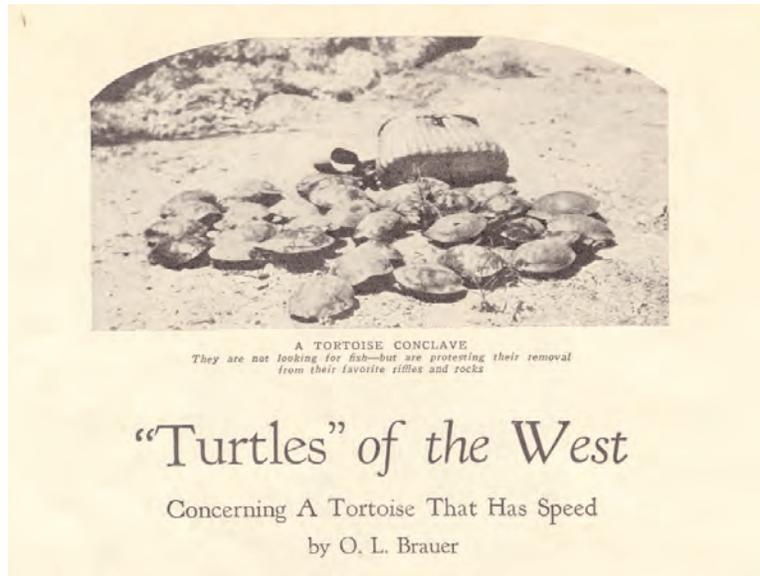




The Wandering Tattler
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
The Wildlife Society
1776 Botelho Drive, #214
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

•Notes from Afield•



The author of this 1929 article on “pond tortoises” (the western pond turtle) collected an estimated 30 turtles, depicted here “protesting their removal from their favorite riffles and rocks”. Brauer wrote: “The number of tortoises that live in a small stream is quite large. I counted nine dozen in a distance of three miles up one small creek; ten individuals were in one riffle.” [MB]



THE WANDERING TATTLER

The San Francisco Bay Area
Chapter Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All around us there are pleas for help of one type or another. The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter has heard these calls and after some discussion among our board members, we responded. The Western Section asked for financial assistance and we responded with a \$1,000.00 grant. The Wildlife Society Endowment Fund requested assistance and we responded with a \$1,000.00 donation. Over the years, members of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter have been generous with both time and money. Your generosity has made it easier for the Chapter Board members to accomplish their tasks.

During the last year several individuals in the Chapter have taken leading roles in moving our efforts forward. I believe we should recognize these individuals and show them our appreciation. During the last year Jessica Martini has carried on most of the administrative work of the Chapter in her role as Chapter Representative to the Western Section. Jessica has filled this role for several years and almost single handedly kept the Chapter running.

Matthew Bettelheim, Dave Cook, Jon Winters, and James Castle have taken up the call to develop workshops for the Chapter. These efforts are beginning to pay off with this year's Western Pond Turtle Workshop. They are also working on a conservation genetics and breeding raptor workshop. Please let them know what a good job they are doing.

Workshops 2005 Symposiums

Western Pond Turtle
Workshop:
Ecology and Conservation
April 16-17th

Mohave Ground Squirrel
Workshop
April 16-17th

Bat Symposium
October 17-19th

Mark Dedon, Kelly Collins, and Reg Barrett have been working diligently to put together the infrastructure for a Bay Area Directory of Biologists. I believe the directory is about ready to accept input from members and non-members alike. I am sure we will hear more at our next Chapter meeting to be held at Western Section Annual Meeting in Sacramento.

As we close out this calendar year the Chapter continues to operate. These operations are only as successful as individual members make them. Please join with me to support the ongoing Chapter activities and consider working with the Chapter on other activities.

Doug Padley, SFBA Chapter
President

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The following is a summary of the Western Section (WS) of the Wildlife Society's activities in 2004. The WS held its 2004 Annual Conference and 50th Anniversary Celebration from February 25 to 28th in Rohnert Park. A successful 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.



If you attended the annual business meeting, you heard about the WS's financial concerns. As of March 2004, WS is without paid staff. Since the Annual Conference, the WS financial situation has improved. Section President John Harris, President-Elect Cynthia Perrine, and other WS board members picked up duties to keep the WS running. Following the February 2004 Board meeting decision to appoint a member-treasurer, Section President John Harris announced that Mike Chapel agreed to serve as Treasurer. Thanks to loans and donations from several WS chapters, professional development activities, and careful financial management and planning, the WS is back on its way to financial stability. A committee has been formed and is actively working on a business plan for the WS. The business plan will include elements such as multiple timelines (six months, two years, and five years projections), projected revenues and expenses under both best and worst case scenarios, and fund-raising goals.

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) held Wildlife Biologist Certification workshops in the North Coast and Bay Area chapter areas, as well as successful statistics and bat workshops. The WS is in negotiations with the Society of Wetland Scientists to co-sponsor a conference in Santa Rosa in spring 2005, in addition to planned Mojave Ground Squirrel and Habitat Conservation Planning workshops scheduled for the spring.

If you have any questions or comments for the WS board, please send an email to jessicam@scwa.ca.gov or call me at (707) 547-1903.

SECRETARY-TREASURE REPORT

Jessica Martini-Lamb, SFBA Chapter Representative

Chapter Membership and Finances

As of December, 2004 active Chapter membership is 85. Currently, most members renew their membership by sending in their Chapter dues with their Western Section or National membership renewal. Our Chapter bylaws dictate calendar year renewals (i.e. membership expires at the end of the calendar year in which the member has paid dues) similar to the National membership renewal process. Thus, it is preferable for Chapter members to renew through National rather than through the Western Section. We are working to streamline this process to

avoid multiple renewal notices and overpaying of dues. Hopefully, as the Western Section rebuilds its business plan, we will be able to find a solution to these problems. In the meantime, rest assured that if you should overpay, your extra dues will be either returned to you or applied to the next calendar year. Please contact the Chapter Treasurer, Christine O'Rourke Gaber, at cgaber@esassoc.com or 510-839-5066 with any membership questions.

Our Chapter currently has over \$9,400 in funds between its checking and investment accounts. This amount does not include Chapter dues paid through the National membership renewal process in the fourth quarter of 2004. These funds will be sent to the Chapter in the next month. As mentioned before, after the 2003 Annual Meeting, the Western Section found itself in dire financial straits. The Chapter officers felt the Chapter financial state was secure enough to help out the Section. Thus, in September the officers voted to donate \$1,000 to help the Western Section rebuild a business plan for better future financial management. An additional \$1,000 donation was made to The Wildlife Society Endowment Fund in December.

Christine O'Rourke Gaber, SFBA Chapter Treasurer
Elections

BRIEFS

The Bay Area Chapter of The Wildlife Society normally holds elections in the fall of each year. We have been remiss in developing a slate of candidates for consideration by the Chapter Membership. At the January Chapter meeting in Sacramento a panel of three individuals will be selected as an Elections Committee to develop a slate of candidates for election. Elections will be held shortly after the Elections Committee develops a slate of candidates. The elected offices and the duties of each office are listed below. Please consider volunteering for an elected office or to work on the Election Committee.

PRESIDENT - The President shall have general supervision of the Chapter officers, shall appoint, with the advice of the Executive Board, Chairmen of all regular

and special committees, shall preside as Chairman at meetings of the Executive Board, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating and Elections Committee. The President may represent the Chapter or appoint alternate representatives to other Chapter, Section or Society boards, committees or meetings.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

The President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President in the absence or upon the inability of the President to serve, and shall perform the duties assigned by the President. In the event the President-Elect cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore.

SECRETARY-TREASURE

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for the files, records, and funds of the Chapter, and shall submit complete financial reports to the last meeting of the person's term of office. Duties also shall include the receipt and disbursement of funds, and recording of the minutes of all meetings, the maintenance of the membership rolls, correspondence, and the issuance of meeting minutes.

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WESTERN SECTION

The Chapter Representative shall represent the Bay Area Chapter in Western Section affairs. This person shall represent and serve as liaison to the Section for the Chapter, provide the editor of the Section newsletter with news and items of interest from the Chapter area, and serve as a contact among the Section, Chapters, and members in their respective areas. The Representative will assist the Section President by

verifying mailing addresses, conducting membership drives, polling individual members, and assisting in routine Section business [DP].

SF Bay Area Biologist Directory Update

HOT OFF THE PRESS...

JOURNAL ARTICLES

An Annotated Check List of the Amphibians and Reptiles of California and Adjacent Waters (third revised edition), by Mark R. Jennings. California Fish and Game, Volume 90, Number 4. Fall 2004. pp 161-228.

BOOKS

The Western Pond Turtle, *Clemmys marmorata*... A Natural History of the Species, by Matthew Bettelheim. Longwing Press/Turtlenest in the Park, 2004, 27 pages, \$7.00 PB (natureprograms@aol.com).

Introduction to California Birdlife: California Natural History Guides #83, by Jules Evens. University of California Press, 2005, 280 pages, \$16.95 PB, \$45.00 HC (www.ucpress.edu).

RECENTLY REPRINTED

The Passenger Pigeon: Its Natural History and Extinction (Reprint), by A.W. Schorger, 2004, 424 pages, \$42.95 PB (www.blackburnpress.com).

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

We have been working with a web designer to develop an input form for gathering biologist information for the directory. Unfortunately, we have run into a few snags that have slowed our progress. Our hope is that we can distribute the web link to gather the bio data by the time the TWS Western Section annual meeting begins (1/20). We are pleased to announce that PG&G recently donated \$250 to help defray publishing the directory. We are interested in recruiting anyone who may have time to enter directory information directly for those bios who we are unable to solicit direct information using the web link. Please contact Mark Dedon if you are interested in helping with our effort at 925-866-5829 (W), 925-828-9183 (H) [MD].

**Executive Director
Hodgdon Leaves**

T W S

At the end of September Harry E. Hodgdon stepped down as Executive Director of The Wildlife Society to pursue some new challenges and interests. TWS Council wishes the best to Dr. Hodgdon in his future pursuits and thanks him for his 27 years of dedicated service to the organization. Below is his personal statement to TWS officers and members.

"I came to TWS in 1977 as Field Director and was selected to oversee the organization in 1982. The decision to



leave was not easy and resulted from a combination of personal and work considerations, including illness in my family.

After more than 2 decades as Executive Director, it is time for fresh ideas and approaches to keep the Society moving forward during a time of declining membership and tight finances. As I look back on the last 27 years, it is with a sense of great accomplishment for how far we have come together. Today, the Society is much more effective at meeting the needs of its members and the profession, thanks to establishing a full-time wildlife policy position to advocate the use of wildlife science in decision-making, initiating and sustaining a long-range planning process, establishing a professional development program, expanding international activities including periodic International Wildlife Management Congresses, developing subject-area working groups, initiating and organizing an annual conference and trade show, establishing a renewal mechanism for certification of professional wildlife biologists, establishing a managing editor position and permanent editorial office, redesigning the Wildlife Society Bulletin, and our recent Endowment Campaign initiative, to name but a few of our accomplishments.

Over the years I have been extremely fortunate to have been teamed with so many terrific individuals - Society presidents and Council members with whom I developed strong and lasting friendships based upon mutual commitment and trust; dedicated Section, Chapter, and Working Group leaders who were always ready to go that extra mile for the Society and the resource; Committee Chairs and Editors who were eager to share their expertise to further the Society's mission; and a hard working staff dedicated to serving our members and the profession. It has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated people over the years and I look forward to maintaining these relationships in the coming years" [from TWS electronic listserv].

The Chapter's web page has been neglected for the last couple of years. Much of the information on the web page is outdated and needs to be changed or updated. Please consider submitting photographs and other information to the Chapter's web page [DP].

SEND US YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES...

New addresses or contact information for the New Year? Please send address changes and email address updates to Christine O'Rourke Gaber at cgaber@esassoc.com so we can be sure to keep you posted about Chapter news and events.

Certification Workshop

The Western Section Professional Development Committee (PDC) celebrated Halloween '04 by co-sponsoring a certification workshop with the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter on the U.C. Berkeley campus. Committee co-chairs Rhys Evans and Cynthia Perrine hosted the workshop and revealed the mysteries of

TWS certification to an audience comprised primarily of Chapter environmental consultants. As discussed in the certification program guidelines, specific goals of the TWS Certification Program include:

Guiding biologists, governmental agencies, courts, and the public in defining minimum standards of education and experience for professional wildlife biologists, and encouraging all practicing wildlife biologists to meet such standards.

Creating and maintaining public confidence in the advice and opinions of Certified Wildlife Biologists as well as educated and experienced professionals who have pledged to uphold the Code of Ethics and the Standards for Professional Conduct of The Wildlife Society and to act in the best interests of wildlife resources and the public.

Assisting the public in evaluating wildlife biologists by establishing a procedure for critical peer evaluation based upon defined minimum educational, experience, and ethical requirements.

Workshop topics included the importance of TWS certification and its usefulness (and sometimes necessity for particular employment positions) in the wildlife profes-

sion, the two levels of certification (Associate Wildlife Biologist vs. Certified Wildlife Biologist), and the education and professional wildlife experience required for each certification level. Current certification guidelines are valid through December 31, 2004 and there has been talk of adding a 3-unit Plant Taxonomy requirement to the application in the coming year – yet another reason to finish those certification applications ASAP!

For certification application forms and additional information please contact Rhys Evans at rhyse@adelphia.net or visit the TWS National web site at www.wildlife.org (click on Professional Resources and then on Certified Wildlife Biologist) [COG].

**Western Pond Turtle Workshop:
Ecology and Conservation - April 16-17,**

WORKSHOPS - 2005

Sonoma CA

This Western Pond Turtle Workshop is designed to provide professional biologists and managers with a background on conservation issues of the western pond turtle, recent research findings, and practical understanding of field methods. Participants will learn how to identify turtles, their life history and habitat requirements, taxonomy and evolution, potential causes of declines, survey techniques, regulations and permits, and management plans. The workshop's Saturday session will feature presentations by Bruce Bury and David Germando, and a short field trip to an on-campus pond where turtle identification, visual surveys for basking turtles, and trapping techniques will be discussed.

Following the Saturday presentations, a social campout will be held at Spring Lake located near Santa Rosa. The campout will include a Saturday BBQ dinner and a Sunday breakfast. Sunday morning we will visit Spring Lake to search for turtles with no guarantees of what we will find. Additional costs apply for the campout - details will be available in the flyer.

On-line registration will be available online after Jan 20th at www.tws-west.org. The cost prior to 4/1/05 will be \$100 for TWS Western Section members and \$130 for

non-members; Member registration after 4/1/05 will be \$120 and \$150 for non-members.

**Mohave Ground Squirrel
Workshops
April 16-17, Ridgecrest CA**

The Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*) is listed as Threatened by the State of California and is a key species to be covered under the West Mojave Plan. Join TWS-Western Section for a two-day workshop featuring presentations by Dr. Phil Leitner, Dr. John Harris, and other recognized experts. Participants will learn about ecology, behavior, vegetation preferences, habitat evaluation, genetics and status of this species. Two full days are included, with one-half day of field observations. Fieldwork will include trapping grids, field techniques, radiotelemetry, species identification, and more. Limited handling (in accordance with CDFG and BLM guidelines) may be included—but is not guaranteed (depending upon trapping success).

Important Note: This workshop is not intended to provide training or experience toward obtaining any permit or authorization to trap, handle, harass, or survey for the Mohave Ground Squirrel. However, a certificate will be provided, and a list of persons attending and successfully completing the workshop will be sent to the California Department of Fish and Game.

Registration will be strictly limited to 60 persons (a waiting list will be maintained) and on-line registration begins Monday, January 24th. The cost prior to 2/18/05 will be \$260 for TWS Western Section members and \$295 for non-members; Member registration after 2/18/05 will be \$295 and \$330 for non-members. A maximum of 15 student* registrations will be available at \$145. *Must show proof of current registration at an accredited university, or graduation within 6 months of workshop date. Student scholarships may be available; contact us at the e-mail address below. Registration cost includes extensive training materials, field transportation, refreshments and lunch (both days).

You may request additional information by contacting the Co-Chair of the TWS Western Section Professional Development Committee, Rhys Evans, at rhyse@adelphia.net. Absolutely no "same-day" registrations will be accepted. Specific



details on workshop location, hotel/travel information, and field gear needed will be provided to registered participants approximately 45 days before the workshop.

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society would like to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of this workshop by ECORP Consulting and Environmental Science Associates.

Bat Symposium - October 17-19, Sacramento CA

The Western Section of the Wildlife Society is sponsoring a comprehensive "Natural History and Management of Bats in the West" Symposium in Sacramento, CA, October 17-19, 2005. Join Dr. Patricia Brown, Dr. Elizabeth Pearson, and many other recognized experts for lectures on ecology, conservation, behavior, survey methodology, habitat evaluation, and status of most western bat species. Two full days of presentations are included (over three days). Additional information is available on the internet or e-mail rhys@adelphia.net. On-line registration begins in July at www.tws-west.org. We hope to see you in Sacramento!

California Tiger Salamander Listed as Threatened Species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the California tiger salamander

CONSERVATION NEWS

(*Ambystoma californiense*) central population as a threatened species on August 4, 2004. The listing took effect on September 3, 2004. The listing is based on: loss of habitat to more intensive land uses and the secondary effects of fragmentation; predation by non-native species such as bullfrogs, mosquito fish and warm water game-fish; the failure of existing measures to prevent the decline; and other man-made factors such as contaminants, rodent control, mosquito control, road crossing mortality, hybridization with non-native salamanders. Along with listing the California tiger salamander as a threatened species the Fish and Wildlife Service promulgated a 4(d) rule to exempt routine ranching operations from the take provisions of Section 9.

The following information is taken from the August 4,

2004, Federal Register Vol 69. No. 149, 47212-47248.

The following activities if carried out under existing regulations and permits would not be considered a violation of Section 9:

- 1) Possession, delivery, including interstate transport and import or export from the United State, involving no commercial activity, of California tiger salamanders that were collected prior to the publication of the final regulation in the Federal Register adding the California tiger salamander to the list of endangered and threatened species;
- 2) An actions that may affect the California tiger salamander that are authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency, when the action is conducted in accordance with the consultation requirements for listed species pursuant to section 7 of the Act, or for which such action will not result in take;
- 3) Any action taken for scientific research carried out under a recovery permit issued by the Service pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act;
- 4) Land actions or management carried out under an HCP approved by the Service pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, or an approved conservation agreement; and
- 5) Grazing management practices that do not result in degradation or elimination of suitable California tiger salamander habitat and activities described in the 4(d) rule included in this notice.

Activities which may result in violation of section 9 include:

- 1) Unauthorized possession, collecting, trapping, capturing, killing, harassing, sale, delivery, or movement, including intrastate, interstate, and foreign commerce, or harming, or attempting any of these actions, of California tiger salamanders. Research activities where salamanders are trapped or captured will require a permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act;
- 2) Activities authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies that may affect the California tiger salamander, or its habitat, when such activities are not conducted in accordance with the consultation for listed species under section 7 of the Act;
- 3) Unauthorized discharges or dumping of toxic chem-



icals, silt, or other pollutants into, or other illegal alteration of the quality of waters supporting California tiger salamanders that results in death or injury of the species or that results in degradation of their occupied habitat to an extent that individuals are killed or injured or essential behaviors such as breeding, feeding, and sheltering are impaired;

4) Intentional release of exotic species (including, but not limited to, bullfrogs, tiger salamanders, mosquitofish, bass, sunfish, bullhead, catfish, crayfish) into currently occupied California tiger salamander breeding habitat;

5) Destruction or alteration of the California tiger salamander occupied habitat through discharge of fill materials into breeding sites; draining, ditching, tilling, stream channelization, drilling, pumping, or other activities that interrupt surface or ground water flow into or out of the vernal pool, and seasonal or perennial pond habitats of this species (i.e., due to the construction, installation, or operation and maintenance of roads, impoundments, discharge or drain pipes, storm water detention basins, wells, water diversion structures, etc.);

6) Destruction or alteration of uplands associated with seasonal pools used by California tiger salamanders during estivation and dispersal, or modification of migration routes such that migration and dispersal are reduced or precluded and actual death or injury to the species results; and

7) Activities (e.g., habitat conversion, road and trail construction, recreation development, and application of herbicides and pesticides in violation of label restrictions) that directly or indirectly result in the death or injury of larvae, juvenile, or adult California tiger salamanders, or modify California tiger salamander habitat in such a way that it adversely affects their essential behavioral patterns including breeding, foraging, sheltering, or other life functions.

Proposed Critical Habitat for California tiger salamander. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed critical habitat for the California tiger salamander on August 10, 2004. The proposed critical habitat can be found in the August 10, 2004, Federal Register, Vol. 69, No. 153, 48570-48649. Portions of the Bay Area Chapter geographic area fall into two of the four critical habitat: the Central Valley Region and the East Bay Region. Please see the Federal Register article for

specific unit boundaries.

Proposed Critical Habitat for Western Snowy Plover. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed critical habitat for the Western snowy plover on December 17, 2004. The proposed critical habitat can be found in the December 17, 2004, Federal Register, Vol 69, No 242, 75608-75771. The proposal includes several sites in Marin, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz Counties. No sites inside San Francisco Bay are listed as critical habitat. The comment period extends to February 15, 2005.

South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Program. The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Program is well on its way to becoming a reality. The first efforts to normalize salinity levels in ponds began with the opening of tide gates in July of 2004. The entire project is fairly well documented on the programs web site.

Draft Recovery Plan For Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a draft recovery plan for vernal pool ecosystems in October 2004. The plan can be accessed on the web at: Several local species are included in this plan.

Robust Spineflower Recovery Plan. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final recovery plan for the robust spineflower on December 20, 2004. The spineflower occurs in several scattered locations in the Bay Area.

Draft Recovery Plan for Tidewater Goby. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a draft recovery plan for the tidewater goby on October 18, 2004. The tidewater goby occurs in several scattered locations in the Bay Area.

Proposed Critical Habitat for Salmon and Steelhead. On December 10, 2004 the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed listing critical habitat for several evolutionary significant units of salmonids found in California.

