



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 19, Issue 2

June 2011

CHAPTER NEWS

Randi Logsdon

The Chapter is gearing up for summer! The Board voted on a final budget for 2011, and plans are underway for at least three more social mixers (summer mixer with AEP and PEMA at River City Brewery in July, Halloween mixer in Redding, and holiday mixer in December), and at least one other member event, including events with the northern half of our Chapter. We are also planning to assist with next year's TWS-Section meeting, with financial and logistical support. We will continue with academic, certification, and travel scholarships, and donations to programs such as the Nature Bowl. The Chapter will host its annual Natural Resources symposium in the fall.

The Chapter held a very successful members-only picnic at Cosumnes River Preserve on May 1, which included a tour of a riparian-forest restoration project and a wonderful display of bats. Chapter water bottles were available for sale, and will continue to be available throughout the year.

We've held two brown bag seminars so far this year. The first was on riparian brush rabbit and riparian woodrat surveys in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The second was on food habits of ringtails in the Sutter Buttes. Other brown-bag seminars coming up may include talks on great gray owl, bats and white-nosed syndrome, and possibly golden eagles. You may read more about these and other events in this newsletter.

Key words in this issue: scholarships, membership, UC Davis, brown-bag seminars, bats, white-nosed syndrome, great gray owl, north region, Redding, Dye Creek Preserve, AEP and PEMA mixer, Halloween mixer, holiday mixer, Western Section conference, National conference, Hawaii, palila, workshops, restoration, ringtails, nature bowl, mountain yellow-legged frog, black-backed woodpecker, volunteer opportunity, free webinars

President's Message

Canh Nguyen

Hello everyone,

This weather that we have been having in our region is unusual for this time of year. It may have put a damper or even cancelled a trip for you. I know it affected me on my last camping trip. It is tough to roast a marshmallow to its "ultimate roasted marshmallow" status over a campfire when it's raining and hailing on you. That said, I stuck it out and had a great time – trying to remember the phrase "never bad weather if you have the right gear".

To help kick-start the summer weather and extend our reach into the Chapter's northern section, we had a Summer Mixer and Board Meeting in **Chico** on **June 23rd** to show our appreciation to the more northern members. The recent event at the Cosumnes Preserve showed the Chapter's commitment in providing our members with opportunities in the wildlife field. I would like to thank everyone who came to the event, the team that organized the event, and extend a special thanks to Harry McQuillen, Matt Gause, and Corky Quirk. See below for more details on the event.

Please continue to visit our website and friend us on Facebook to keep updated on our activities and events.

Scholarships

The Chapter provides scholarships to support deserving students as they complete their education. Applicants are rated on application appearance, academic performance, references, financial need, extracurricular involvement in the wildlife biology field, and the potential for strengthening the field and TWS. Awardees are also given professional opportunities, such as a presentation at the Chapter's Natural Resources Symposium and a chance to write an article on any wildlife topic for the newsletter. We received one application before the June 1st deadline, which the Board is now evaluating.

The next deadline for academic scholarships is **December 1**, and for travel scholarships, the deadline is two months prior to the event. Details and the application are on our web site

(http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=202&Itemid=314).

Treasurer's Report

Sean Marquis

As of June 23, 2011, the Chapter balance was:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ING CD | \$ 10,030.96 |
| ING Savings | \$ 1,827.35 |
| <u>B of A Checking</u> | <u>\$ 20,224.39</u> |
| Total | \$ 32,082.70 |

Recent Income and Expenditures:

Expenses:

- \$ 144.00 Mail box rental
- \$ 147.36 Board meeting lunch
- \$ 261.30 Cosumnes event

Total \$ 552.65

- Income:
- \$ 420 membership dues
 - \$ 80 water bottle & t-shirt sales
 - \$ 8.74 banking interest

Total \$ 508.74

A \$300 contribution to the winter mixer was sent to AEP. The Sacramento-Shasta Board voted to contribute \$1500 to the National conference in Hawaii.

Executive Board Meeting Summary

Randi Logsdon

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter's Executive Board meeting held on April 28th at the Hoppy Brewing Company was very well attended. In addition to the Board members, we had the representative from the northern half of our Chapter (Redding). We voted on changes to the 2011 budget, and discussed board member expenditures and discretionary funding. Discretionary funding was increased to accommodate donations to the upcoming TWS National and TWS Western Section conferences. Events discussed were 2 mixers & a BBQ in the north region (Redding area), and 4 events in the Sacramento area – the Davis mixer, Cosumnes BBQ, summer mixer, and a holiday mixer. During the Western Section update, other Chapter workshops were announced, with a suggestion for the chapters to rotate their workshops for better coordination. The membership update indicated that

membership had increased from the giant garter snake workshop. Mixers and brown-bags were discussed, and Laura Patterson volunteered to be the scholarship coordinator. The Board also discussed quarterly issues of the Magpie and updates to the website. The Magpie is still seeking members to volunteer writing articles about their work for a "member spotlight" series. If interested, please contact the editor.

Chapter Representative to the Western Section Report

Laura Patterson

The Western Section Executive Board met via conference call on April 19th. In addition to an update on matters associated with the previous Western Section annual meeting in Riverside, the Board discussed planning and support for activities associated with the National Meeting in Hawaii and next year's Western Section meeting in Sacramento. Other topics covered Western Section's support role and fees when assisting Chapter-sponsored events, and a change in publishers for the Transactions of the Western Section of TWS. Speaking of, if you've got research you'd like published, there is still room in this year's edition of the Transactions, so current editor, David Wright, has extended the deadline for manuscript submissions to **July 15th**. President John McNerney congratulated the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter on getting professionals and students together during our joint mixer with the UC Davis Student Chapter. In addition to the Western Section workshops, many of the other Chapters are scheduling technical workshops this year, so keep an eye out for those training opportunities. Since the meeting, the Board voted to support a new UC Santa Barbara Student Chapter, awarded a \$1000 grant to a Humboldt State graduate student studying woodrat and chipmunk involvement in the Lyme disease cycle in northwestern California, and approved its annual operational budget.

Membership

Please join the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter to help support the Chapter. Membership dues will help keep workshops affordable, offer more scholarships, maintain the website, support local events, and offer great social/mixer events. Membership is \$10 and can be accessed through the website below:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/images/pdfs/chaptersignup_formfillable.doc.

UC Davis End-of-the-Year Update

Max Lambert (mrlambert@ucdavis.edu)

In 2011 the UC Davis Chapter has participated in several events. Earlier in the year, members traveled to Año Nuevo for some birding and elephant seal viewing. In February, several of our members traveled to Riverside for the Western Section Meeting and were ecstatic to meet numerous TWS members from throughout the Section. In March, Michael Starkey gave a "Save the Frogs" presentation to our members and others in the surrounding community. UC Davis student Robyn Screen has now become more involved with "Save the Frogs" and intends to continue efforts with this organization on the UCD campus. In April, the UCD and Sac-Shasta Chapters hosted a mixer at the Graduate in Davis. This mixer was a great place for UC Davis students and professors to intermingle with wildlife professionals in the area. There were praises about this event from all demographics that intended, and our chapter is excited to participate in such events in the future. In May, eleven UC Davis students and faculty went to Sac-Shasta's Cosumnes River event, where we learned about habitat restoration and California's bat species. A highlight of this trip was watching the swarm of Mexican free-tailed bats fly at dusk, and two Swainson's Hawks try to pick off a select few of them. Also in May, Professor Doug Kelt of UC Davis hosted a trip to Cache Creek, where he taught students how to trap small mammals and mist-net for bats. Every student was thrilled to set live-traps and catch seven bats in the mist nets! Also, several students used this as an opportunity to test their newly learned herpetofauna identification skills along Cache Creek.

Our Chapter has had a very productive year thus far, and we are looking forward to increasing our participation in wildlife-based activities during the following school year. We are also excited to increase our efforts to interact with members of the Sac-Shasta Chapter and wildlife professionals in the surrounding area.

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UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

AEP and PEMA Joint Mixer

- Date: **Thursday, July 21** in the evening
- Location: River City Brewery
- Lucy Triffleman will be the point of contact for details and RSVPs
(ltriffleman@westervelt ecologicalservices.com)
- \$5 to all non-members; free to members

Brown-Bag Seminar Series

To continue our series in 2011, upcoming brown bags are scheduled for **August 9th** and **October 11th**, as follows: August 9 will be on White-nosed Syndrome in bats (speaker still to be arranged); and on October 11, the topic will be either research on great gray owls or golden eagle regulations. Check the Chapter's website for confirmed details.

Future topics for these presentations currently being discussed include emerging climate change policy and understanding golden eagle regulations. If you have any recommendations for 2011 or 2012 presentations, please submit them to dawn.lobaugh@hdrinc.com.

North Region Events

The northern region of the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is organizing a few events for us all to attend. Tentatively, these events include:

September (TBA) - A BBQ at the Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Dye Creek Preserve. TNC will likely showcase some of their restoration projects near the main lodge. Overnight stay (inside the main lodge) or camping will be available for \$10 per person. Check the Chapter website for details.

October 27 (Thursday) - Halloween Mixer in Redding. More information will be provided in the September newsletter and available on the Chapter website, or you may contact Michelle_Havens@fws.gov.

Western Section Call for Workshops

Open May 1 - June 30, 2011

TWS Western Section members! What would you like to see your society offer in terms of Professional Development in the next 18-24 months? Are there any topics that you would like to volunteer to organize, both from the "content" realm or the "logistics" realm (either or both)? There's potential space and time available for

half-day, one-day, or 1.5-day symposia before the Western Section's 2012 annual meeting in Sacramento. The Western Section can also make space and time available for workshops/symposia in the weeks and months before and after that meeting. Workshops and symposia can be as long as four days, but are often cut off at two. Subject matter may cover one or more of the following topics: sensitive species, field methods, ecology, environmental laws and regulations, taxonomy, faunal groups, resource management, statistics, public outreach, and many other possibilities.

Proposals for workshops should be sent electronically by **June 30, 2011** to Rhys Evans, sirsnave@verizon.net. Please send an email to Rhys to request what information the proposal should include. Organizers and key speakers may be eligible for reimbursement of expenses and possible honoraria or other fees depending upon number of participants. Proposals from organizations or agencies are also welcome. The Western Section will handle logistics such as budgets, hotel contracts, catering, publicity, and liability insurance.

TWS National Annual Conference Registration

Registration for The Wildlife Society 18th Annual Conference is now open. The conference will take place from **November 5-10** at the Hilton Waikoloa Village, located on the "Big Island" of Hawaii. You may register now to save with the early registration discount at the following website: <http://www.info.wildlife.org/l.jsp?d=5039.218527.825.4vNkgdyw.A>. In addition, TWS is currently running a special offer: If you register by **September 2, 2011**, you may become eligible to win a four-night complimentary stay courtesy of The Hilton Waikoloa Village. TWS will randomly select three winners the week of September 5, and notify the winners that week. Winners will also be announced in the September edition of The Wildlifer. Please note that there is an additional \$30 fee for registered conference attendees to attend the Opening Night Luau.

For every registration TWS receives, \$5 will be donated towards a carbon offset program. This year's program is the Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project, initiated to restore habitat for the federally endangered Palila (*Loxioides bailleui*), a bird currently found only on Mauna Kea Volcano, Island of Hawaii.

PAST EVENTS

Student/Professional Mixer Review

Lucy Triffleman

The Sac-Shasta group kicked off the spring with our first social mixer on Wednesday, April 6, at the Davis Graduate in partnership with our friends in the UC Davis Student Chapter. This mixer provided the chance for professionals to discuss internships and future career opportunities with the next generation of biologists in our field. Representatives from the Western Section Board also participated in this mixer, including Section president John McNerney and Section Representative Don Yasuda, as well as UC Davis faculty. In all, over 40 students, professionals, and academics participated in this event. Thank you to everyone who was able to make it and get the year kicked off!

TWS Members-Only Event - Cosumnes Preserve BBQ & Restoration Tour

Dawn LoBaugh

(photos by Dawn LoBaugh, Randi Logsdon, and Max Lambert)



On May 1st, the TWS Sac-Shasta Chapter hosted a members-only barbecue and restoration tour at the Cosumnes River Preserve. A site visit and tour of current restoration activities at the Westervelt Cosumnes Floodplain Mitigation Bank was led by Matt Gause of Westervelt Ecological Services. This opportunity to see restoration in action was followed by hotdogs, burgers, and all kinds of fixin's, while members got the opportunity to get to know fellow TWS-ers. Thanks to Harry McQuillen, Preserve Manager at the Cosumnes River Preserve, and Corky Quirk, a local expert on bat populations in the Sacramento Valley, we finished the evening with a very informative presentation on local bat species and concerns, and took a walk over to a bridge overpass to watch the sunset emergence of thousands

of roosting Mexican free-tailed bats. What a wonderful way to enjoy a Sunday evening!

Free Brown Bag Seminar on the Endangered Riparian Brush Rabbit

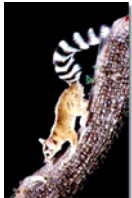
Dawn LoBaugh



Tristan Edgarian, a wildlife biologist with the CSU Stanislaus Endangered Species Recovery Program, presented thoughts and survey updates on population status and habitat requirements for the currently listed riparian brush rabbit. Over the past two years, Tristan has led a team that has conducted trapping surveys in a variety of habitats across the Delta, and with new access availability, will be continuing in the 2011 summer/fall season. As an added treat, Tristan presented some recent photographs of the recovery efforts that his team was involved in at the end of March to rescue and relocate over 100 individual rabbits during a flood event on the San Joaquin River.

Free Brown Bag Seminar on Ringtails

Dawn LoBaugh



On Tuesday, June 14th, David Wyatt, Professor at Sacramento City College, Biology Department, presented on ringtail food habits as determined from scat collection at multiple locations in the eastern half of the Sutter Buttes. Ringtails have been studied at this location since the 1980's, but this is the first food habits analysis conducted in the Sutter Buttes and only the second in the Central Valley of California. Per Wyatt's presentation, plants and insects figure prominently in the ringtail diet in all seasons, with lesser frequency of occurrence for mammals, birds, reptiles, centipedes, and millipedes. Of particular interest is the finding that mistletoe (*Phoradendron villosum*) is a keystone resource for ringtails in the Sutter Buttes. Over the last few years of research in the Sierra Buttes, Wyatt has been able to collect multiple video snippets of the ringtail and other nocturnal species in the area, and he shared some of these exciting clips with the audience at our brown bag. Another interesting presentation in our 2011 series!

Nature Bowl

Randi Logsdon

The Chapter received a thank you letter from Bruce Forman, Program Coordinator of the Nature Bowl, and a mention in the June 8 issue of the Folsom Telegraph newspaper, regarding our continued support of the event. The Department of Fish and Game (Department) just concluded the finals of their 27th annual Nature Bowl. The program served 82 school teams from seven counties, consisting of approximately 500 students in 3rd – 6th grade. Winners in all grade divisions were from Lake Forest Elementary, El Dorado Hills; Korematsu Elementary in Davis; Latrobe Elementary in Shingle Springs; and Deterding Elementary in Carmichael. Hundreds of additional students were served through enhanced curriculum provided by Nature Bowl coaches who used Nature Bowl materials and activities in their classroom instruction. The Nature Bowl increases life science and conservation literacy. Students were inspired to start recycling projects and exotic species eradication programs, and to develop environmental campaigns and wildlife education brochures. Many of these students have little to no classroom instruction on these topics and prepare for the Nature Bowl through after-school activities. Continued Chapter support and our member volunteers allowed the Department to conduct this program when faced with increasing operating costs and challenging budget constraints. Become a volunteer! One of our new members sent the Chapter Board a thank you letter to express how much she enjoyed volunteering and getting kids excited about science. This is the kind of program that will help secure a future of wildlife and environmental professionals.

JOB and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Moyle lab is seeking motivated undergraduate students interested in fish related work (any year). The primary job duty would involve analyzing stomach content of an introduced game fish (juvenile large mouth bass). You can also learn how to age otoliths, scales, and fin rays. Opportunities may arise in the future to learn additional skills or work on additional projects as needed. Contact: kmperales@ucdavis.edu, Martin Perales, for questions or for more information.

A job bulletin for **Fish and Wildlife Technician** has been posted on the Department of Fish and Game's internet site at www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=9893.

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

http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=195&Itemid=286. For local job announcements, check:
http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=196&Itemid=331.

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

NOTICE

CESA Activity

Learn about the latest developments in CESA petitions and/or candidacy for mountain yellow-legged frog and black-backed woodpecker, by attending the next Fish and Game Commission meeting, **June 29-30 in Stockton**. You may get more information at www.fgc.ca.gov, or log on to view or listen to California Fish and Game Commission meetings in real time via Internet webcasting. Get involved and comment on issues that are meaningful to you.

Free Webinars from USGS

For those just starting out as wildlife professionals or those desiring to keep their knowledge of study design and statistics current, the USGS offers a number of valuable web-based courses free of charge through their Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program. Upcoming Webinars include: [Adaptive Management of Natural Resources](#) – Summer 2011; [Designing Natural Resource Monitoring Surveys](#), Fall 2011; [Estimation of Population Change From Survey Data](#), Fall 2011; and [Modeling Patterns and Dynamics of Species](#)

Occurrence, 2011. For specific information on upcoming webinars, visit:
<http://www.fort.usgs.gov/brdscience/Courses.htm>.

Bat Walks

On **July 7, 9, 19, 25, and 30**, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area will conduct a Bat Talk and Walk in Davis, starting at 6:45 p.m. on July 7 and 9; and at 6:30 p.m. on July 19, 25, and 30. A 45-minute indoor presentation on bat natural history will be followed by an opportunity to view live bats. The group will carpool to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area to watch one of the largest colonies of Mexican free-tailed bats in California as it emerges to hunt insects at sunset. Cost: \$10.00 per adult (children under 16 are free) plus \$2 ticket processing fee. Advance online registration is required at www.ticketturtle.com/index.php?ticketing=ybf. Scroll down to your preferred Bat Talk and Walk date. For information please call (530) 902-1918.

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.

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.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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