop co-sponsored by the Sac-Shasta chapter with the Sandhill Crane Technical Advisory Committee February 18, 2015.



## Brown-bag Seminar Series

Ona Alminas

Marc Kenyon, Senior Environmental Scientist with the CDFW presented about human-wildlife conflict and strategies to weigh contrasting or differing interests towards resolving a conflict or concern. The brown bag was held on Thurs, March 26<sup>th</sup>. A great turnout of over 28 consultants, biologists and agency staff; stay tuned for upcoming brown bag seminars.

## Student- Professional Hike at Table Mountain

Ona Alminas

Chapter members enjoyed hiking with local UC Davis students and professionals at North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve (Butte Co.) on April 11, 2015. Despite the peak bloom having passed, we enjoyed listening to the CDFW interpretive program about the local geology and natural history of the region and learning about the native pollinators (in particular bees).



Nearly 30 attendees enjoyed Marc Kenyon's presentation on Human-Wildlife Conflict.





Photo: CDFW

### Sac-Shasta Wildlife Taxa-Derby

Justin Garcia

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of The Wildlife Society challenged other Western Section Chapters to a wildlife bio-blitz (**Taxa-Derby**) across the Section's large geographic range (California, Hawaii, Nevada) on April 19, 2015. Chapter members brought out their binoculars, spotting scopes, and utilized their expert knowledge of birds, mammals, fish, and herps distribution to compile a fairly extensive list of encountered and correctly identified wildlife species – the results are pending, stay tuned.

### Highlights from the 2015 TWS-Western Section Annual Meeting in Santa Rosa, CA

Randi Logsdon

The Western Section Annual Meeting held in Santa Rosa this past January was a great success as expected – with two excellent pre-conference symposia, 14+ concurrent sessions, and many great working groups, meetings and workshops, and a classic Members Banquet – raffle hosted by Joe DiDonato. Congratulations to all the Banquet award winners and congratulations to the students who won the student presentation and poster contests!



As part of the [Western Section of the Wildlife Society](#)

January 26-30, 2015

2015 annual meeting for wildlife professionals like myself, [Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW Program](#) offered a field trip for conference participants to spend a morning helping restore floodplain and riparian habitat on private ranch land in Sonoma County, California. The STRAW Program (Students and Teachers Restoring a Wetland) involves conservation scientists and landowners working with teachers, parents, and students (generally K-8) to give school kids and local communities an opportunity to learn about and



[participate in habitat restoration.](#)

On this particular project, the STRAW program teamed up with the [Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District](#) and [Prunuske Chatam](#), Inc. to revegetate the banks of lower [Green Valley Creek](#), a tributary of the [Russian River](#). The restoration project will provide winter habitat for sensitive fish species such as the federally threatened [Chinook salmon](#), endangered [Coho salmon](#), and threatened [steelhead trout](#). The restoration will stabilize the banks with vegetation and create [floodplain habitat](#) and low-flow areas for the fish to take refuge from high, fast flows during peak flooding events. The floodplain restoration will provide an environment that increases bugs and insects for the fish to feed on while they hang out there. Over time, the planted trees will mature into a [riparian forest](#) that supports terrestrial wildlife as well.

Early on the morning of January 27, we were taken to the [Thomas Creek Ranch](#) near the small community of [Forestville](#), off of Highway 116 west of [Santa Rosa, California](#). The Thomas Creek Ranch is a coalition of landowners, ranchers, and farmers that collaborate with conservation groups to improve the ecological value of their property. The day was special because it wasn't just us professionals and college students showing up to do the work, but also a couple of bus loads of 8th graders full of



energy and enthusiasm. STRAW staff explained the reason we were there, gave us some safety tips, and showed us how it's done. Then we set out in groups planting trees and grasses and building up the landscape. After a morning of working we were given a catered lunch of sandwiches and after wrapping up, taken back to Santa Rosa. Though it wasn't the traditional type of field trip with hiking and wildlife viewing, it was very worthwhile to be a part of a restoration project that will provide natural resources and habitat for the fish and wildlife we care about.



## JOB and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in studying Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) ecology and habitat use in the northern Sierra Nevada, CA this summer? The Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis is seeking a [temporary full-time field technician](#) with previous amphibian survey experience in streams, lakes, and/or meadows. Interested applicants should email resumes with three references to Cathy Brown ([catbrown@ucdavis.edu](mailto:catbrown@ucdavis.edu)) by **May 4th, 2015**.

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](#).

For the latest information on seasonal openings with CDFW, visit <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Employment/Seasonal>.

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://tws-west.org/sac-shasta/home/jobs-volunteering>.

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

### \*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*

## Wildlife Tours

Join **Cosumnes River Preserve** staff and visitors for several events this spring and summer, from paddle to vernal pool tours and guided hikes. Check out the Preserve's activities page for upcoming events! <http://www.cosumnes.org/upcoming-activities/>

## Other Events and Items of Interest

### *2015 California Invasive Species Action Week Youth Art Contest*

The CDFW is sponsoring a youth art contest to promote awareness of plant and animal invaders that threaten our state's native species, as part of the [2015 California Invasive Species Action Week](#) (CISAW), **June 6-14th**. Now in its second year, the CISAW aims to promote public participation in the fight against invasive species and their impacts on our natural resources. The 2015 schedule of events will include invasive species removal efforts, native habitat restoration projects, youth educational activities, citizen science monitoring efforts and the second annual youth art contest, with the theme "*Don't be a vector! Be a protector!*"



*Chico State Herbarium Workshops*

- [Butte County Butterflies and their Host Plant Affinities](#), on **May 21st, 2015**; instructed by Don Miller.
- [Introduction to Native Bees as Pollinators](#), **July tba-2015**; instructed by Rob Schlising and Robert Irwin.

*Threatened and Endangered Species*

While both species do not occur within the Chapter boundary, in case you're interested, the flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) and Livermore tarplant (*Deinandra bacigalupii*) were recently designated as candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission). Additionally, after being afforded emergency protections under CESA in late 2014, the Commission will be considering whether or not to designate Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) as a candidate species at the upcoming June 2015 meeting.



**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](mailto: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 members.*



Table Mountain Ecological Reserve, April 2015 – Ona Alminas



*Reithrodontomys* sp. mouse measurements, Suisun Marsh – Katie Smith



**The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**1017 L Street #245, Sacramento, CA 95814**

Past President – Lily Douglas ([ldouglas14@gmail.com](mailto:ldouglas14@gmail.com))

President – Carlos Alvarado ([carlos.alvarado@cardno.com](mailto:carlos.alvarado@cardno.com))

Vice President – Rhiannon Klingonsmith ([rklingonsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:rklingonsmith@hotmail.com))

Treasurer – Bonnie Peterson ([Bonnie.e.Peterson@gmail.com](mailto:Bonnie.e.Peterson@gmail.com))

Secretary – Claudia Funari ([cfunari@gmail.com](mailto:cfunari@gmail.com))

Chapter Representative to Western Section – Katie Smith ([ratsmith@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ratsmith@ucdavis.edu))

Newsletter Editor – Justin Garcia ([jdgarci6687@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgarci6687@yahoo.com))

Membership Chair – Melinda Bradbury ([melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net))

Professional Development Committee Co-Chairs – Ona Alminas ([osv.alminas\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:osv.alminas(at)gmail.com)), Breanna Duplisea

[Breannaduplisea@gmail.com](mailto:Breannaduplisea@gmail.com))

Scholarship Chair – Tracy Walker ([tracy.walker@aecom.com](mailto:tracy.walker@aecom.com))

Representatives for UC Davis Student Chapter – Elise Zarri ([eczarri@ucdavis.edu](mailto:eczarri@ucdavis.edu)) and Janette Perez-Jiminez

([jperezjimenez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jperezjimenez@ucdavis.edu))



Tahoe National Forest – Ona Alminas