

Wandering Tattler

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

WINTER 2001

The reason a lot of people do not recognize opportunity is because it usually goes around looking like hard work.

— Thomas Alva Edison

Fall Chapter Meeting

The fall chapter meeting and elections were held on November 15th at the Black Diamond Microbrewery and Restaurant in Walnut Creek. For you trivia buffs the brewery is named after a local coalmine and not a ski slope, as I had thought. This dinner meeting was a great opportunity for our members to get together and socialize. We had a good turnout and I saw a lot of old and new faces. To entice our members to show up and vote we had an open bar and all you eat buffet. A special thank you to Jessica Martini-Lamb for organizing the get-together.

We held elections at the meeting. Revisions to our Chapter Bylaws were approved. The primary change is an increase in our annual dues from \$4 to \$10, with a discounted rate for students. Our new Bylaws will be posted on our website.

We had an open discussion of a variety of topics at the meeting most of which were related to what type of events should we host in 2002. I discussed in some detail with Reg Barrett, professor at UC Berkeley, the possibility of cosponsoring a field trip with Cal. A goal of our chapter has been to encourage student membership and participation. Possible activities for next year include amphibian identification and survey workshop, aquatic invertebrate bioassessment workshop, elephant seal and tule elk field trips to Pt. Reyes, pitfall trap technical workshop, bird watching field trip to Bolinas, wetland restoration in the North Bay field trip, and endangered California freshwater shrimp technical workshop. Let me know what activities are of interest to you.

David Cook

Election Results

Congratulations to our newly elected officers, Brian Pittman – President Elect, and John Harris – Chapter Representative to the Western Section. Jessica Martini-Lamb was reelected as Secretary/Treasurer and David Cook will remain President. The voting members accepted the proposed changes to the Chapter bylaws. They will now

be forwarded to the Western Section and National for approval. The proposed changes may be viewed at the Chapter website.

Thank you to those Chapter members that sent in absentee ballots and came to the meeting at the Black Diamond Brewing Company!

Jessica Martini-Lamb

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



SOCIETY

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Western Section
Annual Meeting
March 7-9, 2002
Visalia, CA

National TWS Annual
Conference
Sept 24-28, 2002
Bismark, ND

Suggested Future Events

Amphibians of the
SF Bay Area

Aquatic Invertebrate/
Rapid Water Quality
BioAssessment
Workshop

Elephant Seals

Tule Elk

Pitfall Trap Workshop

Wetland Restoration in
the North Bay Field Trip

Fresh Water Shrimp of
California Workshop

Others????

We need to know if you
are interested in any of
these activities. Please
contact David Cook, if
you are.

Chapter Officers need
assistance putting
workshops together. If
you would like to help
with a workshop, field
trip or seminar, please
contact David Cook.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

- Mar 20-24 **Partners in Flight Conservation Plans: A Workshop on Implementation and Integration in the Americas**
Location: Monterey, CA
For information, see: www.PartnersInFlight.org or
www.prbo.org/PIF/NPIF2002.htm
- Mar 27-30 **Annual Conference of the Northwest Scientific Association**
Location: Boise, ID
For information, see:
http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/org_NWS/2002%20meeting%20announcement.htm
- April 3-7 **North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**
Location: Dallas, TX
For information, see:
<http://www.wildlifemgt.org/wmi/pages/toc2002.html>
- May 15-17 **Meeting Resource Management Information Needs: 4th Conference on Research and Resource Management in the Southwestern Deserts**
Location: Tucson, AZ
For information, see: www.werc.usgs.gov/sdfs/meetings.html
- June 2-7 **23rd Annual Conference of the Society of Wetland Scientists**
Location: Lake Placid, NY
For information, see: www.sws.org
- Aug. 4-8 **Annual Meetings of the Society for Ecological Restoration and the Ecological Society of America**
Location: Tucson, AZ
For information, see: www.ser.org or www.esa.sdsc.edu
- Sept 11-14 **92nd Conference of the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies**
Location: West Yellowstone, MT
For more information, contact Ron Aasheim (phone: 406/444-4038)

Correction/Apology

In the special newsletter edition for the annual meeting/elections, I made a rather large typographical error in the title on the first page -- SF Bat Area instead of SF Bay Area. I only have two explanations. First, I was fighting a horrible flu and was doing page layout in a fever-induced state. Second, due to the fever-induced state, my subconscious surfaced, for I do spend a bit of time working on bat issues.

The error was noticed after the printing was finished and I opted for sending them "as is" rather than reprinting and wasting all that paper. I can only hope that as future deadlines approach, I will be in good health, and if not, that you will be patient with my inadvertent errors.

Amy Fesnock

Starting Down the Road to Recovery?

For the first time in nearly 20 years, hikers visiting the Bear Gulch Reservoir at Pinnacles National Monument have the opportunity to see California Red-Legged Frogs (*Rana aurora draytonii*, CRLF). This species was once common there. By 1985, no CRLF inhabited the reservoir. In the early 1980's, exotic Black Bullhead Catfish (*Ictalurus melas*) were placed in the reservoir by someone who wanted to fish. It is presumed that the catfish preyed upon the eggs and tadpoles, resulting in the demise of the frog populations.

In 1985, park staff drained the reservoir and removed all the catfish (~ 1700 pounds). While Pacific Tree Frogs (*Hyla regilla*) and Western Toads (*Bufo boreas*) returned to the reservoir, CRLF did not, even though there were healthy populations in streams within a few miles of the reservoir.

The CRLFs living along the streams seemed to be doing well in the early 1990's, but by 1998 their numbers were extremely low. Because Pinnacles NM lacks the "typical" stock pond habitat of CRLF, they lay their eggs in streams making them susceptible to late-season floods. Large floods in 1995 and 1998 may have been responsible for the decline. Another contributing factor may have been an infestation of exotic Green Sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), which are known to prey on tadpoles. In 1998-1999, we used electro-shocking to remove all Green Sunfish (>3500) from streams within the monument. Yearly monitoring has revealed no re-infestation.

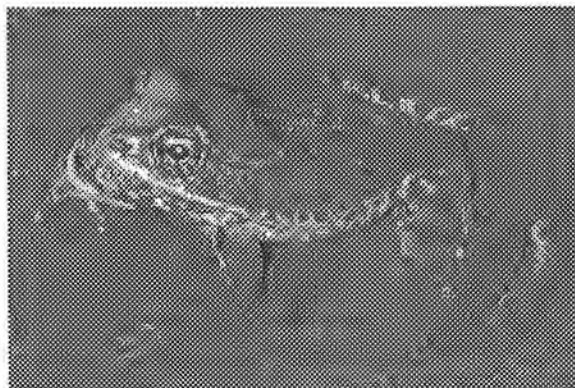
The Bear Gulch Reservoir provides frogs with a breeding site that is much less prone to the threats of floods and exotic fish. Given enough time, a healthy population of CRLFs along the streams would eventually be able to repopulate the reservoir. However, we decided to give them a head start. Collaborating with scientists throughout California,

we developed a re-establishment plan.

With the approval of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, we began a pilot project in spring 2001. We transported nearly 1000 eggs from nearby streams to the reservoir. We moved egg masses just before hatching. Because young tadpoles are especially vulnerable to predation, we kept them in protective pens for their first few weeks. Once they had reached sufficient size, we released them into the reservoir. We monitored their survival, and by August they began to transform into frogs. Surveys in the fall found 17 CRLF metamorphs at the reservoir. Survivors from this first generation will reach reproductive age in two to three years.

Due to the success of this pilot study, we plan to continue the project for several years. In order to determine whether we have met our goal of re-establishing a breeding population at the reservoir, we will conduct surveys there each spring. If we observe at least four egg masses or twenty frogs (more than one year old) we will consider the project a success. At that point we will cease transporting eggs, but will continue to monitor populations throughout the monument. The details of this project will be presented at the Western Section Annual Meeting in Visalia in March.

Paul Johnson



California red-legged frog metamorph in the shallow waters of the Bear Gulch Reservoir. Hopefully a sign of more things to come!

Questions???
or
Comments!!!

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Chapter Newsletter

Submit articles to the Chapter Newsletter! Let the rest of the Chapter Members know about the wildlife issues in your neck of the woods. Share your stories and insights.

Deadline	Mailing By
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

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

Membership Renewal

You should have received a renewal notice from the Western Section TWS or National TWS Organization. Hopefully, you continued your SFBA Chapter membership. If by chance you have not received a renewal notice, you can send your dues directly to:

Jessica Martini-Lamb
3643 Diablo Street
Napa, CA 94558

Please make checks (\$4) payable to San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Chapter Website

The website includes upcoming events, newsletter articles, a photo gallery, and much more. The website is located at
www.tws-west.org/bayarea.