

NEWSLETTER

May 2001

Message from the Newsletter Editor

by Amy Fesnock

Hello, I am Amy Fesnock and the Newsletter Editor of the Wildlife Society San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. I am currently the wildlife biologist for Pinnacles National Monument, a 24,000 acre NPS-unit south of San Jose. If you have never had the chance to visit, I highly encourage you to come on down. It is a beautiful, quaint park that many people don't know exists.

My goal, as newsletter editor, is to help the President achieve his goal of improving communication among our members. We are attempting to have quarterly news, but that requires articles to be submitted. I encourage all of you to submit articles to be included in the Wandering Tattler, like the one included about Condors at Pinnacles NM. This newsletter is a tool to share not only the Chapter sponsored activities but also the wildlife happenings in our own backyard. Please note the newsletter mailing dates, their associated deadlines, and my address. I'll be looking for your articles.

Newsletter Deadlines

Do you want to be involved? Submit articles to the Chapter Newsletter

Deadline	Mailing Date
February 28	March 15
May 30	June 15
Aug 30	September 15
November 30	December 15

Please submit electronic articles to amy_fesnock@nps.gov or

Submit hardcopies to:
Amy Fesnock
Pinnacles National Monument
5000 Hwy 146
Paicines, CA 95043

Pinnacles NM considered for Condors

by Amy Fesnock

Pinnacles National Monument is being considered for the next release site for the California Condor Recovery Efforts. This is a very exciting possibility, as condors used to nest in the monument at the turn of the century and were regularly sighted through the 1970's. If all goes well, chicks will arrive at the park in January 2002. These chicks would be free flying in April. Additional releases would occur for the next 3-5 years until the population reached 20 young. It has been determined that more than 20 young condors in a given place is asking for trouble, since condors tend to be very curious birds. This venture will be a joint effort by the Ventana Wilderness Society, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

Public meetings will be held to discuss the condor release. Considering the potential release site is well south of the South Bay, the northern-most meeting will be in Campbell on April 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Campbell Community Center, 1 W. Campbell Ave.. If you have strong feelings about this possibility, please come to this meeting. Or, email your comments to: kellysorenson@ventanaws.org or mail to: Kelly Sorenson, Ventana Wilderness Society, PO Box 894, Carmel Valley, CA 93924. You can get additional information at www.ventanaws.org.

Is Your Membership Current?

by Jessica Martini-Lamb

Following is a list of new and renewing members as of March 1, 2001. If you renewed your membership prior to March 1st and are not on this list, contact Jessica Martini-Lamb at jesmartini@hotmail.com.

Chris Adams	Rayna Hiscox
Gary Ahlborn	Brian Hunter
Mark Allaback	Michael Jaeger
Sarah Allen	Dave Johnston
Barrett Anderson	Nathan Jones
Keith Babcock	John Kelly
Shannon Bane	Barbara Kermeen
Reginald Barrett	Margaret Kolar
Nadine Barter Bowlus	Thomas Kucera
Jonathan Bayless	Timothy Lacy
Gary Beeman	Philip Leitner
Steven Bobzien	Matt Lorne
Mary Boland	Corinna Lu
Monica Bond	Sarah Lynch
Roy Bridgman	Jessica Martini-Lamb
Kenneth Burton	Dale McCullough
Sheila Byrne	Neal Mettler
Michael Carbiener	Joseph Miyamoto
Christine Champe	Geoffrey Monk
David Cook	Sue Orloff
J. David Sterner	Wayne Padley
Carol Demuth	Terry Palmisano
Joseph Didonato	Elizabeth Radtke
Joseph Drennan	Dave Riensche
Ronald Duke	Thomas Roberts
Matthew Durmin	Don Rocha
Gary Fellers	Aviva Rossi
Thomas Felts	Lourdes Rugee
Amy Fesnock	James Scarff
William Fischer	Martha Schaus
Allen Fish	Susan Shideler
Anne Flannery	Steven Singer
Steven Foreman	Jerry Smith
Jerry Gerald	Dawn Soles
Geoffrey Geupel	Karen Swaim
Raymond Gipson	John Takekawa
William Goggin	Trish Tatarian
Steve Granholm	Kevin Torres
Kass Green	Bradley Valentine
Keith Guenther	Marshall White

Joseph Harn
John Harris
Roger Harris
Jane Hicks

Carl Wilcox
Jon Winter
Bryan Winton
Ellen Woodard

If We Have Not Received Your Chapter Membership Dues

by David Cook

We want to keep you as an active San Francisco Bay Area Chapter member. As of the printing of this newsletter, we have not received your membership dues for 2001. Chapter dues are a bargain at \$4. Your dues help pay for chapter and regional activities, and production of our "Wandering Tattler" newsletter. Please send your dues to the below address and include your name, mailing address, and email address. If you have any questions contact Jessica Martini-Lamb at (707) 795-9564.

Jessica Martini-Lamb
3643 Diablo Street Napa,
California 94558

Make checks payable to TWS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter.

Summary of the Annual Chapter Meeting

by Jessica Martini-Lamb

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter held its annual meeting at the Western Section Conference in Sacramento on February 23, 2001. Twenty-four members, including chapter officers, attended the meeting. The meeting opened with a summary of the chapter's status: there are approximately 82 current members and the chapter has approximately \$10,900.00 in funds. David Cook, Chapter President, announced the upcoming bat workshop planned for fall 2001. Chapter members discussed potential spring activities, including a trip to Big Basin State Park to observe marbled murrelet, and a tour of projects and recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife land acquisitions in the south Bay. Steve Bobzien offered to organize a spring camping to Camp Ohlone, possibly in June (see summary of the Camp Ohlone trip held in fall 2000).

Nominations for upcoming elections were discussed. Phil Leitner, Chapter Representative to the Western Section, announced that John Harris has been nominated to replace him as Chapter Representative to the Western Section. No nominations for President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer have been received. If anyone is interested in running, please contact David Cook or Jessica Martini-Lamb. A non-elected, volunteer position as the Chapter Representative to the Western Section Professional Development Committee (charged with organizing career-development workshops) is also available. Contact Phil Leitner if you are interested.

Potential changes to the chapter by-laws, including allowing for elections via mail or email and a chapter fee increase, was also discussed. A chapter fee increase (from \$4/year up to \$10/year) would help fund production of a regular newsletter and upcoming activities. Potential changes to the by-laws will be distributed to chapter members for approval. Once approved, changes will be submitted to the national office of The Wildlife Society for final approval.

Phil Leitner discussed the Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) Program with the members. The COWCH program is an effort to produce an oral history of wildlife biologists and others that have contributed to the profession. Suggested interviewees included Howard Shellhammer, Dr. Ross from CalAcademy, Seth Benson, Joel Hedgpath, Cogswell, Bob Bowman, and Dr. Stebbins, and Elizabeth Triliger. Steve Bobzien and Joe Didonato will head the interview committee for our chapter. Please contact Steve, Joe, or Phil if you are interested in becoming an interviewer or have suggestions for interviewees.

Additional items of interest discussed included the recent update of the chapter web site by Chuck Brown (www.tws-west.org/bayarea); the need for nominations for the 2002 section awards (nominations can be passed on to Phil Leitner); and requests from chapter members for access to the list of member email addresses. Jessica Martini-Lamb will make the list available to chapter members only and will send out a general email message when it is ready. If you do not want your email address to be made available, contact her at jmartini@hotmail.com.

Following the meeting, Amy Fesnock graciously volunteered to be our Newsletter Editor. All of the chapter officers want to thank Amy for supporting the chapter and look forward to working with her.

Recap of the Camp Ohlone Camp-Out

by Jessica Martini-Lamb

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its second annual Camp Ohlone family camp-out in October 2000. Chapter members and their families (approximately 20 people) spent the weekend at Camp Ohlone in the Sunol Regional Wilderness (part of the East Bay Regional Parks District). Saturday's activities included dip-netting for juvenile California red-legged frogs (by permitted biologists, of course) and searching for California tiger salamander tadpoles. No tiger salamanders were observed, but everyone had the opportunity to see adult red-legged frogs, western garter snakes, newts, and interesting invertebrates. Children and adults were excited by observations of a tarantula, deer, sharp-shinned hawk, and bobcat on the way back to camp. Saturday evening, Gary Fellers, Chris Corben, and Doug Padley set up bat monitoring equipment. Several bat species were captured and Gary gave everyone a good look at each individual and an explanation of their life history. Several participants searched for red-legged frogs in Alameda Creek and a large adult was observed by all. On Sunday, the group spent the morning hiking up Alameda Creek before heading home.

Special thanks go to Steve Bobzien, Past President of the chapter, for organizing the camp-out again.

Ecology and Conservation of Bats

by David Cook

We are developing a workshop on the ecology and conservation of bats. A tentative date for the workshop is Saturday, September 8, 2001. The workshop will be hosted by Dr. Gary Fellers and will be located in Point Reyes, Marin County. The agenda will include an afternoon of discussing bat biology, bat laws/permits, and methods for studying, catching, and monitoring bats. After dinner out on the town, we will catch bats and monitor them with ultrasonic detectors. More details about the workshop and how to sign up will be included in our next newsletter.

Spot Light on our Members: TWS Annual Conference

by David Cook

The following San Francisco Bay Area Chapter members presented at this year's annual conference of the Western Section held in Sacramento. Our hats are off to them!

- **Reginald Barrett** - Avoidance of Camera Stations by Alpha Coyotes (Poster)
- **Dave Cook** - Ecological Studies of an Isolated Population of California Tiger Salamander in Sonoma County
- **Joe DiDonato** - An East Bay Regional Parks Wildlife Manager's Perspective
- **Geoffrey Geupel** - Partners in Flight Riparian Bird Conservation Plan Implementation
- **Gary Fellers** - Recent Observations of Chytridiomycosis Among Amphibians in California
- **Gary Fellers** - Biological Effects of Pesticides on Declining Amphibian Populations in the Sierra Nevada

- **Gary Fellers** - Effects of Agricultural Pesticides on Translocated Egg Masses and Tadpoles of the Pacific Treefrog in Lassen, Yosemite, and Sequoia National Parks
- **Steve Foreman** - Restoration of Formerly Diked and Filled Bayland to Tidal Salt Marsh, San Francisco Bay
- **Michael Jaeger** - Avoidance of Camera Stations by Alpha Coyotes (Poster)
- **Phil Leitner** - Current Status of the Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*)
- **Dale Mccullough** - Long Term Decline in the Deer Population in Mendocino County
- **Thomas Roberts** - Owls in Wonderland: the Strange Sad Story of Burrowing Owl Conservation in the Bay Area
- **Lourdes Rugge** - Avian Risk Behavior and Mortality Assessment at the Altamont Wind Resource Area, Livermore, California