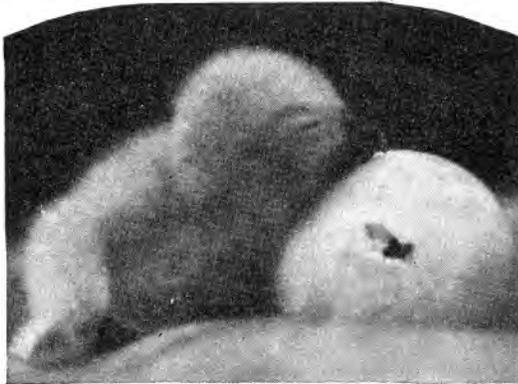


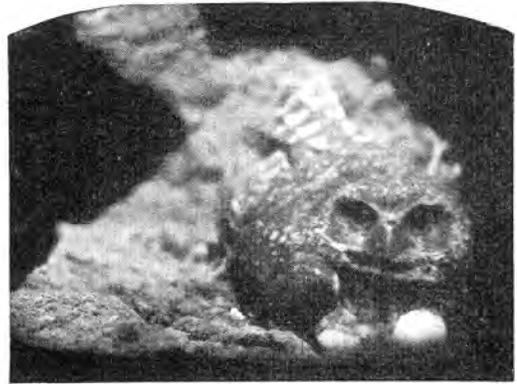


The Wandering Tattler
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
The Wildlife Society
1220 Forest Creek Drive
Hollister, CA 95023

•Notes from Afield•

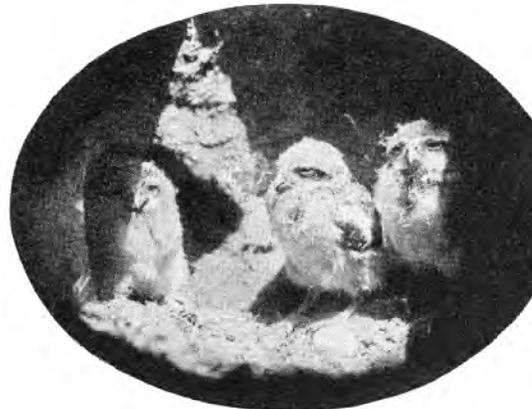


(Left) HASN'T
SCRATCHED YET
*Note the chisel-like
horn on the end of
the beak*



(Right) THEY
SHALL NOT PASS
*The mother, resenting
the camera, protects
the eggs*

Author and photographer Lewis W. Walker was able to capture these intimate underground shots of a female burrowing owl and her young by tunneling into the nest chamber and installing a pane of glass. A second pane of glass installed “sky-light” fashion provided the necessary light. After his subjects grew accustomed to their remodeled surroundings, Walker was able to record these Kodak moments. [MB]



Walker, Lewis W. 1929. “The Sub-Cellar Birds: Burrowing Owls of the Desert.” *Nature Magazine*. pp 276-277.



THE WANDERING TATTLER

The San Francisco Bay Area
Chapter Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here and the grass is green, trees are leafing out, the winter chill has passed, and migrant birds are returning for the nesting season.

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of The Wildlife Society has sprung into action too. This year we have a number of individual projects to work on and several long term programs to get underway. Like a tree spreading its limbs, the Chapter has a solid trunk on which to leaf out in many directions; to capture the sun's rays and produce a bountiful harvest for all of our members and colleagues.

With the new year I took over the position of Chapter President from Brian Pittman who did a good job. I would like to thank Brian for his hard work on behalf of the Chapter and its members. This year the Chapter's Executive Board remains unchanged and this gives us an opportunity to build on earlier work. Jessica Martini will continue as the Chapter Representative to The Western Section and Christine O'Rourke will continue as the Secretary Treasurer.

Many of you in the Bay Area Chapter don't know me and

I have only met a few of you. I hope to change this over the next 12 months.

Editor's Note:

As a newcomer to both the Chapter and the Tattler's reins, I'd like to first and foremost welcome everyone to the Spring 2004 issue of the Tattler - It's Back. If you haven't already, take a moment and thumb through the pages. You'll notice the Tattler has undergone a facelift, and as I'm green when it comes to the content of past years, I've decided to experiment a little. For example, **Notes from Afield** will feature historical illustrations or photographs from the notes and journals of those biologists that came before us, while **Hot Off the Press** will spotlight new field guides or books relevant to our profession, as well as theses and papers published recently by chapter members. And since this is your newsletter, I ask for your input, your opinions, and your written contributions. I look forward to hearing from you...

*Matthew Bettelheim, Editor
blackfish@nasw.org*

I grew up in the suburbs of southern California. I was fortunate to live relatively close to the mountains and enjoy many family experiences in wild places. In the late 70's and early 80's I attend Humboldt State where I earned a BS degree in Wildlife Management. I bounced around California and Nevada for a few years getting practical experience in temporary positions before returning to graduate school in 1987.

After spending several years living in the field I finally earned an M.S. degree in Biology from Cal Poly Pomona. I tried my luck at consulting for a few years and I headed the re-emergence of the Southern California Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I returned to school once more, but fortunately for me, this just didn't work out. I went back to southern California and consulting for a few more years before I was hired in my present position at the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Throughout most of my career I have been involved in The Wildlife Society at the Chapter or Section level. Now I am willing to try my hand at the Bay Area Chapter. I have lots of ideas about what this chap-



ter of TWS can do. At the recent Western Section Annual Meeting, one of the long term members of the Chapter told me I was dangerous. Given the context, I took this as a compliment.

In the pages that follow are some of the ideas we discussed at the Chapter Meeting held during the Western Section Annual Meeting. There are many others which will be brought up in future newsletters. Not only am I going to reach out to all of you, I am willing to take input and ideas and try to find a way to give them an opportunity.

Doug Padley, SFBA Chapter President

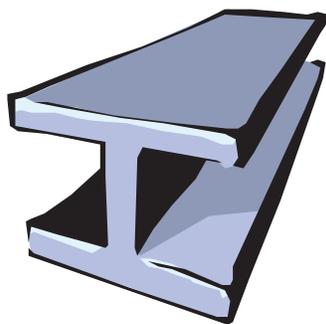
Training CDs

BRIEFS

The California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are beginning to require training for construction workers and others at work sites where sensitive species may be found. Currently individual biologists need to develop and present this training to their clients, agencies and contractors.

There is an opportunity for the Chapter to develop multi-media training materials that can be used as part of these training requirements.

By developing this information, the Chapter will help to ensure that sound, basic information is available to everyone and that a consistent message is presented. These training materials will not substitute for the biologist who will give the training, but the materials will compliment their training.



Biologists will still be required to address site-specific issues and requirements.

GEAR HEAD

In the Market for New Toys?:

Sierra Trading Post (www.sierratradingpost.com)
•Outdoor apparel and gear

Ben Meadows Company www.benmeadows.com)
•Outdoor supplies and equipment

Duluth Trading Co. (www.duluthtrading.com)
•Outdoor apparel, tools, and equipment

Cabelas (www.cabelas.com)
•Hunting, Fishing, Camping and Outdoor gear

Forestry Suppliers (www.forestry-suppliers.com)
•Forestry and environmental science equipment

We have not started to work on this project but will begin in the near future. Those species for which material should be developed include the California clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, snowy plover, least tern, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and others. We need your help in putting this material together. [DP]

Future Workshops

Workshops are the primary professional development activity of the Bay Area Chapter. Historically, these workshops have been well attended and have helped generate income for the chapter. This year we will continue to offer workshops. We anticipate 2 or 3 workshops this year and a similar number in 2005.

Topics under consideration at this time are: DNA and Conservation Genetics; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Permits and Permit Processing; Data and Field Note Management and Archiving; and Bird Banding. Additional topics will be considered as they are recommended.

Workshops do take some effort to pull together. We need your help. If you are interested in any of these topics please volunteer to help put them together. If you have ideas about other workshops, please let us know. [DP]

Calendar of Events

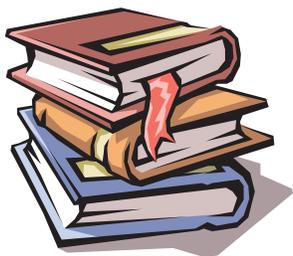
In this newsletter we have outlined a wide variety of activities and projects. In order to undertake all of these activities we need to plan a year to 18 months in advance. This year we'd like to plan for both this year and next year so we can provide members information as much as



a year in advance, making it easier for individuals and agencies to plan their training schedules and budgets. Additionally, all of this information will be placed on the Chapter's web page for reference. We will also investigate the development and printing of a Chapter calendar that will have these activities already on the calendar pages. The printed calendar may include photographs from chapter members. Stay tuned. [DP]

Biologists Directory

The Chapter is initiating an effort to create the first "Directory of Biologists in the San Francisco Bay Area." This directory is more than just a listing of Chapter members. It will list biologists living and working in the area, and will include both chapter and non-chapter members alike. The directory will likely list biologists three different ways: 1) alphabetically by last name; 2) by area of expertise; and 3) by employer.



We are also looking at ways to include this information on the Chapter's web page in a password protected area.

We have begun to establish a committee to work on this directory and we need your help. First, we can use Chapter member's help on the

committee. We need enthusiastic team players with good organizational skills. Second, we need members to help us develop a list of potential participants in the directory. Please open your address books and send us names, street addresses, and e-mail addresses of your colleagues, acquaintances, and business associates. Everyone we have an address for will be contacted about participating in the directory. Participation is voluntary. [DP]

HOT OFF THE PRESS...

Recently Published:

Mammals of California (Revised Edition): California Natural History Guides #66, by E.W. Jameson, Jr., and Hans J. Peeters. University of California Press, 2004, 440 pages, \$19.95 PB, \$39.95 HC (www.ucpress.edu).

Sierra Nevada Natural History (Revised Edition): California Natural History Guides #73, by Tracy I. Storer, Robert L. Usinger, and David Lukas. University of California Press, 2004, 560 pages, \$24.95 PB, \$55.95 HC (www.ucpress.edu).

Freshwater Fishes of California (Revised Edition): California Natural History Guides #77, by Samuel M. McGinnis. University of California Press, 2004, 528 pages, \$19.95 PB, \$39.95 HC (www.ucpress.edu).

Introduction to California Beetles: California Natural History Guides #78, by Arthur V. Evans and James N. Hogue. University of California Press, 2004, 316 pages, \$16.95 PB, \$39.95 HC (www.ucpress.edu).

Atlas of the Biodiversity of California, Edited by Monica Parisi. State of California, The Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, 2004, 103 pages, \$20.00 PB (www.dfg.ca.gov).

If you'd like to share a recently published thesis, journal article, book, etc., contact the Editor at:
blackfish@nasw.org

Board Policy

This year the Executive Board gave a grant for one student to attend and present a paper at the Western Section Annual Conference. The Chapter's Executive Board will be taking up this subject during 2004. Our goal will be to establish a policy on student grants and on a means to fund those grants. [DP]

Symposia

Research and management activities are being conducted and employed throughout the Bay Area. It is difficult for all of us to keep up to date on the latest developments. To help maintain our level of understanding, the Bay Area chapter is initiating a series of symposia. The intent of the symposia is to have a low-key exchange of information on individual topics.

We encourage people to participate in these symposia with "works in progress." We also encourage students to participate in these symposia.

We are anticipating three symposia per year. The topic of each symposium will be a class of animals or other

grouping, or a specific habitat type. For example, the first symposium could be on amphibians followed by a symposium on mammals and then one on salt marshes. We anticipate it will take 2 to 2.5 years to go through the list of symposia, which will then repeat itself as an ongoing program.

We will be looking to sponsor these symposia in association with the various universities in the Bay Area. We are also looking to co-sponsor these symposia with other organizations.

We are organizing a committee to work on these symposia. We need your help. The more people involved, the easier it will be for everyone. [DP]

Oral Histories

Throughout the Bay Area there are individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of wildlife management. Some are well known, while others may not be so well known. All of these individuals have interesting stories to tell about their careers and our local wildlife heritage. Now we'd like to give them an opportunity to tell their stories through an oral history program.

The idea is to capture their stories on film and make them available to Chapter members. We will also work with local or university libraries to not only make these resources available to a larger audience, but also to archive the interviews.

We can use your help with this project. We need the names and contact information for people you believe should be interviewed. We also need people to help conduct the interviews, edit the tapes, and make them available to Chapter members. We are setting up a committee to conduct the interviews and to develop criteria for who should be interviewed. We will also establish guidelines for how the



interviews should be conducted and how they'll be distributed. [DP]

Volunteers Needed

The Chapter has a variety of activities described in this newsletter and all of our members are invited to participate in these activities and programs. In order to make these activities and programs a success we need a few of you to volunteer to work with us to make these things happen. The more people who volunteer the less work for everyone.

Please consider volunteering 15 or 20 hours to one of these projects to make them a reality. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Doug Padley at (408) 629-4367 or dougpadley@att.net. Your help will be appreciated by all of your colleagues. [DP]

The Western Section (WS) of the Wildlife Society held its 2004 Annual Conference and 50th Anniversary celebration from February 25 to 28 in Rohnert Park. A success-

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

ful 1?-day Biometrics Workshop preceded the conference. Highlights of the conference included awards to Robert Stebbins (along with a great introduction by chapter member, Gary Fellers) and C.J. Ralph, the 50th Anniversary celebration at the banquet, and a plenary session that featured many past WS officers. Overall, the conference was well attended and netted the Western Section approximately \$25,000 in profit.

If you attended the annual business meeting, you already heard about the WS's dire financial state. Since the Annual Conference, the WS financial situation has not improved. As of March 24, 2004, WS is without paid staff. The Executive Director, Barbara Rocco, has gra-

COLD PRESSED...

Recently Reprinted:

A Natural History of Raccoons (Reprint), by Dorcas MacClintock. Blackburn Press, 2003, 144 pages, \$19.95 PB (www.blackburnpress.com).

Coyotes: Biology, Behavior and Management (Reprint), Edited by Marc Bekoff. Blackburn Press, 2001, 384 pages, \$49.95 PB (www.blackburnpress.com).

ciously offered to continue with tasks to keep the Section's business running (e.g. depositing checks, receiving bills and correspondence). In the meantime, Section President John Harris and other WS board members will pick up duties to keep the WS running. WS has insufficient funds to pay the DoubleTree bill for the 2004 Annual Conference (even with the \$25,000 profit). Additional funds are expected in the coming months, including membership dues, hotel refunds, and outside sponsorships. The WS board is looking into several options to help fill the gap in the short-term, including a small business loan, use of the Section's existing credit line, and possibly loans from other chapters. The North Coast and Hawaii chapters have offered a \$5,000 loan to the WS to help cover the DoubleTree bill from the 2004 conference.



documents, proposed changes to environmental laws, and other documents bearing on wildlife conservation or the use of science and scientific data in wildlife conservation. The Committee prepares comments and position statements on behalf of the Western Section. If you are interested, please contact Kevin Hunting (Khunting@dfg.ca.gov).

The WS board is open to ideas for possible workshops or other events. If you have any suggestions about events you would like to see, or questions or comments for the WS board, please send an email to jessicam@scwa.ca.gov or call me at (707) 547-1903.

Jessica Martini, SFBA Chapter Representative

Additional steps are being evaluated to boost WS's funds and to continue to provide professional development services to members. The Professional Development Committee (PDC) has two fall workshops in the early planning stages and a statistics workshop planned for late summer, as well as regional professional certification workshops. The PDC will also continue to evaluate opportunities for smaller activities, such as field trips or one-day workshops that may be moved from region to region. The WS board will also continue to look at fundraising opportunities from corporate and community sponsors and grant programs.

Looking towards the future, the 2005 Annual Conference is planned for January 19 to 22, 2005, in Sacramento. Please contact President-Elect Cynthia Perrine (cperrine@uclink.berkeley.edu) with suggestions for sessions or if you are interested in helping with conference planning.

If you are interested in working with the WS in developing professional development opportunities for members, the Professional Development Committee is looking for assistance. Contact Cynthia Perrine (cperrine@uclink.berkeley.edu) or Rhys Evans (rhys_evans@eee.org) if you are interested. The Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) is also looking for assistance. The CAC reviews environmental planning

-Noteworthy-

In early January, 2004, wildlife biologist Kim Briones was driving along Sir. Francis Drake Blvd. at Point Reyes National Seashore when she observed a bobcat (Felis rufus) atop a power pole. She observed the cat for upwards of five minutes, during which time the cat appeared undisturbed, assessing its surroundings - Contact kimbriones@yahoo.com for details 🐾 On February 29, 2004, wildlife biologist Matthew Bettelheim observed a river otter (Lutra canadensis) at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek, CA, patrolling the perimeter of the lake [3 photos taken] - Contact blackfish@naew.org for details.

*If you'd like to share a noteworthy observation from the field, contact the Editor at: blackfish@naew.org
Contributions may be edited for length and clarity.*

