

The Murreletter

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology

Volume 18, No. 1

January 2010

President's Message

Happy New Year SNVB.

As we enter the new year, I invite you to stop and reflect on your accomplishments and consider your future goals. I will do so for SNVB...

It was a record year for both *Northwestern Naturalist* and *Northwest Fauna*. With Bob Hoffman at the helm, *Northwestern Naturalist* published more pages this year than it has in any previous year. Our journal is now available through four full-text indexes, making it more accessible to readers than ever and achieving our goal to increase visibility and accessibility. Despite being the *Northwest Fauna* editor for just over a year, Nat Seavy has been involved with shepherding two monographs to publication. *Northwest Fauna 6* focuses on conservation strategies for the Siskiyou Mountain Salamander and is hot off the press. *Northwest Fauna 7*, on the ecology of the Western Pond Turtle has a much broader audience and has a publication goal for 2010. Nat's stated goal is a bird monograph and I encourage you to approach him with your ideas!

Our annual meetings continue to be well attended and well supported. The 2010 Medford meeting, with an all-star planning committee chaired by Oregon vice-president Doug Degross, and including long-standing members Rich Nauman, Dave Clayton, and Michael Parker, will not disappoint! The meeting theme, "Changes in Attitudes, Changes in Latitudes," is a play on a Jimmy Buffet song of the same title. Plenary speakers will address topics including the state of the Northwest Forest Plan and assisted-migration as a conservation strategy. Our special symposium on landscape permeability for wildlife will include a special screening of the award-winning independent film *Division Street*, a documentary about merging modern engineering with ecological research to provide landscape permeability.

SNVB's growth and maturation in the nearly eight years since I've been on the board is striking to me. Our board and general membership are the backbone of our success and what makes SNVB stand out from other organizations. Your commitment, talent and energy truly speak to our mission, vision and values, and are what makes SNVB truly special.

See you in Medford!

-Cheers, Tara

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Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology

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

-established 7 January 1920

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Who we are...

The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology was founded on 7 January 1920 as the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Club. Long recognized as the pre-eminent union of ornithologists and mammalogists in the Pacific Northwest, the society adopted its current name in 1988 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, reptiles, and fishes 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 SNVB meetings, the right to vote in SNVB elections, and the opportunity to run for SNVB board positions.

**For more information or to
become a member visit:
www.snwvb.org**

The Murreletter

The Murreletter is published three times yearly and is distributed to the members of the Society of Northwestern Vertebrate Biology. Submission of stories, meeting announcements, and other material of interest to members of the society is encouraged. Submissions should be sent to the Murreletter Editor, Eric Lund. To receive the Murreletter electronically, which is strongly encouraged, please provide your current address to the SNVB Treasurer, Tiffany Garcia.



Call for Papers

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology 2010 Annual Meeting

February 23-26, 2010
Red Lion Inn, Medford, Oregon



CHANGES IN ATTITUDES, AND LATITUDES: THE CHANGING CLIMATE OF SCIENCE AND POLICY

Symposia and Meeting At-A-Glance

23 February	Pre-meeting symposium: Transportation & Wildlife Issues
24-26 February	Plenary and concurrent sessions, and poster presentations
27 February	Field Trips

Session topics will include: Climate Change, State of the Northwest Forest Plan, Emerging Infectious Diseases of Regional Fauna, Invasive Species, Reptiles, Birds, Amphibians, Carnivores, Mammal Management, Animal Relocation, Western Pond Turtles and more.

Please submit abstracts for presentations and posters to Doug DeGross at ddegross@comcast.net. Abstracts must be submitted electronically as Microsoft Word documents by 18 January 2010. Please follow the Abstract preparation instructions below.

**For more information or to volunteer contact Planning Committee Chair:
Doug DeGross (ddegross@comcast.net), SNVB Vice President for Oregon**

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

A photography contest will be held which will include fish and wildlife in the following photographic categories:
Portrait, Telling a Story, Abstract Art, Capturing an Unusual Moment.

Prizes will be awarded for the Best Photo in each category, as well as Best in Show. Photos should be mounted, but not framed. Photos will be displayed for viewing during socials and poster sessions. The winning photos will be announced at the banquet. For questions, contact Teal Waterstrat, teal.waterstrat@gmail.com

SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW

Transportation and Wildlife Issues: The symposium will speak to transportation and wildlife issues with perspectives from Washington DC, Forest Service Region 6, and Oregon State University, with a focus on landscape linkages, techniques for mitigating for wildlife, and real world successes with regard to transportation projects.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Arrangements have been made for accommodations at the Red Lion Hotel in Medford, OR at the 2010 per diem rate (\$77US/night). In order to receive this rate, reservations **MUST BE MADE BY February 1, 2010. After this date rooms are no longer guaranteed and the reduced rate will no longer be available.**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Phone Reservations (only): call (800) Red Lion or (541) 779 5811.
Make sure to mention that you would like to be put in the Society's block of rooms for the meeting in order to receive the reduced rate, and a credit card is required for reserving rooms.

Address:

Red Lion Inn Medford
200 N. Riverside Avenue
Medford, OR 97501
Tel: 541-779-5811

New Publication

The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology is pleased to announce the publication of Northwest Fauna 6: Conservation of the Siskiyou Mountains Salamander (*Plethodon stormi*), edited by Deanna H. Olson, David Clayton, Richard S. Nauman, and Hartwell H. Welsh, Jr. This 73-page publication presents a thorough treatment of the biology, conservation, and management, and survey methods of the Siskiyou Mountains Salamander.



For information on ordering, visit

<http://www.snwvb.org/nwf-series.html>

Translocation

Fort Lewis frog recovery effort keeps biologists hopping

Dec 11, 2009

By Ingrid Barrentine

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2009/12/11/31700-fort-lewis-frog-recovery-effort-keeps-biologists-hopping/>



Photo by Ingrid Barrentine

FORT LEWIS, Wash. - Biologists at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Northwest Zoo Alliance, The Evergreen State College, Cedar Creek Correctional Center and Fort Lewis Fish and Wildlife are involved in a five-year-long Oregon spotted frog species reintroduction pilot project at the post's remote 40-acre Dailman Lake.

Last month members from the agencies gathered on the lakeshore to release nearly 80 of approximately 600 9-month-old frogs raised in captivity at their facilities.

The frog, native to the Puget Lowlands, has become a state endangered species due to loss of habitat, predation by non-native species, and disease.

"The species is extinct or thought to be extinct anywhere from 70 to 90 percent of its geographic range," said Marc Hayes, a WDFW biologist.

Since the project began in 2008, more than 1,000 juvenile frogs have been released at the site.

A couple thousand frogs might seem like a lot, yet scientists question if it is enough.

"When you look at the number of eggs laid by one female frog, 500 frogs a year does not add up to that many," said John Richardson, a biologist with Fort Lewis Fish and Wildlife.

Of the 500 eggs laid by a single female, only about 1 percent will reach their first birthday, he said.

"It's a very steep learning curve for baby frogs. They don't get to make mistakes," Richardson said.

Frogs can't reproduce until males are three years old and females are four.

"We hope to know in another year or two whether or not we have reproductive success (at the release site)," said Jim Lynch, a Fort Lewis Fish and Wildlife biologist.

"My goal at the end of this pilot study is that we will have learned how to recover this species, which may lead us to discover ways of recovering other endangered amphibians," he said.

Part of the project requires biologists to repeatedly return to the drawing board to consider the issues and the costs.

"We continue to develop techniques during this process that will benefit the frog's conservation and may be applied to other conservation projects," he said.

Together, Richardson and Lynch have been tracking the migration habits of several frogs using a radio collar system. Because Dailman Lake is directly connected to Muck Creek, the frogs have been found in several locations within that wetland system. So far, the biologists are pleased with the recovery efforts but admit they can't bring the species back on their own.

"In the broader scale, this is just a single attempt in a small area," Lynch said.

"If we're going to recover the species, we are going to have to attempt this in many locations throughout the state."

Ingrid Barrentine is a photojournalist with Fort Lewis' Northwest Guardian.



Third Annual Meeting Announcement
Northwest Chapter of
Partners in Amphibian and Reptile
Conservation
March 8-9, 2010
Owyhee Plaza
Boise, ID

NW PARC will be meeting jointly with the ID Chapter of PARC March 8-9, 2010. This will precede the annual meeting of the ID Chapter of The Wildlife Society being held at the Owyhee Plaza March 9-11, 2010. The meeting includes a special symposium March 9 on *Wildlife and Energy Development in the Northwest* featuring invited talks and a panel discussion on effects of wind, solar, geothermal, coalbed methane, IPPs, oil and gas, and transmission line and road developments on wildlife.

Ocean Watch

Famous SF sea lions may have turned up near Oregon

Posted on January 7, 2010 at 9:05 AM
 KGW.com

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — More than 1,500 sea lions that abruptly disappeared from San Francisco's Pier 39 may have gone 500 miles north to the central Oregon coast.

Officials with Sea Lion Caves, a private preserve near Florence, Ore., say huge pods of the animals — now numbering about 2,000 — began showing up in October, about the same time they started leaving Pier 39.

Kim Suryan, a biologist with the Marine Mammal Institute in Newport, Ore., says the numbers are much higher than usual.

About 1,700 sea lions were counted at Francisco's Pier 39 in October before they began leaving in droves after Thanksgiving.

Experts say it's strange for so many animals to be at the pier in the first place and then leave so suddenly.

They say the sea lions may have gone north for colder waters and food and could eventually return.

Information from: San Francisco Chronicle,
<http://www.sfgate.com/chronicle>

Pacific Northwest's endangered orca population rose in 2009

By Scott Learn, The Oregonian
 January 07, 2010, 7:00AM



A newborn calf, born Jan.3, swims with its mother

The Pacific Northwest's endangered southern resident killer whale population increased in 2009 from 85 to 87 whales, then welcomed another new addition just into the New Year, the Center for Whale Research reports.

During 2009, three of the orcas went missing and five were born, for a net increase of two, said the center, which submitted a census report to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Three of the calves came from the J pod, the most frequently observed of the three pods (J, K and L) that frequent the inland waters of the Salish Sea in Washington and British Columbia, the center said. On Jan. 3, another calf appeared in J pod, boosting the population to 88 for the time being.

The center said it's optimistic that the baby boom represents a comeback for the resident population, which went into steep decline in the mid-1990s.

Their continued survival depends on sufficient food supplies, particularly spring chinook, the center said. One key: efforts to boost salmon recovery on the Columbia River, source of much of the fish the orcas feed on.

-- Scott Learn



Call for Volunteers



Whale Watching Spoken Here connects trained volunteers with visitors along the Oregon coast during the two major Gray whale migrations. The program's main objectives are to help visitors see and learn about the whales and other marine life along our coast.

We offer three training sessions each year. Sign up and attend the one of your choice:

- Dec 5-6 Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport**
Jan 23-24 Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston
Feb 20-21 Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Ilwaco, WA

Volunteers must attend one training session before they can serve at a *Whale Watching Spoken Here* site. Once trained, they may volunteer every year thereafter. We encourage seasoned volunteers to take refresher courses, and invite previously trained volunteers to audit trainings at no cost.

Dr. Bruce Mate, director of the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute, is the instructor for the Dec. 5-6 training.

Marine biologist **Carrie Newell** will lead the Jan. 23-24 and Feb. 20-21 sessions. Park Ranger **Morris Grover** of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay will assist at all three events.

For More Information:

http://www.whalespoken.org/OPRD/PARKS/WhaleWatchingCenter/docs/whale_watching_volunteers.pdf

Blue whales now singing in deeper voices:

By Judith Lavoie , Victoria Times Colonist, Dec.2, 2009

VICTORIA — Blue whales are changing their tune, but scientists have no idea why the largest animals in the world are singing in deeper voices.

A study, published in the journal *Endangered Species Research*, has found male blue whales all over the world have lowered their tone, even though different populations sing different songs.

Blue whales in the northeast Pacific population, including increasing numbers found in the waters off B.C., have lowered

their voices by 31 per cent between 1963 and 2008, said Mark McDonald of WhaleAcoustics, which conducted the study with researchers Sarah Melnick and John Hildebrand of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California.

"That is the same as three white keys on the piano. If it dropped 50 percent it would be down an octave," said McDonald, who first noticed the change about eight years ago when automated blue whale song detectors off the California coast had to be shifted to lower frequencies.



A blue whale is shown off the coast of British Columbia in this 2007 file photo. Photograph by: Handout, Department of Fisheries and Oceans

McDonald and his co-researchers set out to compare the songs in areas ranging from the Indian Ocean to the North Atlantic. But the cause of the change remains a mystery.

"The one that seemed like a promising idea was increasing ocean noise," McDonald said.

But, if blue whales are struggling to make themselves heard over the sound of marine traffic, their voices should become higher, rather than lower, he said.

"They can either make a quieter sound at a lower frequency or a louder sound at a higher frequency," he said.

McDonald favours the theory that, with blue whale numbers slowly increasing since whaling officially ended in 1966, the males — which sing all the songs — do not have to call as loudly to be heard by females.

But blue whale expert John Calambokidis, director of Cascadia Research based in Olympia, Wash., doubts that populations have increased sufficiently to explain the change.

Off the west coast of the U.S. and B.C., the population is believed to have risen slowly from about 2,000 in the 1980s to approximately 2,500.

More blue whales are being seen in B.C. waters, where they had previously been hunted almost to extinction, because they are chasing krill that move with a cycle of cool ocean water.

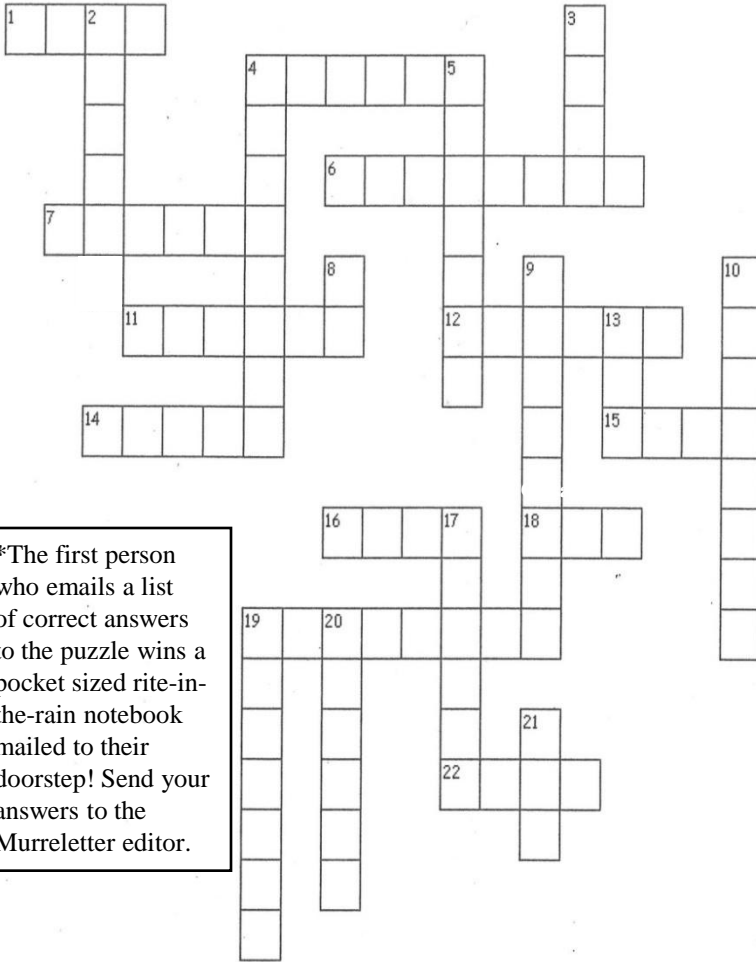
But blue whales continue to be listed as endangered and the worldwide population is now about 10,000 compared to the pre-whaling population of about 300,000, Calambokidis said.

Calambokidis said he thinks females find the deeper tones more appealing.

"The males produce the calls so they are related to reproduction," he said, "not prey or navigation."

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Test Your SNVB Knowledge*



*The first person who emails a list of correct answers to the puzzle wins a pocket sized rite-in-the-rain notebook mailed to their doorstep! Send your answers to the Murreletter editor.

Across

1. collection of armored reptiles
4. *Strix* who cooks for you
6. North America's northern most ungulate, genus
7. Oregon's newest salamander, species
11. rite-in-the-rain® home town
12. Grinnel study range
14. Jackson county beer river
15. victorious civil war mascot, 2009
16. head-butting mountaineers
18. Beaver U
19. newsletter icon
22. 2010 meeting state highest point

Down

2. recent spotted frog reintroduction Fort
3. SNVB fish friendly since 199__
4. what is needed to get into the society
5. 2010 meeting organizer
8. V.P. McIntyre State (abb)
9. site of Humpback whale observation NW Nat v90 #2
10. *Sebastes*
13. color of lion at 2010 meeting venue
17. water body formerly known as Puget
19. 2010 meeting city
20. frog call
21. Northwest Naturalist editor



SNVB WANTS YOU!

SNVB Board Position Nominees Wanted

Positions open as of spring 2010:

- Vice President for Oregon (2 year position; term expires 2012)
- Vice President for Northern Region (2 year position; term expires 2012)
- Vice President for Southern Region (2 year position; term expires 2012)
- Trustee (3 year position; term expires 2013)

Main Board member responsibilities and perks:

- Voting member of SNVB Board
- Attend approximately three Board meetings per year (via conference call and in person at the annual meeting if possible)
- Help the annual meeting organizing committee (e.g., advertise, recruit speakers, get donations, host a field trip or special event, and/or moderate a session, etc.)
- Promote SNVB whenever possible (e.g., recruit potential members at meetings)
- Write short articles and/or send information to the Murreletter editor and webmaster about goings-on in your region (e.g., research, meetings, workshops, events, etc.)
- Financial support to attend the annual meeting

Please contact Elke Wind
[ewind@telus.net; 250-716-1119]
if you would like to run for a position or would like to
nominate someone

Member Travelogue

It was late in the evening on October 8th 2009 as we hoisted our last pint to new and old friends and the deities of good weather and wandered down the docks of Fisherman's Terminal in Seattle to the M/V Ursa Major. The Ursa Major is a refitted wooden Norwegian trawler that our good friends Captain Josh and 1st Mate/Naturalist Emily charter in the Sea of Cortez and SE Alaska. This is just their commute...Alaska to La Paz. Four of us—myself, Sheila Peden, and Nick and Becky—were lucky enough to vacation with these hard working seafarers from Seattle, WA to San Diego, CA. This is our account.

The Ursa slid into the Ballard Locks in the predawn light with the crew a little groggy and disoriented, but fueled by strong coffee and the thoughts of the open ocean by sunset. While we dropped to sea level and coiled the mooring lines, I started thinking of whales, albatross, endless horizons, the sensation of constant motion, and breakfast. As we headed west that afternoon aggregations of seabirds, including a number of Heermann's gulls, dotted the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Soon after Emily's trained eyes spotted the first whale swimming quickly towards the birds, a sleek Minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), presumably headed for forage fish that the birds were likely floating above. This was our first whale and third species of marine mammal, having seen two pinnipeds lounging around Salmon Bay that morning. As the light faded away we found ourselves passing Neah Bay. The only disappointment of a wonderful first day was passing Cape Flattery and Tatoosh Island (of Robert Paine fame) in the dark. I would have to settle for their glowing green outlines on the radar display.



From the 9th to the 12th of October we slowly chugged our way down the west coast of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. From the wheelhouse we watched a swirling circuit of Black-footed albatross, Sooty and Buller's shearwaters, Northern fulmars, and white-headed gulls. Floating on the water was an assortment of murrelets, auklets, murrelets, guillemots, and even one tufted puffin. But, as usual, the marine mammals stole the show with their bulk, curiosity, and kinship. After officially entering the Pacific Ocean we soon encountered California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), Dall's porpoises (*Phocoenidaees dalli*), Common short nosed dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), Humpbacks (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and a Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*). The majority of the sighting occurred some 20 miles west of Coos Bay, OR.

One reason for all the sightings we speculated was daylight, but the true reason for such patchy distributions the whales kept to themselves. Exciting stuff for a couple from Montana, a nurse, and a befuddled tree counter. We cursed facing the opposite way as a humpback blew or breached, and raced to the bow smiling to watch the Dall's race round the hull and then disappear to other merry business. Emily and Josh, far from being whale weary from years at sea, helped keep the log of marine mammal sightings down the coast.

As we neared Eureka, a storm was chasing us south and we decided to duck into Woodley Island Marina for beer, fishing gear, and an adventure on *terra firma*.

After a trip to town, we decided that we might as well see the redwoods and Lost Coast while we were there. We all hopped in a minivan and headed out to see some of the world's greatest trees. It was an opportune time in my mind for searching for amphibians as the clouds opened up after a hot dry summer and saturated and soaked the coastal forest. In a momentary stop in our whirlwind tour, I managed to find 3 ensantina (*Ensatina eschscholtzii oregonensis*) out basking in the rain in a matter of moments. Unfortunately I couldn't seem to muster up the enthusiasm to stoop in the downpour from the rest of the crew, which is understandable if you have more whales and Mexico on your mind. When we piled back into the van I was left alienated in a dripping puddle of a back seat, the price you pay I suppose. But the clouds were breaking, so up and west we went to the Lost Coast.

The transition from the redwoods to the windswept coast was beautiful and dramatic. Up we went from *Sequoia to Pseudotsuga..* Madrones and



firs turned to oak and maples as we popped over the crest and into the hamlet of Honeydew. After a quick eating and fueling we headed out of the trees and to the Pacific. The sun was streaking the grey ocean and as the wind gusted from the South, we stood on the beach happy to be ashore. As we headed back up the hills of Cape Mendocino we were surrounded by hawks (my apologies on not knowing the species) hovering mere feet above the ground. I was amazed by the sheer density of raptors on the hills and their control in the gusting winds.

Back at the marina, another exciting bird observation was waiting. Below the fisherman's memorial was a flock of more than 50 Marbled Godwits that presented a surreal cinnamon spectacle as they took off and landed in unison. But before we could explore the Humboldt Bay any further, out the breakwater we went.

...Continued on page 7

...Travelogue *continued from page 6*

As the pelicans and sea lions looked on, we sailed south to warmer weather. Several humpback and grey whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) were seen cruising the Point Reyes area.

Passing by the Farallons, we saw a strange red tide thick in the water and the towers of the Gate Bridge above the infamous fog. The following day we put out the hand lines and pulled in bonitos, which we gobbled up raw, cooked, reheated, and cold for the next several days.

The 18th of October was our last day aboard the Ursa and it turned out be a good one. We navigated the oil rigs, Channel Islands, and LA commercial traffic (yes traffic sucks even in the ocean) the previous night. As the sun came up we were off Catalina Island with porpoises riding the bow wake. Sheila and I even got our cheeks moistened from their blows. Then, to top off the morning, a Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) decided to cruise slowly by in the opposite direction, giving us a show of its flukes before it dove out of sight.

That afternoon we pulled into San Diego Bay through a bed of giant kelp, and it was all over for Sheila and I. The others pushed on safely to La Paz. Becky and Nick were soon back in Montana to close up shop before heading back to Puget Sound, and Josh and Emily had charters to fulfill in the Sea of Cortez. But what a hoot it all was, and a great reminder of the huge diversity of habitats and backboneed fauna that make up the greater Northwestern region! Keep an eye for the Ursa Major; she could be visiting a port near you anytime with a boat full of good cheer and adventures.

-story and photos by Teal Waterstrat

FIRST CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS at the 12th Annual Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) egg mass surveys at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge to begin in late February or early March 2010.

What's it all about?

The marsh-specialized Oregon spotted frog is the amphibian species at greatest risk of extirpation across the higher rainfall portions of the North American Pacific Northwest (PNW).



Photo by Kell McCallister

Presumed extinct in northwestern California and the Willamette Valley of Oregon and represented by highly localized remnant populations in the Puget Trough-Georgia Basin of Washington State and British Columbia,

this species is known from about 40 local populations across a historic geographic range that extended from the southern margin of the Fraser River in southwest British Columbia to the upper Pit River system in northwest California.

The Conboy Lake NWR Oregon spotted frog population is unique in two ways. It is the largest Oregon spotted frog population across its geographic range; and it is the only Oregon spotted frog population successfully co-existing with bullfrogs, a condition in place at this site for over 60 years. Both conditions make this population key in understanding Oregon spotted frog ecology. As a consequence, this population has been the focus of study since 1997. A basic part of this effort has been volunteer-supported monitoring that has conducted egg mass counts on Conboy Lake NWR since 1998. Most years since its inception, ~50 volunteers have contributed to this effort. This level of volunteer assistance is needed because the surveyed area is several square miles in extent. This monitoring was key in identifying the success of a massive hydrological restoration completed mostly in the fall of 2001 at a cost of over \$250,000. Prior to this restoration, tens of thousands of Oregon spotted frog egg masses, typically laid in shallow water, became stranded because the water control system was unable to maintain adequate water levels through the egg laying interval.

Conboy NWR, nestled in the Glenwood Valley, Klickitat County, WA, is located in the spectacular pre-montane landscape just southeast of Mount Adams, and approximately 1.5 hours east-northeast of Portland.



These surveys could not be possible without the assistance of many volunteers...one of which could be YOU!

Training will be provided on site. Field days are typically 9:00AM to 5:00PM. You will need raingear, and well-fitting hip waders or chest waders, as you will typically be doing a lot of walking in water 1-2 feet or so in depth. You should also pack food and water for the duration. Children are welcome with adult supervision. Pets are not allowed on the refuge. Lodging may be available for volunteers wishing to survey for more than 1 day.

We hope you can assist us in this multi-year monitoring effort that will help conserve this state-level endangered species currently a federal candidate for listing.

Please feel free to share this announcement with others who may be interested.



If interested, please contact:

Tiffany Hicks, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Tiffany.Hicks@dfw.wa.gov
(360) 902-2544

Postdoctoral Opportunity



Postdoctoral Scientist – Disease Ecology and Amphibian Conservation

Creative and motivated candidates are invited to apply for a Postdoctoral Scientist position working at the intersection of disease ecology and amphibian conservation at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The position will focus on exploring questions in one of two focal areas:

- (1) Applying metacommunity theory to host-parasite interactions at multiple spatial scales, and/or
- (2) Understanding the immunological mechanisms that mediate patterns of parasite coinfection and amphibian disease.

A wide range of parasites will be included in the study, but particular emphasis will be placed on the trematode *Ribeiroia ondatrae* and its effects on amphibian malformations. Previous field and/or experimental experience with host-parasite systems is essential, and a background in community ecology, landscape ecology and/or immunology is strongly encouraged.

Experience with GIS and analysis of spatial data is preferred. Because funding for positions is derived from several sources, the selected candidate will have some flexibility in developing specific projects.

Focal project areas include: using ecological ‘rules’ to understand patterns of parasite interaction within and among hosts, identifying the effects of host and parasite diversity on disease, and evaluating the importance of dispersal and species interactions in structuring host and parasite communities. Target start date is spring or summer of 2010. Interested applicants should send (as a single pdf) the following: a complete CV, contact information for references, and a brief statement of research interests related to this position (<2 pages) to Dr. Pieter Johnson (pieter.johnson@colorado.edu), Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department, University of Colorado (see www.colorado.edu/eeb/facultysites/pieter).

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FEBRUARY 1ST, 2010 OR UNTIL A SUITABLE CANDIDATE IS FOUND.

Member Photo

Another image from the adventures of F.T. Waterstrat, this photo captures one of the great geologic wonders of our region.

Can you guess where it is? Hint: from here you would have once upon a time been looking at a waterfall four times the height of Niagara Falls!

Photo taken 28 November 2009.



Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology Annual Membership Renewal Information

Hello all SNVB members. I would like to encourage everyone to renew their membership in SNVB for 2010; and to remind everyone that receipt of the Northwestern Naturalist is one of the perks of membership in the Society. Please use the Membership Application and Renewal below for your membership renewal and mail the completed form and your payment (in US funds) to the Society Treasurer:

Tiffany Sacra Garcia
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
104 Nash Hall
Oregon State University
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Your membership in the Society is essential to the continued success of SNVB and it is greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all at the SNVB 2010 Annual Meeting.
Best regards: Robert Hoffman, Editor, Northwestern Naturalist.

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology 2010 Membership Application

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Renewal or New Member (check one)

Area of Interest/Expertise:

Membership Category (check one) RATES IN US DOLLARS

Regular Individual (\$25)

Additional family member (\$10)

Student (\$15 annual dues)

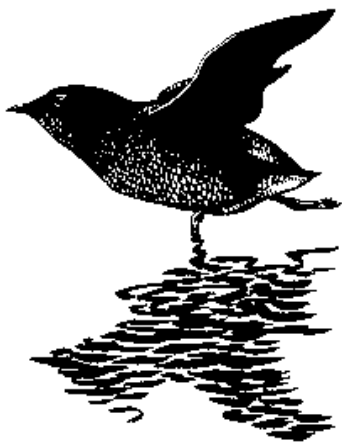
Contributing Individual (\$35)

Sustaining Individual (\$50)

Life (\$325 one-time payment)

Institutional (\$60)





For more information about the

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology

check out our website:

www.snwvb.org