

PACIFIC SEABIRDS



A Publication of the Pacific Seabird Group

Volume 35 Number 1

Spring 2008

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

Dedicated to the Study and Conservation of Pacific Seabirds
and Their Environment

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) was formed in 1972 due to the need for better communication among Pacific seabird researchers. PSG provides a forum for the research activities of its members, promotes the conservation of seabirds, and informs members and the public of issues relating to Pacific Ocean seabirds and their environment. PSG members include research scientists, conservation professionals, and members of the public from all parts of the Pacific Ocean. The group also welcomes seabird professionals and enthusiasts in other parts of the world. PSG holds annual meetings at which scientific papers and symposia are presented; abstracts for meetings are published on our web site. The group is active in promoting conservation of seabirds, include seabird/fisheries interactions, monitoring of seabird populations, seabird restoration following oil spills, establishment of seabird sanctuaries, and endangered species. Policy statements are issued on conservation issues of critical importance. PSG's journals are *Pacific Seabirds* (formerly the *PSG Bulletin*) and *Marine Ornithology*. Other publications include symposium volumes and technical reports; these are listed near the back of this issue. PSG is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Ornithological Council, and the American Bird Conservancy. Annual dues for membership are \$30 (individual and family); \$24 (student, undergraduate and graduate); and \$900 (Life Membership, payable in five \$180 installments). Dues are payable to the Treasurer; see the PSG web site, or the Membership Order Form next to inside back cover.

World Wide Web Site

<http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org>

Donations

The Pacific Seabird Group is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Contributions to the Pacific Seabird Group are tax deductible [IRS Section 501(c)(3)] to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Pacific Seabirds

Pacific Seabirds publishes short peer-reviewed articles, reports of ongoing work, conservation news, and other items of importance to conservation of seabirds in the Pacific Ocean. The journal is published twice a year in spring and fall. Materials should be submitted to the Editor, except that conservation-related material should be submitted to the Associate Editor for Conservation. Information for contributors to *Pacific Seabirds* is published in each Fall issue. Back issues of the *Bulletin* or *Pacific Seabirds* are posted on the group's web site or may be ordered from the treasurer (see Membership/Order Form next to inside back cover for details). Submission deadlines are April 1 for the spring issue and October 1 for the fall issue; manuscripts may be submitted at any time.

Pacific Seabirds Editor

Vivian M. Mendenhall, 4600 Rabbit Creek Rd., Anchorage, AK 99516, USA. Telephone (907) 345-7124; Fax (907) 345 0686; e-mail: fsgadair@attalascom.net.

Associate Editor for Conservation

Craig S. Harrison, 4953 Sonoma Mountain Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, USA. Telephone: (202) 778-2240, Fax: (202) 778 2201, e-mail: charrison@hunton.com **Assistant Editors for Conservation:** S. Kim Nelson and Mark Rauzon.

Marine Ornithology

Marine Ornithology presents peer-reviewed contributions concerning international seabird science and conservation. The journal is published two times a year. It is available on its web site or by subscription. The journal is supported by a partnership of global seabird societies, including the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), African Seabird Group, Australasian Seabird Group, the Seabird Group (U.K.), Dutch Seabird Group, and Japan Seabird Group. For further information see www.marineornithology.org

Change of Address

Send changes of address to the PSG Treasurer, **Ron LeValley**, P.O. Box 324, Little River, CA 95456-0519, USA. Telephone: (707) 496-3326 (cell), (707) 937-1742 (work); fax: (707) 442-4303; e-mail: membership@pacificseabirdgroup.org or ron@madriverbio.com

∞ ∞ *Pacific Seabirds* is going electronic ∞ ∞

Starting with Volume 36 (2009 publication year), most of you will be reading this journal on the Internet.

DO YOU WANT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING *Pacific Seabirds* BY ORDINARY MAIL?

If so, please contact the Treasurer, Ron LeValley:

membership@pacificseabirdgroup.org; **or**

ron@madriverbio.com; **or**

P.O Box 324, Little River, CA 95456-0519, U.S.A.;

(707) 496-3326 (cell), (707) 937-1742 (work).

**IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT THE TREASURER, YOU
WILL AUTOMATICALLY “RECEIVE” *Pacific Seabirds*
ELECTRONICALLY**

We will notify you by e-mail when each issue is posted on the PSG web site (www.pacificseabirdgroup.org).

If you have already requested “hard copy” from the Treasurer, you do not need to do anything more.

Note: Libraries and institutions will automatically continue to receive *Pacific Seabirds* as “hard copy” by ordinary mail.

PACIFIC SEABIRDS

A Publication of the Pacific Seabird Group



Dedicated to the Study and Conservation of Pacific Seabirds and Their Environment

Volume 35	2008	Number 1
-----------	------	----------

Notice

<i>Pacific Seabirds</i> Is Going Electronic	1
---	---

Lifetime Achievement Award

John Croxall. By Daniel D. Roby	3
---------------------------------------	---

Conservation Report	5
---------------------------	---

PSG News

EXCO Elections	11
"And Those Who Also Serve . . ."	11
Who Is Considered a Student?	11
Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee Established	11
Membership Renewals—the Real Story	12
Former Chairs Committee	12
<i>Pacific Seabirds</i> Going Electronic	12

Meetings

PSG 2008, Semiahmoo, Washington	13
PSG 2009, Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan	15
World Seabird Conference, 2010, Vancouver, B.C.	15

PSG Committee Reports

Craig S. Harrison Small Grants	16
Xantus's Murrelet	17
Seabird Monitoring	18
PSG Website	19

Executive Council Minutes for February 2008	20
---	----

General Information

Information on the Pacific Seabird Group	Inside Front Cover
Publications of the Pacific Seabird Group	22
PSG Committees	24
PSG Life Members and Recipients of Awards	25
Membership Application and Order Form	26
PSG Executive Council for 2008	Inside Back Cover

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Pacific Seabird Group occasionally honors outstanding contributors to seabird science and conservation with Lifetime Achievement or Special Achievement awards. Below is our tribute to the most recent recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Tributes to three Special Achievement awardees, Ed Melvin, Lora Leschner, and S. Kim Nelson, will be published in upcoming issues.

JOHN CROXALL

By Daniel D. Roby

Professor John P. Croxall, CBE FRS, received the Pacific Seabird Group's Lifetime Achievement Award at its 35th Annual Meeting in Blaine, Washington, on 1 March 2008. This award was presented to Prof. Croxall in recognition of extensive, distinguished, and pioneering contributions to the understanding and conservation of seabirds.

The Pacific Seabird Group periodically presents awards to outstanding individuals who have made major contributions to the field of marine ornithology. The Lifetime Achievement Award, instituted in 1992, recognizes a seabird researcher, educator, or conservationist who has made significant, long-term contributions to seabird science, conservation, and education in the Pacific Ocean or the world. Past recipients of this award are Philip and Myrtle Ashmole, James Bartonek, William Bourne, Richard Brown, Vernon Byrd, Charles Guiguet, Thomas Howell, George Hunt, Karl Kenyon, James King, Robert Ricklefs, Spencer Sealy, Miklos Udvardy, and John Warham.

John Croxall is known to all seabird ecologists, conservationists, and managers. His accomplishments as a marine ornithologist and conservationist are world-renowned. Currently, Prof. Croxall is Chair of BirdLife International's Global Seabird Programme, where he has responsibility for developing and implementing strategies to improve the conservation of seabirds worldwide. Prior to assuming that post, he served as Head of Conservation Biology for the British Antarctic Survey of the United Kingdom,

where he directed research on Antarctic and Southern Ocean seabirds and marine mammals from 1976 to 2006. Notable among his prolific accomplishments in seabird ecology are works on the diet, demography, and distribution of seabirds, particularly as they relate to the role of marine birds as top trophic-level predators. During Prof. Croxall's 30 years as head of the Birds and Mammals Section of the British Antarctic Survey, nearly 1000 scholarly publications emanated from this program. He was directly responsible for nearly half of this output; he has over 315 refereed books and articles to his credit, as well as 125 non-refereed papers and reports.

John Croxall received a BA in Zoology with First Class Honours from the University of Oxford in 1968, and a PhD in Zoology from the University of Auckland (New Zealand) in 1971. After four years at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, as a Senior Research Associate in Zoology and Director of the Oiled Seabird Research Unit, he joined the British Antarctic Survey. There he established the Birds and Mammals Section and served as its Head. He developed



John Croxall on Bird Island

long-term monitoring programs, which subsequently became the foundation for the monitoring and management efforts of the Commission for the Conservation of Marine Living Resources. Prof. Croxall was the first to draw attention to the slow, inexorable decline of populations of the great albatrosses, and he demonstrated the link between these declines and the bycatch of seabirds in the southern longline fisheries. Since then, he has worked tirelessly in international forums to reduce seabird bycatch and provide incentives for sustainable fisheries.

Prof. Croxall's remarkable accomplishments in seabird research and conservation have earned him a long list of awards and honors. His stature in the field of ornithology resulted in his appointment as President of the British

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ornithologists' Union (BOU), Chairman of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and Permanent Executive of the International Ornithological Committee. His awards include the Scientific Medal and Marsh Award for Conservation from the Zoological Society of London; the Polar Medal: Second Clasp; the President's Medal from the British Ecological Society; the Robert Cushman Murphy Prize and Medal of the International Waterbird Society; the Godman-Salvin Medal from the BOU; Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union; and several honorary professorships. In 2004, John Croxall was awarded the honor of Commander of the Order of

the British Empire (CBE), and in 2005 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), two of the highest honors bestowed on British scientists.

John Croxall's retirement from the British Antarctic Survey in 2006 was marked by an international symposium in celebration of his career. A letter was reproduced in the symposium's printed program that paid tribute to his accomplishments. The author wrote, among other things, that John Croxall

... has been a most remarkable ambassador for the wider marine environment, recognizing that if we fail to work internationally to save [albatrosses], we will also have failed to safeguard the world's greatest

global commons—the oceans themselves. The albatross has had a mighty champion in John Croxall and, on this special occasion, I just wanted to pass on my most heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to him on all that he has done and my hope, which must be shared by everyone, that well beyond his retirement he will continue the battle. I am particularly delighted that John is continuing to keep his hand on the tiller of BirdLife's Global Seabird Programme, which means that international efforts to save the albatross will benefit from his unique knowledge and commitment for some time to come.

The letter was signed: HRH the Prince of Wales.



John Croxall measuring Gray-headed Albatross egg, Bird Island, South Georgia (54° S, 38° W) (photo C. Pennicuik)



Croxall ringing Wandering Albatross, Bird Island (photo C. Pennicuik)



Verena Gill and Dan Roby presenting Croxall's award



Accepting the award ...



... and celebrating at the banquet (with Katie O'Reilly)

CONSERVATION REPORT

Cocompiled by **Craig Harrison**

USFWS AND CALIFORNIA ON VERGE OF DELISTING BROWN PELICAN

In December 2005, the Endangered Species Recovery Council (ESRC) filed separate regulatory initiatives with federal and California agencies to declare California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) recovered, and to remove them from their respective lists of endangered species (*Pacific Seabirds* 33:20, 2006). The ESRC filed the petitions to preserve the integrity of the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, which should focus on species that are actually in danger of extinction. According to the ESRC, recognition is long overdue that this iconic seabird has not only recovered, but now has a population that exceeds historic levels. Both state and federal processes to delist the subspecies are moving forward steadily. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) made a determination in early 2007 that the Brown Pelican has recovered throughout its range. In February 2008, the USFWS published its proposal to delist the species in the Federal Register. PSG filed comments supporting the delisting in April, and no conservation organizations have opposed the change. Formal removal from the federal list is anticipated by mid-2009. The California Fish and Game Commission is expected to make a determination that delisting the California Brown Pelican is warranted at its November 2008 meeting; the species will likely be removed from the state list in February 2009.

CRITICAL HABITAT FOR MARBLED MURRELETS REMAINS UNCERTAIN

In March 2008, USFWS announced that it will not revise the current critical habitat for Marbled Murrelets (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) at present. The critical habitat was designated in May 1996. The murrelet is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in the part of its range within Washington, Oregon, and California.

Critical habitat has been at the center of disputes over logging and old-growth forests. USFWS proposed in September 2006 to reduce the murrelet's critical habitat from 3.9 million acres to 221,692 acres (about a 95% reduction), pursuant to an agreement to settle a lawsuit with the American Forest Resource Council. PSG filed comments in opposition to that proposal (*Pacific Seabirds* 34:18-19, 2007). The proposal would have removed critical habitat designation for any land that is also covered under the Northwest Forest Plan or a habitat conservation plan. However, USFWS officials decided that until the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completes revisions to its Resource Management Plans in western Oregon, revisions to critical habitat for the murrelet would be inappropriate. USFWS noted that it is continuing to work cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management on the latter's management plans, and that those plans will have significant effects on the conservation of the murrelet. USFWS emphasized that it may revise its critical habitat designation in the future.

In July 2008, USFWS proposed a more limited revision to critical habitat for Marbled Murrelets in Oregon and Northern California. PSG filed comments objecting to the removal of critical habitat designation on BLM lands in Coos, Douglas, and Lane counties in Oregon, because suitable nesting habitat in those areas has not been adequately surveyed for occurrence of Marbled Murrelets. Much of the unsurveyed habitat consists of older-aged forests that could be crucial to the survival and recovery of this species. PSG did concur with the proposed critical habitat revisions on U.S. Forest Service lands in northern California and on the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests in southern Oregon. PSG believes that these revisions are warranted, because changes there would be scientifically defensible.

PSG reminded USFWS that the murrelet was listed in 1992 primarily because of significant losses of nesting habitat, through logging and development. PSG pointed out that an objective of the species' recovery plan is to stabilize its population near current levels, by increasing productivity and removing threats to survivorship. Therefore it is essential for the long-term recovery of this species that USFWS commit itself to: (1) protect terrestrial habitat, including essential nesting habitat in Late Successional Reserves and occupied sites on federal lands; (2) minimize the loss of suitable but unoccupied habitat; (3) create and maintain large blocks of contiguous forest cover; and (4) maintain and enhance buffer habitat.

Based on our review of existing data, PSG explained that suitable mur-

CONSERVATION NEWS

relet habitat has continued to decline throughout the species' range. The loss and degradation of habitat has resulted from: (1) harvesting on private and state lands; (2) federal/private land exchanges; (3) thinning in suitable and occupied habitat, and in buffers to suitable habitat; (4) habitat conservation plans; (5) fragmentation effects from adjacent harvests and thinning; and (6) a variety of natural and anthropogenic causes such as fire, wind throw, and disturbance. Moreover, the Marbled Murrelet population in Washington, Oregon, and California is estimated to be only 22,000 birds. Population modeling indicates that this population is declining and will be extinct in Oregon and California within 100 years, unless the amount and quality of nesting habitat are improved. Under these circumstances, the forest landscape and its surroundings must be protected to provide large, contiguous blocks of suitable nesting habitat. The USFWS proposal to eliminate critical habitat for Marbled Murrelets is inappropriate for suitable habitat where no surveys have been conducted.

WILL MARBLED MURRELETS BE DELISTED?

In June 2008, two separate decisions by a U.S. District Court judge in Washington, D.C., and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied efforts by the timber industry to remove the Marbled Murrelet from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. Each court ruled that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was justified in continuing to list the species as threatened.

Two petitions were filed with USFWS, urging the agency to delist the species. The American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) and Oregon's Coos County contended that the murrelet population in Washington, Oregon and California should not be listed because

it is not a distinct population from those in Canada and Alaska.

Another petition was filed by American Forest Resource Council, the Carpenters Industrial Council of Douglas County, Oregon, and an individual. In early October 2008, USFWS found that this latter petition presented substantial information indicating that delisting the marbled murrelet may be warranted.

USFWS has initiated a status review of this species, which will also function as a 5-year status review. The agency intends to review status of the species throughout its range, and if necessary, the configuration and status of any distinct population segments. The Service has solicited scientific and commercial data and other information on the murrelet relevant to its listing status under the Endangered Species Act, after which it will issue a 12-month finding on the petition. PSG will comment on the proposal by the deadline, which is 1 December 2008.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS CHICKS RELOCATED TO BONIN ISLANDS

In March 2008, 10 Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) chicks were moved by helicopter from Torishima Island to Mukojima Island (Bonin Islands), a former colony 350 km to the southeast. Volcanoes at Torishima have devastated this species in the past and continue to be a threat. Currently, 80-85% of the world population breeds at Torishima, on an outwash plain from the caldera of an active volcano. Mukojima Island is not volcanic, and Short-tailed Albatross bred there at least until the 1920s. The ten relocated chicks had reached the "post-guard" stage, when parents leave them alone for increasing periods, but were still about three months from fledging. The key assumption in this project is that geographic imprinting on

the nesting island occurs after this time. The hope is that chicks that fledge from a translocation site will return to breed at their fledging site, not at their hatching site. Biologists who hand-reared Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) and Black-footed Albatross (*P. nigripes*) chicks in preparation for this project spent three months feeding the chicks, after which they headed to sea for about five years before they reaching sexual maturity. At least ten more chicks will be relocated annually for the next five years.

This international conservation effort was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, North Pacific Research Board, USFWS, Japan's Ministry of Environment, the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, Asahi Shimbun, and Suntory Fund for Bird Conservation. In addition, Alaska's commercial fishing industry has played a key role in helping to secure federal funding for this effort.

FIREWORKS THAT DISTURB CORMORANTS ARE CANCELLED

In June 2008, the California Coastal Commission issued a cease-and-delist order to the organizer of a Fourth of July fireworks display that had been staged for several years near Gualala Point on the Sonoma-Mendocino County line. The commission's decision was based on a study by the BLM and USFWS, which concluded that the 2007 fireworks display had a negative effect on nesting Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus* and *P. pelagicus*). PSG wrote the commission in December 2007 to express its concerns about effects of the fireworks on cormorants, because the studies indicated that 11% of the Brandt's cormorant nests were abandoned at the time of the display (*Pacific Seabirds* 34:53, 2007). This cormorant colony has

been declining for decades, for a variety of reasons. The Gualala Point Rocks are part of the California Coastal National Monument, which was established by presidential proclamation primarily to provide habitat for seabirds and marine mammals. Legal battles continue, and this issue may arise again in the future.

PSG AWARDS ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION SMALL GRANTS

PSG awarded two Conservation Small Grants in 2008: (1) a study of seabird bycatch on the Pacific coast of Guatemala (\$2,000); and (2) a study of the at-sea distribution and populations of seabirds in the Sunda Strait, Indonesia (\$1,085). The Guatemala project will identify local commercial fisheries that could interact with seabirds. Researchers will meet with local fishermen, cooperatives, and the crews of boats that may interact with seabirds. Their goal is to learn about the fishers' experiences with bycatch of marine birds, and to lay the groundwork for the first observer program in Guatemalan fisheries.

The Indonesia project's principal investigator is Dr. Nick Brickley, Bogor, Indonesia. Species to be protected include Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*), Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma monorhis*), Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) and Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*). All personnel will be volunteers, including Indonesian conservation biologists.

A project that received an earlier Small Grant, to eradicate Pacific rats (*Rattus exulans*) from Mabualau Island, Fiji, has been completed. Monitoring will be conducted for the next two years to determine whether the eradication was successful. The Fiji project will protect Red-footed Boobies (*Sula sula*), Black Noddies (*Anous minutus*), and Lesser Frigatebirds (*Fregata ariel*).

A full list of earlier grants and applications is in the Small Grants Committee Report elsewhere in this issue.

PACIFIC RATS ERADICATED FROM FIJIAN ISLAND

BirdLife International has successfully eradicated rats at Vatuira Island, Fiji, an internationally important seabird colony located 15 km from the coast of Fiji's largest island Viti Levu (see *Pacific Seabirds* 33:63, 2006). This is in addition to PSG's small-grant project to eradicate Pacific rats from Mabualau Island, Fiji (see previous item in this report). Seven seabird species nested there, including 28,000 breeding pairs of Black Noddies, but the introduced Pacific rats were eating large numbers of seabird eggs and chicks and posed a threat to the long-term survival of the colonies. Ground-nesting species such as Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) and Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) have raised chicks on Vatuira for the first time since the eradication was completed. BirdLife worked closely with the residents of Vatuira, who actively supported eradication of the rats and subsequent monitoring work. The eradication was achieved by adapting techniques developed in New Zealand. Poison baits—safe to all species on Vatuira besides rats—were laid down during two visits in July 2006. Remarkably, the rats found most of the baits in the first night. Now, following a monitoring period of 18 months, the island has been declared officially free from rats.

PSG SUPPORTS SEABIRD RESTORATION AT SAN NICHOLAS ISLAND

PSG wrote the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in June 2008 to support the eradication of feral cats at San Nicolas Island, California. The Environmental Assessment was issued by the agency's office in Carlsbad, California. PSG had already supported this project in May 2005, as part of the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program. Eradicating

feral cats at San Nicolas Island is one of several proposals to restore seabirds that were injured when the chemical industry dumped large amounts of DDT and PCBs into Southern California coastal waters in the 1960s and 1970s. Cats on San Nicolas Island are causing losses of Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*), Brandt's Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*), the endangered Western Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), and possibly the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).

PSG noted that ongoing predation pressure can be worse for a population than losses from an oil spill, which are usually confined to a few years at most, instead of continuing perpetually. Seabird islands throughout the world have been devastated by introduced predators, and cats are among the most pernicious of these—they can destroy breeding colonies. In reviewing the effects of introduced predators on seabirds, P.J. Moors and I.A.E. Atkinson wrote that "Probably no other alien predator [than the cat] has had such a universally damaging effect" (Predation on seabirds by introduced animals, and factors affecting its severity, in *Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds*, J.P. Croxall, P.G.H. Evans, and R.W. Schreiber editors; International Council for Bird Preservation, Technical Publication Number 2, Cambridge, UK, 1984, page 671).

Feral cats drove the Guadalupe Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma macrodactyla*) to extinction on islands off Mexico's west coast. Conservationists working to restore island ecosystems have removed cats from at least 75 islands, including New Zealand's network of offshore bird reserves and Australia's Macquarie Island. On Ascension Island in the Atlantic, cats were introduced in the 19th century and caused populations of nesting seabirds to collapse. The island was cleared of feral cats in 2002–2004, and seven seabird species that had not nested for a century returned to breed on the island. PSG awarded its 2006 Special Achievement Award to Mark J. Rauzon for his work in removing cats from Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuge. Within

a few years of cat removal, four species of tropical birds returned and reestablished colonies on Jarvis.

PSG specifically endorsed the proposed plan of hunting, trapping and using adaptive management to eradicate the cats. These methods have been successful elsewhere and would be implemented in a humane manner. PSG opposed an alternative plan to trap, neuter, and release the cats, because it would allow the animals to continue killing birds and would make complete removal nearly impossible. We stated that the only way to restore seabird populations on San Nicholas is to remove feral cats completely.

PSG EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR ALASKA RAT PLAN

In March 2008, PSG wrote to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin to congratulate her, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Alaska Board of Game for their leadership in addressing the threat of introduced rats to human health, Alaska's economy, and native ecosystems. Alaska had recently finalized "Wildlife and People at Risk: A Plan to Keep Rats out of Alaska." The state also developed a cooperative network among the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other agencies, and communities. PSG noted that the forward-looking plan is a model for others to emulate. PSG stated that regulations to prevent the spread of rats into the rat-free parts of Alaska, and to control rats where they are already established, are exemplary. Introduction of rats from ships onto some Alaskan islands since the 18th century has damaged their ecosystems seriously. The state now requires control of rats at all ports and on ships. This will reduce the likelihood of future rat introductions to communities that are currently rat-free, and to pristine islands where seabirds, marine mammals, and other unique Alaska flora and fauna currently flourish.

FIRST PHASE OF RAT ERADICATION COMPLETED ON RAT ISLAND

In October 2008, aerial application of rat bait was completed on Rat Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska. Project partners include the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, The Nature Conservancy, and Island Conservation. The success of the project's first phase marks a milestone in US seabird conservation—at 1,850 hectares, Rat Island is the 4th-largest island in the world to be restored. In the next phase, the island will be monitored for two years to determine the success of eradication.

Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) have been present on Rat Island since the 1780s. In the intervening 225 years, bird populations have essentially been destroyed on the island. Twenty people and 2 helicopters distributed more than 20 metric tons of brodifacoum bait, in a new formulation that lasts about 2 weeks and then degrades into nontoxic residues. Areas near water bodies were baited by hand. The work was completed in 10 days, thanks to favorable weather, although organizers had allowed 45 days. The project was carried out in late autumn to minimize the risk that non-target animals would be present.

Successfully eradicating the rats will restore important habitat and allow birds to recolonize the island. With seabirds facing pressure from climate change and other environmental stressors, removal of this predator is an immediate and concrete step that we can take, and we hope there will be a rapid and positive effect on seabird nesting success. See www.seabirdrestoration.org for more details.

PSG SUPPORTS PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

In February 2008, PSG wrote to the Puget Sound Partnership to express its

interest in the group's activities and to provide preliminary observations on its approach to marine bird research. PSG applauded the efforts of the partnership in working to restore and preserve the Puget Sound marine ecosystem, and we stressed the important dual role of marine birds in assessments of the sound. In addition to being a natural resource that needs to be monitored and conserved, seabirds are apex predators and are excellent indicators of temporal and spatial variation in marine ecosystem function. PSG suggested that research include annual monitoring of their breeding success, diets, and population size to help assess the health of the sound.

PSG noted that the partnership's ambitious goal of "restoring the sound by 2020" will face two major problems when addressing marine bird populations. The first is the lack of sufficient historic time-series data that could provide a target for restoration efforts. More important is the temporal variation seen in many wildlife populations, which precludes establishment of a "normal baseline" and would complicate an effort to reach that goal. PSG expressed its hope that monitoring and research will allow the identification of factors causing the variation, so that anthropogenic effects that require attention can be separated from natural variation.

PSG's interest helped encourage two meetings to discuss research, monitoring and conservation actions for seabirds in the Puget Sound and the Salish Sea. The meetings have produced a draft document that summarizes results of the meetings. The partnership seems to be moving forward with provisional indicators that include trends in overwintering and breeding birds, and these may include seabird population benchmarks for assessing the health of the sound. PSG members may continue their involvement by working with the monitoring experts and the partnership's science panel to explain the value of seabirds as indicators. For further information, contact Dr. Scott Pearson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (360-902-2524; pearssfp@dfw.wa.gov).

MORE MARINE SANCTUARIES IN THE PACIFIC?

In remarks at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in September 2008, President Bush touted his administration's ocean legacy and committed to setting aside additional marine protected areas. Bush has already created the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in 360,000 km² of ocean and small islands northwest of Hawaii, and ultimately might set aside more protected areas than any previous administration—all in the marine environment. His administration is considering protections around parts of the Northern Mariana Islands in the western Pacific, as well as eight islands and coral reef atolls and their surrounding waters in the central Pacific that are part of the Line Islands and American Samoa. The Pacific areas being considered could create the world's largest protected area. The designation of new monuments could occur before the end of 2008.

THREE PROPOSED LNG TERMINALS ON OREGON COAST

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is considering three proposed terminals for liquid natural gas (LNG) along Oregon's coast. That is more than are currently proposed for any other state. LNG is natural gas that is cooled until it condenses into a liquid, which can be transported long distances by ship. Greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas are about 30 percent lower than from oil and about 45 percent lower than for coal. Thus LNG could help meet Oregon's growing short-term power needs as well as its mandates for addressing climate change.

Many Oregonians oppose LNG terminals that might spoil views, wildlife habitat or recreation on the Columbia

River and Coos Bay, where the projects are being proposed. Others think the projects would threaten salmon and undermine the millions of dollars spent already to rehabilitate the Columbia River. Terminals and pipelines could be vulnerable to attack or accidents, and it is being stated that the LNG might end up simply fueling California's power needs.

Oregon governor Ted Kulongoski is wary of the terminals' impact. However, he acknowledges that sun, wind and other renewable sources would not offer significant power for at least 10 years, and that efforts to save salmon may crimp hydropower, which supplies about 44% of Oregon's energy. Congress gave the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the authority to approve sites for LNG terminals, and because Oregonians reject nuclear and coal energy sources, LNG may ultimately be their most popular choice. The Oregon Energy Department has determined that one terminal would meet the state's future needs, and that any additional gas would be sent to California. Governor Kulongoski is also threatening to stop terminals he believes are unnecessary by going to court, or by using the permitting authority of the state under federal water and air pollution laws and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

BECK'S PETREL NOT EXTINCT

Beck's petrel (*Pseudobulweria becki*), known only from two records collected by Rollo Beck in 1928 and 1929, was rediscovered in summer 2007 after a gap of 79 years. Hadoram Shirihai organized a voyage into the Bismarck Archipelago, north-east of Papua New Guinea, and managed to photograph more than 30 of these petrels. Shirihai first visited the area in 2003 and thought he might have observed Beck's petrels, inspiring him to return four years later. His 2007 expedition also found fledged

juveniles, indicating that the species is breeding in the area. A freshly dead young bird salvaged at sea became only the third specimen in existence. Confirming the existence of Beck's petrel was difficult because it is similar to the Tahiti petrel (*Pseudobulweria rostrata*). In addition, few people have looked for it at sea, and it may be nocturnal at the breeding grounds. The Bismarck Archipelago consists mostly of mountainous volcanic islands, which are covered by tropical forest (replaced locally by plantations) and surrounded by extensive reefs.

INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION LIMITS SEABIRD BYCATCH

In June 2008, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meeting in Muscat, Oman, adopted a measure to reduce the bycatch of vulnerable albatross and petrel species. All longline vessels fishing for tuna and swordfish in the southern Indian Ocean (south of 30° S) will be required to use a combination of at least two measures to reduce seabird bycatch. Measures include requiring boats to set their hooks at night when birds are less active, using a bird streamer (tori) line to keep birds away from the hooks, adding weight to lines to make them sink more quickly out of reach of the albatrosses, and dyeing bait blue to make it less visible. The fisheries are given flexibility to choose which two measures from this list are most suitable to their fishery. The meeting agreed on technical specifications for use of these measures. The proposal was led by Australia and the European Union, and was supported by Japan and Korea. Birds that will benefit include Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), Amsterdam Albatross (*Diomedea amsterdamensis*), Shy Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*) and Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophrys*). Of the world's five tuna commissions, four now have requirements for use of

mitigation measures. Only the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission that manages the East Pacific has not adopted mitigation measures.

GIANT MICE THREATEN GOUGH ISLAND SEABIRDS

Whalers who visited remote Gough Island in the South Atlantic 150 years ago described millions of birds living without predators; humans could barely walk on the island without stumbling over nests. Today the British-owned island, described by some as the most important seabird colony in the world, still hosts 22 breeding bird species and is a World Heritage Site. Long ago, however, house mice (*Mus musculus*) came ashore from a whaling ship, and somehow the mice evolved to twice or more the size of ordinary house mice. Ornithologist Richard Cuthbert spent a year on the island in 2001, and shortly before leaving, he discovered that the 700,000 mice had become super-sized. They are believed to be the largest mice in the world. Furthermore, their diets have adapted to the island: instead of eating insects and seeds, the Gough Island mice eat meat—albatross, petrel, and shearwater chicks, which are attacked in their nests. The mice forage at night, either singly or in groups. Parent birds are unable defend their offspring.

Birdlife International has added the Tristan Albatross (*Diomedea dabbenena*) and the Gough Bunting (*Rowettia goughensis*) to its Red List of endangered species. The group is advocating complete eradication of the mice. Studies suggest that about 60% of all bird chicks

on Gough die in their nests, probably because of predation by the mice. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has proposed using helicopters to drop rodent poison on Gough Island, which a United Kingdom–New Zealand study has shown to be feasible at a cost of about \$4 million. Britain has long been criticized for not maintaining the ecology of its overseas territories, which are mainly made up of groups of islands such as Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha, and the Falklands. Of the world's 190 most endangered birds, 32 are now officially British responsibility.

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is an international treaty between fishing nations for the protection of albatrosses and petrels. Many of these wide-ranging seabird species are threatened with extinction due to poor fishing practices, pollution, and invasive species on their breeding islands. Member countries of ACAP agree to take actions necessary to conserve these birds.

The fourth meeting of the ACAP Advisory Committee (AC) met in South Africa during August, 2008. US representatives attended from USFWS and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries agency (NOAA–Fisheries). USFWS representatives Maura Naughton and Greg Balogh made presentations to the AC on the current status of all three North Pacific albatrosses (Black-footed, Laysan, and

Short-tailed). The presentations assisted the AC in determining whether to recommend inclusion of these three species under the treaty. The group determined that addition of these three species would be prudent, and it will recommend their inclusion at the next meeting of parties to the treaty in 2009.

President Bush submitted ACAP to the Senate for approval on 26 September 2008. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee must now approve the treaty; it will then go to the full Senate for ratification, which requires a two-thirds majority. An accompanying legislative package to implement the agreement will also need to be approved by both the House and Senate. (These are the usual steps that are followed when authorizing treaties.) Votes on the treaty and implementing legislation are not expected until next year.

Eleven countries (Argentina, Australia, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, and the United Kingdom) have signed and ratified the treaty, which went into effect in 2001. In addition, Brazil and Uruguay have passed national legislation to enable their countries to become parties to the agreement.

The United States is already in compliance with the provisions of the treaty. However, formal U.S. participation offers an important opportunity for U.S. fishermen engage other countries in the protection of seabirds when they range outside U.S. waters. This will help level the playing field in the North Pacific fishing industry. U.S. fishermen are required to observe U.S. regulations, whether they are fishing in U.S. waters or elsewhere. However, competing vessels from many other North Pacific countries are currently operating under far less stringent laws.

—Greg Balogh

PSG NEWS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Greg Balogh was selected as Chair-Elect for 2008, in the elections held in early that year. He joined Doug Bertram as Chair and Verena Gill as Past Chair. Ron LeValley was re-elected as Secretary. Regional representative who joined the EXCO include Heather Renner for Alaska and Russia, Craig Strong for Northern California, and Linda Wilson for the Old World; Linda Elliott was re-elected for the Pacific Rim. The new student representative is Heather Major. The new EXCO took office at the end of the Annual Meeting (in March 2008).

Positions to be elected for 2009 are Chair-Elect, Secretary, Vice-Chair for Conservation, and regional representatives for Canada, Oregon-Washington, Southern California, and the Non-Pacific United States.

For the sake of completeness, there is one non-elected position on the EXCO: the editor of *Pacific Seabirds* (Vivian Mendenhall).

“AND THOSE WHO ALSO SERVE . . .”

Several vital positions that keep PSG running are not on the Executive Council, but these people work very hard behind the scenes. They include Elections Chair (Pat Baird), Webmaster (Lisa Ballance), Publications Chair (Pat Jodice), Listserve Manager (Verena Gill), Small Grants Chair (Robert Day), and the Managing Editor of *Marine Ornithology* (Tony Gaston). Other Committee Coordinators, along with the Vice-Chair for Conservation, are responsible for PSG's highly respected conservation science. The Coordinators are listed near the end of this issue.

The committees and their Chairs are delighted if PSG members volunteer to help, whether as co-Chair or just for 2 hours a month!

WHO IS CONSIDERED A STUDENT?

Students members of PSG are eligible for several benefits: reduced membership fees, eligibility for student paper and poster awards, and eligibility for student travel grants. The Executive Council voted in February 2008 on the following definition of a “student”:

“Student membership rates are available only to full-time undergraduate and graduate students for the duration of their degree, subject to documentation of student status. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible for student membership rates or the student registration rate at annual meetings.

“In order to be eligible for student registration rate at annual meetings, registrant must be currently enrolled as a full-time student or was enrolled as a full-time student the previous quarter/semester before the meeting. Student registrant may be asked for proof of student status (proof of registration as a full-time student or letter from major advisor confirming student status) when registering at annual meetings.”

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

PSG's Executive Council established the Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee (KMTC) at the midyear teleconference meeting on 18 September

2008. The Coordinator of the new committee is Michelle L. Kissling.

The purpose of the KMTC is to (1) act as a technical authority on the status, distribution, and life history of the Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*; KIMU); (2) identify, encourage, and facilitate research; (3) address conservation problems related to the Kittlitz's murrelet; and (4) act as a liaison between research and management.

PSG's Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee has existed since 1988. Kittlitz's and Marbled Murrelets are biologically similar, and both are difficult to inventory, monitor, and study, due to their patchy distribution and their solitary, cryptic nesting habits. However, there are significant differences between the two species in distribution, terrestrial and at-sea habitats, and current state of our knowledge.

The current global population estimate for the Kittlitz's Murrelet is approximately 10,000–20,000 birds. Three quarters of these occur in Alaska, where declines up to 18% per year have been documented. Populations of this non-colonial seabird are geographically clustered. During the breeding season, KIMU often associates with tidewater glaciers, glaciated fjords, outflows of glacial streams, and recently deglaciated areas. The winter range of the species is not well known, but opportunistic sightings suggest that it is pelagic.

If the current rate of decline is constant and linear, KIMU may be extirpated in some core areas of the range as early as 2030. Speculated causes include oil pollution, glacial recession (and cascading ecosystem effects thereof), gill-net mortality, and reduced availability of preferred forage fish. The KIMU is currently a candidate (with a Listing Priority Number 2) for listing under the Endangered Species Act (69 FR 24875 24904).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS—THE REAL STORY

The Treasurer is responsible for PSG memberships. He gets questions about how long a membership is good for, and whether attendance at the annual meeting means you have paid your membership.

Memberships are based on the calendar year. If you join or renew any time during a current year, your membership is good through the end of the calendar year, 31 December. (If you join as a new member after around October 1, we usually make your membership good for the coming year.)

If the Treasurer is really organized, he sends out a dues-payable reminder for the coming year around 1 November, and follow-up reminder around 1 April. Yet another reminder is sent around September, including final reminders to those whose dues are more than a year past due. All reminders are sent by e-mail, unless the Treasurer has no e-mail address for you.

After dues have been delinquent for a year, your membership will lapse and you will get no further communication from PSG.

Current members get a reduced rate when registering for an annual meeting. However, ***renewal of your current membership is NOT included in your registration fee***; you will need to renew separately. (Non-members are charged a little more for meeting registration, and that does include membership for one year).

New members with current e-mail addresses are automatically added to the PSG Listserv by Verena Gill, unless they request differently. If you change your e-mail address, please let us know so that you can keep up to date on important and interesting issues and online discussions. Also, with the upcoming switch to a mostly electronic *Pacific Seabirds* (at the beginning of Volume 36, publication year 2009), we'll need your current e-mail address so we can notify you when each issue is posted online.

If you are not sure whether your membership dues are up-to-date, drop the Treasurer an e-mail!—membership@pacificseabirdgroup.org or ron@madriverbio.com

—Ron LeValley, Treasurer

FORMER CHAIRS' COMMITTEE

The Former Chairs' Committee was created by George Divoky with the purpose of discussing future award recipients and future meetings. It provides input to the Awards Committee and the Executive Council.

Starting with the Annual Meeting in 2008, the committee will be chaired by the person who retired from the Past Chair's position approximately one year previously. Accordingly, Robert Day chaired the Former Chairs Committee at the 2008 meeting.

PACIFIC SEABIRDS WILL GO MOSTLY ELECTRONIC

Starting with Volume 36 (publication year 2009), *Pacific Seabirds* will be mailed ***only to those members who specifically request it***. Members who do not request a hard copy of *Pacific Seabirds* via mail will be able to download every issue from the PSG website, www.pacificseabirds.org. The paper and electronic versions of the journal will still look the same.

Volume 35 (2008 publication year) will continue to arrive in the mail as usual, in addition to being posted on the website. *You are welcome to continue receiving Pacific Seabirds in the mail as long as you wish*. However, *any member who wants to continue receiving copies by mail after 2008 must contact the Treasurer, Ron LeValley*. His e-mail is membership@pacificseabirdgroup.org or ron@madriverbio.com; address P.O. Box 324, Little River, CA 95456-0519, USA; telephone (707) 496-3326 (cell) or (707) 937-1724 (work).

The PSG Executive Council has decided in favor of distributing *Pacific Seabirds* electronically because many journals already are electronic (including our other journal, *Marine Ornithology*), and because the change will save printing and mailing costs. Some people prefer to receive their journals online. However, we will continue to send *Pacific Seabirds* through the mail on request, because some members cannot get it over the Internet conveniently or may just prefer a paper copy.

Libraries and institutions will automatically continue to receive *Pacific Seabirds* through the mail, since this can be important for reliable archiving.

PSG MEETINGS

2008 PSG MEETING AT SEMIAHMOO

The Pacific Seabird Group's 35th Annual Meeting took place on 27 February–1 March at Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine, Washington. Approximately 300 people attended from a variety of nations—the U.S., Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Peru, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. The Program Chair was Doug Bertram; Tom Good was chair of the Local Committee (which insisted on being known as the LOCO). A symposium was presented on “The Salish Sea Ecosystem: Status and Impacts of Changes on Marine Birds”; special paper sessions included “Forage Populations—Patterns at Local, Regional and Basin Scales,” “Marine Wind and Tidal Energy,” “Economic Growth, Seabirds, and Ocean Habitats,” and “Marine Protected Areas in the Pacific: Relevance to Marine Birds.” Plenary lectures were given by John Piatt on “The Extraordinary Ecology and Conservation of *Brachyramphus* Murrelets,” and by John Croxall on “Local Science to Global Conservation: Perspectives from Southern Ocean Seabirds.”

In addition to the traditional Saturday night banquet, a new event was the Conservation Gala dinner on Friday night. This occasion included the annual Conservation Committee meeting and bestowal of the Special Achievement Awards.

There was excellent birding from the historic cannery dock on which the resort is built, and even from inside the rooms and restaurants. Field trips included pelagic birding and kayaking, as well as skiing in the Cascade Mountains.

AWARDS AT THE 2008 PSG MEETING

PSG presented three major achievement awards to highly deserving recipients. Professor John Croxall, CBE FRS, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of pioneering, extensive, and distinguished contributions



PSG Executive Council members at February 2008 meeting (those who weren't in hiding by the time the photo was taken). Standing: Mark Hipfner, Craig Harrison, Ken Morgan, Don Lyons, Ron LeValley; seated: Vivian Mendenhall, Katie O'Reilly, Verena Gill.

to the understanding and conservation of seabirds. S. Kim Nelson and Lora L. Leschner were each awarded a Special Achievement Award for their significant and long-term contributions to PSG and seabird conservation.

Student Paper Awards were selected from a total of 53 competitors, 35 for oral presentations and 18 for poster presentations. Lindsay Young and Motohiro Ito received Best Student Paper awards. Dacey Mercer received an Honorable Mention Paper Award (for the second year in a row). The Best Student Poster Award went to Michael Schrimpf, with an Honorable Mention Poster Award given to Ulises Angulo-Gastélum.

PSG offers travel awards to assist attendance at its annual meetings. Travel awards were offered in three categories for 2008: US/Canada Student Travel Awards, Non-US/Non-Canada Student Travel Awards, and Non-US/Non-Canada Scientist Travel Awards. The source of funds differs for the three types of award, as determined by the Executive Council.

For the US/Canada Student Travel Award, a total of US\$2,048 was raised from sales at the Silent Auction at the 2007 Annual Meeting. PSG received 34 applications for these Travel Awards (23 from the US and 11 from Canada).

Requests for travel assistance from these applicants totaled \$17,766, which was 867% higher than the amount that was available. Sixteen students received awards of \$100 (for shorter travel distances) or \$200. Congratulations to the following students on their travel awards: Eric Anderson, Jennifer Barrett, Lisa Eggert, Corinne Gibble, Amanda Gladics, Laurie Hall, Michael Janssen, Michelle Kappes, Erika Lok, Matthew McKown, Kyle Morrison, Kelly Newton, Annie Pollard, Akiko Shoji, Elizabeth Skewgar, and Lindsay Young.

A total of US\$2,000 was disbursed from general PSG funds for Non-US/Non-Canada Student Travel Awards. We received nine applications for these Travel Awards (six from Japan and one each from the United Kingdom, France, and Germany). Requests for travel assistance from these applicants totaled \$6,320, or 316% higher than the amount that was available. All nine applicants received \$250 each: Yukiko Inoue, Motohiro Ito, Nobuhiro Katsumata, Kentaro Kazama, Jana Kotzerka, Sarah Leclaire, Daisuke Ochi, Ellie Owen, and Takashi Yamamoto.

Funds for Non-US/Non-Canada Scientist Travel Awards came from the Local Organizing Committee for the Annual Meeting, and totaled US\$2,000. PSG received four applications for these Travel Awards from Taiwan, Eritrea, Peru, and Mexico. Requests for travel assistance from these applicants totaled \$5,100, or 250% higher than available funds. Shou-Wha Zhang received \$1100, enabling him to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, the other recipients were unable to attend the meeting despite being offered travel awards. The unclaimed awards were redistributed to student awardees listed above, for a grand total of \$6150 awarded (\$102 over-budget).

Our thanks go to all award recipients who attended the meeting, despite the modest travel awards.

The PSG Awards Committee consisted of Katie O'Reilly (PSG's Past

MEETINGS • PSG Semiahmoo, 2008

Chair and Chair of the committee), Verena Gill (PSG Chair), and Doug Bertram (PSG Chair-elect). The Awards Committee received input on Lifetime and Special Achievement Awards from the Former Chairs' Committee, whose chair this year was Bob Day.

Judges of student papers and/or posters were David Craig, George Divoky, Danielle Escene, Jim Harvey, Falk Huettmann, Rick Golightly, Pat Jodice, Kathy Kuletz, Dov Lank, Nicole LeBoeuf, Vivian Mendenhall, Katie O'Reilly,

Martin Raphael, Heather Renner, Samantha Richman, Spencer Sealy, and Stephani Zador. These people generously volunteered in response to a single e-mail request on the list serve!

— **Katie O'Reilly**



Best Student Paper Award: Motohiro Ito



Best Student Paper Award: Lindsay Young



Best Student Poster Award: Michael Schrimpf



Student Poster Honorable Mention: Ulises Angulo-Gastélum



Travel Awardees: US-Canada Students



Travel Awardees: Non-US/non-Canada Students

PSG'S 2009 MEETING WILL BE IN HAKODATE, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

The Pacific Seabird Group's 36th Annual Meeting will be held in Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan on 22-25 February 2009, at the Hakodate Kokusai Hotel. PSG meetings have always been held in the U.S., Canada, or Mexico. This meeting is breaking new ground, with Japanese colleagues as our hosts. Their hospitality will help us to bolster ties with all our western Pacific Asian colleagues.

The meeting will feature a symposium titled "Working Beneath the Surface: New Approaches in Examining the Interplay of Biomechanics, Physiology and Behavioral Ecology in Diving Seabirds." Special paper sessions will include: "Status and Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Seabirds in the Western Pacific," "Conservation of Albatross Species in the Central and North Pacific," and "Seabird Bycatch in Pacific Commercial Fisheries."

Other special paper sessions may be added, and contributed papers will fill out the program. Special lectures will be given by plenary speakers.

There will be a banquet and two special dinners, and many other opportunities to sample excellent Japanese cuisine.

Field trips will include eastern Hokkaido (Red-crowned Crane, Steller's Sea-Eagle, and possibly the rare Blakiston's Fish-Owl), the Shimokita Peninsula (wild Japanese monkeys), and birding near Hakodate. (Please note that it will be cold and snowy in northern Japan at this time!)

For details, visit the "Annual Meeting" page on PSG's website (<http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org>).

FIRST WORLD SEABIRD CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 2010

The first-ever World Seabird Conference will take place 7-11 September 2010, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The Pacific Seabird Group is host for the conference. Twenty-three other seabird groups worldwide are participating formally, including groups based in on both sides of the Atlantic, in Africa, the Indian Ocean, East Asia,

Australasia, the Arctic and Antarctic, and special groups for albatrosses and other species. The organizing committee includes one or more members from each supporting group.

Symposia and special paper sessions are currently being arranged. Symposium topics are likely to include restoration of seabird islands, impacts of global climate change on seabirds, seabird-fishery interactions, and seasonal seabird movements. Special paper sessions may include topics such as normal variability in seabird populations, variations in life-history parameters, disease, pollution, and the relationship between fishery management and seabird conservation. Workshops may be held on the impacts on seabirds from wind power and light attraction, development of handbooks for island restoration or disease sampling, and integration of databases on a worldwide scale for seabird colonies and tracking. Some of these efforts will result in published volumes.

Proposals for symposia, special paper sessions, and workshops are being accepted until 15 February 2009. To submit a proposal, contact the chair of the Scientific Committee, David Irons (david_iron@fws.gov), for guidelines and other information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PSG's committees report each year to the Executive Council. These reports for 2007 were submitted in February 2008. A full list of PSG committees appears at the back of this issue.

THE CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION FUND FOR SMALL GRANTS: THE FIRST YEAR

Robert H. Day

PSG has been concerned that worthy seabird conservation projects that could be undertaken at minimal cost are not being pursued because there is no vehicle for small grants. This lack of support is most acute in developing nations. As was pointed out in *PSG Bulletin* in 1982, "[T]he 30th study on the Black-legged Kittiwake in Alaska can find a sponsor, but the first attempt at mapping colonies in Fiji or Indonesia cannot." The very same problem still exists.

To address this concern, EXCO established PSG's Conservation Small-Grant Program in February 2007, and provided it with initial funding of \$10,000. EXCO has renamed this program the Craig S. Harrison Conservation Fund (CSHCF), in honor of Craig's extensive efforts on behalf of seabird conservation and PSG.

The objective of the CSHCF is to advance efforts conservation and restoration of Pacific seabirds, by supporting projects in developing countries within or bordering the Pacific Ocean. The intent is to provide funds or supplies to individuals from developing countries, and to scientists who are based elsewhere but working in those countries. In addition, we want to develop seabird expertise within developing countries of the Pacific. This report summarizes our activities in calendar year 2007, during which we were developing our system for managing the program.

ORGANIZATION

The initial committee consisted of five members: Robert Day (Coordinator),

Malcolm Coulter, Doug Forsell, Craig Harrison (representative as Vice-Chair for Conservation), and Ken Morgan. After some consideration and inquiries from potential applicants, we added two other members who have expertise in Spanish and have contacts and experience in Latin America: Jessica Hardesty and Melanie Steinkamp. Both have been invaluable in helping us to evaluate and fund projects in that area.

FUNDING

The CSHCF's funding has been provided by EXCO from PSG's general funds; EXCO may authorize further transfers at any time. Other money may come from directed donations, including a line on PSG's annual membership form, a line on the Annual Meeting registration form (added in early 2008), other donations to PSG that are earmarked for the CSHCF, and interest on CSHCF's bank accounts. The CSHCF will investigate opportunities for matching funds, and wherever possible, will seek such funds for particular projects. We will also consider running a Silent Auction to raise funds in future years.

APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS DURING 2007

We spent part of 2007 fine-tuning our ideas about the program. Application guidelines and an application form are available under the "Grants" tab on the PSG website (<http://www.pacificseabird-group.org>).

We received 11 inquiries during 2007. We rejected six of them because they did not fulfill our criteria, and we asked for further information about three others (Table 1). As of March 2008, we had funded two projects, and we are awaiting information on the outcome of another (rat eradication) before deciding whether to fund an education effort there.

During calendar year 2007, CSHCF granted \$3980 to applicants; we received \$1627 from donations and silent auction proceeds. The maximum amount that the committee could award at its discretion (without approval by EXCO) was initially set at \$1000. Since applicants usually requested more than \$1000, EXCO has raised the committee's grant limit to \$2000.

As indicated in Table 1, we rejected several inquiries on the grounds that they were geographically inappropriate. However, we were able to direct some applicants to other possible sources of money. Malcolm Coulter's extensive knowledge of funding sources for research in Asia has been particularly helpful in this regard.

For the two projects that we funded, we provided information to the applicants about PSG members with expertise in the project's particular topic. Our intent was not to tell the applicants how to do the work, but rather to let them know that PSG has many experts whom they could consult if they wished.

LOOKING FORWARD

We believe that the guidelines and application forms that we have developed are working quite well. The guidelines and forms are available at PSG's website (<http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org>).

Looking ahead, we believe that we need to: (1) increase awareness of the existence of this program in other Pacific countries; (2) draw on the entire PSG membership to raise the committee's awareness of potential applicants (and *vice versa*); and (3) solicit input from PSG members on potential sources of funding (in addition to PSG), in order to make the program self-sustaining.

I thank all members of the committee for their time and effort on behalf of this program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TABLE 1. Status of applications to PSG's Craig S. Harrison Conservation Fund in 2007

Location	Objective/title	Action	Reason
Philippines	Money for veterinarian to buy endoscope	REJECTED	Marginal to PSG's interests; also could be used in private practice
Russia	Monitor gull populations in Murmansk	"	Inappropriate geographically
Nepal	Study birds in Lake Nepal	"	Inappropriate geographically
Nepal	Model Ramsar sites in Nepal	"	Inappropriate geographically
Oceania	Money for BirdLife International's work in every country in Oceania	"	Not enough money to fund projects; also, application conflicted with Fiji application that was funded
Chile	Natural history of undisturbed birds nesting on Chilean islands	"	No conservation orientation
Colombia	Money to help study rare seabirds	STATUS UNCLEAR	Asked for further information and called—no response
Philippines	Surveying bird colonies in mangroves of San Miguel Bay	"	Asked for further information—no response; also, survey appears to have been conducted while we awaited information
Fiji	Printing of educational posters on seabirds	DELAYED DECISION	Waiting to determine success of rat-eradication project in same country
Fiji	Rat eradication on seabird-colony island	FUNDED	Funded \$1980
Chile	Study seabird bycatch in coastal artisanal fishery	"	Funded \$2000

[**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In 2008, two additional Conservation Small Grants were awarded for studies of seabird bycatch on the Pacific coast of Guatemala (\$2000) and the populations and at-sea distribution of seabirds in the Sunda Strait, Indonesia (\$1085). See the Conservation Report in this issue for more details.]

XANTUS'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Shaye Wolf

SUMMARY

The mandate of PSG's Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee is to "Monitor the federal listing petition, state status, research, and conservation issues,

provide information to interested parties, and coordinate research and conservation in the US, Mexico, and Canada." Below we summarize 2007's events and committee activities that relate to the mandate. Our primary focus at the 2008 meeting will be priorities and methods for monitoring, management, and recovery of Xantus's Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*; XAMU).

THREATENED/ENDANGERED LISTING

The XAMU is a Candidate Species under the federal Endangered Species Act. In December 2007, a Candidate Notice of Review to downgrade the XAMU's priority from 2 to 5 was published in the Federal Register. This was primarily based on Chevron's decision not to build a liquid natural gas terminal near the Coronados Islands.

The XAMU was officially listed as Threatened by the State of California

in December 2004. However, the state has no recovery plan or implementation schedule. Esther Burkett is the only person in the California Department of Fish and Game who is working on the species.

The XAMU is listed as Endangered in Mexico.

RESEARCH/MONITORING

On Anacapa Island, monitoring of reproductive success and nest numbers continued in April-July 2007. This was the 5th year after rats were eradicated from the island. Researchers were D. Whitworth, J. Koepke, H. Carter, F. Gress of the California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES), Davis, California. Funding was by the American Trader Trustee Council, for the 8th consecutive year.

Monitoring of nest plots on Santa Barbara Island, Channel Islands Na-

COMMITTEE REPORTS

tional Park (CINP), continued in 2007. Monitoring was skipped in 2006 due to Brown Pelican nesting. Monitored plots included the CINP plot in Cat Canyon (Laurie Harvey), the house and dock sites, and D. Whitworth's Landing Cove plot in shrub habitat. The CINP Nature Trail plot was not accessible due to nesting pelicans.

L. Harvey began pilot habitat restoration for the XAMU on Santa Barbara Island, by planting native shrubs on the east slope below the ranger residence and on slopes above the Landing Cove. She planted approximately 200 plants (buckwheat, silverlace, *Hemizonia*, *Suaeda*).

The status of the XAMU was assessed on San Miguel Island and surrounding islets by D. Whitworth, J. Koepke, F. Gress (CIES), along with collaborators H. Carter and P. Hébert (Carter Biological Consulting, Victoria, British Columbia). They conducted the spotlight surveys and nest searches in April-May for the Montrose Trustee Council.

In Mexico, CIES counted nests, monitored them for reproductive success, and conducted spotlight surveys at the Coronado Islands in March-July. Funding was by ChevronTexaco Corporation. Staff included H. Carter, D. Whitworth, J. Koepke, P. Hébert, F. Gress, and E. Palacios. They also monitored three plots on South Coronado Island and a small sample of nests on Middle Rock. Spotlight surveys and nest surveys also were conducted at Todos Santos Islands. Light levels were monitored from March-July at both colonies by collaborator I. Austin (URS Corporation, San Francisco).

Preliminary population surveys and blood sample collections were carried out at poorly studied XAMU colonies on Guadalupe, San Jeronimo, Cedros, San Roque, and San Asuncion Islands, Baja California. This expedition was based on the research vessel *Alguita*. Spotlight surveys and nest surveys were employed for baseline population estimates. Staff included H. Carter, D. Whitworth, J. Koepke, F. Gress, E. Palacios, and volunteers G. McChesney, B. McIver, C. Hamilton, L. Harvey, R. Young. The expedition was funded by

ChevronTexaco Corporation. Blood samples from this expedition, as well as most samples collected previously from other colonies, are being analyzed for range-wide genetic relationships by V. Friesen (Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario).

CONSERVATION ISSUES

The Chevron Corporation's proposal for an LNG terminal adjacent to the Coronado Islands was terminated on 15 February 2007, when Chevron notified the Mexican government that it had decided not to proceed with the project. In May 2005, a petition had been filed with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) under the North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation, asserting that Mexico was failing to enforce its environmental laws by not properly considering the terminal's threats to endangered and threatened seabird species, particularly the XAMU. On 28 January 2007, the Secretariat of the CEC recommended that the commission investigate Mexico's apparent failure to enforce its environmental laws when it issued a permit for the terminal. Shortly thereafter, Chevron gave notice that it would not proceed with the project.

The Technical Committee is following the progress of several proposals to construct LNG terminals near Xantus's Murrelet colonies in Channel Islands National Park and on the border of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Projects would include: (1) BHP Billiton's Cabrillo Deepwater Port terminal, 21 miles offshore of Port Hueneme; (2) Crystal Energy's Clearwater Port, 12 miles from Oxnard; this would convert a retired oil rig into an LNG terminal; and (3) Woodside Energy's Ocean Way terminal, 22 miles offshore from Malibu. The Cabrillo Port and Clearwater Port terminals would be within 10–15 km of the Santa Cruz and Anacapa Island XAMU colonies. Both would be in the Santa Barbara Channel, near areas where at-sea censuses have detected high densities of XAMU. The Ocean Way terminal would be northwest of the important XAMU colony on Santa Barbara Island,

in an area where there are currently no lighted energy platforms.

The California Coastal Commission and California State Lands Commission rejected BHP Billiton's Cabrillo Port proposal in April 2007, mainly due to its potentially high emissions of greenhouse gases. The Clearwater Port and Ocean Way terminal are still in process.

Non-native mice have been introduced to two XAMU colonies in Baja California. Both introductions were confirmed in 2007. The house mouse *Mus musculus* is exotic on South Coronado Island, which also supports a native *Peromyscus* species. A *Peromyscus* species native to Cedros Island was introduced to West San Benito Island in 2007, which previously did not have any mammalian predators. Eradication of the exotics is being considered for both colonies.

The U.S. Minerals Management Service is developing programmatic regulations for offshore wind farm development. The Technical Committee is monitoring opportunities to provide public comments.

SEABIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE

Scott Hatch

In January 2007, the contributor interface of the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database (PSMD) was launched on the World Wide Web (<http://seabirds.usgs.gov>). The physical machine is a new server purchased and installed on a government network by the Alaska Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Anchorage, Alaska. That office will be responsible for administration and maintenance of the server for the foreseeable future.

The web-based software allows researchers to enter new records for inclusion in the PSMD, and to access all previously entered records for editing. Before newly generated records are made available via the Internet, they are reviewed by the Database Administrator.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Then the data are either added to the public database or returned to contributors for further work. There is currently a sizable backlog of data that have not yet been entered in the PSMD; for most contributors, the backlog dates back about to the 1999 field season. Therefore we anticipate an intensive catch-up period for data entry.

As of January 2008, a web application is nearing completion that will allow public users to query the PSMD online and retrieve data records. The public interface will be accessible at the same URL (<http://seabirds.usgs.gov>). The PSMD is viewed as an open source, although users will be requested to register and supply contact information upon their first use of the database.

The current thrust of databases on the Internet will move from the PSMD to encompass several related databases—the Beringian Seabird Colony Catalog, North Pacific Seabird Pelagic Database, Pacific Seabird Diet Database, and others. We envision all these databases in one easily accessible repository that might be best characterized as a Pacific Seabird Information System (PSIS). Our committee views this endeavor as a vital

and timely undertaking by the PSG and various organizational partners. During 2007, a database schema for the Pacific Seabird Diet Database was completed for SQL Server implementation. This database will be populated and served on the Internet during 2008, using funds provided by the North Pacific Research Board (D.B. Irons and D.D. Roby, Principal Investigators).

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP WEBSITE

Lisa T. Ballance and Annette Henry

WEBSITE ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

A new page for the PSG Conservation Small Grant Program was created in 2007. This page gives background, program objectives, and instructions as to how to apply for a conservation grant. The Photo Gallery was moved to the Publications page. This was necessary in order to create the Small Grant Program page referred to above.

Soon after the 2008 Annual Meeting, a dedicated page for the World Seabird Conference will be created. Currently,

the WSC flier can be accessed through a hyperlink from the home page.

A comprehensive listing of all Lifetime Achievement and Special Achievement Award Recipients will be posted, along with a one-paragraph summary of each awardee's contribution.

WEBSITE STATISTICS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007

Statistics are created by the program "AWStats." They show that our website was visited by about 25,000 different IP addresses (loosely equivalent to individuals). This is an increase of 4,000 over last year. As was the case last year, the vast majority of these were of United States origin, followed by Canada. In third place were visits from IP addresses in the Russian Federation!

Statistics for the top 25 pages show that many visits are focused on obtaining information about our annual meetings. Marbled Murrelet information is also highly desired by internet surfers. About 30% of the pages hit are directed by internet search engine results (this is a 5% increase from last year) and around 7% are directed from links with other websites (e.g. BIRDNET and Marine Ornithology).

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Pacific Seabird Group's Executive Council (EXCO) meets twice a year, at the winter Annual Meeting and during the summer by conference call. Each meeting's Minutes are available after they are approved at the next Exco meeting: a summary in *Pacific Seabirds*, and the full Minutes on the group's web site (www.pacificseabirds.org).

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP, 27 FEBRUARY 2008 Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine, Washington

Call to order

Verena Gill, Chair, called the Executive Council meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes

The Minutes of the EXCO's teleconference meeting on 18 September 2007 were approved unanimously, with two small changes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Funding for listing *Marine Ornithology* on SORA (Pat Jodice)

Discussion centered on the costs and benefits of making *Marine Ornithology* available through the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive web page (SORA). A motion to spend up to \$2000 from the Publication Fund for putting all volumes (1-35) of *Marine Ornithology* on SORA passed unanimously.

2. Membership dues (Ken Morgan).

Discussion centered on problems with annual membership renewals. A motion to have a year's dues included in registration fees for that year's PSG meeting passed unanimously.

3. Chinese Crested Tern (Craig Harrison)

A motion to establish a Chinese Crested Tern Working Group within PSG passed unanimously.

4. Conservation Small-grant Program (Craig Harrison).

Two motions passed unanimously: to approve two Conservation Small grants that were awarded prior to the meeting, and to increase the limit of Conservation Small Grants that can be awarded without EXCO approval to \$2000.

5. Election date change for 2010 (Pat Baird)

An updated motion that the date for the election of the Exco for 2011 be moved forward, so as to accommodate the 2010 World Seabird Conference (especially the duties of Chair-elect as Program Chair for that conference), passed unanimously.

6. Student motions (Jo Smith)

A motion to amend the definition of a student passed unanimously. The motion specifies that "Student membership rates are available only to full-time undergraduate and graduate students for the duration of their degree, subject to documentation of student status. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible for student membership rates or the student registration rate at annual meetings.

"In order to be eligible for student registration rate at annual meetings, registrant must be currently enrolled as a full-time student or was enrolled as a full-time student the previous quarter/semester before the meeting. Student registrant may be asked for proof of

student status (proof of registration as a full-time student or letter from major advisor confirming student status) when registering at annual meetings."

In addition, Smith agreed: (1) to update the PSG Handbook to clearly describe the purpose of the PSG Annual Silent Auction; and (2) to update the PSG website with a link for Student Members.

7. Publications Committee (Vivian Mendenhall)

A motion passed unanimously that the Publications Committee consists of the Publications Chair, the editor of *Pacific Seabirds*, the Webmaster, the Managing Editor of *Marine Ornithology*, and may include others at the discretion of the Chair.

REPORTS TO EXCO

1. Treasurer's Report (Ron LeValley)

Ron updated EXCO on the budget for 2006-2007, and agreed: (1) To update the PSG Handbook to specify that costs of the Lifetime Achievement and Special Achievement Awards will be included as line items in the budget. (2) To investigate the distribution and location of mutual funds for PSG's investments. (3) To close the UK membership account. (4) To have the PSG Handbook updated so that costs associated with student travel and poster and paper awards are in the budget.

EXCO MINUTES

2. Endowment Fund (Ron LeValley)
Ron updated EXCO on the (generally good) state of the Endowment Fund.

3. Seabird Monitoring Committee (Scott Hatch)

Scott updated EXCO on the status of the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database. The website is ready to be launched so that data can be entered and updated, while launch of the Pacific Seabird Diet Database is planned for 2010.

4. Seabird.net web page (Scott Hatch)

Scott agreed to write (and send to V. Gill) a paragraph for the PSG Handbook on the use of the Internet domain name seabird.net.

5. Conservation Small-grant Program (Bob Day)

Bob updated EXCO on the state of the Conservation Small Grant Program. He identified funding as the biggest issue related to the grant, specifically whether or not the fund will be self-sustaining. [Bob's report on the Small Grant Program follows these minutes.]

6. Marine Ornithology (Tony Gaston)

Tony updated EXCO on issues related to publishing *Marine Ornithology*, noting that so far there is no plan for a successor when he retires in 2009.

7. Budget report for PSG 2008 meeting (Tom Good)

Tom updated EXCO on the budget for the current Annual Meeting. He mentioned that there have been problems with Oregon State University's Registration Services, so that use of this service in future will need to be reconsidered.

8. Student representative (Jo Smith)

Jo reported on her findings regarding

attrition rates of students who attend PSG meetings. EXCO agreed that we need a further breakdown on the fates of non-renewing students, which is about 70% of students who attend meetings. The new Student Representative (Heather Major) will follow up on this issue.

9. World Seabird Conference (David Irons)

David updated EXCO on progress related to the 2010 World Seabird Conference that will be held in Victoria, BC. Two co-chairs have been identified, Louise Blight and Jo Smith. At least 10 seabird groups from around the world have agreed to participate.

10. Japan Seabird Conservation Committee (Ito Motohiro)

Ito Motohiro updated EXCO on activities of the Japan Seabird Conservation Committee. He presented reports on the status of seabird colonies in Japan.

11. PSG 2009 Japan meeting update and budget approval (Yataka Watanuki)

Y. Watanuki updated EXCO on preparations for the PSG Meeting in Japan in 2009. Issues related to the high costs of traveling to the conference were discussed.

12. Conservation Committee (Craig Harrison)

C. Harrison updated EXCO on the activities of the Conservation Committee (details are in the Conservation Report in each issue of *Pacific Seabirds*).

13. IUCN (Craig Harrison)

C. Harrison updated EXCO on the relationship between PSG and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

14. Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee (Bob Ritchie)

B. Ritchie updated EXCO on activities of the Marbled Murrelet Committee, which met in October 2007, and agreed to provide updates on the Committee's future activities.

15. Elections report (Pat Baird)

Pat updated EXCO on the PSG elections, reporting that there is a stellar line-up of candidates for next year's elections.

16. Ornithological Council (Doug Forsell)

Doug reported to EXCO that he and Scott Newman are now acting as PSG representatives to the Ornithological Council.

17. Corresponding Membership Committee (Craig Harrison)

C. Harrison updated EXCO on the activities of the Corresponding Membership Committee.

18. Pacific Seabirds (Vivian Mendenhall)

Vivian dated EXCO on the state of *Pacific Seabirds*. It is still behind schedule. The journal will be distributed electronically starting with the 2009 volume.

[**Note:** Reports from the 2020 Committee, the PSG web page, and the Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee were not presented because the committee coordinators were unable to attend the EXCO meeting. The latter two reports are among those published elsewhere in this issue.—Editor]

Adjournment

V. Gill brought the meeting to a close at 17:12.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

The Pacific Seabird Group publishes symposia and other works. **PSG Symposia** are occasionally held at Annual Meetings; those which have been published are listed below. **Technical Reports** prepared by PSG working groups also are listed. *To order one of these PSG publications, please see instructions after each item.*

Abstracts of papers and posters given at PSG meetings are published annually. Abstracts for meetings of 1974 through 1993 appeared in the PSG Bulletin (Volumes 2–20); for meetings of 1994 through 2003, in Pacific Seabirds (Volumes 21–30); and for meetings of 1997 and later, at www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

PSG publishes the journals *Pacific Seabirds* (www.pacificseabirdgroup.org) and *Marine Ornithology* (www.marineornithology.org). Current and past issues of both journals are available online or by subscription. Back issues may be obtained online; those of Pacific Seabirds also are available from the PSG Treasurer (order form on last page).

SYMPOSIA

SHOREBIRDS IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS. Frank A. Pitelka (Editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group. Asilomar, California, January 1977. Published June 1979 in Studies in Avian Biology, Number 2. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

TROPICAL SEABIRD BIOLOGY. Ralph W. Schreiber (Editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Honolulu, Hawaii, December 1982. Published February 1984 in Studies in Avian Biology, Number 8. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

MARINE BIRDS: THEIR FEEDING ECOLOGY AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES RELATIONSHIPS. David N. Nettleship, Gerald A. Sanger, and Paul F. Springer (Editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Seattle, Washington, January 1982. Published 1984 as Canadian Wildlife Service, Special Publication. *Out of print; available free of charge at* www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

THE USE OF NATURAL VS. MAN-MODIFIED WETLANDS BY SHOREBIRDS AND WATERBIRDS. R. Michael Erwin, Malcolm C. Coulter, and Howard L. Cogswell (Editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium at the first joint meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Society and the Pacific Seabird Group, San Francisco, California, December 1985. Colonial Waterbirds 9(2), 1986. \$12.00. *Order from:* Ornithological Societies of North America, PO Box 1897, Lawrence, Kansas 66044; phone (800) 627-0629; no online orders.

ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR OF GULLS. Judith L. Hand, William E. Southern, and Kees Vermeer (Editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Colonial Waterbird Society and the Pacific Seabird Group, San Francisco, California, December 1985. Published June 1987 in Studies in Avian Biology, Number 10. \$18.50. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

AUKS AT SEA. Spencer G. Sealy (Editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Pacific Grove, California, December 1987. Published December 1990 in Studies in Avian Biology, Number 14. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

STATUS AND CONSERVATION OF THE MARBLED MURRELET IN NORTH AMERICA. Harry C. Carter, and Michael L. Morrison (Editors). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Pacific Grove, California, December 1987. Published October 1992 in Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Volume 5, Number 1. \$20.00. *Order from PSG Treasurer* (order form on last page), *or available free of charge at* www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

THE STATUS, ECOLOGY, AND CONSERVATION OF MARINE BIRDS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC. Kees Vermeer, Kenneth T. Briggs, Ken H. Morgan, and Douglas Siegel-Causey (editors). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird

PSG PUBLICATIONS

Group, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, British Columbia, February 1990. Published 1993 as a Canadian Wildlife Service Special Publication, Catalog Number CW66-124-1993E. **Order free of charge from:** Publications Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3, Canada.

BIOLOGY OF MARBLED MURRELETS—INLAND AND AT SEA. S. Kim Nelson and Spencer G. Sealy (Editors). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Seattle, Washington, February 1993. Published 1995 in *Northwestern Naturalist*, Volume 76, Number 1. \$12.00. **Order from PSG Treasurer** (order form on last page), **or available free of charge at** www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

BEHAVIOUR AND ECOLOGY OF THE SEA DUCKS. Ian Goudie, Margaret R. Petersen and Gregory J. Robertson (editors). Proceedings of the Pacific Seabird Group Symposium, Victoria, British Columbia, 8-12 November 1995. A special publication compiled by the Canadian Wildlife Service for the Pacific Seabird Group. Published 1999 as Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper number 100, catalog number CW69-1/100E. **Order free of charge from:** Publications Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3, Canada, **or available free of charge at** www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

SEABIRD BYCATCH: TRENDS, ROADBLOCKS AND SOLUTIONS. Edward F. Melvin and Julia K. Parrish (editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Blaine, Washington, 26-27 February 1999. Published 2001 by University of Alaska Sea Grant, Fairbanks, Alaska. Publication no. AK-SG-01-01. \$40.00. **Order from publisher.**

BIOLOGY, STATUS, AND CONSERVATION OF JAPANESE SEABIRDS. Nariko Oka (editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Japanese Seabird Group and Pacific Seabird Group, Lihue, Hawaii, February 2001. *Journal of the Yamashina Institute of Ornithology* 33(2); Symposium (5 papers), pp 57-147, other papers pp. 148-213. In English with Japanese abstracts. \$75.00. **Order from PSG Treasurer** (order form on last page).

OIL AND CALIFORNIA'S SEABIRDS. Harry R. Carter (convener) and Anthony J. Gaston (editor). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Santa Barbara, California, February 2002. Published 2003 in *Marine Ornithology* 31(1). **Available free of charge at** www.marineornithology.org

THE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF THE AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. Daniel W. Anderson, D. Tommy King, and John Coulson (editors). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group. *Waterbirds*, Volume 28. Special Publication 1, 2005. Published by the Waterbird Society. \$15.00. **Order from PSG Treasurer** (order form on last page).

BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF XANTUS'S MURRELET. Harry R. Carter, Spencer G. Sealy, Esther E. Burkett, and John F. Piatt (editors). First part of the proceedings of a symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Portland, Oregon, January 2005. Published 2005 in *Marine Ornithology* 33(2):81-159. **Available free of charge at** www.marineornithology.org

Information on presenting symposia: Pacific Seabird Group Symposia or Paper Sessions may be arranged by any member who is interested in a particular topic. Before planning a special session, refer to Meetings/Symposia Guidelines at www.pacificseabirdgroup.org; also contact the Coordinator of the Publications Committee and the Scientific Chair for the meeting.

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL SEABIRD RESTORATION WORKSHOP. Kenneth I. Warheit, Craig S. Harrison, and George J. Divoky (editors). Exxon Valdez Restoration Project Final Report, Restoration Project 95038. PSG Technical Publication Number 1. 1997. **Available free of charge at** www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

METHODS FOR SURVEYING MARBLED MURRELETS IN FORESTS: A REVISED PROTOCOL FOR LAND MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH. Pacific Seabird Group, Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee. PSG Technical Publication Number 2. 2003. **Available free of charge at** www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Committees do much of PSG's business, as well as the conservation work for which PSG is respected. The committees welcome (and need) participants; contact the coordinators for information.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee consists of the Past Chair, Chair, and Chair-elect. Committee members for 2008 are **Verena Gill** (chair), **Doug Bertram**, and **Greg Balogh**; contact information is on inside back cover.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Craig S. Harrison, 4953 Sonoma Mountain Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, USA. Telephone: (202) 778-2240, e-mail: charrison@hunton.com

CONSERVATION SMALL GRANTS COMMITTEE

Robert Day, ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research and Services, P.O. Box 80410, Fairbanks, AK 99508-0420, USA. Telephone: (907) 455-6777, e-mail: bdlay@abrinc.com

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Pat Baird, Simon Fraser University, Centre for Wildlife Ecology, Department of Biological Sciences, Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6. Telephone: (604) 928-5510, e-mail: pabaird@sfu.ca

JAPAN SEABIRD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Motohiro Ito, Hokkaido University, 3-1-1, Minato-cho, Hakodate, Hokkaido 041-8611, Japan. Telephone and fax: 0138-40-8863, e-mail: f010060b@ec.hokudai.ac.jp

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Michelle L. Kissling, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3000 Vintage Blvd, Suite 201, Juneau, AK 99801, USA. Telephone: (907) 780-1168, Fax: (907) 586-7154, e-mail: michelle_kissling@fws.gov

LOON/GREBE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Joel Schmutz, U.S. Geological Survey, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503, USA. Telephone: (907) 786-3518, e-mail: joel_schmutz@usgs.gov

MARBLED MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

William P. Ritchie, P.O. Box 1102, Port Angeles, WA 98362-0209, USA. Telephone: (360) 902-2365, fax: (360) 417-3302, e-mail: ritchwpr@dfw.wa.gov

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Patrick Jodice, South Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634, USA. Telephone: (864) 656-6190, fax: (864) 656-1034, e-mail: pjodice@CLEMSON.EDU

SEABIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE

Scott Hatch, Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Biological Science Center, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503 USA. Telephone: (907) 786-3529, fax: (907) 786-3636, e-mail: scott_hatch@usgs.gov

XANTUS'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Shaye Wolf, Island Conservation, 100 Shaffer Road, University of California, Santa Cruz, California 95060. Telephone: (831) 459-4581, e-mail: wolf@biology.ucsc.edu

PSG DELEGATES TO THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Craig S. Harrison, 4953 Sonoma Mountain Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, USA. Telephone: (202) 778-2240, e-mail: charrison@hunton.com. And **Malcolm C. Coulter**, P.O. Box 48, Chocorua, NH 03817 USA. Telephone: (603) 323-9342, e-mail: coultermc@aol.com

PSG LIFE MEMBERS 2008

David Ainley
Sarah G. Allen
Daniel W. Anderson
Edgar P. Bailey
Pat Herron Baird
Lisa Ballance
Mrs. Don Bishop
Kenneth T. Briggs
Joanna Burger
Douglas Causey
Ellen W. Chu
Roger B. Clapp
Cheryl Conel
Malcolm C. Coulter
Kathy Cousins
Theodore L. Cross
Jeff Davis
Robert H. Day
Tony DeGange
Jan Dierks
George J. Divoky
Stewart Fefer
Lloyd C. Fitzpatrick
Elizabeth Flint
Douglas J. Forsell
Michael Fry

Adrian Gall
Lisa Haggbloom
Judith Latta Hand
Craig S. Harrison
Scott A. Hatch
Monica Herzig Zürcher
Nancy Hillstrand
Joel D. Hubbard
David B. Irons
Ronald Javitch
Sarah Keller
James G. King
Kathy Kuletz
James Kushlan
Lora Leschner
David B. Lewis
Peter Major
Eugene Y. Makishima
Vivian Mendenhall
Godfrey Merlen
Pat Mock
Ken Morgan
Edward C. Murphy
Maura Naughton
S. Kim Nelson

David R. Nysewander
Haruo Ogi
Koji Ono
Katie O'Reilly
Julia K. Parrish
Robert Pitman
C. John Ralph
William P. Ritchie
Chad Roberts
Daniel D. Roby
Gerald A. Sanger
Palmer C. Sekora
Nanette Seto
Kouzi Shiomi
Kitty Simonds
William E. Southern
Arthur L. Sows
Jeffrey A. Spendelow
Takaki Terasawa
W. Breck Tyler
Enriqueta Velarde Gonzalez
Kees Vermeer
John S. Warriner
Yutaka Watanuki
Jennifer Wheeler
Jeff Williams

RECIPIENTS OF PSG'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Philip and Myrtle Ashmole
James C. Bartonek
W.R.P. Bourne
Richard G.B. Brown
G. Vernon Byrd

John Croxall
Charles Guiguet[†]
Michael P. Harris
Thomas R. Howell
George L. Hunt, Jr.
Karl W. Kenyon[†]

James G. King
Spencer G. Sealy
Robert E. Ricklefs
Miklos D.F. Udvardy[†]
John Warham

RECIPIENTS OF PSG'S SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Malcolm Coulter
George J. Divoky
Craig S. Harrison

Hiroshi Hasegawa
Lora Leschner
Edward Melvin
S. Kim Nelson

Arthur L. Sows
Steven M. Speich[†]
Mark J. Rauzon

[†]Deceased

Pacific Seabird Group

Membership Application/Publication Order Form

(Please copy)

Membership (includes subscription to Pacific Seabirds)

Individual and Family \$30.00	\$ _____
Student (undergraduate and graduate) \$24.00	\$ _____
Life Membership ¹ \$900.00 (optional payment plan: five \$180 installments)	\$ _____
Sponsored Membership \$30.00	\$ _____
Name of Sponsored Member _____	\$ _____

Donations²

To the Endowment Fund ¹	\$ _____
Other (please specify) _____	\$ _____

Pacific Seabird Group publications

A full list of PSG publications appears on the preceding pages. If the publication you want is not listed on this page, please order according to information in the publications list.

Back issues of *Pacific Seabirds* (can also be downloaded from www.pacificseabirds.org)

Vols. 1-8 (1974-1981) _____	x \$2.50	\$ _____
Vols. 9 (1982 to present) _____	x \$5.00	\$ _____

PSG Symposia

Status and Conservation of the Marbled Murrelet in North America _____	x \$20.00	\$ _____
Biology of Marbled Murrelets: Inland and at Sea _____	x \$12.00	\$ _____
Biology, Status, and Conservation of Japanese Seabirds _____	x \$75.00	\$ _____
The Biology and Conservation of the American White Pelican _____	x \$15.00	\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Prices include postage (surface rate) and handling.

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (payable in US dollars to the **Pacific Seabird Group**) to: Ron LeValley, PSG
Treasurer, P.O. Box 324, Little River, CA 95456-0519, USA.

MEMBERSHIPS (new and renewing) and DONATIONS may also be paid online at www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

² Proceeds from Life Memberships go to the Endowment Fund, which supports the publications of the Pacific Seabird Group. Contributions may be given for a specified purpose; otherwise they also go to the Endowment Fund.

¹ Donations may be tax-deductible; see inside front cover for more information.

Member/Sponsor or Order

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Deliver/Ship to (if different)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2008

For Executive Council members in current year (if different), see PSG's web site, <http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org>

OFFICERS

Chair	Doug Bertram , Canadian Wildlife Service, Institute of Ocean Sciences, 9860 West Saanich Rd., P.O. Box 6000, Sidney, BC, Canada V8L 4B2. Telephone: (250) 363-6735; fax: (250) 363-6390; e-mail: bertramd@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Past Chair	Verena Gill , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 341, Anchorage, AK 99503-6199, USA. Telephone: (907) 786-3584, or (907) 250-3721 (cell); fax: (907) 786-3816; e-mail: Verena_Gill@fws.gov
Chair-Elect	Greg Balogh , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 605 W. 4th Ave. Rm G-61, Anchorage, AK 99501, USA. Telephone: 907-271-2778; Fax: 907-271-2786; e-mail: Greg_Balogh@fws.gov
Vice-Chair for Conservation	Craig S. Harrison , 4953 Sonoma Mountain Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, USA. Telephone: (202) 778-2240; e-mail: charrison@hunton.com
Treasurer	Ron LeValley , P.O. Box 324, Little River, CA 95456-0519, USA. Telephone: (707) 496-3326 (cell), (707) 937-1742 (work); fax: (707) 937-2868; e-mail: ron@madrivervbio.com
Secretary	Mark Hipfner , Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, Environment Canada, RR#1, 5421 Robertson Rd., Delta, BC, Canada V4K 3N2. Telephone: (604) 940-4720; Fax: (604) 946-7022; e-mail: Mark.Hipfner@ec.gc.ca
Editor, Pacific Seabirds	Vivian Mendenhall , 4600 Rabbit Creek Rd., Anchorage, AK 99516, USA. Telephone: (907) 345-7124; fax (907) 345-0686; e-mail: fsgadair@attalascom.net

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Alaska and Russia	Heather Renner , Alaska Maritime NW, 95 Sterling Highway, Suite 1, Homer, AK 99603, USA. Telephone: (907) 226-4623; fax: (907) 235-7783; e-mail: Heather_Renner@fws.gov
Canada	Ken Morgan , Institute of Ocean Sciences. P.O. Box 6000, 9860 W. Saanich Rd., Sidney, B.C., Canada V8L 4B2. Telephone: (250) 363-6537; fax: (250) 363-6390; e-mail: morgank@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Washington and Oregon	Don Lyons , Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, 104 Nash Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331, USA. Telephone: (503) 791-2958; e-mail: lyonsd@onid.orst.edu
Northern California	Craig Strong , Crescent Coastal Research, P.O. Box 2108. Crescent City, CA 95531, USA. Telephone: (707) 487-0246, or (707) 954-3500 (cell); e-mail: cstrong.ccr@charter.net
Southern California	Dan Robinette , PRBO Conservation Science, Vandenberg Field Station, 205 N. H St., Suite 217, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Telephone (805) 735-7300; fax (805) 735-8817; e-mail drobinette@prbo.org
Non-Pacific United States	Melanie Steinkamp , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 11510 American Holly Dr., Room 206C, Laurel, MD 20708, USA. Telephone (301) 497-5678; fax: (301) 497-5706; e-mail: Melanie_Steinkamp@fws.gov
Pacific Rim	Linda Elliott , Hawaii Wildlife Center, P.O. Box 5006, Hawi, HI 96719. Telephone and fax: (808) 884-5576; e-mail: lindae808@yahoo.com
Old World	Linda Wilson , Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Dunnet House, 7 Thistle Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1UZ, Scotland. Telephone: +44 (0) 1224 655713; Fax: +44 (0) 1224 621488; e-mail: Linda.Wilson@jncc.gov.uk
Student Representative	Heather Major , Dept. of Biological Science, 8888 University Dr., Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6. Telephone (778) 782-5618; Fax (778) 782-3496; e-mail: hmajor@sfu.ca

