NEVADA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Fall/Winter 2014 Newsletter

2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:
Ken Mayer
(775) 741-9942
ken.e.mayer@gmail.com

President-elect:
Chris Nicolai
(775) 861-6333
chris_nicolai@fws.gov

Secretary and Treasurer:
Derek Hall
(702) 295-0364
halldb@nv.doe.gov

Rep. to the Western Section:
Mackenzie Jeffress
(775) 777-2307
mrjeffress@ndow.org

Conservation Affairs:
David Catalano
(775) 688-1412
dcatalano@ndow.org

Newsletter Editors:
Dan Gibson and
Mackenzie Jeffress

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KEN MAYER

Well fall is finally in the air! Fieldwork is being wrapped up and we need to take advantage of this great weather and prepare for the coming winter. As part of this transition we held a barbecue with the UNR Student Chapter. By all accounts it was a smashing success with over 90 people attending. There was a great mix of students (new and continuing) and working wildlife professionals that attended. I have always felt it was very important for our working professional to mix with the students, as that is our future and I think it is good for us old grizzled veterans to catch some of the youthful enthusiasm from the next generation of wildlife biologists.

The next thing on our agenda is planning for our Annual Meeting in January. The Annual Meeting will be composed of a training workshop and annual business meeting. I received input from the various Agency Directors on topics they would like to see covered to help them justify sending their employees to attend. Thus, we are currently working on the program under the lead of Dan Gibson who was gracious enough to volunteer to organize the workshop. So—if you would like to help with this effort please let Dan or I know.

It is always amazing to me how fast time flies by! This year is no exception. The Chapter is alive and well and I only see better things in the future. My main objective this year was to breathe life into the organization and establish a framework and core of individuals that will carry the Chapter into the future. We are well on our way and I'm excited about where we are headed. In the final analysis our success really hinges on member support. Hence, I encourage all of you reading this to make a commitment, large or small, to get involved in our professional society--and that starts by at the local Chapter level. The future of our profession relies on us working together to improve our "trade" and help each other be the best we can be. Being a TWS member is a great step in that process!

-Ken Mayer

Inside this issue:

MEET THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA-RENO STUDENT CHAPTER OF TWS

Hello Nevada Chapter of the Wildlife Society,

The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society has had an extremely busy month of September. We have participated in several recruiting events including Club Day, the CABNR welcome back BBQ, and the Wildlife Society welcome back BBQ put on by the Nevada Chapter. The TWS welcome back BBQ had close to 100 people show up, and greatly benefitted the students that attended. These recruiting events resulted in high attendance of our meetings and increased participation in student chapter activities this semester. Events so far this semester have included club hikes, duck banding in Fallon, 2014 UNR Field Day, Truckee River Clean-up, and the Grad Life lecture series. We are most excited about the Grad Life lecture series taking place over the next few months where current grad students are explaining the pros and cons to undergrads about going to graduate school. This is a four part series, where the first part took place on September 30th, and will continue until November 4th. Our last club meeting was on October 2, 2014 where we had fall elections to help fill available spaces for board member positions. Furthermore, this month we will be planning fundraisers to send several of our members to the Western Section Conference in 2015. September was a very successful month and October should continue to be the same!

Sincerely,

The University of Nevada, Reno Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

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UNR Student Chapter Officers

Shaughn Galloway (President)

I am a senior at the University of Nevada, Reno in the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation degree program, and have spent the past five summers as a wildlife technician for the USFS. I am originally from Springville California, and joined the Student Chapter my junior year of college. After becoming more involved with the Student Chapter I realized I wanted to do more with the club. At this point I became a board member in the fall of 2013, was then appointed as Treasure in December of 2013, and then elected President in April 2014. Upon graduating I would like to pursue a master's degree in wildlife ecology, and eventually continue a career in wildlife. Being a member of the Student Chapter has opened so many doors for me my hope is to help our members achieve their goals as well.

Shelby Black (Vice President)

I'm a senior at University of Nevada, Reno, studying Pre-Veterinary Science. I first became a member of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society during the start of my Sophomore year. Later that fall semester, I started attending board meetings, which led to me becoming a board member and helping/assisting the officers at that time. Then starting the spring of 2013 I became the Vice President of our Student Chapter here at the University of Nevada, Reno. Even though I'm a pre-vet major, this club has given me many varying opportunities to get involved in the wildlife field and get to know professionals from the around the state.

Gracie Beireis (Treasurer)

Hi! I was voted into the treasury position last semester as a freshman, and I am now a sophomore and actively involved in the process of club funding. I joined the club as a freshman and intend to continue with it throughout the rest of my college career, and on into the future. I came to UNR from Alameda, CA in the SF bay area, and I am majoring in Environmental Science. I'm not sure what I want to do with my career in the future yet, but I plan on returning to the bay area to use the experiences and skills I gained from this club in whatever I end up doing.

Olivia Baez (Western Section Representative)

Olivia Baez is an undergraduate at the University of Nevada, Reno pursuing a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. She enjoys learning about biology, the biodiversity of life on Earth, and how we can conserve it. When she is not studying or volunteering with the student chapter of the wildlife society at the university, she is playing the flute and/or the piccolo in the marching band, pep band, and wind ensemble for the Wolf Pack.

UNR Student Chapter Activities

Club Hike to Galena Creek

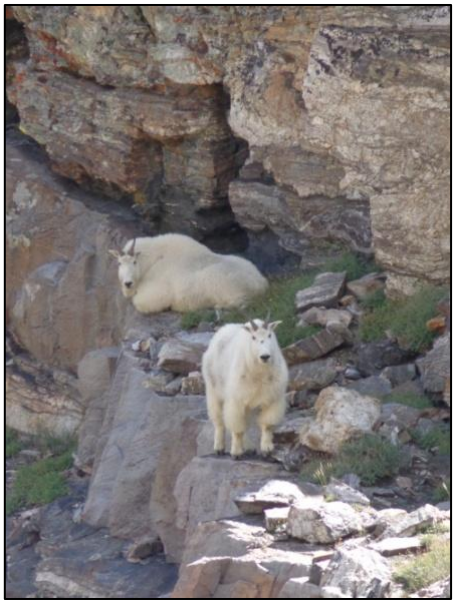
Duck Banding

East Humboldt Mountains bighorn sheep and mountain goat disease transmission study

By Shane Talley and Caleb McAdoo

Shane is a Field Coordinator and Caleb is the Area 10 Game Biologist with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Both work out of Elko.

After the 2009 pneumonia outbreak in the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountains, both bighorn sheep and mountain goat populations suffered severe losses. Initially, the disease mortalities included both adults and young of both species, but has progressed to limited adult morbidity and a very high incidence of juvenile mortality. In 2012, the remaining bighorn population was removed from the East Humboldt Range and most of which were transplanted to the Ruby Mountains as part of an overall plan to eventually bring wild sheep back into the East Humboldt Range. In 2013, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) repopulated the East Humboldt's with 20 bighorn sheep, 17 ewes & 3 rams, from Alberta, Canada. A fundamental component of this reintroduction effort included a commitment to monitor both the newly introduced wild sheep, as well as the resident goat populations within the East Humboldt's. More specifically, the monitoring was aimed at documenting disease vectors, intra- and interspecific interaction, and conducting disease surveillance.



To adequately address the monitoring and research questions in the East Humboldt's, the Nevada Department of Wildlife partnered with Iowa State University (ISU) and initiated a research project to gain further understanding of these mountain ungulate interactions and the possibility of pathogen transmission. To that end, a significant effort has been made to capture, mark and sample members of both populations. As of this writing, 18 marked bighorn sheep and 28 marked mountain goats occur within the project area.

We have just finished our second field season monitoring these East Humboldt Mountain populations. Over the last two years, the joint effort between ISU and NDOW has proven extremely beneficial allowing the collection of invaluable information including interactions, behavior, mortalities, disease samples, baseline production, and composition surveys. All the while, we have witnessed our transplanted population of bighorn sheep grow from the initial 20 individuals to 43 known animals (13 lambs, 12 yearlings, 15 ewes, and three rams). We have, however, documented coughing behavior in some of the sheep, but have yet to document any mortalities or presence of pathogens in the wild sheep. The mountain goats continue to succumb to "summertime mortality" of juveniles and as a result, the population is in a downward trend.

Moving forward, it is our intent to capture and mark ten more bighorn sheep and 15 additional mountain goats this winter to further aid in our monitoring/disease sampling efforts. As we conduct our winter trapping and disease surveillance activities this winter, it will be very interesting to see what, if any, changes in pathogen prevalence have occurred since the release of the sheep in 2013.

Ultimately, it is our hope that the information gleaned from this research project will further aid in mountain goat and bighorn sheep

population management with an emphasis on disease transmission, providing management considerations and recommendations in habitats occupied by both bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

We would like to thank Wade McCammond, Joe Hoffmann, and Chris Anderson for their dedication and hard work.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS ISSUE?

The Wildlife Society will soon finalize a Fact Sheet titled "Impacts of Disease on Bighorn Sheep Management", which will discuss the history of bighorn sheep, domestic sheep and pneumonia, bighorn vulnerability to disease, restoration and obstacles, and management implications.

The fact sheet will soon be available at: http://www.wildlife.org/policy/fact-sheets

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RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROJECTS

Modeling lek attendance by Lesser Prairie-Chickens

By Giancarlo Sadoti

A couple years into my PhD at UNR in the Department of Geography, I was asked by a former supervisor to take a look at a 40-year data set of Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*; LPCH) lek surveys from eastern New Mexico. To provide some basic background for the less familiar, traditional lek surveys for lekking grouse species are often conducted by visiting leks on one or more occasions within a year to count (mostly) displaying male birds. Although typically conducted by trained surveyors on days of good weather within a peak lekking period, this method has received criticism—particularly when used to estimate population sizes—in part because males associated with a given lek are not guaranteed to be attending the lek on a given visit.

Although I was somewhat aware of these issues after field work with Sage Grouse (14 years ago when I did more field work!), my interest in digging deeper was piqued by the volume of data (over 5,000 lek visits) and earlier experience with this LPCH population. One of the first things I noticed was that the number of birds seen on a given lek visit was, on average, 33% lower than the maximum count in a given year. If measured as attendance vs. non-attendance, 20% of lek visits found no birds in attendance where birds were seen earlier or later in the season. With some experience in modeling imperfect detection of unmarked animals, inspired by the work of true grouse researchers (including some current and former UNR EECB students), and with the looming (and now codified) listing of the LPCH as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, I thought it could be interesting (and potentially valuable for other LPCH researchers and managers) to investigate what drives some of the variation in lek attendance. I also suspected it could be important to address this variation when using this data set as part of my dissertation research on the relationships between anomalous weather and changes in distributions and demographic rates of birds.

What I've found so far in modeling the LPCH data has reiterated many of the conclusions from studies of other prairie grouse. For example, survey date can be an important predictor of lek attendance. Overall, relationships between lek attendance and variables related to weather, observers, and characteristics of the population suggest that multi-season occupancy models or generalized (open population) N-mixture models of abundance can be useful tools for removing some of the biases in counts (or presence/absence) from lek surveys. I'm certainly not the first to suggest additional survey effort can improve the reliability of lek counts, but I hope to make the case that, with the right tools and information, we can "shrink the warts" on long-term lek survey data.

Giancarlo is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at UNR and his research is focused on the complex spatio-temporal influences of weather and climate on the demography of birds.

FIELD NOTES

Extreme black brant incubation behavior

By Thomas Riecke

Thomas is a PhD student at UNR working in Jim Sedinger's lab on avian ecology and demography.

The unseasonably mild and dry winter experienced by much of the western United States was felt in the Alaskan sub-arctic as well. Under normal conditions, setting up our field camp at Tutakoke, located on the coastal tundra of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska, in April is achieved with minimal problems using snow machines and sleds. This past spring, however, I was reminded how atypical the conditions were as I stared at the 18-inch bow wave of water our snow machines were throwing up while following Matt Irinaga and Alan Leach through melt water on our way to finally wrestle our 18-foot boat from the still-frozen mud. Tutakoke was a constant surprise, from the arctic foxes which spent the winter living inside a baleen whale carcass, and were eventually displaced in the spring by a stray dog (scavenger dynamics which only exist on the Bering Sea coast), to a herd of moose temporarily destroying a concurrent project's grazing exclosures.

We were happy to focus on science when the first brant of 2014 arrived on April 22nd, a full 3 weeks earlier than normal. We observed a slight phenological mismatch between timing of nest initiation and conditions at the colony, which allowed for a much wider range of nest initiation dates than typically encountered. Due to my own inexperience, and nest hatching events spanning 25 consecutive days, we lost track of a few nests which should've been closed earlier in the year. During final nest checks on 8 July 2014, I was surprised to encounter an unmarked male still behaving aggressively, and soon flushed his mate (S86K/N-0Y) from her nest. Upon reviewing our nest records, I realized that this female had been incubating dead eggs continuously for 53 days, twice the normal incubation length. Banding records indicated that she was banded in 2002 as an adult with a brood patch. Since 2002, we had discovered and monitored her nest every year with the exception of 2003 (an incredible 11 out of 12 possible years). During that time she endured a mate loss, but was still able to form a new pair bond and successfully breed the following year. This year, however, fate was not so kind, as she'd just spent approximately 1% of her life defending a clutch of eggs that would could never hatch from marauding arctic foxes, glaucous gulls, and parasitic jaegers.

Instances like this are an ideal example of the costs of reproductive investment. Questions about these costs led Dr. Jim Sedinger to initiate a study examining the effects of clutch and brood size on adult reproductive success, future adult survival, and pre- and post-fledging survival of goslings. Papers addressing these questions are in preparation, and will provide a more comprehensive understanding of reproductive investment decisions by arctic geese.

To close, a special thanks to Andy, Kelsey, and Steph, for excelling in camp and the field.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROJECTS

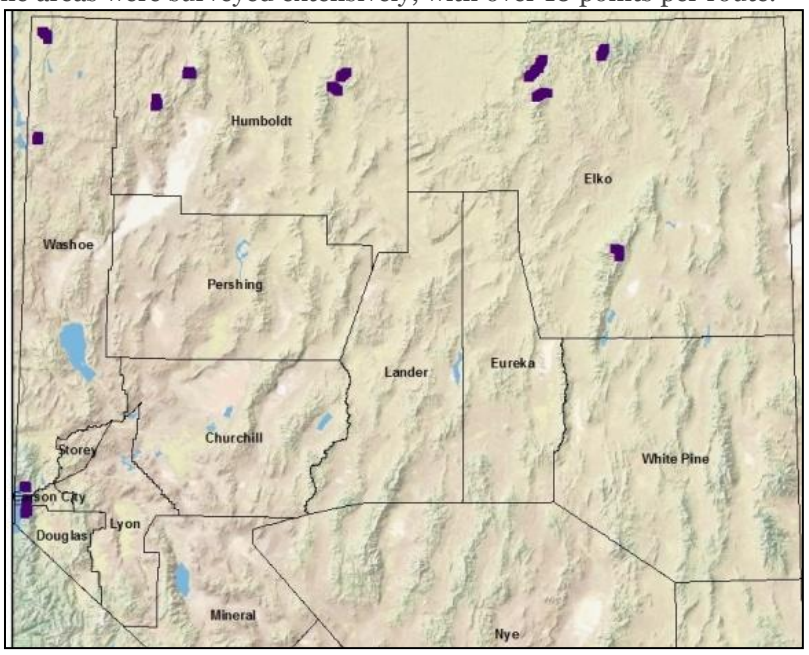
Pilot monitoring program for flammulated owls across northern Nevada

By: Jane VanGunst

Flammulated owls (*Psiloscops flammeolus*) are a species of concern across the Intermountain West and listed as a species of conservation priority in the 2013 Nevada Wildlife Action Plan and as a sensitive species for the U.S. Forest Service, Region 4. Little is known about these insectivorous, cavity-nesting birds which have been associated with aspen, conifer, and pinyon-juniper and western juniper woodland habitat (Arsenault et al. 2003; Mika and Riddle 2007; Slater 2010; Smucker et al. 2008; Stanek et al. 2011). In particular in the Great Basin, the owl's dependence on scattered and patchy aspen or aspen/conifer habitat has created concern due to severe aspen decline in some areas of Nevada and evidenced and projected declines in the health and extent of aspen during drought and under projected climatic conditions (Hanna and Kulakowski 2012; USFS ADS 2010-2013). Because of the owl's nocturnal nature and association with an uncommon habitat type, its occurrence and populations trends are not well-covered by national monitoring programs, such as the Breeding Bird Survey.

We used the Western Working Group of the Partners in Flight protocol based on a series of point-counts with acoustic playback during the arrival and courtship phase (May 15 to June 30)as a first step in instituting a statewide monitoring program (Fylling et al. 2010). Using guidance from the literature, species' experts, and local knowledge, we established survey routes across northern Nevada with 10 point count locations, spaced 800m apart (Slater 2010). Our objectives for this year were 1) to test the protocol for route development and point count methodology in detecting owls, 2) to derive owl habitat associations at multiple scales, and 3) to work with Partners in Flight and make recommendations for future monitoring efforts in the state.

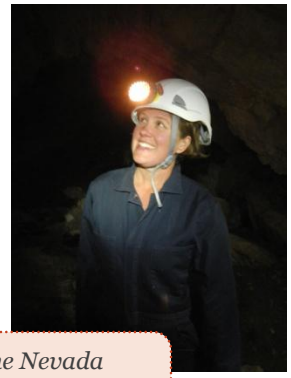
During our survey window, we completed 13 routes across northern Nevada, for a total of 144 survey points. Due to access issues, four of the routes had less than 10 points and some areas were surveyed extensively, with over 10 points per route. Flammulated owls were detected on every route in the Lake Tahoe Basin at one stop per route. In northwest Nevada (Humboldt county and NW Washoe county), owls were heard on 3 of the 6 routes. In northeast Nevada, owls were heard on only one route at multiple point count locations. Detections of all owls was aural: owls were not seen during any of the surveys. For all of our detections, owls were heard during intervals 2-5 and never during the first interval. In many of our surveys, owls did not respond until playbacks completed in the last 2-4 minutes of the survey. On three of the routes where owls were heard, we followed detectability of that individual throughout the point count duration. Owls responded intermittently throughout the period, indicating that surveying the entire 10 minute window is as crucial as utilizing acoustic playback at the appropriate sound level for owl detection.



Location of 13 flammulated owl survey routes in Northern NV

In addition to flammulated owls, we were pleasantly surprised to find that many owls responded to the flammulated owl call. We detected long-eared owl (*Asio otis*), great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*), western screech owls (*Megascops kennicotti*), northern pygmy owls (*Glaucidium californicum*), and northern saw-whet owls (*Asio acadius*). We found both northern pygmy owls and saw-whet owls in western juniper, aspen, and western juniper/aspen/mountain mahogany woodlands. Our work this summer documented range expansions for both flammulated owls and northern pygmy owls. One idea for next year might be to expand our flammulated surveys into an "all owl" monitoring program—this could be investigated next year by looking at detectability using multiple calls.

Though most of our flammulated owls did seem tied to aspen/coniferous forests, all detections in northwestern Nevada were proximate to the aspen/sagebrush or aspen/meadow edge, a habitat association also found in the 2008 Montana survey by Smucker et al (2008). From our data this year, it appears that when flammulated owls were detected, no other owl was detected at that same point count location or at point count locations preceding and following the detection. Whether this is due to species competition, habitat differences, differences among owl responses to flammulated callback, or differences in nesting phenology and, therefore detectability, are topics for further research. The next steps for this project are to, 1) examine patch-size habitat differences between occupied and unoccupied point counts and 2) work with WWG PIF and staff at the Nevada Department of Wildlife to make recommendations for future monitoring. Special thanks to Jay Carlisle at Idaho Bird Observatory/WWG Partners in Flight and Markus Mika for their help with the nitty-gritty of flammulated owl monitoring. Thanks also to Jessica Rackley, Kyra Walton Reid, Rory Lamp, Mark Enders, and Mackenzie Jeffress for their help in conducting surveys, data entry and/or ArcGIS analysis.



Jane is a Diversity Biologist with the Nevada Department of Wildlife based out of Winnemucca.

**Literature cited is available upon request.*

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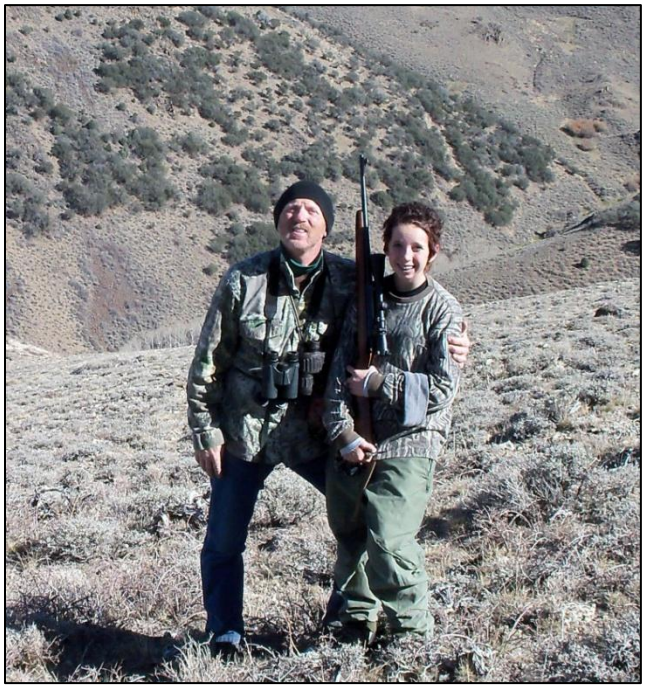
Meet our new Conservation Affairs Committee Chair - David Catalano



David received B.S. degrees from the University of Nevada Reno in Biology and Chemistry. After graduation, David worked as a seasonal employee for the Nevada Department of Wildlife in the Fisheries Division on stream survey. David became a fulltime employee with the Department of Wildlife in 1998 as a Fish Hatchery Technician and shortly after he was promoted to Hatchery Assistant Manager. In 2004, David was promoted to the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team, a cooperative effort between Nevada State Lands, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada State Parks and Nevada Department of Wildlife as the Wildlife Biologist on staff for Lake Tahoe, responsible for implementing the Environmental Improvement Program. David monitored wildlife populations and developed and implemented forest health and riparian and aspen community restoration programs. In 2012, David was promoted to Western Region Supervising Biologist for the Nevada Department of Wildlife overseeing activities for Wildlife Diversity Biologists. David enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, camping, shooting 3-D archery tournaments, and hunting.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Fire rehabilitation success in northeastern Nevada

By Kyra Walton Reid

Kyra is the northeast zone wildlife biologist for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest based out of Wells and covering the Santa Rosa, Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger Districts.

In August 2012 several large fires were burning within the Bull Run Fire Complex on the Mountain City Ranger District, located in northern Elko County. Two of the fires (Mustang and Brown's Gulch) within the Bull Run Complex burned in high priority sage-grouse and mule deer habitat in the northern portion of the district. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) along with the United States Forest Service worked cooperatively to develop a plan to aerially seed approximately 7,165 acres in riparian and upland areas within the Mustang and Brown's Gulch Fire. The upland seed mix was comprised of Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Western yarrow. The riparian seed mix included Snake River wheatgrass, Great Basin wild rye, thick spike wheatgrass, basin big sagebrush, and western yarrow. The total cost of the project was over $188,000, with NDOW contributing 54% and the Forest Service contributing 46%. NDOW coordinated the purchase of the seed mix and the aerial application, while the Forest Service completed the environmental analysis, agreement process, and reimbursed NDOW $75,000 for project costs. The seed mix was applied in late March 2013. By May 2014 the areas that had been seeded showed significant improvement in vegetation cover and diversity, as shown in the before and after photos. The project has improved brood-rearing habitat for sage-grouse and numerous other species, particularly migratory birds. The project would not have occurred without the hard work and encouragement of Alan Jenne and Matt Jeffress with NDOW.

Bull Run Pond and Bull Run Spring before and after restoration. ***Photos taken by Annie Dixon.***

Update and preliminary results from the Nevada Bat Working Group Bat Blitz

Mark is the Tahoe Diversity Biologist with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and he is based out of Carson City.

By Mark Enders (photo credits to Jason Patnode)

During four nights in early August, biologists from six different state and federal agencies (Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Natural Heritage Program, Nevada State Museum, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and US Forest Service) and several volunteers convened on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe to participate in the 2014 Bat Blitz. With abundant water in the area to choose from, we concentrated our survey efforts around Hobart Reservoir, Spooner Lake, and North Canyon Creek, all located inside Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. These sites were all located in mature Jeffrey pine and white fir forest, and the main goal of this year's survey was to determine which species were occupying the east Lake Tahoe Basin. Despite its allure and the numerous biologists working in the area, the east Lake Tahoe Basin has generally lacked good information on bats. This survey would hopefully be the first step in identifying sensitive sites for bats that will require special consideration in an area that sees non-stop recreation, continued development, and numerous forest fuels reduction projects.

Despite unseasonably cold weather and a winter-like rain event that cancelled our first trapping night, we successfully caught 33 bats from six different species using a variety of mist nets. The six species were: silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), western small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*), little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), and Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*). In addition to mist nets, Anabat acoustic recorders were deployed at every site. Although those data are still being analyzed, we know that at least two additional species, Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) and pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), were detected acoustically. Four of those species are considered species of conservation priority by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, mostly due to loss of roosting sites, human disturbance, and a general lack of information on their distribution in Nevada.

Survey crew processing a captured bat

Despite the low number of captured bats, we gained valuable information during our survey, and developed a few follow-up questions that we would like to address during future surveys. Forty-four percent of our captures were silver-haired bats, which are a forest-associated species. We captured two lactating little brown bats at Spooner Lake, which indicates that there was a maternity roost nearby. Maternity roosts are important gathering sites for pregnant females, and some bats will return to the same site every year. Using telemetry on lactating females during future surveys might help us locate and conserve those important roost sites. Strangely, all 12 bats caught at Hobart Reservoir (elev. 7,600 ft) were males. There was some speculation that females were staying at lower elevations with their young while the males roosted at high elevations during the day. Staying at lower and warmer elevations would probably reduce the energetic costs for females that are birthing and caring for young, which is another question that we can address in the future.

***Myotis* species captured during the Blitz**

In all, we got great data, and several people gained valuable bat-handling experience. Hopefully this is only the first of many bat surveys to come in the east Lake Tahoe Basin, and we can continue to expand our knowledge of the area's bat species and conserve the most important habitat.

FIELD NOTES

Don't sweat the small stuff

By: Anthony Bush

Anthony Bush is a graduate student at UNR. His project is studying the effects of provision of water on juvenile survival and recruitment of mule deer in Mojave Preserve, CA.

"My knee is killing me!" "I tweaked my back sprinting in after one yesterday." "I think I have trench foot or something." These and many other complaints have been voiced in the evening after a long hard day, or in the morning just before we do it all over again. The amazing thing about it is that each line is delivered with a half-smile, a shake of the head, and assurance that there is nothing else they would rather be doing. Technicians and volunteers on the Mojave mule deer project earn their pay (or food in case of the volunteers) on a daily basis. From May 1st when my boots first hit ground, until late June when the fawning period comes to an end, it is long hours and hard hiking in the desert heat for myself, my technician, and my four volunteers. But when you are tracking deer and capturing fawns…you don't sweat the small stuff.

Since May of 2012, as part of the Stewart lab at University of Nevada, Reno, I have been running the Mojave Mule Deer Project; a long-term study on the effects of water provisioning on the population dynamics of large ungulates in arid regions. Although we are monitoring numerous vital rates, we have focused on fawn survival during the last two years. Fawns are captured from May to July, when two-person crews hike in on pregnant radio-collared females shortly after parturition. A total of 46 fawns have been collared during the two seasons.

On one particular day this past season, my technician Cole and I were (attempting) to hike in on the exceptionally elusive *Deer 212*. Steep terrain and expansive rock outcroppings made it difficult to identify the true radio signal from bounce signal. We continued up to the top of the bowl and proceeded to work our way down towards what we believed was her true location. Disgruntled and discouraged after backtracking several times due to completely impassible terrain, we decided to continue on our path a bit further to be sure she was not there and worked our way into a large boulder-strewn wash. Suddenly to the right, behind some bushes, I heard a crack-- I froze. A lone non-radio- collared mule deer doe bolted off into the trees. Cole and I split up to see if she had any fawns bedded near her; I sent him to the dense bushes below and I worked my way through the brush a bit higher in the wash.

Sometimes a blur of movement and a crash of sound is all you get when a fawn flushes from hiding; such was the case this time. I immediately took off running and yelled "FAWN!" to alert Cole. A second later I saw another blur of movement and yelled "TWINS!!!" and continued my sprint. Both of the fawns turned and ran down the wash, hesitating as they suddenly encountered Cole. "GRAB ONE OF THEM!!" I yelled as best I could in the midst of a dead sprint dodging boulders, cactus, and brush. Cole dove to grab one of the twins, and I continued my sprint in hot pursuit of the sibling.

During these, high speed, cross-country chases there comes a time where the sprinter finds that they can no longer breathe, but as long as you can still see little ears bounding away from you, you keep going and hope you can outlast your speedy quarry. About the time I was at my extreme limit and about to concede victory to the little speedster, I lost sight of it. I gasped for breath as I searched the bushes near where I last saw the fawn. Then, with a loud bleat and a blur of motion, we were off again. Several times during this chase I would get to within a couple feet as the fawn tripped or got caught up in a bush…or I tripped and sprawled face first to the ground. The fawn was always just barely out of grasp. As I

realized that I was closing in (completely focused on the fawn just ahead) too late I noticed that I was on top of a boulder with a 3 foot drop-off; my forward momentum sent me into a head-first plummet. As I fell I tucked my head, did a half-way decent shoulder roll, and landed on my back in the bottom of the wash. I scrambled back to my feet and saw the fawn a few feet from me completely exhausted. Finally, I was able to lay hands on her. I doused her with water to cool her down and trudged my way back up to Cole, not able to yell out more than one word at a time; "where…are…you…at?"

After we processed these two girls, I looked up at the steep long hike up the mountain to where the truck was parked. I was coughing every few seconds as my lungs informed me of how much they appreciated my capture efforts. I had cuts and abrasions everywhere including two deep scrapes leaking blood from my forearm, a split fingertip and fingernail, and countless bruises. But when you get to track deer across the desert wilderness and chase after, capture, and handle fawns…you don't sweat the small stuff.

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RECAP: STUDENT CHAPTER AND NEVADA CHAPTER BBQ

By: Chris Nicolai, President-Elect

On September 10, the NV Chapter of the Wildlife Society hosted a BBQ as a way to provide an informal opportunity for wildlife professionals and university students to interact. The event was held in Reno on the lawn between the NDOW office and the Knutson Resource building on Valley Road. Over 100 people attended from UNR and several agencies. Undergraduate and graduate students facilitated setup and food preparation and made up a little more than half of the attendees. Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, and many sides and desserts were available. This is an annual event and we hope more professionals consider attending as a way for students to have a relaxed means to meet and discuss wildlife careers with professionals.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WESTERN SECTION

The Western Section is working hard on planning its upcoming annual meeting to be held in Santa Rosa, CA, January 26-30, 2015. The theme of the plenary session is "Advancing Wildlife Conservation through Integration and Alignment in Planning" and submissions for papers and posters were due October 20, 2014, and registration will open soon. Workshops will include "Marijuana Cultivation and its Impacts on Wildlife, Habitats, and the Wildlife Profession", Amargosa Vole Conservation Workshop, Spotted/Barred Owl Symposium, and a Wilderness First Aid Class. The Section is also looking for award nominations for 1) Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year, 2) The Conservationist of the Year Award, and 3) Barrett A. Garrison Oustanding Mentor Award. Nominations are due to the Grants Committee Chair by December 1, 2014. More information on the conference and awards can be found at http://www.tws-west.org/ac2015_conf.php.

Don't forget - the Western Section has a new Journal, *Western Wildlife*, which is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research, reviews, perspectives, and correspondence on the ecology, natural history, management, and conservation biology of animals. Please consider submitting your manuscripts.

Learn more about the Western Section and its activities at: http://www.tws-west.org/index.php

Submitted by Mackenzie Jeffress, Nevada Chapter Representative to the Western Section

TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently, we have 39 members and around $6,000.00 in the bank.

WE WANT TO KNOW!

About members' upcoming articles, activities, honors, and awards

We would like to keep our membership aware of colleagues in the news so if you have an in-press article or have received a professional honor or award, tell us about it!

Are you putting together a workshop for colleges or the public? Share it here!

Have an article idea for the newsletter? We are seeking contributions!

Send information for newsletter publication to Dan Gibson (dnonne@gmail.com) and/or Mackenzie Jeffress (mrjeffress@ndow.org).

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH THE NEVADA CHAPTER?

We are in search of members to serve:

- As the NV Chapter Webmaster
- On the annual meeting/symposium planning committee
- As a NV Chapter Facebook page administrator
- As artists for a NV Chapter logo to be used on t-shirts, outreach materials, etc.

If you're interested in these or other opportunities to serve, contact Ken Mayer at ken.e.mayer@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Long-time Nevada Chapter member, Gale Dupree, was honored as the Conservationist of the Year for Field and Stream Magazine in 2010. We apologize that we are long overdue to announce this award and congrats, Gale! Find out more about Gale's award at http://www.fieldandstream.com/heroes/conservation

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Wildlife Society 2014 Annual Conference
Pittsburgh, PA
October 25-30, 2014
http://wildlife.org/pa/pittsburgh_2014

2015 Western Section Annual Conference
Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa – Santa Rosa, CA
January 26-30, 2015
Theme: Conservation Through Collaboration
http://www.tws-west.org/ac2015_conf.php

2015 North American Joint Bat Working Group Meeting
Crowne Plaza, St. Loius, MO
March 3-6, 2015
http://www.wbwg.org/events/SaveTheDate.pdf

If you'd like to become a member, please see the form below.

NEVADA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Nevada Chapter

The Wildlife Society

Membership Application

Name:_____ Phone:_____

Email Address*:_____
**To save cost, most of the Chapter's communication is via email.*

Address:_____

City, State, and Zip Code:_____

Dues: January 1, 2014-December 2014, $10.00

Please Check: _____ New _____ Renewal

Make check(s) payable to: "Nevada Chapter, TWS"

Return to: Derek Hall
6816 Beach Nest Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

You may also join online at
http://wildlife.org/membership/join