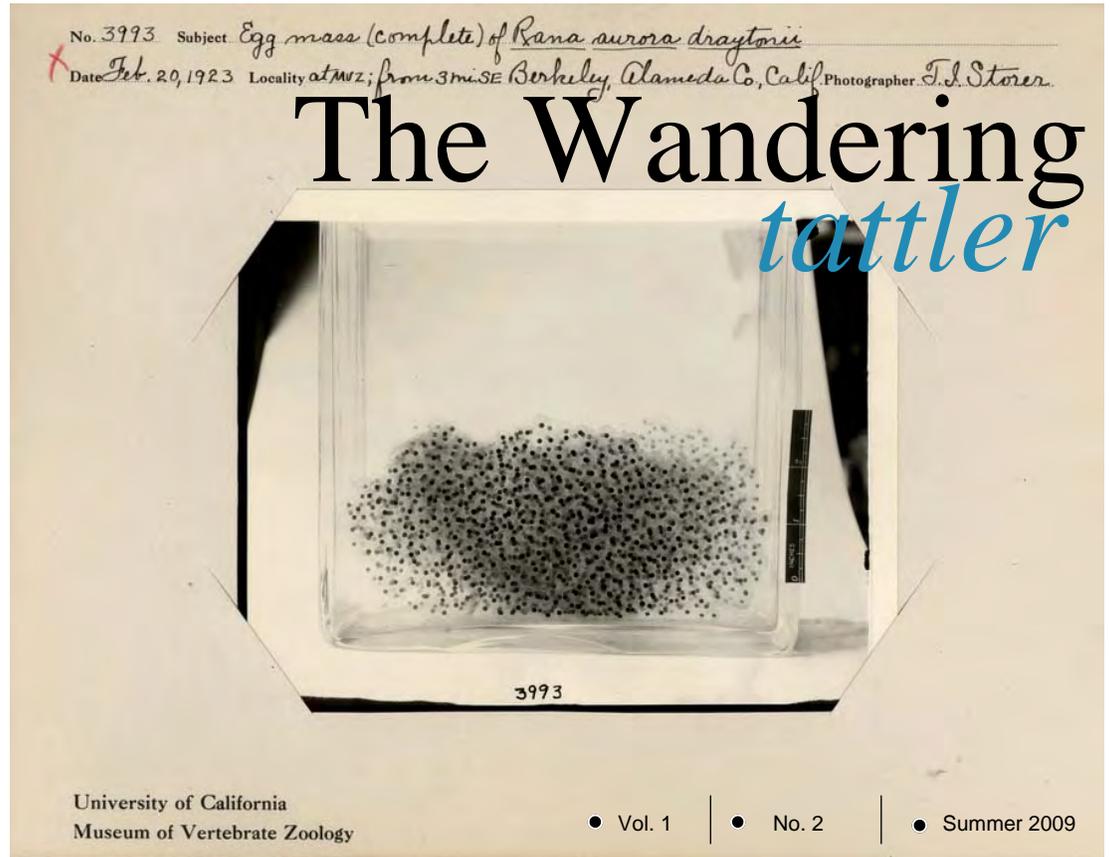


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San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Wildlife Society

President's Message

Doug Bell

The San Francisco Bay Area is a busy place, and the members of our local chapter are extremely busy people. In fact, I don't know a single wildlife professional, be they with an academic, private, governmental or non-governmental organization, who isn't squeezed juggling career, family and interests. So it is very gratifying to see the great turnout we've had for two recent Chapter events. The first was an evening get-together at the East Bay Regional Park District's Trudeau Center in Oakland. Over twenty people from all across the Bay Area showed up to share pizza and Chapter doings. It was gratifying to see a few new members, and we kicked off our sponsored student membership program thanks to sponsors who stepped up to the plate, or in this case, a dinner plate with pizza. I want to thank Karen Swaim of Swaim Consulting and Joe DiDonato (Wildlife Consulting and Photography) for offering to be our first student membership sponsors. The onus is now on our Chapter members to go out and recruit students for our "free" Chapter memberships!

Continued on pg. 3

Announcements: SFBA Chapter Events

October SFBA Chapter Meeting: Hawk watching at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Please check our website for dates and details, which we will announce soon.

The Wildlife Society's 16th Annual Conference is coming up this September 20-24 in Monterey, CA.

Section Representative Snapshot Report

Natasha Dvorak

"No matter how bad you think things are, the total reality is much worse."

Raymond Dasmann's
First Law of the
Environment

Our Executive Board Meeting was held in Monterey on June 12/13 in coordination with the National Conference Planning Committee meeting. Now having some knowledge of the venue and both hotels, any questions are welcome (ndvorak@esassoc.com). News from the Professional Development Committee indicates that workshops on Mojave ground squirrel, CRLF/CTS, and bats are in the works; just completed was a successful great gray owl/willow flycatcher workshop hosted by the Sac/Shasta Chapter. The defunct Public Information Committee may one day breathe new life. A "Retired" membership category is under consideration. Western Section bylaws are being reviewed, and the Bay Area Chapter will need to update its bylaws as well; sign on for this fun and rewarding task. Any submissions to the Western Section newsletter are due October 15th. The theme for next year's Western Section conference in Visalia is *Resiliency*.

- Natasha

Editor's Notes

Brian Pittman

One can't help but get excited about the news from the San Jacinto Wilderness near Idyllwild, California, where a group of USGS biologists were assessing sites for the suitability of reintroducing mountain yellow-legged frog populations; and a group of scientists from the San Diego Natural History Museum were retracing a 1908 natural history expedition. The two groups independently stumbled upon a *Rana muscosa* population that was thought extirpated more than 50 years ago.

The cover shot for this issue of the *Tattler* comes from the MVZ online collections and depicts a *Rana draytonii* egg mass collected in Berkeley 86 years ago. Aside from its charming nostalgic qualities and significance as a learning tool, such records are fundamental to our understanding of how natural communities are organized and how they are being reconstructed by urban development and climate change threats. I raise the issue as a reminder of our individual roles as record curators and custodians. What may seem like a trivial observation today could prove insightful down the road. Who knows, perhaps the reds will return to Berkeley like the yellows returned to the San Jacinto Wilderness. Strawberry Creek is waiting. See everyone at Hawk Hill in October.

- Brian P.

President's Message – Continued from pg. 1

At the evening event I gave a short (!?) presentation on estimating new avian mortality rates for wind turbines in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area by taking into account a more realistic carcass scavenging rate. I probably sound like a broken record or jammed I-Pod to some, but it is abundantly clear that all forms of energy production come with significant costs – be it in CO₂ output from fossil fuels, habitat destruction in the desert for solar farms, or raptor/bird and bat kills in wind farms. There are no simple choices out there, and it will take the concerted effort of wildlife professionals and others to provide guidance in achieving an appropriate balance between energy production and mitigation of the costs. In this vein, your Board agreed to include the SF Bay Area Chapter of TWS as a signatory on a letter to the Senate urging inclusion of revenues to allow for adaptive wildlife response to the effects of climate change. Of course, the one area where everyone can contribute to lessening climate change is through energy conservation and efficiency.

Speaking of energy, our second Chapter event was a campout held at the EBRPD's Camp Ohlone group camp on Alameda Creek. It was a wonderful family affair and the energy of the children that were present was boundless. If only we could attach generating dynamos to each of them, our problems would be solved! While the kids enjoyed the outdoors, the adults got busy creating a culinary feast for the evening meal. You wouldn't think so, but "foodie" is on the resume of many wildlifers. Everyone contributed so much food that we were also able to feed a grateful field crew from San Diego State that was working on rattlesnake/ground squirrel interactions at Camp Ohlone. Karen Swaim took time out of her busy schedule to lead us on walks to view her drift fence trap arrays set up for her research on Alameda whipsnake.

We are planning another Chapter event this October, a hawk watching trip to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, so please check our website for dates and details, which we will announce soon.

The Wildlife Society's 16th Annual Conference is coming up this Sept. 20-24 in Monterey, CA. Our Chapter Board voted to contribute \$2,000 in support of the conference. I encourage students from our Chapter to volunteer for the conference, as the organization can always use more help with running the meetings. It is also a great way to meet fellow members and network. I look forward to seeing you all in Monterey.

Lastly I would like to thank every one of our Board members for their stellar contributions to our Chapter. Christine Gaber, President-elect, has been a great help in "all things Chapter", Ron Duke, Past President has complemented Christine's efforts with sage advice, Dana Ostfeld, Secretary/Treasurer, keeps our books in order and manages our ever-changing membership list, Natasha Dvorak, Chapter Rep, keeps us apprised of the bigger picture in The Wildlife Society, Brian Pittman, Newsletter Editor, has resurrected our Newsletter "The Wandering Tattler" in fine form and is producing this second newsletter in spite of just turning 40 (oh, to be so young again!), and Luke Maculay, Webmaster, has rescued our Chapter's website from electronic storage. Lastly, I'd like to thank Reg Barrett for continuing to offer guidance and suggestions on how improve our Chapter. I ask all members to please join us in shaping the future of this Chapter.

Thank you,

Doug

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Dana Ostfeld

Membership has jumped to 95, which is a big jump since we got our membership list from the western section last week! Awesome. This might be a good time to mention that when signing up to be part of the SFBA Chapter, I highly recommend that members join either through me directly, or online through The Wildlife Society's website. If members sign up through the Western Section, it takes upwards of half a year before I actually receive the membership information, and so members miss out on things like meetings, camp-outs, and newsletters.

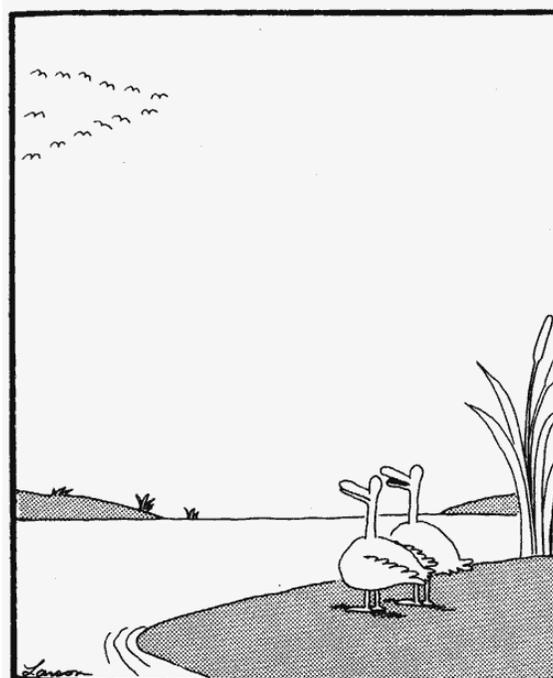


Dana Ostfeld

Current Chapter funds are \$11,120. They dropped a little bit since we just sent TWS \$2,000 to support the national conference, which will be in Monterey this year. But this money is going to a great cause, and the national conference should be a lot of fun this year.

Our last meeting had a nice turn-out – 19 attendees! It was held in the East Bay Regional Parks office in Oakland, CA on May 13. We ate pizza, drank beer, and listened to Doug Bell's great presentation on bird kills in the Altamont. Doug gave a really great talk, and everyone walked away having learned something.

- Dana



"I just can't tell from here. ... That could either be our flock, another flock, or just a bunch of little m's"

...And Now a Word from our Sponsors

As outlined in the spring 2009 *Wandering Tattler*, on April 14, 2009 the Board voted to reduce student membership fees (to \$5) and allow the sponsorship of student members by board-approved "corporate" sponsors. Now that we're well into summer, we've recruited a handful of eager students and are looking to further boost student numbers and participation in Chapter events. Chapter membership numbers are back on the rise in small part due to this new program.

We would like to acknowledge Joe DiDonato, Wildlife Consulting and Photography for making a \$50 tax deductible contribution that will sponsor ten student memberships in the SFBA Chapter. An enthusiastic greeting is also in order to welcome our new student members Kate Britsch (Sonoma State University), Danielle Pena (U.C. Berkeley) and Heather Frank (U.C. Berkeley) who have directly benefited from this program. If you're able to support this initiative, please consider making a donation. Prospective sponsors and student members should contact Secretary/Treasurer Dana Ostfeld to get signed up.

- Brian P.

Joseph DiDonato
Wildlife Consulting & Photography
510 326 8175
joedidonato@alamedanet.net



Ohlone Campout Highlights



Longtime SFBA Chapter member Karen Swaim describes alligator lizard taxonomy and handling methods to uneasy onlookers.

Karen and SFBA President-elect Christine Gaber.



As a tradition dating back to the 1960's, I'm told that no SFBA Chapter campout is complete without a display of pig mating calls by campfire. See you at the next camping retreat.

Upcoming Workshops and Events of Interest



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



We're going to make a big splash in Monterey.

Come be a part of the excitement



September 20-24, 2009

- ☆ Attend dozens of technical sessions.
- ☆ Choose from a full day of workshops.
- ☆ Enjoy many networking opportunities.
- ☆ Keep up to date with current technology at the Trade Show.
- ☆ Tour local attractions. Welcome Reception at Monterey Bay Aquarium.
- ☆ New! Career Fair - Students and professionals, meet potential employers.

www.wildlife.org/conference

The Wild Swans at Coole - William Butler Yeats

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw, before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trode with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away?

SF Bay Area Chapter Officer Directory

President	Doug Bell (dbell@ebparks.org)
President-elect	Christine Gaber (cog3@pge.com)
Past President	Ron Duke (rduke@harveyecology.com)
Secretary/Treasurer	Dana Ostfeld (dostfeld@esassoc.com)
Chapter Representative	Natasha Dvorak (ndvorak@esassoc.com)
Newsletter Editor	Brian Pittman (bpittman@esassoc.com)
Webmaster	Luke Maculay (luke.maculay@gmail.com)



California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) larvae, Contra Costa Co., CA. Photo by N. Dvorak

Chapter Newsletter

Submit articles to the Chapter Newsletter! Let the rest of the Chapter Members know about the wildlife issues in your corner of the woods. Any submittals, stories, comments or insights are appreciated.

Deadline	Mailing By
April 15	April 30
July 15	July 31
October 15	October 31
January 15	January 31

Please submit electronic articles to:
bpittman@esassoc.com

Submit hardcopies to:
Brian Pittman
ESA
1425 N. McDowell Blvd., Ste 200
Petaluma, CA 94954

Membership Renewal

If your membership dues are not paid for 2009, or you would like to become a member please contact Secretary/Treasurer Dana Ostfeld. Regular annual dues are \$10 and \$5 for full-time students (note: free membership sponsorship will apply to the first seven full-time students).

Chapter Website

Wahoo! The new Chapter Website is up and growing with a photo gallery, calendar of events, newsletter articles and more.

The new site is on the National TWS server at:

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/sanfrancisco/>