



# The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 22, Issue 2

Summer 2014

## CHAPTER NEWS

Justin Garcia

We here at the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter (Chapter) of The Wildlife Society hope everyone is having a great summer.

With the change of the seasons, the Chapter newsletter has taken on a slightly new look; the logo is now in color, distinguishing it as a Yellow-billed magpie (*Pica nuttalli*), one of two bird species fully endemic to California (although, modern genetics could change that fun fact).

This reminds me, I was fortunate to visit the Kern River Valley in July and caught a glimpse of a Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), courtesy of the Southern Sierra Research Station (SSRS) and their training workshop. I encourage members to attend the SSRS survey training workshop next year (<http://www.southernsierraresearch.org>), and keep your eyes and ears open for the state-listed cuckoo in the Chapter region, as there is a small breeding population along the Sacramento River. In fact, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has proposed to list the cuckoo as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA); the Federal Register proposed rule can be found here: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-10-03/pdf/2013-23725.pdf>.

Take care, enjoy this issue of the Magpie, and hope to see you soon!

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

Over halfway through the year already, where has the time gone?! Hopefully everyone has been enjoying the summer field season, keeping yourselves cool and hydrated. Even I got to get out of my chair to spend a day giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) trapping with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and USGS. Read more about it on Fish and Wildlife Field Notes at <http://www.fws.gov/FieldNotes/>. It's great to get outside!



Your Chapter board continues to work hard to put on both technical and networking events for our members. The Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) Workshop was a success once again. Our brown bag talks have been fascinating and well-attended. Keep up with upcoming events on

our web page or follow us on Facebook! Have anything you'd like to see? Let us know!

Or if you want to be even more involved, consider joining a committee or even running for a Board position next year. If you're interested, feel free to contact myself or any of your Board members. I hope to see you all at upcoming events soon!

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## Executive Board Happenings

The Board met at Kupros Bistro back on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss a few important agenda items, such as the 2014 budget, past and upcoming events, and other Western Section and Chapter business.

The newly formed ad hoc Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) discussed ways the Chapter could participate with the Western Section's newly formed CAC, including a potential public screening of wildlife conservation films such as *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic of Our Time*. The Board also contemplated the idea of administering National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant, and may seek other TWS Chapter's for guidance.

Of interest, by majority vote the Board decided Kupros is a great venue to host future board meetings, with good parking, sofas, tasty ales and lagers, plus it's nice and quiet.

Read on for updates and reports from Chapter officers and board members.

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### Our Next Board Meeting

Our next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday **August 19**, from 5:30-7:30pm at Kupros Bistro (located at 1217 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Sacramento. Please feel free to attend and/or contact Cassidee (at [cassidee.shinn@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:cassidee.shinn@wildlife.ca.gov)) if you have a topic you'd like to add to the agenda. Check with our website or with a Board member to obtain more information on Board meeting details.

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## Membership

*Melinda Dorin-Bradbury*

Membership is stable with some additional new members from the Swainson's Hawk workshop and the spring social. We have 172 members but that number fluctuates throughout the year depending on the members we get through Western Section and National. If you have any questions about your membership, or are not receiving email notifications about events please notify me at [melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net). If you have an idea for a workshop or event that you are interested in please let a board member know. We are always looking for new topics for education and networking.

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## Professional Development Committee (PDC) Report

*Rhiannon Klingonsmith*

The PDC is currently considering a few potential events and the time/date/locations are TBD. The Chapter will be hosting a **Fall Mixer** in the Chico/Redding area (**August or September**) and a couple other tentative events in the northern region of the state, in addition to the brown-bag seminar with Dan Airola scheduled for **August 26** (see below for more information) and the **Natural Resources Symposium** on **November 12**. Other tentative events include: CEQA for Biologists Workshop and an Eagle workshop in **January 2015**.

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](http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/upcoming_events.php). If there are any activities or events you would like to participate in and help with, please notify the Chapter at [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com).

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## Chapter Representative to the Western Section Report

*Hal Holland*

The biggest issues revolved around the TWS national conference coming up this fall. The Section is providing Travel Support to Dr. Bryan

Cypher of CSU Stanislaus to receive an award, and we're providing an award for the annual Quiz Bowl. The Section is also exploring publishing a book called the "Wildlife Confessional Anthology"; if this moves forward, there would be a call for authors to submit stories to be included.

Other issues discussed at the previous board meeting included: a Field Camp in June which provided 4 units college credit; active tracking and participating in the Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) state policy development; scanning to create an electronic database of Wildlife Transactions, provided from the library of the late Dwight Yokem. Membership report indicates 763 current members.

In addition, there is ongoing planning for the January 2015 Annual Conference in Santa Rosa, and the 2016 conference is still being decided on between Riverside or Pomona.

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### 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.

We would like to thank everyone that attended the UC Davis student-professional mixer back in May. There was a good turnout of wildlife professionals from state and federal agencies, as well as biological consulting firms.

Many of our members and officers are out on summer vacation, but check the next edition of the Magpie for upcoming events in fall/winter 2014. Please visit our website for more information <https://sites.google.com/a/ucdavis.edu/wildlifesociet/>

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### Scholarships

*Tracy Walker*

The Chapter did not receive any scholarship applications for the June 1st deadline. We have a new 2014 budget for travel and academic

scholarships, so take the opportunity to get funding for your projects or to present at the next TWS western section or national meeting. The next deadline for academic scholarship applications is **December 1**. Travel scholarships are due at least two months before the event. We also now have a scholarship available for TWS certification. Get your applications in if you are interested! See our website for details on how to apply.

### UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Brown Bag Seminars for 2014

*Ona Alminas*

Bring your lunch and enjoy our next Brown Bag Seminar to be held Tuesday **August 26**, from 12:00-1:00pm at the CDFW's **Wildlife Branch**, located in downtown Sacramento at 1812 9<sup>th</sup> Street Sacramento, CA 95811. Presenting "Tri-colored blackbird breeding status in the central Sierran foothills, and its conservation implications," Dan Airola, President at Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, Inc. will discuss population status and nesting dynamics of tri-colored blackbirds in grassland and other habitats in the Sierra foothills.

There is 2-hour free and metered (quarters) parking along nearby streets. The main entrance to the Wildlife Branch is at the west side of the building along a parking lot/ alley, and once you enter, look for signs directing you to an upstairs conference room. Please sign in at the front desk upon your arrival. Feel free to contact Ona Alminas (at [chondestes44@gmail.com](mailto:chondestes44@gmail.com)) with parking or other questions. See you there!

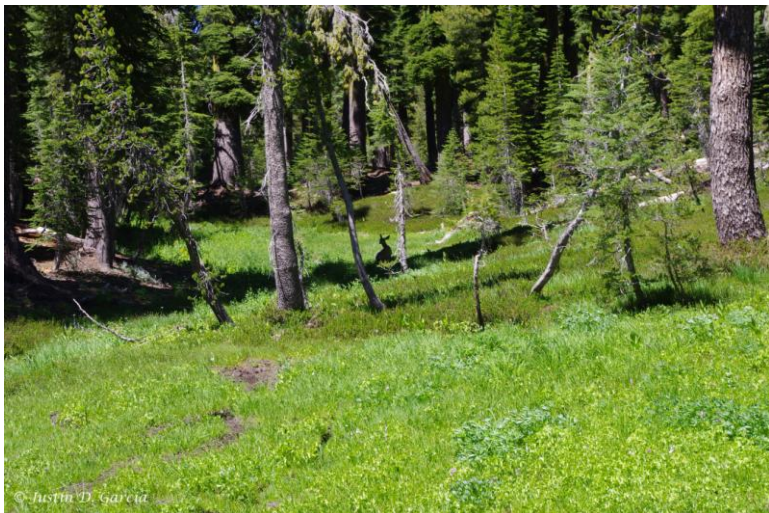
The Chapter is looking for other interested speakers and abstracts for upcoming brown-bag topics. Please send your abstracts to Rhiannon Klingonsmith at [rklingonsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:rklingonsmith@hotmail.com). Brown bag seminars are generally from noon to one. Attendees bring their lunches to listen 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.

## River Float and BBQ – Lassen Volcanic National Park Camping Trip

The Chapter is currently planning a weekend campout at Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP) in **September**. LVNP is home to smoking fumaroles, meadows freckled with wildflowers, clear mountain lakes, and numerous volcanoes. Join your fellow members and enjoy the beautiful sights at one of the Chapter's true gemstones. We will likely set up camp on the west side of the park, for easy access to hiking trails near Lassen Peak. Each camper will be responsible for their own entry fees.

We are also planning a float down the Sacramento River in **August**, between Turtle Bay and Anderson River Park. Refresh yourself from the heat with the cool waters of the Sacramento River. Based on confirmed participation, we will rent 6- or 8-person rafts, which everyone will chip-in for their seat and picnic in Anderson River Park--or along the way!

Contact Heather Kelly ([kelly@nsrnet.com](mailto:kelly@nsrnet.com)), the Chapter's Northern Area Representative, for more information.



Meadow at LVNP.

## 2014 Natural Resources Symposium Now Accepting Papers

The **Natural Resources Symposium** is scheduled for Wednesday **November 12** at the Sierra Health Foundation's Bannon Island room in Sacramento.

The symposium is an opportunity for wildlife professionals to present research on topics of wildlife ecology, management, conservation, education, or policy relevant to the Chapter membership area. If you are considering presenting at the symposium, please submit a short abstract (maximum 350 words) and biography to [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com). The submission deadline is **September 24, 2014**.

## TWS Western Section Announcements and Workshops

### *Western Wildlife – Now Accepting Papers*

The first volume of the Western Section's new journal, *Western Wildlife*, was published in June and is available at <http://www.wwijournal.org/>. Please consider submitting your manuscripts for future volumes of *Western Wildlife*.

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](mailto:dgermano@csu.edu). Papers will be peer-reviewed and then published on-line once accepted by the editor.

### *Natural Resources Communication Workshop*

The **Natural Resources Communication Workshop** will be held **January 5-9, 2015** in California State University, Chico and taught by Dr. Jon K. Cooper.

This workshop combines lecture and discussion to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using good visual aids.

The workshop focuses on the use of computer-generated images created with Microsoft's PowerPoint software. The workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

The initial deadline for applications is October 31, 2014 and the registration fee is \$795. More information can be found at: [http://www.tws-west.org/events/2015/Announce\\_2015\\_NRCW.pdf](http://www.tws-west.org/events/2015/Announce_2015_NRCW.pdf).

### *2015 TWS-Western Section Annual Conference in Santa Rosa, CA*

The Western Section Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa in **Santa Rosa** on **January 28-30, 2015**. The Section is considering a few different symposium topics and workshop ideas, and your input would be greatly appreciated. Send suggestions to Hal Holland ([hholland@westerveltecologicalservices.com](mailto:hholland@westerveltecologicalservices.com)) or to the Section PDC chair ([sirsnav@verizon.net](mailto:sirsnav@verizon.net)).

### **TWS National Announcements**

#### *Annual Conference – Pittsburg, PA*

The Wildlife Society's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in **Pittsburg, Pennsylvania** from **October 25-30, 2014**. Dual plenary sessions of "Making Science Relevant in Today's Society" and "Powerful Landscapes: Wildlife and Energy in North America" and a great mixture of field trips, symposia, meetings, and other events promises a great National meeting.

While the submission deadline for contributed papers and posters has passed, it's not too late to register online! Be sure to register by **August 31** to receive a discount on conference rates. For more information visit: <http://wildlifesociety.org/>.

### **PAST EVENTS**

#### **Student-Professional Hike – Table Mountain**

*Ona Alminas*



Sac-Shasta TWS members, local students and other environmental professionals enjoyed a spring morning perusing the biological wonders of Table Mountain.

UC Davis, Butte College and Sacramento City College students joined friends, state and private professionals for a spring hike at Table Mountain Ecological Reserve April 26, 2014. We glimpsed the tail end of the bloom season for the spectacular wildflower display at this unique volcanic reserve. A first-time trip for many students, many were mesmerized by the brilliant color and botanical diversity, as well as the stunning views of Phantom Falls. Students' discussions with environmental professionals ranged from plant and wildlife identification tips, examining hydrologic and vegetation features in identifying vernal pools, discussing land management benefits of cattle grazing to developing skills in preparation of careers in the consulting and government fields. Plans for a main trail are underway by CDFW to promote accessibility while helping to reduce off-trail impacts from the reserve's popularity. More information about North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/er/region2/northtable.html>

### 2014 Swainson's Hawk Workshop

Melinda Bradbury

Mike Bradbury taught a Swainson's Hawk workshop this spring that had a classroom day and a field component spread out

over the survey season. We had over 50 participants and due to the popularity of the field component we opened a Saturday field series. About 36 people took the field series. The workshop covered natural history, regulatory requirements and survey methodology as well as other things. The workshop received rave reviews.



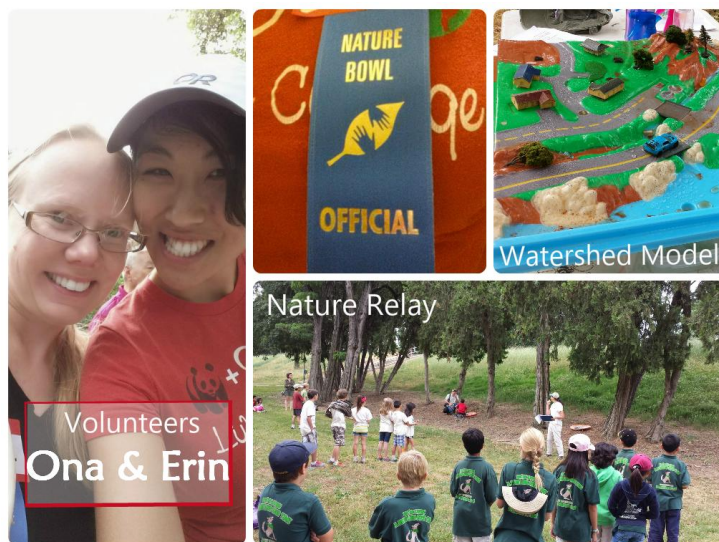
Swainson's Hawk workshop. Photo by Melinda Bradbury.

### Nature Bowl 2014 – Finals

Erin Aquino-Carhart

On May 17, 2014, your Chapter Secretary, Ona Alminas, and I had the pleasure of volunteering as Officials for the 2014 Nature Bowl Finals at CSU, Sacramento. Nature Bowl is an annual event where 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students from various schools compete in challenges that test their knowledge of ecology, biological conservation, and science; critical thinking skills; and creativity. Nature Bowl is the brainchild of CDFW Interpreter, Bruce Forman, hosted by CDFW, and supported by sponsors, including the American River Conservancy, the California Waterfowl Association, and the Yolo Basin Foundation.

Ona and I officiated over two challenges, Nature Investigations and the Nature Relay. Nature Investigations involves various outdoor stations where teams of three must investigate the materials provided to answer a set of questions for each station. For example, there were stations that required tree identification using the Pacific Coast Tree Finder or answering questions after observing a watershed model demonstration. Each Official was assigned a team, led them to each station, and recorded their answers. Many stations allotted less than 2 minutes for the teams to answer critical thinking questions; I was profoundly impressed by how bright and motivated these elementary school children were! I made sure to compliment the students and their coaches on their knowledge and to remark how I didn't learn how to use a dichotomous key or know what chaparral was until college.



The Nature Relay was an event where students are given an environmental concept or question, run to the assortment of provided items, and select one that appropriately addresses the prompt. A prompt could ask the students to find a non-renewable item, and the plastic bag or glass bottle would be correct answers. I officiated over the team to enforce the rules and discourage cheating, but the more interesting aspect of my participation was discussing students' rationales for their selections. When a student would select an item that may not fit the prompt, an Official would ask the student to justify his/her choice. Some answers were creative

and logically accurate and were awarded points. Others, however, were incorrect but used as a learning opportunity. For the prompt “forages in chaparral,” one student had mistaken “chaparral” to mean nighttime/nocturnal and selected a mountain lion. I explained to him what chaparral is and, being in a riparian parkway, was able to point out an example.

The Nature Bowl Finals were a lot of fun; I was thrilled to see so many young people interested in the sciences and excited about nature. Many of the Officials, myself included, openly praised the program and admitted that they wished that there were similar programs available when they were younger. I encourage everyone to participate in future Nature Bowls as a volunteer or simply a spectator, and you will be amazed by the acumen that these children have for conservation biology and ecology. We need to support programs like this to nurture the future generations of scientists and ecogroovy citizens.

### Spring Mixer – Fox and Goose

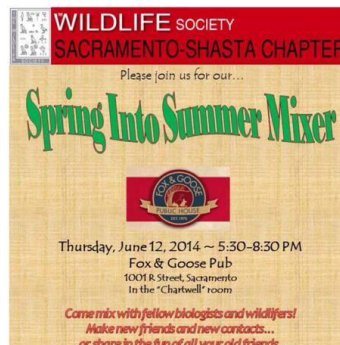
*Randi Logsdon*

Though I am no longer on the Board, I still take time out of my schedule to attend the Chapter's mixers, because of the great opportunity for networking and socializing with people in my field. The June 12<sup>th</sup> Spring mixer at the Fox and Goose was no exception: the food was great, the beer was flowing, and the conversations were productive and inspiring. There wasn't as big of a turnout as we have had in previous mixers, but I still had a great time talking with familiar faces from the Board and unfamiliar faces from the wildlife community. Even though I was unsure what I would talk about and to whom when I first arrived, I certainly didn't leave the mixer feeling disappointed. That adds to a long history of being glad I showed up to the Chapter's social events. I hope to meet some more of you, especially new members, at the next mixer!

### Brown Bag – Cosumnes River Preserve

On June 26 Mariah Brumbaugh, the Bureau of Land Management wetland manager for the Cosumnes River Preserve, presented on the challenges of managing protected land for multiple

species during consecutive drought years. The CDFW Wildlife Branch conference room was packed with attentive listeners, and the floor opened to a nice discussion following Mariah's talk. The Chapter thanks Mariah for presenting at another successful brown-bag seminar.



### Summer Mixer – River Cats Game

*Erin Aquino-Carhart*

After the success of the first Sac-Shasta Chapter River Cats group outing last year, the Board decided to hold another one on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Although we did not have as many attendees as the previous year, we had a great time watching the game and spending time with each other. Nate Freiman was the MVP of the evening with two runs in the fourth inning and a home run in the sixth. The crowd, which was energetic and jovial to begin with, was sent into frenzy with Freiman's homer. Shark Week was kicked off with a shark themed day at Raley Field. Few folks dressed for the occasion, but the Jaws clips shown on the big screen and shark puppet distributing swag from the balcony were fairly entertaining.

Since we did not meet the ticket sales expected for the evening, there are still 11 tickets available for a Sunday through Thursday home game in August. If you're interested in attending a game, please

contact me. (I highly recommend watching a game on a Thirsty Thursday for their drink specials!)



## 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](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

Join **Cosumnes River Preserve** staff and visitors for several events this summer and fall, from kayak paddling in the Preserve to bird walks and habitat restoration opportunities. Check out the Preserve's activities page for upcoming events! <http://www.cosumnes.org/upcoming-activities/>

## Other Events and Items of Interest

The 99th Annual **Ecological Society of America Meeting**, "From oceans to Mountains: It's all Ecology" is happening at the Sacramento Convention Center **August 10-15, 2014**. An

exciting new vision that ESA is promoting towards its centennial conference in Baltimore (2015) is the Earth Stewardship Initiative, which bridges ecological principles and science to landscape and urban design. Yale's Urban Ecology & Design Lab (School of Forestry & Environmental Studies) and Sacramento region professors, landscape consultants and municipal agency stakeholders have teamed up with over 20 graduate research fellows (including your secretary) from universities across the country to brainstorm applied ecological principles in a demonstration project promoting environmental, wildlife and urban resilience along the "jewel of Sacramento," the American River Parkway. Many potential new opportunities abound for our chapter with this project! Check it out at <http://www.earthstewardshippesa2014.com/>

The joint annual meeting of **American Ornithologists' Union** (132<sup>nd</sup> stated meeting), **Cooper Ornithological Society** (84 stated meeting), and **Society of Canadian Ornithologists** will be held in Estes Park, Colorado from **September 23-28, 2014**. Registration is \$400, and \$250 for students, prior to September 1. The program and agenda details are found here: <https://www.birdmeetings.org/aoucossco2014/default.asp>.

For more information on other upcoming wildlife conferences, check out: <https://www.birdmeetings.org/> and <http://www.mammalsociety.org/meetings>.



Golden-mantled ground squirrel - Lassen Peak.



*Official State Amphibian*

As of June 18, California now has an official state amphibian: the **California red-legged frog** (*Rana draytonii*), a federally-listed threatened and state species of special concern endemic to the Chapter's region. CDFW has worked for many years to conserve and restore populations of this rare species. By declaring the California red-legged frog the official state amphibian of California, the Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown acknowledge the species' important place in the ecology, culture and history of California. It also broadcasts and reinforces the state's commitment to protecting its rare resources, which include amphibians.



CA red-legged frog. Photo by David Hacker, CDFW.

And in case you didn't know already, as of June 30, 2014, a few other amphibians endemic to the Sierra Nevada mountain range were listed as threatened and endangered under the federal ESA: Yosemite toad (*Anaxyrus canorus*), Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*), and the northern distinct population of southern mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*).

<http://www.fws.gov/cno/press/release.cfm?rid=601>

For more information on pending California legislation concerning wildlife and natural resources, check out the CDFW legislative report here: [http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2014/aug/Exhibits/25E.2\\_DFWLegReport\\_07222014.pdf](http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2014/aug/Exhibits/25E.2_DFWLegReport_07222014.pdf).

*From Billions to None*

Post-production of the film *From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction* is nearly completed. Now the filmmakers are in the final push to raise funds to hire an experienced distribution consultant to ensure wide airing on public television, tentatively scheduled for a Fall 2014 airing. For more information: <http://e-int.com/billionstonone/index.html>.

**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 member.*



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Smokey view from Lassen Peak during the Reading Fire in 2012.



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