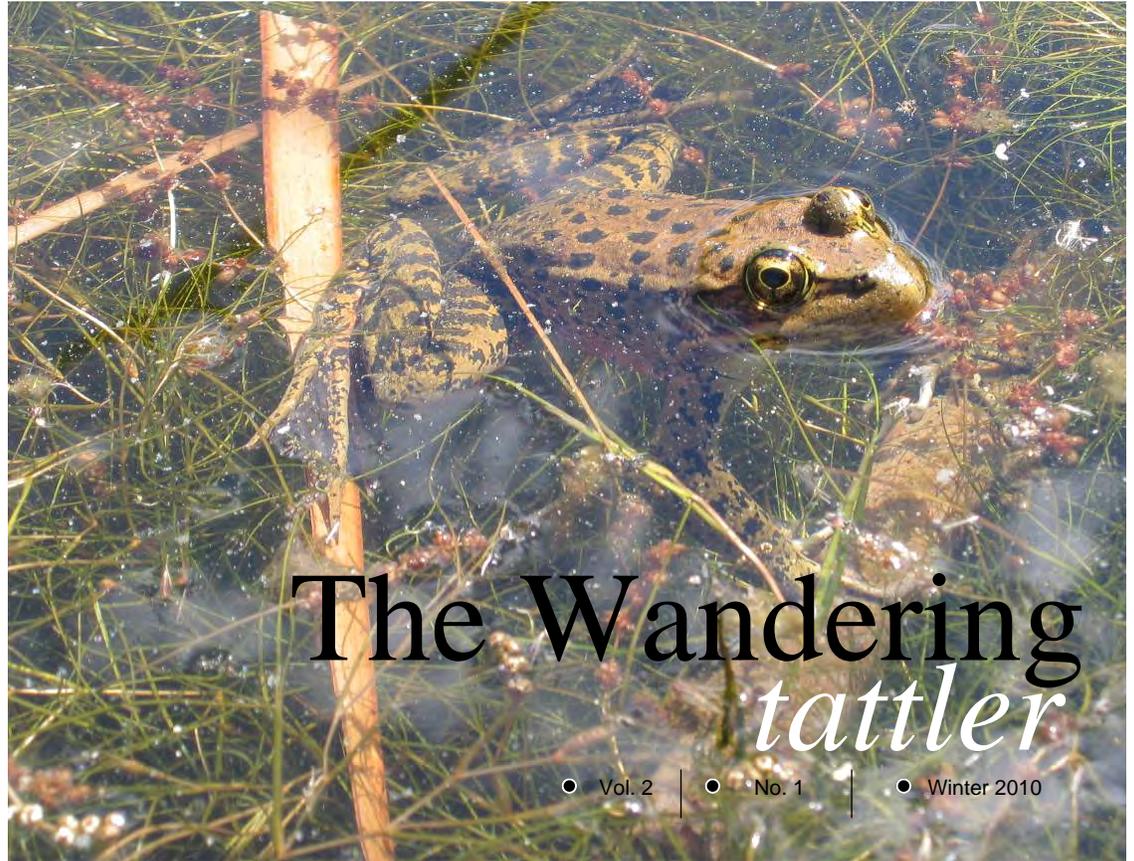


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## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Wildlife Society

### President's Message

*Christine Gaber*

I could not write this President's message without first extending a big thank you to our amazing Chapter Board. All of us should offer Doug Bell heartfelt thanks for accepting our nomination and doing such a stellar job as Chapter President this past year. He's a very busy guy, and we all appreciate the time he spent organizing Chapter events. Dana Ostfeld has done an excellent job working behind the scenes for the past few years keeping Chapter finances and membership up to date. Having served as Chapter Secretary/Treasurer in the past, I can tell you that this is no small task! Newsletter Editor Brian Pittman has revived our Chapter publication and kept the Chapter Board on track with our quarterly submittals. Hopefully you all have enjoyed reading about this year's Chapter activities, the state of Chapter affairs, and updates from the Western Section.

*Continued on pg. 3*

### Announcements:

**Western Section Annual Conference/SFBA Chapter Meeting:** The upcoming Western Section Annual Conference is in Visalia, CA, January 26 to 29, 2010. The next SFBA Chapter meeting will be at the conference on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, from 1900 to 2100 hours.

## Take Action to Influence Wildlife Policy

*Mary Kazantseva and Angela Whitney*

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“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

- *William Butler Yeats*

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Comprehensive science-based legislation is critical to safeguarding our nation’s wildlife and habitats. TWS’ Government Affairs Program works on behalf of its members to give a voice to the views of wildlife professionals in the legislative and policy processes. But we can’t do it without you!

To ensure a bright future for wildlife, it is key that management and conservation policy and legislation is based on science generated by wildlife professionals, such as members of The Wildlife Society! We have three great tools to help you get involved in wildlife policy, either at the federal or local level:

- 1) Check out the [Government Affairs Toolkit](#) available on TWS’ website. It will give you an overview of the Government Affairs program, how you can write a letter to Congress, and other useful policy information.
- 2) See the more recent edition of [The Wildlifer](#), TWS’ monthly e-newsletter, to ‘Take Action’ on issues ranging from climate legislation to migratory bird conservation.
- 3) Check your inbox for [Wildlife Policy News](#), which comes out every other month, to stay up-to-date on the latest policy initiatives.

We appreciate all of your efforts. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs, at [laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org).

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## Editor’s Notes

*Brian Pittman*

### **The “Save Our Bullfrogs” Wildlife Management Plan**

You know there’s trouble brewing when a bullfrog advocacy group (yes, Save Our Bullfrogs) is allowed to critique your client’s California red-legged frog predator control plan. In our case, things quickly went from bad to worse when the bullfrogs acquired legal council. Yes, the bullfrogs are threatening to sue the red-legged frogs for more housing units, or perhaps just for the pool. I’d heard rumors of, and recently discovered first hand that some individuals are obsessively opposed to wildlife management in any form and

*Continued on pg. 3*

**Save our Bullfrogs, Continued from pg. 2**

are equally interested in disrupting T&E species recovery efforts.

Their apparent assignment is to endorse free-running dogs, feral cats and bullfrogs on every California beach, marsh and pond; even better if the areas support snowy plovers, clapper rails, or California red-legged frogs.

And so I caution that we must interact carefully with and not ignore wildlife advocacy groups, no matter how odd they may seem. Despite *Save Our Bullfrogs'* good intentions in tinkering with the fundamentals of a sound red-legged frog predator control plan, their efforts may ultimately translate into misdirected funding and greater bullfrog populations; which of course mean more bullfrog control and negative public feedback. As one can only speculate as to what motivates such a group, my understanding is that this particular group merely wants due respect for all nature's creatures. As we know, the concept of "don't kill living things" is pretty hard to reconcile with predator management.

While my gut instinct is to come out blazing with an 'any friend of the bullfrog ain't no friend of mine' approach, we are seeking to resolve and not intensify an already dicey situation. At this juncture we calmed down the opposition by conceding to donate captured crayfish and bullfrogs to the local wildlife rescue center as food for injured and abandoned raccoons.

To balance the cosmos, you'd think there might be an advocacy group devoted to helping red-legged frog populations. Oh yes, that's us.

- Brian P.

**President's Message, Continued from pg. 1**

Webmaster Luke Macaulay also deserves thanks for getting the Chapter website up and running again, especially while working remotely from the internet cafes of Spain this past semester. Natasha, Ron Duke and others from the Chapter made significant contributions to the planning efforts for the 2009 TWS National Conference in Monterey.

So what does the Chapter Board have in store for you in 2010? I'd like to keep the October trip to Hawk Hill in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and other Chapter favorites on the calendar, but it would be great to add some new events too. Shall we take a tour of Vasco Caves Regional Preserve to check out the petroglyphs and prairie falcons? Should we get together to discuss the solar energy boom and what it means for California's desert wildlife? We have Chapter members who represent NGOs, universities, consulting firms, utilities, and resource agencies at all levels of government. If you have a meeting space to offer or a particular project you'd like to share with all of us in the field, let us know. What's going on with axis and fallow deer management out at Point Reyes National Seashore? What is the status of Bay Area bats? Western pond turtle – from *Clemmys* to *Emys* to *Actinemys* – what's next? I know many of us are working directly on these issues and we all would benefit from hearing about it.

Since many of our past Chapter events have been located in the East Bay, we've been talking about hosting a Chapter meeting in the South Bay to give those members a break.

*Continued on pg. 4*

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report

*Dana Ostfeld*

2009 was a great year for us, membership-wise – 108 members! That is the most members we've had in several years, and hopefully we can continue this upward trend. Speaking of members, we had Joe DiDonato and URS step up to the plate as student sponsors, and have 17 sponsorships to be claimed – if you know any students that are interested in FREE membership to the SF Chapter of The Wildlife Society, have them contact me, or come to the SF Chapter meeting at the Western Section conference in Visalia this year!

As for money, we currently have \$11,335 in the bank. This is slightly less than we had last year, and is mostly a reflection of our \$2,000 donation we made to the National conference this year, which was well-used and much-appreciated. Go us! We also hope to donate \$100 to the Western Section conference, once we find out where to send the check to. Look for our name on the backs of folders/pamphlets/napkins, and know that we helped fund (hopefully) the raffle prizes for the banquet dinner. Lastly, a small portion of our funds will buy us all of your favorite SNACKS and BEER for our SF Chapter meeting at the Western Section conference. Not that anyone would just come for snacks and beer, but, still, I thought I'd mention it. Hope to see you all there.



Dana Ostfeld

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### ***President's Message, Continued from pg. 2***

I hope that our informal student mentoring program spearheaded by Brian and Natasha can continue as well. We have made some great connections with students at Sonoma State University and we need to bring other universities into the fold.

The Chapter Board is here to serve you, and we would love your input. Email us your ideas for Chapter events or professional development opportunities. We are looking for a President-elect for this year too – nominate yourself or someone else will! Just ask Doug. ☺

Thank you and I look forward to serving as your President in 2010!

Christine



Christine Gaber

## Upcoming Workshops and Events of Interest

### **Rare Pond Species Survey Techniques Workshop** **March 27 - 28, 2010** **Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA**

SFBA Chapter members Dave Cook and Jeff Alvarez are teaming up again with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation to offer a two-day survey techniques session. This workshop is designed to provide practical training on aquatic survey techniques for the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle. The workshop will be held on March 27-28, 2010 at Sonoma State University, California. The range of these three rare and protected species overlap and they often occur in similar pond habitats.

The lecture session will include a review of the biology and ecology of these species, identification of life stages, state and federal regulations, and approved survey protocols. There will be five field trips to differing habitats. The field trip sessions will provide field training in aquatic survey techniques, including dip net sampling for CTS larvae, evening spotlighting for frogs, and turtle visual encounter and trapping. Also, seining (netting) and snorkel survey techniques will be demonstrated, if weather conditions permit. Details of the workshop and a registration form are available at [www.lagunafoundation.org](http://www.lagunafoundation.org) under "News and Events".

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"What is the purpose of the giant sequoia tree? The purpose of the giant sequoia tree is to provide shade for the tiny titmouse."

- Edward Abbey

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### **Become a U.C. Davis Roadkill Reporter**

The UC Davis' Road Ecology Center and Information Center for the Environment invites you to become a Roadkill Reporter on the California Roadkill Observation System, at: <http://wildlifecrossing.ucdavis.edu>.

Using this web site, one can report roadkills observed anywhere in the State of California, helping to understand the causes of roadkill and how we can reduce the conflict between animals and vehicles.

The Road Ecology Center urges us to sign up, create an account, print or download a reporting form, log observations, and help reduce the thousands of deaths of wildlife on our highways every year.

## ...And Now a Word from our Sponsors

This month we would like to acknowledge URS Corporation for their financial contributions to sponsor SFBA Chapter student members. As a result of this initiative, the Chapter is presently offer free Chapter membership to active full-time students.

Prospective sponsors and student members should contact Secretary/Treasurer Dana Ostfeld for more information and to get on board.

- Brian P.

## Corrections & Errata

In the category of providing credit where it is indubitably due, the fall 2009 Wandering Tattler cover photo (Vol. 1, No. 3) featured Randy Breaux, an 18 year volunteer with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. In the October 17, 2009 photo, Randy was providing a public Cooper's hawk banding demonstration on Hawk Hill in Marin County. The Tattler neglected to properly acknowledge Randy, who is also our newest SFBA Chapter member. Welcome Randy.



GGRO volunteer and SFBA  
Chapter member Randy Breaux

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## Brown Pelican to be Delisted

The Department of Interior (DOI) announced on 11 November, 2009 that the brown pelican has recovered and will be removed from the threatened and endangered species list. Since being declared endangered nearly 40 years ago, populations have rebounded and number over 650,000 individuals across Florida, the Gulf and Pacific Coasts, the Caribbean, and Latin America. The rule will become effective on 17 December.

The brown pelican was first given its endangered status in 1970 after populations had been decimated by the widespread use of DDT, coastal habitat loss, and a long history of being hunted for their feathers. By the late 1960s, brown pelicans had virtually disappeared from their historical ranges in Louisiana, Texas, the Gulf Coast of Mexico, and probably other areas as well.

The national ban on DDT in 1972 and protection under the Endangered Species Act have been instrumental in helping brown pelican populations recover. In addition, Louisiana conducted a reintroduction project between 1968 and 1980 that successfully restored population levels in the state. Texas and California were naturally re-colonized and now see over 100,000 breeding birds along the Pacific Coast. Populations also have been found on several islands in the Caribbean as well as the Pacific Coast of South America, the West Indies, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The most recent population estimate of the brown pelican subspecies that ranges from California to Mexico along the Pacific Coast is approximately 70,680 nesting pairs. They nest in four distinct geographic areas: (1) The Southern California Bight (SCB), which includes southern California and northern Baja California, Mexico; (2) southwest Baja California; (3) the Gulf of California, which includes coastlines of both Baja California and Sonora, Mexico; and (4) mainland Mexico further south along the Pacific coastline (including Sinaloa and Nayarit).

Source: Fed. Reg. Vol. 74, No. 220, pp. 59443-59472.



African rakesnake

## SF Bay Area Chapter Officer Directory

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



California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) eggs on *Rumex crispus*, Alameda County Co., CA. Photo by B. Pittman

## 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.

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Mailing By</b>
April 15	April 30
July 15	July 31
October 15	October 31
January 15	January 31

Please submit articles electronically to:

bpittman@esassoc.com

## Membership Renewal

If your membership dues are not paid for 2010, or you would like to become a member please contact Secretary/Treasurer Dana Ostfeld. Regular annual dues are \$10 and full time student membership is still free.

## Chapter Website

The SFBA Chapter website is the place to visit for past Wandering Tattler newsletters and minutes from our Chapter meetings. The site is located on the National TWS server at:

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

## Cover Photo

This issue's cover photograph by B. Pittman shows an adult *Rana draytonii* in the Los Vaqueros Watershed, Contra Costa Co., CA. More than 50 ponds in the watershed support red-legged frog breeding.