

# Wildlife Chapter News



July 2011

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Since 1965, 2,442  
have graduated with a  
BS degree from the  
HSU Department of  
Wildlife.

## Greetings HSU Wildlife Alums!

**The February 10, 2011 Annual Meeting of HSU AA Wildlife Chapter was held in Riverside, CA in concert with the Western Section TWS meeting.** President Lisa Ollivier opened the meeting with self introductions by participants and with members sharing remembrances of time spent at HSU. In summary, the following issues were discussed:

- The Chapter's financial report was reviewed by Treasurer Scott Frazer (see the full *Treasurers Report* next page). Our goal of helping the Department establish a 25K scholarship endowment was accomplished! Thanks to everyone that contributed. The first Wildlife Alumni Scholarship will be awarded this fall.
- Lisa Ollivier, reviewed the important news from the Department provided in a letter by Dr. Matt Johnson.
- Alumni travel trips were discussed and planned. Potential trips include Jamaican birding in January 2012, SW birding in parts of NM and TX winter of 2013, and a return to Kafue NP in Zambia fall 2013.
- A Wildlife Department Alumni Reunion was discussed and suggested for late May 2012. Please see the section on *Reunion Plans* for this event and please provide your input. The last reunion was held on the HSU campus in 2005. It was a great event. Don't miss the next one!
- Our next Annual Meeting will be held in Sacramento, CA in association with the Western Section, TWS on February 1 or 2, 2012. Although the exact dates and times will depend on the grace of the planning committee and on the conference venue, we have vowed to secure a 5 pm slot, as was recommended by those attending the February 2011 meeting.

## Congratulations to Graduates with Wildlife Degrees

Did you know that the Department of Wildlife opened its doors with a two-year program in 1940? Or, that in 1949, the first 4-year Bachelor degree was approved and in 1956 the Master's of Science degree program started? You may, but I bet you do not know how many of us have passed through those doors with a degree in hand. Well, we looked into it. Current records for the number of graduating students span from 1965 to 2011. During that time 2,442 have graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree and 339 have graduated with a Master of Science Degree. That probably strikes you as a low number because as many of you know, Humboldt Wildlifers are well represented in State and Federal natural resource management agencies. We may expect more in the future, because according to data from 2008, the number of wildlife majors at HSU has grown over 20% in the last 5 years, and Wildlife is now the 5<sup>th</sup> largest major on campus (out of 92 different majors). The Department graduated the 6<sup>th</sup> highest number of undergraduates in the university, and the most Master's of Science graduate students of any program. Demand for HSU wildlife graduates continues to rise, with the U.S. Department of Labor predicting that jobs appropriate for graduates of HSU's Wildlife program will grow 22% over the next decade, which is 9-15% faster than the average growth among all jobs in the country. So, to all of the Department's graduates— **Job well done!**

## A Message From Chapter President, Dominic Bachman

What do you get for asking if the HSU Wildlife Alumni Chapter needs help with anything? Well in my case you end up becoming the President!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our HSU Wildlife heritage and give you a little of my history with this institution. I received my B.S. from the HSU Wildlife Department in 2005 and my M.S. in 2008. I worked at the Humboldt Bay NWR and I lived in Humboldt County for 8 years and loved every minute of it. Since I graduated, I have been a Wildlife Biologist for the Modoc NWR in Northeastern California.

I am super proud to be an alumnus of the Humboldt State University Wildlife Department. I never realized how few of us there really are with less than 2,800 graduates in the last 50 years! It sure feels like a heck of a lot more when I go to a meeting or visit a new refuge. GO HUMBOLDT MOFFIA!

I was lucky enough to go back to HSU a couple of times in the last year. My first trip was to attend the Western Student Conclave as an unofficial coach for the U of Idaho quiz-bowl team. Humboldt State put on an incredible event. As the host, they did a great job showcasing HSU and the Californian Northcoast, as well as leaving a lasting impression on the other schools that attended. I also got to spend a week working with five alumni graduate students from Dr. Black's Waterfowl Ecology Lab to work on a publication that synthesized our collective research on Aleutian geese conducted during the last ten years. It was great to see my alumni peers doing so well in their careers and working really hard to publish some of the great work done through the HSU Wildlife Department—the hours upon hours behind the computer writing a manuscript reminded me of a time I loved but thankfully don't have to go back to!

Congratulations on helping us reach our goal for the scholarship endowment. Maybe it is time to make a new goal? Undergraduate tuition is over \$3500 a semester! I'm sure some of you remember it at \$50! We all know what a great education and experience the HSU Wildlife Department can provide. Lets all start thinking about a new goal for helping out a few deserving students pay for their education.

I hope you will connect or reconnect with us via many of options mentioned below (see *Where Are You?*). I think we need to make a site just to keep track of the wayward twenty-something's that are spread out across the world.

We are working on a database of HSU fish and wildlife alumni emails and contact info if you would like to help out let me know.

Although our next annual meeting will be held at the Western Section-TWS meeting in Sacramento, we also will be hosting an alumni reception at this year's National Wildlife Society meeting in Hawaii. Our meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 9th, in the evening. Please come and see us if you are lucky enough to attend this meeting. I am looking forward to attending this year's National Quizbowl. Humboldt is on a real roll and has now competed in 10 of these events and won seven of them! It is always a Joy to watch a bunch of fresh Humboldters trying to find their way into the world of fish, wildlife, and natural resource management.

Looking into the future, we are beginning to plan a reunion for 2012. I attended the last one in 2005 and it was a blast. I hope many of you will be able to give input on what venue would work best for you and hopefully attend!

I need to hear about your adventures and the type of reunion events you would like have, particularly if you can help make those happen. Please feel free to send me an email anytime.

Respectfully submitted  
Dominic Bachman  
Class of '05 and '08



P.S. Our President Elect position is wide open as well as several other positions PLEASE don't hesitate to let me know if you are interested in helping out!

WILDLIFE CHAPTER  
HSUAA

Reception for HSU

Wildlifer's is

Scheduled for

Wednesday 9 NOV

at the National

2011 TWS Meeting

in Hawaii

Wildlife Chapter –  
HSUAA  
Current Officers

President  
Dominic Bachman  
Dominic\_Bachman@fws.gov

Treasurer/Secretary  
Scott Frazer  
661 725-2767  
Scott\_Frazer@fws.gov

President-Elect  
(vacant)

Immediate Past  
President  
Lisa Ollivier  
707 444-3550  
lollivier@fs.fed.us

Newsletter Editor  
Pat 'Ranger' Ward  
hildyranger@msn.com

## Conclave and Humboldt Hospitality

The Western Student's Wildlife Conclave is a traditional event hosted in the Spring by TWS Student Chapters. This year's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave was hosted by Humboldt State University's Student Chapter, Conservation Unlimited, from March 11-14. Ten universities attended and a total of 87 students participated, along with 41 Humboldters for a total of 128 registrants. The first day of the conclave was kicked off with tsunami warnings and some highway closures. However, everyone made it safe and sound without any significant delays. We celebrated the first night with a BBQ dinner and mixer, and got to bed early to prepare for a day of field trips.

Although a few of our scheduled trips were canceled due to weather, the day was successful overall with several exciting trips around the area. Our all day birding trip, led by Dr. Matt Johnson and Phil Chaon, tallied up a total of 108 species. Other trips for the day included a tour to view redwoods, elk and whales with Dr. Rick Brown and Chris Smith, a tour of the Arcata Marsh with Dr. Sharon Kahara and Dr. Luke George, searching for spotted owls with Dr. Lowell Diller and herping in the redwoods with Ryan Bourque, Kristina Dressel, and Cori Elwood.

We kicked off Sunday with posters, presentations and our photo contest. Three posters were presented, two presentations were given, and a total of 37 photos were entered. The first place poster award was given to Thomas S. Janke from Texas A&M Kingsville for his poster entitled "Are radio telemetry survival estimates of northern bobwhite biased low? An evaluation using population viability analysis." The second place poster award went to Justin Rattan from Texas A&M Kingsville for his poster entitled "Exclusion fencing for feral hogs at white-tailed deer feeders." Third place went to Keith Mayes from Wyoming State University for his poster entitled "Does mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) infestation affect least chipmunks (*Tamias minimus*) in the Laramie Range, Wyoming?" First place in the presentation category went to Jason Carlisle from Utah State University for his talk called "Application of habitat and occupancy modeling to a wood duck nest box program."

Second place went to Jessup Boden from Utah State University for his talk on "Lesser snow goose reproductive effort under the extreme cold conditions of 2009."

Sunday afternoon was the big event, the Quiz Bowl! Teams played in a double elimination tournament and some tough questions were asked, but all the teams did incredibly well. To spice things up, the first bonus question was a live owl from our very own game pens; the question asked the family of the owl, and what species created it; it was a trick question of sorts, as it was a "sparred" owl, a hybrid between a spotted and a barred owl. All the teams put on a great show, but in the end third place went to New Mexico State University, second place went to University of Idaho, and Utah State University won the affair.

That night we got together again for some friendly fun with animal-behavior skits and calling contests. The skits were all very entertaining, and the traveling trophy was handed off to Western State College of Colorado for their skit interpreting and comparing the mating rituals of Big Horn Sheep and the elusive Frat Boy. The calling contest brought out several newly acquired spotted and barred owl calls, learned on the fields trips while owling. A great time was had by all.

Our final day of fun and games was the triathlon, held in the redwood forest behind the Humboldt campus. The compass event, trapping grid and kill site identification events gave everyone a chance to show off their field skills. Third place went to University of Reno, second place went to a hybrid team with both Colorado State and Idaho State, and first place was awarded to Utah State University (they were really on a roll!). That night was our awards banquet; the food was great and the discussion was lively. Humboldt State's esteemed department chair Matt Johnson gave an inspiring talk. We also discussed how we can increase participation in posters and presentations at regional conclave events. A few excellent suggestions were made, and additional comments on the subject will be welcomed.

All in all we had a great time and as one of the Humboldt students that helped put on this event, it was a joy to host and we at HSU greatly appreciate all of those students and schools that participated. This event could not have happened were it not for the efforts of Humboldters such as Rick Brown, our faculty advisor, and Amy Leigh Trost, our General Conclave Chair, as well as the various other chairs including Sam Aguilar, Jenna Breckel, Minh Dao, Cori Elwood, Christina Varian, Brian Fagundes, and Aaron Spidal. We would also like to thank The Wildlife Society for financial support from the National organization, the Western Section, and the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter, the California Central Coast Chapter, and the San Joaquin Valley Chapter. The University of Idaho has graciously stepped up to the plate to host next year's event, It should be a great event!

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Howard  
TWS Student Relations Chair

## 2011 Conclave (continued)



The team of HSU professors and students that helped host the 2011 Western Students Wildlife Conclave (photo by Dominic Bachman)

## Reunion May 2012

**Mark your calendars!** We are planning a CUA and HSU Wildlife Alumni reunion for the last week of May 2012. At a minimum, we are committed to holding a family style Bar-B-Q, However, if a substantial number of respondents indicate willingness to work on a fancier and bigger event (including a hosted banquet), then we may pursue a broader venue. Please contact President Dominic Bachman regarding your interest and thoughts about reunion activities and what you can contribute to this event. As is our tradition, our last reunion was held on the HSU campus and was a great success. Lets do it again!

## Where are you?



Dr. Pat "Ranger" Ward, classes of 85 and 90, keeping tabs on a male **Mexican spotted owl** (*Strix occidentalis lucida*). We hope you won't be as cryptic when it comes to participating in the upcoming Alumni events.

**Please stay in touch.** To stay informed about our planned events like the reunion and Alumni trips, we will need to send you periodic updates. This will require current contact information and preferably an e-mail address. Please make sure your contact information is current with the HSU Alumni Association by submitting your **email address(es)** to Kim Sekas at the Alumni office at [alumni@humboldt.edu](mailto:alumni@humboldt.edu) and specify that you want your email address added to the HSUAA Wildlife Chapter roster.

If you are already an HSU AA member you can also check your account on-line <http://alumni.humboldt.edu/s/857/index.aspx?sid=857&gid=1&pgid=274>. If you are not a member you can sign up online or complete and send in the form provided in this newsletter. With current email addresses, we can send out our newsletters with timely information and announcements.

There are two other ways to find out the latest news in the Department and provide contact information. One is the Department of Wildlife **Website** <http://www.humboldt.edu/wildlife/alumni.html> and the other is the Department's new **Facebook** page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Humboldt-State-University-Wildlife-Department/192175280816522>

## Alumni Trips - Caribbean birds, mon!

See dem! Matt Johnson will lead a birding trip for alumni on the island of Jamaica in early January 2012 (tour dates: Jan 7-14, meeting and leaving from Montego Bay). Matt has researched bird ecology in Jamaica for more than 15 years, and he has scouted out great places to see birds, reasonably priced accommodation, and good food. The trip will visit the edge of the Cockpit Country, coastal wetlands, and the Blue Mountains. Jamaica is home to an astonishing 28 species of endemic birds, as well as Antillean and Neotropical specialties. Jamaica offers some of the most exciting birdwatching in the West Indies, and it is one of the few tropical countries

where you have a good chance at seeing most or all endemics in less than a week. There are also spectacular forests, waterfalls, and crocodile-inhabited mangroves. Round trip flights from the Bay Area to Montego Bay at that time of year are typically \$600-\$800. Approximate cost of trip not counting airfare is \$1,200/person. These trips are a great way to reconnect with friends and enjoy exotic places, people, foods, and wildlife.

Future Alumni trips are in the works, including a Southern NM-West Texas birding trip in late February-early March, 2013 and a return to McBride's camp in Kafue NP, Zambia in 2013.



Above: A **Jamaican Tody** (*Todus todus*) poses for a picture at Dr. Matt Johnson's field site in Jamaica.

For more information contact: **Scott Frazer** by phone or by "snail mail" at P. O. Box 670, Delano, CA 93216.

## Report From Your Treasurer, Scott Frazer

**The Chapter Finances are now divided into 3 accounts. As of 12/31/2010 these held:**

General Fund	\$ 637.05
Endowed Scholarship	\$ 27,743.04
Short Term Loan Program	\$ 7,055.35

Your past support of this alumni organization is appreciated and your continued generosity would be most welcomed at this time. The funds shown above are used for three purposes.

The **General Fund** is maintained to help with specific, usually equipment related, requests by the Wildlife Department. In the past, these have included, purchases of computer work stations, taxidermy display cabinets, and optics. The Chapter's General Fund was reduced to help meet the endowed scholarship challenge. Your consideration of using the "unrestricted" donation line on the membership form at the end of this newsletter will

help restore this fund to a more practical level for helping the Department with any future needs, including our May 2012 reunion.

The **Endowed Scholarship** now provides a consistent means for awarding an undergraduate selected by departmental committee a *Wildlife Alumni Scholarship* of a minimum of \$ 1,000. This award is based on merit and is envisioned to be awarded to a Junior-level student.

The **Short Term Loan Program** continues to help students studying Natural Resources obtain emergency loans. This program has a long-standing history and has helped to prevent students from dropping out when financial crises loom. During 2010 six loans were provided at a total of \$2,750.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
Scott Frazer, class of 79

## Donations to the Wildlife Chapter

**Please consider giving a contribution to the Chapter's general fund.** We are especially eager to increase this fund to help with the reunion in May 2012. There are two ways you can donate to the Chapter's General Fund (see below). Regardless of the method you use, if you are providing a donation beyond your membership dues, then you need to indicate the fund name and account number: Wildlife Chapter General Fund: **503401-TV204-D10015**.



*Thank  
You!*

The first way to donate is by filling out and mailing in the form on the next page. This form has a blank for unrestricted donations. Just enter the amount you would like to give. The account number for the General Fund has been provided on this form.

The second way, is by visiting the HSU Alumni Website. Click on our elk on our logo to the left and then click on the *Give Now* button on the HSU Alumni Association webpage (<http://www.humboldt.edu/giving/>). Fill out the first, second, and third form. On the third form under "Additional Comments," you will need to specify "Unrestricted Donation" and then the account # for the General Fund.



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STATE UNIVERSITY  
**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

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**Look inside to stay  
connected and find out how  
to get more involved!**

**Membership Information**



- \$45 annual dues Wildlife Alumni Chapter—HSUAA Membership
- \$10 annual dues Wildlife Alumni Chapter (current HSUAA life member)

**Additional donation to the Wildlife Chapter General Fund:**  
\$25, \$50, \$100, \$1,000 or \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Chapter of HSUAA  
(unrestricted donation to Account: **503401-TV204-D10015**)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

C/SIZ \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Tell me more about Alumni spreading the word about the HSU wildlife program.

I would like to receive/keep my humboldt.edu email address. Below is the data required for activating my account, including my HSU ID #  
OR my Social Security #.  
HSUID/SS# \_\_\_\_\_  
DOB \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: HSUAA**

**Return to :** Alumni Association  
Humboldt State University  
1 Harpst Street  
Arcata, CA 95521



*Membership in the Alumni Association is important. Member support of key programs – such as alumni scholarships, grants, special events, and publications – is what drives our success.*