



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 19, Issue 3

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CHAPTER NEWS

Randi Logsdon

The Chapter thanks all of its members for such a successful summer. We achieved our objective of involving our northern region members with a mixer and Board meeting in Chico in June and a barbeque in Los Molinos in September. We had a great brown-bag in August on the current topic of bats and white-nose syndrome. And the Board was busy preparing its involvement with the Western Section meeting in February and choosing an academic scholarship awardee.

Fall is here, and plans for our annual Natural Resources symposium in November are well under way. Abstracts are still being accepted for those who are interested in presenting. Also browse the newsletter for information on our upcoming holiday mixers—a Halloween mixer in Redding and a December holiday mixer in Sacramento. Another certification workshop is being considered for this year in the Chico vicinity, with the date yet to be determined.

The Chapter website is updated at least monthly, so be sure to check for all of the most recent updates.

Key words in this issue: scholarships, membership, brown-bag seminars, bats, white-nosed syndrome, great gray owl, north region barbeque, Dye Creek Preserve, AEP and PEMA mixer, Halloween mixer, holiday mixer, Western Section conference, National conference, Hawaii, certification workshop, internships, American pika, CESA, black-backed woodpecker, Yosemite toad, communications workshop, internships

President's Message

Canh Nguyen

Hello Members,

Summer is coming to an end and we have had quite a cool one. This cool summer has allowed for pleasant events like our Cosumnes Preserve tour, Chico mixer,

and the River City Brewing Co. mixer. I know the last two were indoors, but at least the drive to them was pleasant. Even though summer is coming to an end, we do have one more Brown Bag event in October. See below in the newsletter for specific details. On September 23, we had a members-only event in late September in the Los Molinos area, which included a barbeque and camping opportunity in Dye Creek. Other opportunities include our Natural Resources Symposium on **November 2nd**, holiday mixer, and TWS National and Western Chapter Annual conferences in the spring. Stay in touch with us by visiting our website, following us on Facebook, or simply contacting one of our Board members. Thanks and looking forward to seeing you at each of the events.

Scholarships

We're happy to announce that we awarded an academic scholarship of \$1000 to Belinda Breen, a junior in Animal Science at UC Davis. Belinda's focus within Animal Science is a specialization in Animal Behavior, specifically the application of behavior and cognition to conservation and wildlife biology. She is currently working with a graduate student on how to alleviate human-wildlife conflicts in India, and hopes to one day attend graduate school to further study wildlife management and conservation biology with an emphasis on animal behavior.

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 congratulate Belinda for this great achievement.

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

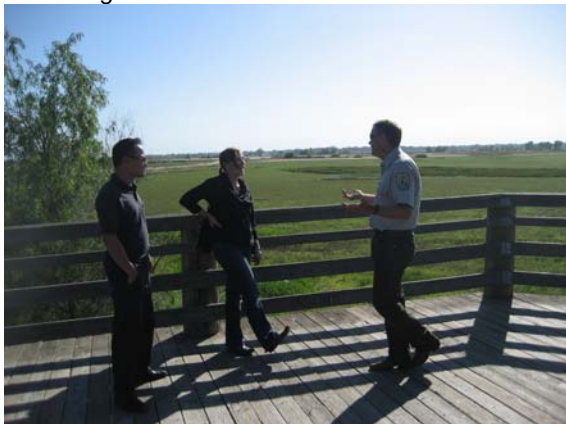
Sean Marquis

As of September 18, 2011, the Chapter's balance was \$29,515.47 (ING CD: \$10,012.40, ING Savings: \$1,868.64, B of A Checking: \$17,634.34). Our investment strategy for Chapter funds continues to focus on highly liquid investments. Approximately one-third of Chapter funds are invested in a 6-month CD, and we are considering a move of additional money into a CD. The remaining funds will be left in checking and interest-bearing savings accounts.

Major expenses have included mixers in Sacramento (combined mixer with AEP) and Chico, an academic scholarship award to Belinda Breen, and contributions to the 2012 National TWS Annual Conference.

Executive Board Happenings

Randi Logsdon



The Board met prior to the Redding event on June 23 and again on September 22. The Board voted to donate \$1500 to the TWS National meeting in Hawaii and discussed what specific events the money should be allocated to. The Board has also been discussing whether or not to award a travel scholarship for the National meeting. The Board is discussing another certification workshop in the Chico area. If attendance is low, the Chapter may donate \$200 to subsidize the cost of the workshop. The Professional Development Committee met on September 19. The Natural Resources Symposium (NRS) still needs speakers. The final call for papers and the symposium announcement

is circulating through the Chapter's mailing list and to a group of potential speakers.

Membership is up and the Board is looking for people who are interested in taking on leadership positions. The Board is asking for interested members to come to Board meetings and share their ideas and talents.

Our Next Board Meeting

Our next Board meeting will be held **Thursday, December 8**, at the **Hoppy Brewing Company, 5:30 PM, 6300 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento**. Please feel free to attend or let us know if there is a topic you would like us to discuss.

Chapter Representative to the Western Section Report

Laura Patterson

I wasn't able to attend the summer Western Section Executive Board Meeting, which took place in Placerville on July 29th and 30th, but here are some highlights from John McNerney.

The 2011 issue of the Transactions of the Western Section will not be published due to lack of submitted papers. The two papers that were submitted will be published in the 2012 issue. John asked that I pass the word on to our members that you are highly encouraged to write up your research and submit papers. The next deadline for submissions will be **May 1, 2012**. Details can be found at

http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=181&Itemid=358.

The Western Section is currently accepting applications for student travel funding to attend the TWS Conference in Hawaii. Information and applications can be found at http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=185&Itemid=317#travelgrant.

The Western Section Conservation Affairs Committee Chair position has been vacated. The Board is working to refine position responsibilities and looking for folks that may be interested in taking on the position. The position serves as a voting member of the Executive Board. Interested folks should contact the Western Section President, John McNerney (jmccnerney@cityofdavis.org or 530-757-5680).

Planning for the 2012 annual conference in Sacramento is well under way. Check the Western Section website for information and updates, and plan to attend!

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brown-Bag Seminar Series

An Overview of the Ecology and Current Status of Great Gray Owls in California

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

HDR office – Arden

1610 Arden Way, Ste 175, Sacramento, CA 95816

Front desk phone number: (916)569-1000

*Chris Stermer, Resource Assessment Program,
Department of Fish and Game*



From 2005 through 2009, the Department of Fish and Game conducted great gray owl (GGOW) population studies investigating aspects of the species' distribution and range in California, habitat use, seasonal movements, and population genetics. To partly address these goals, a large-scale survey effort was conducted in the Sierra Nevada focusing on locations outside the known distribution of the species. Results of these surveys have been the discovery of new GGOW breeding territories, and in some cases territories far outside their previously recorded range, and within habitat types not previously described for the species. Radio telemetry has provided valuable data determining breeding home ranges, seasonal movements, and habitat use. From this information tools are being developed to aid in the conservation of the GGOW, such as habitat models designed to predict suitable habitat, and to determine the amount and distribution of available habitat, in California.

The presentation will address what we learned over the several years working on this species, and our next steps in incorporating this information into a GGOW Conservation Strategy we are planning with Audubon California.

North Region Halloween Mixer



October 27, 2011 (Thursday) in Redding.
Come in your favorite wildlife costume (or any costume). More information will be available on the Chapter website, or you may contact Michelle_Havens@fws.gov.

Natural Resources Symposium

November 2, 2011 – 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**California State University, Sacramento
University Union, Foothill Suite, 3rd Floor**

Join the Chapter for its annual Natural Resources symposium, a great opportunity for biologists and other environmental professionals to exchange information, ideas, results, and progress on research, management, regulation, restoration, and conservation. The call for papers and registration forms are available now on the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter web site. Abstracts should be sent no later than **October 7**, and authors will be notified by **October 19**. Information is available on the web site about parking, food, and directions. Register by **October 21** to get the early bird fee of \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. After October 21, registration is \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$10 for students, and no fee for primary author presenters. Register early and don't miss this very popular event! For more information, contact Dawn LoBaugh, dawn.lobaugh@hdrinc.com.

Western Section Annual Meeting and Call for Papers

The Western Section meeting will be held **February 1-3, 2012**, at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. Pre-conference symposia are being planned and will occur on **January 31**. Mark your calendar! The plenary theme is: Conservation in the Age of Litigation. The 2012 Program Committee is now accepting abstracts to be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Annual Meeting concurrent technical sessions. Deadline is **October 30**. Proposed session topics include:

- Challenges of Natural Resource Management in a Changing Climate

- Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation
- Conservation Planning and Environmental Offsets: Tools for Species Recovery?
- Water Planning and Wildlife Conservation
- Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles
- Large Mammal and Big Game Ecology and Management
- Ecology and Management of Waterfowl and Wetlands
- Ecology and Management of Shorebirds
- Ecology and Management of Wildlife on Military Lands
- Conservation and Management of Carnivores
- Conservation and Management of Songbirds
- Wildlife Diseases and Pathology
- Ecology and Management of Upland Game Birds

Please see the Western Section's webpage, http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=216&Itemid=324, for more information and instructions on submitting abstracts.

Western Section Natural Resources Communication Workshop

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society has announced its "Natural Resources Communication Workshop" to be held at California State University, Chico, **January 9-13, 2012**. The week-long workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through presentations, using good visual aids, especially computer-generated PowerPoint images. The workshop's instructor is Dr. Jon Hooper, a Certified Wildlife Biologist and long-time member of TWS. The initial deadline for applications is **Friday, October 28**. For additional information, please contact Jon Hooper, (530) 898-5811, jhooper@csuchico.edu.

TWS National Annual Conference Registration

Registration for The Wildlife Society 18th Annual Conference is 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>. Deadline for the early registration is **October 7**. 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.

National conference events include a Women of Wildlife (WOW) Mixer/Reception, **Monday, November 7, from 5-6:30 PM**; and the Pollutants and Wildlife Management: Ecotoxicology workshop for Biologists and Land Managers, **Saturday, November 5**.

PAST EVENTS

TWS/AEP/PEMA Mixer Review

Randi Logsdon

The TWS/AEP/PEMA mixer was held at the River City Brewing Company in downtown Sacramento on July 21. Food and beverages were provided for free to all members, and non-members had an opportunity to join. The room was small and the space was crowded for the excellent turnout, as professional public- and private-sector environmental staff tipped beers with students and TWS board members. Interesting conversations filled the room as people shared, recruited, or sought out new opportunities with others, whether they worked in an office or in the field. An amazing theme of these mixers is how much common ground we share, no matter how diverse our backgrounds and positions are.

Free Brown Bag Seminar on Bats

Randi Logsdon



"White Nose Syndrome in Bats: What Every Biologist Needs to Know" was held August 9th at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife building on Cottage Way in Sacramento. Deanna Clifford, veterinarian and epidemiologist for the DFG Wildlife Investigation Lab and Research Associate at the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center described the history, clinical presentation, and conservation impacts of White Nose Syndrome (WNS), a fatal disease that has killed over one million bats in eastern North America since 2006. Efforts to detect and mitigate human-associated spread of WNS and current areas of research were discussed. The brown-bag was successful and brought in interested future members.

North Region Barbeque at Dye Creek Preserve

Michelle Havens

TWS members, family, and friends enjoyed a great time at the chapter BBQ at The Nature Conservancy's Dye Creek Preserve near Los Molinos on September 23. Even though the weather was very warm, we enjoyed a good time exploring the preserve, some even taking a dip in Dye Creek's swimming hole to cool off. Attendees also enjoyed bird watching, learning more about the Preserve, networking, and hamburgers fresh off the grill. Hope you can join us next time!

JOB and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A full-time, temporary position will be available on or after **9/29/11** with the Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP) at California State University, Stanislaus (CSUS). ESRP is a cooperative research program on biodiversity conservation administered by CSUS. The position is based out of the ESRP office in Turlock, but field sites are distributed throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The position is for field work and support to wildlife biologists in conducting field activities, for riparian mammal surveys, and to assist with routine office tasks, as well as equipment and vehicle maintenance. A CSUS application, cover letter, and resume are required to be considered a candidate. The application and detailed job announcement are available at <http://www.csustan.edu/HR> or at the Human Resources Dept, CSU Stanislaus, One University Circle, Turlock, CA 95382. PH 209/667-3354.

Wildlife genetics internship position at the Canid Diversity and Conservation Lab, Center for Veterinary Genetics at UC Davis (<http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/cdcg/home.php>). The Canid Diversity lab seeks 1-2 enthusiastic undergraduate students in their junior or senior year for the position of Wildlife Genetics Intern. Successful candidates will be trained in a variety of genetic techniques used to address wildlife management and conservation questions. The position requires a minimum 1-year commitment and weekly time commitment of 10 hours, divided in 2 or 3 blocks of 4-5 hours, so that lab procedures can be carried out. Internships may be extended for more than one year, and involve increasing responsibility and the potential to carry out small research projects. Internships are unpaid but course credit (199 units) can be arranged. Please forward your resume to Dr. Mark Statham (Statham@ucdavis.edu). Closing date is the **7th of October**.

Graduate Assistantship: The University of California Merced (UCM), the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Parks Service are seeking a highly motivated and talented applicant (Master's or PhD level) for a conservation genetics study of the Yosemite toad in Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. The student will apply to the Environmental Systems graduate program at UCM for the Fall 2012 semester (es.ucmerced.edu), to possibly begin field work during the summer of 2012. Candidates must have a B.S./B.A. degree in Genetics, Evolution, Ecology, or a related field, a GPA exceeding 3.0, and competitive GRE scores. Applicants must be in good physical condition and will be required to hike 10-15 miles/day over rough terrain, carry a 40 lb backpack and camp in the back country. To apply, email a single PDF file that includes a letter of interest describing your experience as it relates to this project, a CV, transcripts and GRE scores (unofficial copies of both are fine), and the name and contact information of 3 references to Dr. Andres Aguilar at aaquilar2@ucmerced.edu. Review of applications will begin **October 1, 2011** and continue until a suitable candidate is found.

Marine ecology undergraduate research opportunity.

The Stachowicz lab at UC Davis is looking for undergraduate volunteers to assist with laboratory work for an experiment in Bodega Bay, aimed at understanding the roles of nutrients and herbivory in determining the abundance of primary producers in eelgrass beds. Students will process samples to determine the growth of eelgrass during the experiment, the amount of algae that grew directly on the eelgrass blades, and the number of species and individuals of herbivores that are known to feed on algae and eelgrass. Volunteers should commit 10 hours of work each week for at least the Fall Quarter. For more information, contact Matt Whalen (mawhalen@ucdavis.edu).

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

New Scholarship and Internship Program

TWS, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the American Fisheries Society, is pleased to announce the creation of a new program called Diversity Matters. Successful applicants to this program will be first- or second-year college students interested in studying wildlife or fisheries subjects. Focus will be on under-represented, low-income students, minorities, women, and students with disabilities. Students will be given \$10,000/year scholarships, paid summer internships, and a guarantee of employment with the FWS after graduation. TWS is seeking members to serve on the scholarship selection committees and to be mentors for these rising wildlife/fisheries scholars. If you know of promising college students that fit the criteria of this program, please encourage them to apply in October, when the application becomes available on the TWS National web site. For more detailed information, please contact our Western Section President, John McNerney, jmcnerney@cityofdavis.org.

CESA Activity

On August 3, the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) received an evaluation from DFG of the petition to list the black-backed woodpecker. The DFG did not recommend forwarding the black-backed woodpecker to candidacy, though additional information received had not yet been evaluated. On September 15, the FGC received the DFG's report on the second petition to list the American pika. At the next meeting on **October 19** in Monterey, the FGC will receive public comments on the pika petition. Meeting summaries and videos are at the following link: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2011/>. Get involved by showing up to FGC meetings that discuss topics important to you.



Winter Swan Tours in Sacramento Valley

Join a DFG naturalist-led swan tour of Marysville's rice and waterfowl area this **November through January**. Co-hosted by local rice farmers and land owners, these tours will focus on finding tundra swans, as this tract is one of the best locations for seeing swans in California. Ducks, geese, cranes, shorebirds, white pelicans, herons, egrets and raptors, including bald eagles, are also commonly seen in this area. The area contains 23,000 acres of rice fields and restored habitat not normally open to the public. This is an excellent example of rice farming for wildlife habitat. Tours will be held **Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.** They are driving tours along a short route with very little walking required. Pre-registration is required on the DFG website, www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/2/SwanTours. Up to 30 people may register for each tour. The tours are free, but registrants are encouraged to make a donation online to the California Wildlife Foundation to support this program. For more information, call (916) 358-2852.

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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