

The Murreletter

Society for Northwestern
Vertebrate Biology

Volume 12, No. 1

February 2004

President's Message

It's going to be an ology-fest smorgasbord !! Northwest scientists from all walks of life, and inorganic disciplines too, are convening in Ellensburg, Washington, in March! This will be an unparalleled opportunity to learn about pedology, geology, climatology, meteorology, hydrology, limnology, geomorphology, archeology, anthropology, lichenology, biology, zoology, and ecology....and if they were to be put into ology terms, there's also computerology, mathology, and mapology. Please come and be counted among this unique and elite conglomeration. There are pre-meeting workshops to look into, special sessions, and post-meeting field trips. We want to hear what you've been doing too, so get your abstract in by the deadline, February 24th. Check out our website <http://www.snwvb.org/>

We have elections coming up too. I'm very excited about the interest from members that we've had in becoming SNVB Executive Board members. Please read about our candi-

dates on the next pages. If you cannot go to Ellensburg to make your selection, you can do it this time by getting a ballot from the

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web. Please give us a couple of weeks to get the ballot there, and then vote in early March. We will

also be voting to extend the Treasurer's position from a 2-year to a 3-year term. There's some learning involved in managing the books, and the additional year will help immensely. Thanks in advance to Marc Hayes for compiling e-votes!

-Cheers, Dede Olson



Society for Northwest Vertebrate Biology

*... the oldest scientific association devoted to the study
of terrestrial vertebrates in the Pacific Northwest.*

- Established in 1920.

Executive Board

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Vice-President for Northern Region:
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Who we are...

The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology was founded in 1920 as the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society. Long recognized as the pre-eminent union of ornithologists and mammalogists in the Pacific Northwest, the society adopted its current name in 1998 to reflect an expanded taxonomic scope that included amphibians and reptiles. The scope expanded again in 1999 to include fish. Today the society strives to promote close working relationships among ornithologists, mammalogists, herpetologists, and ichthyologists in our region; foster exchange of scientific information and interest in the study of vertebrates; and offer a forum for these activities through meetings and publications.

Membership

All persons or institutions interested in the study of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles are eligible for membership. Individual members receive the Northwestern Naturalist and the Murreletter, our newsletter. Other SNVB publications, such as Northwest Fauna, are available at a reduced rate. Other privileges of membership include notification of all meetings of SNVB, power to vote in SNVB meetings and elections, and the privilege of holding office in SNVB.

**For more information or
to become a member:
<http://www.snwvb.org>**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Society for Northwest Vertebrate Biology

Central Washington University

Ellensburg, Washington

24-27 March 2004

In cooperation with: Northwest Scientific Association, Northwest Lichenologists, Natural Areas Working Group, Shrub-Steppe Working Group, Wenatchee USFS Forestry Sciences Lab, The Wildlife Society, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Central Washington University

Abstracts Due: 24 February 2004

Abstracts should contain a statement of the study's specific objectives a brief description of methods; a summary of results; and a statement of research conclusions. Abstracts should be a summary of presentation content rather than a statement of intent (e.g., it is not satisfactory to state, "results will be discussed").

Prepare abstracts using the following standards:

- Show the title in all UPPER CASE LETTERS on the first line
- After the title, on separate lines, list the author(s), their affiliation(s), and city/state
- The body of text must appear in a single paragraph and is restricted to 250 words
- Below the body of text indicate, on separate lines:
 - At least two keywords for use in preparing a subject list
 - The format of the presentation (oral or paper presentation)
 - The presenter (if other than the first author)
 - The audio-visual requirements of the presentation

Submit abstracts to: sulliall@cwu.edu with the acronym "NWSA" in the subject line of your email message.

Please contact Allen Sullivan (sulliall@cwu.edu or 509 963-2181) with questions concerning abstract submission guidelines or for alternative arrangements for submitting the abstract.

Final notice of acceptance of abstracts will be sent 5 March 2004.

**For Registration Information see: <http://www.snwvb.org>
*No Registrations will be accepted after March 19***



SNVB Elections

Electronic copies of the SNVB ballot for those Society Officers up this election round, to occur at the upcoming (24-27 March 2004) SNVB meeting in March, will be available on the SNVB website (<http://www3.eou.edu/snvb/>) in early March for those individuals wishing to vote absentee or get their votes in early. Electronic ballots should be sent to Marc Hayes at mhayesrana@aol.com **BEFORE 23 March 2004** in order to be valid.

The Candidates

Treasurer: Julie Grialou

As most of you know, I've been the society's treasurer for the past 2 years. I've enjoyed getting to know the inner workings of the society and would like to continue contributing to the society as treasurer. To tell you a bit about myself – I currently live in Seattle (although I'll be moving to the Methow Valley soon) and have been working at a consulting firm, Parametrix, Inc., for the past 6 years. My "true love" is working with amphibians, although my job has me working with birds and mammals more often. Other things I like to do include backcountry skiing, hiking, mountaineering, and martial arts.

Oregon VP: Wendy Wente

Wendy completed her B.S. in Zoology at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1992. In June 2001 she finished her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Wendy's dissertation research focused on color change and mate choice behavior in Pacific treefrogs (*Hyla regilla*). Since April 2000 Wendy has worked with Dr. R. Bruce Bury and Dr. Michael Adams at the USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Corvallis, Oregon. She is a project leader for the Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative, a program

implemented to determine the status of amphibian populations throughout the United States and to investigate possible causes of amphibian population decline. Wendy is responsible for research on amphibian populations in Oregon and Washington as well as northern Nevada. Her research includes revisits to locations noted for amphibian presence historically, individual population characterization through mark and recapture, as well as the establishment of long term monitoring programs for populations of amphibians located in southeastern Oregon and the Willamette Valley of western Oregon. Wendy's hobbies include caring for her pet parrots as well as enjoying the outdoors while hiking and hunting invasive species like wild pig and bullfrogs!

Oregon VP: Ian Reid

Ian received a B.S. in Fisheries Science from Oregon State University, and a B.S. and M.S. in Biology from Southern Oregon University. His thesis research analyzed the effects of stocking brook trout on native amphibians and invertebrates in wilderness lakes in the Siskiyou Mountains, and he presented his results at the 2003 SNVB meeting in Arcata. He has worked in freshwater fisheries since 1998, and has been working for the USDA Forest Service for 4 years as a fisheries biologist in Ashland, Oregon, where his current job duties include stream and lake restoration and enhancement projects, and designing and coordinating the aquatic monitoring program for two Ranger Districts. In his free time he enjoys backpacking, snowboarding, fly-fishing, hunting, and rafting. Ian is an active member of the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology and the Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society where he has also presented papers. His first experience with the SNVB was as a graduate volunteer at the Ashland meeting in 1999. He hopes to bring his background in "lower" vertebrates to the

SNVB in addition to his fascination with aquatic ecology and allegiance to the scientific method.

Southern VP: Hartwell H. Welsh, Jr.

Hart Welsh is a research wildlife ecologist with the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the U. S. Forest Service. He is stationed at the Redwood Sciences Laboratory in Arcata, California. He has a B. S. Degree in zoology from the University of California at Berkeley, an M. S. Degree in wildlife biology from Humboldt State University, and a Ph. D. in wildlife ecology from U. C. Berkeley. He has previously held positions with the Forestry and Natural Resources Department at U. C. Berkeley and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Ecology Center in Colorado. His primary research interest is herpetology and he has over 40 publications on the herpetofauna of the western United States and Mexico (Baja California). His current research interests include: (1) the relationships of forest structure and riparian attributes to the distribution and abundance of forest herpetofauna; (2) the use of amphibians as indicators of ecosystem health and integrity; and (3) the mechanisms of amphibian declines.

Northern VP: Elke Wind

Elke has been a member of the SNVB for almost 10 years, and a Board member since 1998. She is a self-employed contract biologist living and working on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. In 1996, she received her M.Sc. from UBC. Her thesis research investigated effects of forest fragmentation on Wood frogs in north-central Alberta. Since that time, her main area of research has continued to focus on impacts of forest harvesting on amphibian populations, and recently expanded to include small wetland habitats as well. Current contracts include a report on the

impacts of nonnative predators on aquatic ecosystems, and effects of metal contaminants on amphibians and macroinvertebrates near an abandoned mine site. Elke has worked closely with the Wetland Keepers group, is a member of the Wetland Education Group, is working with SNVB members to create an Amphibian Education Group, and will soon be working closely with PARC. She has extensive experience as a Board member, including organizing the 2001 annual meeting in Victoria, and wetland and amphibian workshops and sessions each year.

Trustee: Brent Matsuda

Brent is a wildlife biologist who has done stints as a park naturalist, waterfowl tech, herpetoculturist, and served time as a grad student at the University of British Columbia, where he received an M.Sc. for molesting tailed frogs and other herps in 2001. He was banished south of the border to pay off his student loans (and by the allure of sunshine). He managed to find sunshine. As a consultant in northern California, his work has had him chasing insects in the southern Mojave Desert to counting polar bears in northern Alaska and goshawk surveys in the Sierras!

On the more serious side, I have been a member of SNVB since the late 90's (although I attended my first meeting in 1993) and a Trustee since 2001. I greatly enjoy being involved with SNVB, which despite being smaller, have meetings that I find much more stimulating than some of the mega-conferences held by other professional societies. This is because of the people who make up the membership – they are cool, down-to-earth, and fun to hang with! You can always be guaranteed of a good time at an SNVB meeting, and I look forward to many more in the future!

Editor's Report

In 2003, there were 31 manuscripts submitted for publication in *Northwestern Naturalist*. Of these, 16 were articles and 15 were general notes. To date, 13 have been accepted and 4 have been rejected. This submission rate is sufficient to maintain a volume length of 130 to 140 pages, but won't provide for journal growth. Please keep those manuscripts coming!

Volume 84 contained 11 articles, 6 general notes, and the abstracts from the annual meeting in Arcata, California. The volume contained 154 pages compared to 134 pages for Volume 83 in 2002. The journal is subsidized by the society. We charge authors \$60/page for page charges, but the actual publication cost per page is between \$90 and \$100; both the amount we charge authors and the actual costs are typical for a journal our size. We encourage authors to use agency or institution support to pay page charges, but we accept requests for partial or full waivers. We waive about 20% of the page charges annually, and only members are granted waivers. The percentage of pages devoted to SNVB material (abstracts, book reviews, indices) has been slowly increasing and is now just over a quarter of the journal pages. Most of these SNVB pages are devoted to abstracts of our annual meeting. If there were no waivers of page charges, SNVB would be subsidizing the cost of printing the journal by an average of \$6656, which includes the cost of the SNVB pages of \$3059. When page charge waivers are included, the annual subsidy rises to an average of \$8213.

The table of contents of the current journal issue is on our website and provides links to the abstracts, which are on an Allen Press website. We are investigating the idea of making entire articles and notes available for downloading, with the idea that our articles will be found and cited more often in

other papers.

A suggestion has been made that *Northwestern Naturalist* might be a good outlet for disseminating the results of species surveys and other studies that are currently in the grey literature, but which could be very useful for other researchers. The positive aspects of the widespread distribution of such results are clear, but there are potential drawbacks as well. Not all studies are well designed and some data may be better off left buried. There would need to be some kind of peer review of such studies prior to publication of the results, but perhaps not of the same type that an article or note currently receive.

If you have some thoughts either about making articles available for downloading or about publishing grey literature—pro or con—please let me know (bbetts@eou.edu).

- Burr Betts, Editor

WE NEED YOU!!! REQUEST FOR RAFFLE DONATIONS!

A highlight of our SNVB meetings is the annual prize raffle, held during the dinner banquet. Prizes include books, clothing, coupons for outings, posters/photos, and wildlife paraphernalia. The donations contributed by our members are key to the success of this event. Once again, we are asking you to dig through your closets, drawers, garages, and attics to locate items you would like to donate to the raffle. If you are an artist or photographer, you might consider donating a piece of your work. As well, contributions from stores, tour groups, societies, etc. from your local area would be greatly appreciated. All donators will be acknowledged for their generosity. If you, or someone you know, have something to contribute, please contact Elke (ewind@telus.net; 250-716-1119).

Annual Meeting Special Sessions

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Thursday 25 March 1:30 pm – 5:00 p.m.
 Moderator: David S. Pilliod (USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station)

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC), is a new multi-sector partnership dedicated to the conservation of the herpetofauna--amphibians and reptiles--and their habitats. Established in 1998, PARC includes federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, museums, nature centers, universities,

research laboratories, the forest products industry, the pet trade industry, environmental consultants, contractors, and private landowners. The goal of this session is to introduce members of the Northwest scientific community to PARC and generate interest in increasing PARC membership and activities in the Northwest. Speakers will include the national PARC coordinator, the PARC state coordinator, Northwest PARC regional coordinators, and members of the Pacific Northwest Amphibian and Reptile Consortium (PNARC).

Fire and Hazardous Fuel Reduction Effects on Wildlife

Friday 26 March 8:00 am – 12:00 noon
 Moderators: David S. Pilliod (USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station) and R. Bruce Bury (USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center)

The National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act were established to reduce catastrophic-fire risk on federal lands, especially in the wildland-urban interface. This session will take a look at how these

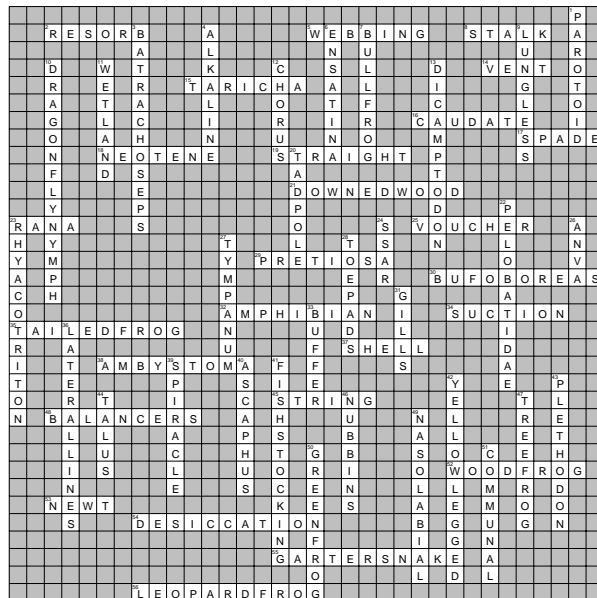
programs may be affecting wildlife and their habitats in the Northwest. Contributed and invited papers will examine the effects of wildland fire, prescribed fire, mechanical fuel reduction (thinning), and habitat changes as a result of altered fire regimes on mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to all of you who have paid your dues for 2004. However, you're in the minority. For those who haven't yet paid, please do so ASAP – we really rely on membership dues to sustain the society. If you no longer have your renewal form, you can find a copy on our website at www.snwvb.org. Also, some of you had problems with the mail delivery of your dues, sorry - the problem has been corrected with our local post office.

-Julie Grialou, SNVB Treasurer

Last issues crossword-



Stay tuned for a new crossword in the spring edition. Thanks Elke!!!



SNVB
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***Don't Forget
Abstracts Due Feb 24th***

See You in Ellensburg At the Annual Meeting March 24-27th

More Information Available at:

<http://www.snwvb.org>

Other upcoming meetings of interest:

Creating Fire-Resilient Landscapes

March 8-12, 2004 Medford, Oregon

For more information see: <http://outreach.cof.orst.edu/resilientfire/index.htm>

Species at Risk – Pathways to Recovery

March 2-4, 2004, Victoria, BC

For more information see: <http://www.speciesatrisk2004.ca/>

The first Conference on Alaska's Amphibians

March 30-April 1, 2004, Juneau, Alaska

For more information see: <http://www.stikine.org/akherps2004>