

Volume 22 Issue 2

# Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology



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## 2014 Meeting Wrap up and our Award Winners

To all of our members who supported SNVB in creating another successful meeting this year in Pasco, Washington: Whether you were managing the chaos of the registration table, presenting a new and fascinating paper, in attendance, or just paid you annual dues on time, THANK YOU for your support. For those of you who missed out on all the fun, the abstracts are still online on our [annual meeting page](#) for you to enjoy and browse. And no meeting synopsis would be complete with out a big thank you to our partners in conference: The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Raptors Northwest (RICA), The Global Owl Project, NW Partners in Reptile and Amphibian Conservation, and of course our host, The Red Lion Inn in Pasco!



[www.thesnvb.org](http://www.thesnvb.org)

Alright, enough backslapping and hand shaking! Who brought home the **GOLD** for SNVB this year in the award ceremonies? Drum roll for the students please!

### Oral Presentations:

**Winner:** Stephan Selego, Oregon State University for his talk titled " Invasive, Native, and Aquaculture Red Swamp Crayfish Differ in Expression of Behavioral Types Across Temperature Gradients."

**Runner-up:** Alexandra Froese, University of Winnepeg for her talk titled " Breeding and Foraging Ecology of Burrowing Owls in Southwestern Manitoba."

### Poster Presentations:

**Winner:** Alexandra Anderson, Boise State University for her poster titled "Assortative Mating as a Mechanism for Advancing Nesting Phenology in American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*)"

**Runner-up:** Christina Baggett, Oregon State University for her poster titled "The Interactive Roles of Male Pheromones and Female Mating Receptivity on Scent Choice in Female Red-legged Salamanders"

## 2014 SNVB Board

**President:** Steven Wagner

**Inland VP:** Paul Hendricks

**Northern VP:** Darcy Pickard

**Oregon VP:** Rebecca Hill-Clark

**Southern VP:** Hartwell Welsh

**Washington VP:** Robert E Weaver

**Secretary:** Lindsey Thurman

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**NW Naturalist Editor:** Robert Hoffman

**NW Fauna Editor:** Nat Seavy

**Web Master:** Eric Lund

**Historian:** Marc Hayes

**Murreletter Editor:** F Teal Waterstrat

*Continued on following page...*

## 2014 Meeting Award Winners

*Continued from page 1*

The 2014 SNVB Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dave Clayton, of USFS. He is a long time sustaining SNVB member, former Oregon V.P., meeting organizer, fauna and journal author, and rocks one of the top 3 male ponytails in our entire organization. The 2014 SNVB mentorship was presented to Aimee McIntyre of WDFW. Aimee is a lifetime member, former WA -VP and an incredible mentor to the many technicians and biologists that have had the pleasure of working with her over the years. This years scholarship was awarded to an outstanding student for their outstanding work! And let's not forget all those individuals that brought the wonder and action of NW vertebrates to the photo contest. If any photographer is interested in having their winning image displayed in the Murreletter, on the website, or our facebook page please contact us and we will proudly display it.

## What is the Murreletter worth and a Brief History of the Newsletter

*-F Teal Waterstrat (Murreditor)*



**Why bother with a newsletter? It's your open forum to share, disagree, and query biologists throughout the region uncensored by work, peer review, or your professor looking over your shoulder!**

Some of you may be wondering why we have a newsletter. SNVB has a peer-reviewed journal, a fauna series, a website, a superb annual meeting, and a couple social media sites (oh, and sometimes we send an email or two). So seriously, isn't that enough SNVB saturation for the average highly enthused member? The answer is YES! So where do you say that? Right here; this is the place for your voice to saturate SNVB! I'm just sitting at a laptop at 11 pm drinking a beer. I have no idea what the rest of the broad SNVB membership is doing, what questions you have, what you saw a marmot do that

has never been seen before!

Tired of your thesis advisor crushing your creative and beautiful prose (Murreletter)? Have an incredible future as a wildlife photographer if you could just get something published put to on a resume (Murreletter)? Want to know if you were the only person to observe a undocumented behavior (Murreletter)? Want to complain that our meetings are only in the Inland and Southern Regions once a decade (Murreletter)? Generate interest in a conference or workshop you are organizing (Murreletter). You

get the idea! SNVB members put the UR LETTER in Murreletter!

O.K. a little history. The [Murrelet](#) was our journal until 1988 when our focus was exclusively birds and mammals. We decided to expand our scope to reptiles and amphibians after that (and later fish) so we needed a new name for the Journal, but we kept the Murrelett alive in the newsletter. The newsletter editor position was created in 2002 after a unknown forces created a new position after a tie vote for the Secretary position. So duties were divided and the editor was born.

## Really Retro Rhyacotriton Reader Response (only 13 years late!) - Sally Butts and F Teal Waterstrat

To start this article I want you to stop reading this issue of the Murreletter right now and instead return to the [October 2001](http://thesnvb.org/pub/2001-october-murreletter.pdf) issue and read the article on page 6 by then trustee Sally Butts in which she describes encountering an Olympic Torrent salamander taking a walk in the woods. <http://thesnvb.org/pub/2001-october-murreletter.pdf>



*Rhyacotriton olympicus*,  
Eric M Lund, WDFW

Sally! Sorry it took me so long to respond! I have seen similar behavior in the Elochoman drainage of Wahkiakum County, WA in late 2009. We were characterizing forest stands within 50' riparian transects on October 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> in what in my field notes sounds like an absolute deluge of rain and wildlife. On Oct 28<sup>th</sup> the only note is "overcast with gusts, strong rain starting at 4 pm." The next morning starts off with "beautiful double rainbow" and just gets better from there. I note "many Columbia Torrent salamanders (*Rhyacotriton kezeri*), NW salamanders (*Ambystoma gracile*), and Rough-skinned newts (*Taricha granulosa*) everywhere within and > 50' from stream." The 30<sup>th</sup> (still raining...) I note 2 Van Dykes salamanders (*Plethodon vandykei*), 1 NW salamander, 1 male Coastal Tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*), 2 Red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora*), and 1 Columbia Torrent salamander wandering around on the forest floor as happy as can be (for the non-herp crowd there was also a flock of 4 turkey hens and 5 cow elk with a bull). Then, just to put candle in the jack-o-lantern, on Halloween (still raining) I noted 1 male, 4 female, and 1 unknown sex Columbia Torrent salamanders cruising around outside our 50' riparian buffer stand, and a monster 270 mm total length terrestrial Coastal Giant Salamander (*Dicamptodon tenebrosus*) was captured in uplands by Jason Walker and Sarah Coven, (also 12 grouse and many chanterelles were noted that day). Recall that this field crew was measuring trees and habitat in a downpour for 3 days not really looking for wildlife of any sort, so there was probably a lot more going on than we saw!

In addition to all these stream-associated salamanders wandering so far from their instream and streamside habitat I have observed Columbia Torrent Salamanders engaged in what I have self-dubbed "rain basking". When I have observed this it is usually the day after first real rains (the mushroom popper) of autumn. The salamanders are perched atop a rock or log adjacent to or in the stream and have their heads lifted to clouds as if to welcome them back for the next 8 months.

Sally took her observation further than just telling a story as I did. She queried SNVB members about the possibility of Torrent salamanders using these rain events to travel between streams and locations, much as our lentic breeding amphibians move during spring and autumn warm rain events? Or perhaps these soggy conditions provide unique upland foraging opportunities? For a great big picture publication tied to the behaviors Sally and I saw please review Dede Olson's and others 2007 article in *Forest Ecology and Management*. (Olson, Deanna H., et al. "Biodiversity management approaches for stream-riparian areas: Perspectives for Pacific Northwest headwater forests, microclimates, and amphibians." *Forest Ecology and management* 246.1 (2007): 81-107.)

Let's keep this conversation going at SNVB and start a couple new ones. Send in you notes and have biological experts in the region weigh in on what you've seen. Thanks from Sally and me.

## *A new publication with global implications by Southern Region V.P. Hartwell Welsh.*



*Ensatina eschscholtzii*,  
Olympia, WA, 2008

*"This research is unique and important, and will increase public understanding of how the impacts of global warming may be countered and raise awareness of the ecological role woodland salamanders play in the forest carbon cycle."*

From the [USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station Newsroom](#):

ARCATA, Calif.— Woodland salamanders perform a vital ecological service in American forests by helping to mitigate the impacts of global warming. Global warming occurs when greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide are released into the atmosphere. Woodland salamanders facilitate the capture of this carbon before it is released by feeding on invertebrates (beetles, earthworms, snails, ants, etc.) that would otherwise release carbon through consumption of fallen leaves and

other forest debris. Woodland salamanders are the most common vertebrate species in American forests; consequently, these small, seldom-seen animals may play a significant role in regulating the capture of carbon from leaf litter in forest soils.

Dr. Hartwell Welsh, Jr., research wildlife biologist at the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW), helped conduct a study in Northwestern Calif. that examined how woodland salamander predation on invertebrates indirectly affects the amount of leaf litter retained for soil-building where nutrients and carbon are captured at the litter-soil interface.

Read more about this publication and find the full pdf at

[http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/news/2014/20140310\\_salamanders.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/news/2014/20140310_salamanders.shtml)

## *A new SNVB website is in the works (www.awesome!)*



Spoiler...Home page under construction

Our industrious webmaster Eric M Lund is at it again. Not satisfied with his complete reboot of the SNVB website in 2009 he is now completely retooling the website to give us an even better looking and more functional face to the online masses. Don't worry, we are

keeping all the great features you know and love: member access to online NW Naturalists articles, purchase of NW fauna online, updating and renewing your membership (hint hint), and of course board member mugshots and contacts.

There will be even more fun features in the 2014 version, but no spoilers here. We will have a press release in the near future with all the details.

[www.thesnvb.org](http://www.thesnvb.org)

## Upcoming Conferences:

- Salish Sea Conference, Seattle, Wa: April 30th – May 2nd 2014 <http://www.wvu.edu/salishseaconference/>
- Society for Freshwater Science: Portland, OR: May 18 - 23 [www.freshwater-science.org/Index.aspx](http://www.freshwater-science.org/Index.aspx)
- Bat Acoustics Workshop (Idaho-TWS sponsored) Boise, ID: June 9 –14th <http://www.ictws.org/pdf/2014BatAcousticWorkshop.pdf>
- ESRI International User Conference San Deigo, CA: July 14 –18 <http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference>
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologist: Chattanooga, TN: July 30 -Aug 3 [www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/jointmeeting/](http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/jointmeeting/)
- American Fisheries Society National Meeting **2015** Portland, OR: Aug. 16-20 <http://fisheries.org/meetings>

## Job opportunities

The Fisheries and Wildlife Department at Oregon State University invites applications for a tenure track Assistant Professor in Stream Ecology. We seek an energetic, enthusiastic colleague to complement our existing strengths in teaching, research and service, and help expand our nationally and internationally recognized programs in wildlife, fisheries and conservation biology. We invite you to visit the application web site (<http://jobs.oregonstate.edu/hr>) for further details about the position (posting #0012093) and information on how to apply. For full consideration, applications must be received by April 14, 2014.

- [WDFW COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST 4](#)
- [Watershed Restoration Coordinator, Nooksack Tribe Natural Resources Department](#)
- [The North Olympic Salmon Coalition Project Manager](#)
- [Citizen Outreach Director, Columbia Riverkeeper](#)

## First Long-Term Behavioral Records from Cuvier's Beaked Whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) Reveal Record-Breaking Dives

From: Northwest Public Radio, Tom Banse 3-April-2014 (<http://nwpr.org/>)  
- *A bit out of our range, but originating in a northwest research institute.*  
A paper [published in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS One](#) by scientists with the Cascadia Research Collective of Olympia revealed two new records. The re-

searchers tagged Cuvier's beaked whales, a rarely seen species which forages in deep ocean waters worldwide, including off the U.S. West Coast.

The longest lasted 137 minutes. One beaked whale also dove deeper than any other mammal

before, including the previous record holder, a southern elephant seal. The tagged whale dove nearly two miles below the surface, 2,992 meters deep.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.plosone.org/>



Credit Erin Falcone Cascadia Research under NOAA permit 16111

# Contact us!

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## SNVB Annual Meeting 2015

Before the gossip spreads like wildfire... Yes, we are planning our meeting for a location in Oregon next year. Right now our meeting committee is reviewing venues and contacting other organizations to get rolling on another stellar meeting

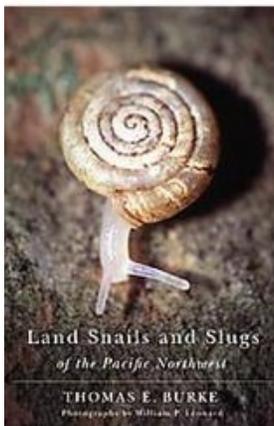
in 2015.

If you have any suggestions about themes, partners, or symposiums you would like to see next year let us know. This year's core meeting planning committee is ready to hear your suggestions. Contact them at snvb.board@gmail.com.

The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, the oldest scientific association devoted to the study of vertebrates in the Pacific Northwest, was founded in 1920 as the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society. Long recognized as the preeminent 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.



## Parting thoughts Crayfish, Slugs, and Snails! Oh my!



Reviewed in *NW Naturalist*  
2013 Volume 94 Issue 3

Wait just a second. What is happening at the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology? A book review of slugs and snails? A student presentation winner with a subject matter about non-native crayfish? What's next mushrooms?!

You don't need a Phd to see that things are a little outside our typical subject range. Are we turning in our spines and giving in to all those invertebrate fanat-

ics out there? No, at least not as of today.

Interestingly, this is not the first time that invertebrates have been up for discussion in our society.

Way back in 2009 a workshop on invertebrates was proposed for our 2010 annual meeting in Hood River, Oregon (where we also partnered with a freshwater mussel group in 2012). Following this workshop a series of debates for and

against the inclusion of invertebrates in the scope of our society raged on in the Murrelletter. I encourage all of you interested in this subject to review subject matter in Murrelletters volume 9 issue 3, volume 10 issues 1 & 2, and volume 11 issue 1 in our online archives.

[www.thesnvb.org/newsletter.html](http://www.thesnvb.org/newsletter.html)

It's always good to look at past precedents!

# The **S**ociety for **N**orthwestern **V**ertebrate **B**iology



*The longest running scientific association devoted to the study of vertebrate ecology in the Pacific Northwest*

Northwestern  
Naturalist

A JOURNAL OF VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 3 SPRING 2014

## Member Benefits

- Northwestern Naturalist, the Society's peer-reviewed scientific journal
- The Murreletter tri-annual e-newsletter
- Discounts on meetings and publications like Northwest Fauna
- Free online access to NW Naturalist archives through BioOne
- Students eligible for annual scholarship
- Up to date information on our rotating intra-regional meetings, publications, and workshops

Northwest  
Fauna

A MONOGRAPH OF VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY



Western Pond Turtle: Biology, Sampling Techniques, Inventory and Monitoring, Conservation, and Management

By Bruce Baskin, Garth Bell, J. J. Hines, B. David Garman, and  
Shirley E. Amerson (Editors)

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