

PACIFIC SEABIRDS



A Publication of the Pacific Seabird Group

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PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

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

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is a society of professional seabird researchers and managers dedicated to the study and conservation of seabirds. PSG was formed in 1972 out of a need for increased communication among academic and government seabird researchers. The principal goals of PSG are (1) to increase the quality and quantity of seabird research through facilitating exchange of information, and (2) to identify and assess the importance of threats to seabird populations and provide government agencies and others with expert advice on managing the threats and populations. PSG is headed by an Executive Council comprised of members volunteering their time. Members include biologists, wildlife managers, students, and conservationists from the United States, Mexico, Canada, Japan and 12 other countries. PSG annual meetings and publications provide forums where members can share their findings on all research topics relating to Pacific seabirds and discuss local and large scale conservation issues. Abstracts for meetings are published on our website. PSG publishes the on-line bulletin *Pacific Seabirds* (formerly the *PSG Bulletin*; www.pacificseabirdgroup.org) and the journal *Marine Ornithology* (www.marineornithology.org). Other publications include symposium volumes and technical reports; these are listed near the back of this issue. PSG is a member of the Ornithological Council and the American Bird Conservancy. Annual dues for membership are \$40 (individual); \$30 (student, undergraduate and graduate); and \$1,200 (Life Membership, payable in five \$240 installments). Dues are payable to the Treasurer; see the PSG web site or the Membership Information at the back of this issue.

Website

<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 to the fullest extent allowed by U.S. law (IRS Section 501[c][3]).

Pacific Seabirds

This on-line bulletin reports on the work and committee activities of the Pacific Seabird Group, conservation news, and other items of importance to conservation of seabirds in the Pacific Ocean. The bulletin is in transition from a twice-yearly publication to an on-line news bulletin and archive of PSG activities. This issue summarizes proceedings of the PSG Annual meeting held in Tacoma, Washington in February 2017, and will be available on-line as a pdf. Back issues of the *PSG Bulletin* and *Pacific Seabirds* are posted on the group's web site.

Pacific Seabirds Editor

Jennifer Lang, editor@pacificseabirdgroup.org

Marine Ornithology

Marine Ornithology is published by the Pacific Seabird Group on behalf of a consortium of seabird groups: African, Australasian, Dutch, Japanese, Pacific, and UK. The journal is published two times a year and publishes contributed papers, forum articles, and book, website and software reviews, on all aspects of marine ornithology worldwide. For details on submitting to the journal, please go to marineornithology.org.

Change of Address

Send changes of address to the PSG Membership Coordinator, **Jennifer Lang**, membership@pacificseabirdgroup.org

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IN MEMORIAM: HARRY CARTER

Kuniko Otsuki



This photo was taken at the 2017 Japanese Murrelet Symposium in Kadogawa, Japan (18-19 March 2017), offered by the Kadogawa government and arranged by Kuniko. Although Harry was not at the symposium, he was with us in spirit! Left to right: Chang-Yong Choi, Kuniko Otsuki, Kim Nelson, John Piatt, Darrell Whitworth, Percy Hébert, Hyun-Young Nam, Nina Karnovsky, Yutaka Nakamura, Chang-uk Park

Above is my image of Harry Carter: the center of the friendship between scientists and colleagues of North America and Asia, especially Japan.

Harry loved Japan and this came through in his writings in *Pacific Seabirds* and elsewhere. He tried to bring Japan to the world, and in this he was very successful. The day after Harry passed away, Mark Rauzon, the Vice-Chair for Conservation, wrote to me, "You (Kuniko) were a wonderful friend to Harry, together you two brought Japan to so many of us, and for that we are very grateful. Thus, his legacy will live on in us here and in your country."

Since 1994, and increasingly after 2009, Harry and I worked very hard to develop better ties between scientists in North America and Japan (and now with Korea and China too).

Reflecting on Mark's comments, I counted the number of people Harry and I brought to Japan over the years. Twenty-five project-related scientists came from "western" countries (the US, Canada, France, and New Zealand), five from Korea, and if I add 7 more family members and friends... the total is 37 people! Harry should be proud of this number!

Harry's Projects in Japan

Harry's projects in Japan are listed in the table on the following page. In addition to all his work in North America, it is amazing to realize the number of projects Harry participated in Japan, as well as one in South Korea.

I like to think that our collaboration and shared interests, at least in part, may have accelerated his passion and motivation to work for seabirds in Asia.

Harry's last effort: The 2017 Japanese Murrelet Symposium in Kadogawa, Japan (18-19 March)

Who could imagine that participating in the Japanese Murrelet Symposium would be Harry's very last project?

The two key goals of the Japanese Murrelet Symposium were to: (1) encourage monitoring programs that detect and understand population trends and hatching success at key breeding

Opening event of the symposium on 18 March. Even though Harry was not at the venue, no one took away his chair. Photo: Y. Minowa



IN MEMORIAM: HARRY CARTER

TABLE OF HARRY'S PROJECTS IN JAPAN		
Year	Project	Organization
1993	1st Japanese Murrelet (JAMU) survey, Izu Islands, Tokyo	Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ)
1994	2nd JAMU Izu Islands project and 1st visit to Birojima for JAMU	WBSJ and Japan Alcid Society (JAS)
1995 - 2015	Japan Seabird Conservation Committee coordinator	Pacific Seabird Group (PSG)
1997	<i>Nakhodka</i> oil spill (visited Japan twice)	Oiled Bird Information Committee (OBIC)
2011	Spotlight survey #1 for JAMU population survey at Birojima, Miyazaki-ken	Japanese Murrelet Population Survey Team (JMPST, now Marin Bird Restoration Group MBRG)
	JAMU symposium (Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima-ken)	Nagashima Nature Conservation Association (NNCA, now Kaminoseki Nature Conservation Association: KNCA)
	Presentation for JAMU at the House of Representatives	Nagashima Nature Conservation Association (NNCA, now Kaminoseki Nature Conservation Association: KNCA)
2012	Spotlight survey #2 for JAMU population survey at Birojima, Miyazaki-ken	Japanese Murrelet Population Survey Team (JMPST, now Marin Bird Restoration Group MBRG)
	Spotlight survey for JAMU at Okinoshima & Koyashima Islands, Fukuoka-ken	Japanese Murrelet Population Survey Team (JMPST, now Marin Bird Restoration Group MBRG)
	Spotlight survey for JAMU and Ancient Murrelet, Guguldo, Korea	Migratory Birds Center (Korea), Japanese Murrelet Population Survey Team (JMPST, now Marin Bird Restoration Group MBRG)
2013	Standardized nest monitoring with JMPST at Birojima, Miyazaki-ken	Japanese Murrelet Population Survey Team (JMPST, now Marin Bird Restoration Group MBRG)
	Spotlight survey and nest monitoring at Eboshijima, Fukuoka-ken	Japanese Murrelet Population Survey Team (JMPST, now Marin Bird Restoration Group MBRG)
	Revisiting Kaminoseki, Yamaguchi-ken	Nagashima Nature Conservation Association (NNCA, now Kaminoseki Nature Conservation Association: KNCA)
2016	Crow project at Birojima (JAMU predators), Miyazaki-ken	Marin Bird Restoration Group (MBRG)
	Camera project for JAMU predators at Birojima, Miyazaki-ken	Pomona College and Marin Bird Restoration Group MBRG)
	Revisiting Kaminoseki, Yamaguchi-ken	Kaminoseki Nature Conservation Association (KNCA)

IN MEMORIAM: HARRY CARTER



North American seabird biologists (J. Fries, Piatt, and Carter) being interviewed for television at Birojima in April 1994 Photo: K. Otsuki

colonies; and (2) identify standardized data collection methods for monitoring which can be used for measuring these trends using statistical analyses. For the scientific session, there were a total of 154 participants and speakers representing four countries: Japan, United States, Canada, and Korea. The general public session had 116 participants and included presentations of art, posters, and paintings done by elementary school students, storytelling of the Japanese Murrelet with piano, and mask dances of the village.

Harry was in Japan on 14 - 26 March 2017 to participate in the symposium. At the PSG meeting in Tacoma the previous month, he had suffered severe pain in his knee, but he recovered and arrived in Japan for the symposium. Unfortunately, he relapsed with terrible back pain mistakenly believed to be due to a ruptured disk on 14 March. He decided to stay with our colleague's mother Shi-san, in Fukuoka, to avoid lots of movement. On 17 March, Harry entrusted me with this message:

"I'm very sorry that I cannot be with you at this important meeting. The idea of having a symposium has been alive for 23 years. Now, the Kadogawa government and Kuniko Otsuki finally made it happen. I look forward to working for the proceeding project and hearing more about the interesting research going on in Japan and Korea."

For 23 years? I finally realized that he had been dreaming of

holding this symposium since he first visited Birojima in 1994.

In my diary, I recorded how excited Harry was when I announced information on the symposium in May 2016. Later he told me that, while he was in a meeting about monitoring methods that fall, he was studying the speakers and learning how to lead discussions so that he could do so at the 2017 symposium in Japan.

When Harry and some of his scientific colleagues visited Japan in 1993 and 1994, their presence alone was enough to make the Japanese people aware of the importance of the Japanese Murrelet. When Harry first visited Birojima and the largest colony of the Japanese Murrelets with three other American

scientists (John Piatt, John Fries, and Leigh Ochikubo), the local newspaper and TV crews came to report the visit. Without their interest, the Japanese Murrelet wouldn't have become so popular so quickly, and the public would not have understood that it is a vulnerable species! Unfortunately, Harry couldn't get his monitoring project started during his first stay in Japan from 1993-1995. It became his long-term goal to pursue monitoring someday.

After Harry's involvement with the Nakhodka oil spill, he did not have a chance to visit Japan until the 2009 PSG annual meeting in Hakodate. Afterwards, he visited my house in Fukushima and told me he had failed to get support for conducting surveys in Japan for the past 3 years. I offered my help with raising funds for his project, and we started working to establish monitoring methods, specifically spotlight surveys and standardized nest monitoring, for the Japanese Murrelet in Japan. Spotlight surveys are boat-based transect surveys for counting murrelets on the water using a high-intensity spotlight. This technique allowed us to estimate the population size of Japanese Murrelet.

Our efforts were successful, and the spotlight survey has been included in reports by the Ministry of the Environment. A few groups

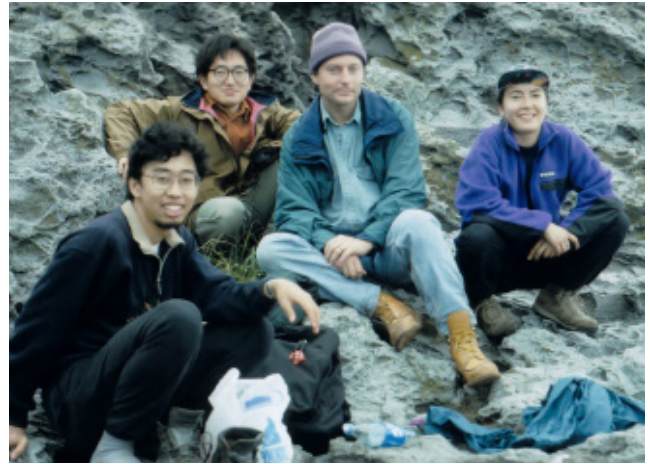
The first spotlight project in Fukushima, 2011. This happened right after the disaster in 2011, so it was very special for us. Top row, left to right: Masayoshi Takeishi, Darrell Whitwoth, Kuniko Otsuki, Harry Carter, Frank Gress; bottom row: Shigeho Sato, Tomoaki Kuroda. Photo: A. Kuroki



IN MEMORIAM: HARRY CARTER



Northeast Asia Seabird Conservation Committee in Tacoma, WA on 23 Feb 2017. Left to right: Simba Chan, Gregg Howald, Harry Carter, Nobuhiro Katsumata, Yukiko Inoue, and Kuniko Otsuki. Photo: Simba Chan



Harry's very first visit to Japan. Japanese biologists M. Hasegawa and M. Ueta, and Canadian biologists Harry and L. de Forest, at Kozushima, Japan, April 1993. Photo: A. Mori

have already tried it, but we still do not have a standardized survey protocol. It had always been Harry's concern since 1994...

Now, I feel like the Japanese Murrelet Symposium was the culmination of his life's work.

When he heard the idea of the symposium in March 2016 and received the official invitation in June 2016, he was overwhelmed with joy. I do not know how to describe how passionate he was about it, but that is why he came to Japan in 2017, despite his bad back.

The symposium was very successful; the town mayor and an education chief were really happy with this event. Unfortunately, we were unable to find accepted basic methods for the spotlight survey. However, we at least agreed on the necessity to establish a common survey protocol which can be used in all Japanese Murrelet research groups. Harry was glad to know this result, and he had a happy smile.

I am now working on a continuing project that Harry and I proposed recently. It will be a summary of the 2017 symposium, including the status of the Japanese Murrelet. It will be a very useful booklet. Because Harry wanted us to publish a paper on Eboshijima (Eboshi Island) in the booklet in both in English and Japanese, I'm going to fulfill his wish.

Harry's accomplishments in Japan were far-ranging, but he still had many

things he wanted to do in this country. I think that his dreams of doing more are entrusted to us now.

Harry and I, with clockwork-like coordination, were able to carry out many projects successfully with people from several countries. I am certain that if I didn't continue our good collaboration, Harry, you would surely feel sad. Do not worry, your legacy will continue to be handed down from now on. I promise.

Kuniko Otsuki



Harry with Darrell Whitworth and Ross Carter at Harry's favorite island, Eboshijima in March 2012. Photo: M. Takeishi



Harry's last visit to Birojima for the joint project of Pomona College and the Marine Bird Restoration Group to collect data on predators of the Japanese Murrelet with Darrell Whitworth, Nina Karnovsky, Kuniko Otsuki, and Yutaka Nakamura on 20 April 2016. Photo: Y. Minowa

HISTORY OF THE PSG LOGO

Joanna Smith

Helen Strong created PSG's first logo after the first EXCO meeting in 1972 at the Palomarin banding station in California. The logo was designed to have a strong horizontal component almost exclusively for the purpose of PSG letterhead and a full-page cover of the Pacific Seabird Bulletin. This beautiful artwork can be found on all PSG correspondence, Bulletins, and documents until November 2016.

After several years of discussion between EXCO and PSG members, Anne Francis was commissioned to design a new logo in the summer of 2016, with suggestions from the EXCO, the Communications Committee Coordinator and other members. The idea was to design a logo that would be of a prominent, recognisable Pacific Ocean seabird, appeal to both technical and non-technical audiences, to respect

existing and long-time members and their deep love for PSG, and to inspire others to become members of PSG and support conservation of seabirds, including youth and early career scientists. Six logos were originally drawn and three finalists were sent to PSG members for a vote. More than half of the PSG membership participated in the vote – the highest percentage for any PSG vote – and one design received more than 50 percent of the votes. In the fall of 2016, the EXCO approved the albatross design and it became the new official logo. The new logo appears on the website, letterhead, PSG social media accounts and is used for sponsorship opportunities that PSG supports. The original logo appears on the PSG website on a 'History of PSG' page, an important reminder of the vision for PSG from the founders.

The new logo was also an important design element of the website redesign project, a project that took eight months to complete in 2016. The new PSG website is a WordPress template that was customised and rebuilt by Joanna Smith and Anne Francis Web Design, with assistance from Jane Dolliver, Nina Karnovsky, Chris Tyson, Kathy Kuletz, and Nathalie Hamel. Beta testers Jessie Beck, Jane Dolliver, Gary Drew, Tony Gaston, Vivian Pattison, Emma Kelsey, and Julie Somerfield all helped to improve functionality and review content. Together, the new logo and the new website allow PSG to take full advantage of the technology available to support its mission and increase awareness regarding the importance of conserving seabirds and their environment.

Original Logo 1972-2016

**Pacific
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DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

New Logo 2016 - horizontal letterhead



Pacific Seabird Group

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

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Pacific Seabird Group occasionally honors major contributors to seabird science and conservation with Lifetime Achievement or Special Achievement awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals whose outstanding work for seabirds have influenced the course of research, conservation, and/or education throughout the world.

DR. SARAH WANLESS

By Ken Briggs and Bill Sydeman

In February 2017, Dr. Sarah Wanless received the 2017 PSG Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA). Internationally recognized as one of the most prolific and influential marine scientists working on North Atlantic seabirds, Professor Wanless occupies positions of authority and responsibility, advising and informing the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and other European policy makers on seabird-fisheries interactions (including conflict resolution), educating graduate students and postdoctoral marine scientists in seabird ecology and marine ecosystems, and bringing the vision of healthy marine ecosystems and seabird populations to the general public. Sarah's unwavering dedication and decades of robust research have made her a champion for seabird ecology and conservation worldwide.

Sarah's research spans five decades, with an emphasis on detailed long-term studies (mainly on guillemots, puffins, kittiwakes, and shags) on the Isle of May with her husband and co-investigator Prof. Mike Harris, as well as Drs. Francis Daunt, Morten Fredricksen, Sue Lewis, and a cadre of other leading and up-and-coming seabird ecologists. She has also led a diverse array of individual research projects elsewhere in the North Atlantic, and across the globe from the North Pacific to the Southern Ocean. Until her retirement in September 2017, Sarah was a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Individual Merit Scientist at the UK's Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Edinburgh. Throughout her career, Sarah has placed great emphasis on timely and efficient communications. With a remarkable 250



Sarah with an Atlantic Puffin. Photo: Bill Sydeman

papers and two books published to date, she is an accomplished author. Sarah's research on seabird natural history, and more recently marine climate and fisheries impacts on marine ecosystems as told through the lens of seabirds, has been widely acknowledged by the research and educational communities of Europe and the United States. She was made an Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow in 2005, and was issued a similar position with the University of Aberdeen in 2008. She was honored as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2006, and received the Zoological Society of London Marsh Award for Conservation Biology in the same year. Most recently, the British Ornithologists Union (BOU) awarded Sarah the prestigious Godman-Salvin Medal in 2015, and she and Mike jointly received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Seabird Group in 2016. Sarah has played a huge role in

supervising, training and mentoring the next generation of seabird ecologists, as a dedicated supervisor of more than 20 Ph.D. students, as well as many M.Sc. and undergraduate students.

Sarah was born in Scarborough, a holiday resort and fishing community on the Yorkshire coast. With the sea on her doorstep, she literally "can't remember a time when I wasn't interested in nature." Her grandfather was a watercolor artist and his brother a photographer, so the walls at home were adorned with seascapes of fishing boats and coastal imagery. Initially interested in artistic endeavors, sketching and painting wildlife, Sarah's focus morphed completely after fortuitously attending evening classes given by John Gray, then a dynamic lecturer at Leeds University, who went on to be Professor of Marine Biology at Oslo University. At his urging, Sarah enrolled at University of Aberdeen, then, as now, a bastion of

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Dr. Sarah Wanless

She undertook her first field study at the small gannetry at Bempton where she focused on similarities and differences in the behavior of gannets in comparison to Bryan Nelson's classic work on the Bass Rock. She never lost fascination for comparative studies, and today embraces the multitude of "gadgets and gizmos" to help follow seabirds when they are away from the colony.

Sarah and her colleagues and students have made unique contributions toward understanding some of the central questions of seabird behavioral, population, and evolutionary ecology; for example, what is the importance of different life history 'choices' among individuals in conferring benefits that are defined in the essential coinage of evolution: survival and reproductive success? How do alternative life history 'strategies', those complex blends of hereditary predispositions, and individual learning and the available 'gradients' in ecological parameters, lead to greater or lesser success in terms of offspring who fledge, flourish, and themselves carry those genes forward?

In our view, however, from Sarah (and PSG's Most Supportive Spouse, Mike), it is the remarkable, decades-long ecological studies on seabirds nesting on Isle of May, arguably the broadest and deepest knowledge of any seabird community in the greater Atlantic region (including North Sea, Mediterranean), that comprise one of her greatest contributions. The data sets they produced contain information on more than 100,000 ringed individuals, more than 50,000 food samples, and more than 10,000 individual breeding histories, which now yield foundational information on population dynamics, survival ages, annual and lifetime breeding performance, and knowledge of foraging locations both in winter and during provisioning of the nestlings. This basic knowledge is being used by Sarah and her colleagues to address two major contextual themes of great importance to long-term conservation of North Sea seabirds: how competition with human fisheries

for forage fish, mainly sandeels, and changes in ocean climate affect marine ecosystems. Remarkably, their studies have spanned a period in which the 9-10 °C surface isotherm has retreated northward at a mean of 22 km/year. During the same interval, human fisheries have dramatically impacted availability of sandeels to the birds. These synergistic forces have dramatically reduced populations of sandeels within the foraging ambit of the Isle of May seabirds, leading to substitution of sprat or other, less nutritious benthic fish species in the bird diets, and contributing to an overall 40% decline in calories among meals fed to chicks. Seasonal shifts in seabird numbers, correlated with success or failure in raising chicks have now been documented, with unsuccessful breeders predominantly wintering far from the colonies in the Western Atlantic, while

successful breeders winter near the Scottish colonies. Few studies come as close to being able to understand, and potentially predict, these central issues in seabird conservation. And based on this amazing treasure-trove of long-term, individual-oriented data, Sarah and colleagues are now in a position to provide robust information to European agencies about climate change, and which fisheries decisions will likely cause changes in North Sea seabird populations. This nexus, where a lifetime of research effort by seabird researchers can be used to make specific and positive impacts on the course of human actions affecting marine birds, is something to behold, admire, aspire to. For this, we are proud to honor and recognize Sarah Wanless for a lifetime of professional activities in designing and acquiring a knowledge base of singular importance to the lives of Atlantic seabirds.

Sarah grubbing for puffins. Photo: Franck Latraube



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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DR. P. DEE BOERSMA

By Mark Rauzon, Julia Parrish, and Joanna Smith



Dee with a penguin in hand. Photo: Burr Heneman

Professor P. Dee Boersma was presented the 2017 PSG Lifetime Achievement Award by her former student, Dr. Julia Parrish at the PSG annual meeting in Tacoma, WA. Dr. Boersma (Dee) is a globally recognized and internationally well-known seabird biologist, and a longtime member of PSG. She holds the Wadsworth Endowed Chair in Conservation Science at the University of Washington and, in this capacity, teaches students about marine science, science communication and conservation.

Her early work on Fork-tailed Storm-petrels on the Barren Islands, Alaska, including an important early paper on egg neglect, and a suite of papers documenting how chick growth in this species was regulated by climate factors, paved the way for much of today's work on climate forcing of North Pacific seabirds.

Dee is well known for her work with penguins in South America. She directs the Center for Penguins as Ocean Sentinels and is co-Chair of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature SSC Penguin Specialist Group. In graduate school, she started a long-term study on the Galápagos penguin that focused on restoring the population of Galápagos Penguins impacted by global warming. By building artificial caves, she provided them with safe, shaded nesting sites. Currently, she leads a long-term study on Magellanic Penguins in Argentina. This 30+ year and disciplinary diversity of the Magellanic Penguin Project has allowed Dee to document population trends and threats to the population, such as oiling, fishery impacts, and climate change, while simultaneously uncovering basic ecological, behavioral and physiological factors that regulate the health of individuals and colonies. Dee's work has shown when we should be concerned about penguin-tourism interactions, and when we shouldn't. Her early work on penguin telemetry led the charge for responsible fisheries in the South Atlantic. Tracking data showed why penguins were getting oiled, and convinced the government to move shipping lanes further away from the colony. Finally, her basic research on pair bonds, population dynamics and factors affecting chick growth have helped both researchers and resource managers manage a major tourist destination in the face of a changing climate. Dee's ability to weave together basic science with resource management and conservation outcomes through the discovery of key biological parameters and dynamics regulating

this system has been one pillar of her substantial contribution to seabird literature and conservation outcomes.

Perhaps most importantly, Dee has fostered scores of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows from the U.S. and Argentina. Many of her students have gone on to university professorships, agency leadership positions, and careers with global conservation organizations. Her career has been a road-map for hundreds of female students with an interest in natural history, field ecology and conservation. Essentially, Dee has mentored decades of women into positions of power. Julia Parrish said of Dee: "It is Dee's early intervention in my life that got me (among many other places) here. She has been, and is, a fierce and fearless woman, a kick-butt naturalist, and a great, great teacher."

Dee has gone on to a most distinguished academic career both at The University of Washington and in the larger scientific and conservation community. She has led marine conservation planning on numerous boards and other governing bodies.

Dee has published numerous articles in scientific journals. She founded and was the Executive Editor for 15 years of *Conservation*, an award-winning magazine she launched in 2000. She recently co-edited the book "Penguins: Natural History and Conservation", published in English and Spanish. Most recently was the announcement that Dr. Dee Boersma is a finalist for the 2016 Indianapolis Prize – the world's leading award for animal conservation. We couldn't be prouder. Congrats, Dee!

Dee is an inspirational researcher and instructor, a valued colleague with

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Dr. P. Dee Boersma

time honored commitments to her students and the larger conservational community both at home in PSG and abroad internationally. It is fitting and timely that Dr. Dee received the Lifetime Achievement Award from PSG at the 44th Annual Meeting in Tacoma, Washington.

The positions she has held include:

- Board of Governors and Past-President, Society for Conservation Biology
- Ocean Science Advisory Board, Conservation International
- Board of Directors, Washington Nature Conservancy
- Honorary Member Award, Ecological Society of America
- National Research Council, BEST Committee
- Board of Washington Environmental Council
- Member, U.S. National Committee, International Union for Biological Science
- Board of Directors, Peregrine Fund
- Board of Director, Bullitt Foundation
- Scientific Advisor, Penguin Taxon Advisory Group, AAZPA
- Scientific Fellow, Wildlife Conservation Society N.Y.Z.S (elected)
- Advisory Board, Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park

Distinguished Honors include:

- The Nature Conservancy of Washington's Environmental Hero in 2010
- 2010 Fulbright US Senior Scholar
- 15th Annual Heinz Award for the Environment
- American Ornithologists' Union Elliott Coues Award
- Grace Hopper Outstanding Achievement Award
- Education Fellow in the Life Sciences, National Academies
- Distinguished AAAS Fellow
- Pew Fellow in Conservation and the Environment
- Service Award, Society for Conservation Biology

Dee with one of the artificial nests (a "penguin condo") she built for Galapagos penguins. Photo: Burr Heneman



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Pacific Seabird Group occasionally honors major contributors to seabird science and conservation with Lifetime Achievement or Special Achievement awards. PSG's Special Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has performed outstanding, long-term service for the Pacific Seabird Group, or who has achieved an outstanding and significant exemplary accomplishment for the betterment of seabird research, education, and/or conservation.

DR. MARTIN RAPHAEL

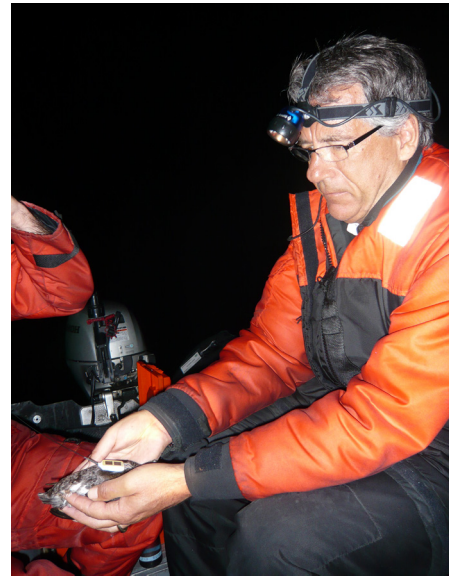
By Deanna Lynch, Gary Falxa, and Scott Pearson

The Pacific Seabird Group awarded Dr. Martin Raphael with a Special Achievement Award in recognition of the significant, long-term contributions he has made to our understanding of the ecology and conservation of the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). Marty earned his Ph.D. in 1980 at the University of CA-Berkeley. His dissertation was on the response of forest birds in the Sierra Nevada to large-scale fire. Since then, his key research interests have focused on the application of community ecology theory to wildlife management problems and effects of forest management on wildlife communities. Marty joined the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station in Olympia, Washington as a research scientist in 1989. Marbled murrelets were a natural extension of his avian research interests due to the murrelet's dependence on old-growth forests for nesting. In the early 1990s, he became the deputy leader of the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT), which developed the 1993 FEMAT report that provided the backbone for large-scale ecosystem management under the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). This groundbreaking document described the management plan for 10 million hectares of US federal forest lands, including the long-term protection and enhancement of the majority of the marbled murrelet nesting habitat south of Canada. Marty was a technical editor and chapter author for the Ecology and Conservation of the Marbled Murrelet. While this compilation was published in 1995, it continues to stand the test of time providing critical information on

murrelets. Marty played a significant role in the development of the marbled murrelet effectiveness monitoring program for the NWFP and has contributed to our knowledge of the species in both its marine and terrestrial environments.

In the terrestrial environment, Marty has made significant contributions to our understanding of murrelet nesting habitat and nesting ecology in Washington State and throughout the NWFP area. He has been instrumental in identifying key nesting habitat characteristics using a variety of methods, such as using inland surveys to identify occupied habitat and forest inventories to identify key characteristics, then applying that information to predict where nests would be built based on tree species and diameter. This information helps land managers identify important areas to manage or protect for the benefit of the murrelet.

In the mid-2000s, he led a 4-year study in Washington which used radio-telemetry to follow movements of murrelets. He tracked them to their nesting locations, proving in the process that murrelets like to nest where humans rarely travel and found the first ground nest south of Canada. The study also found that nesting murrelets commute long distances between nest sites and foraging grounds, and confirmed that some birds foraging in U.S. waters off the Olympic Peninsula were nesting in British Columbia. This project greatly expanded the number of known nests and information on nest characteristics, but unfortunately, it also documented the species' poor reproductive success.



Marty with a Marbled Murrelet. Photo: Tom Bloxton

Recently, Marty has used nesting habitat information in a modeling framework to assess nesting habitat characteristics across the landscape and compare changes in distribution and trends over time. This effort provided the first comprehensive evaluation of the status and trends for murrelet nesting habitat south of Canada and documented the continued loss of nesting habitat over the last two decades. In addition, Marty has collaborated with others in the use of artificial nests to test landscape factors and forms of nest predation, identification of predators and survey techniques, and the use of radar as a monitoring tool. His radio-telemetry and radar studies of murrelets in Washington have helped fill knowledge gaps about nest site selection, movement patterns of nesting murrelets, and how the marine and terrestrial environments

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Dr. Martin Raphael

influence the distribution of nesting murrelets.

In addition to his work in the terrestrial environment, Marty has contributed to our knowledge of the murrelet in its marine environment. He played a significant role in the development of an at-sea survey protocol used to assess murrelet population status and trend throughout the range of the species south of Canada. From 2000 through 2012, he applied that protocol to monitor marbled murrelets in the Puget Sound in Washington. His work in the marine environment, particularly in Washington, not only helped define the size, distribution and trend of the marbled murrelet population, but also the factors that influence distribution and trend, particularly through long-term monitoring efforts in the San Juan Islands. Most recently, Marty and collaborators combined data from at-sea surveys and terrestrial habitat modeling to evaluate the factors influencing

murrelet distribution and trends, helping to further our understanding about the relative influence of terrestrial and marine factors on the causes of population decline in portions of the murrelet's range. Among its findings, this study identified forest fragmentation as an important negative predictor of murrelet abundance at a landscape scale.

Even though Marty's seabird work focused on marbled murrelets, the survey protocol he helped develop and implement also collected data on other seabird species, providing a rich dataset on the distribution and abundance of all seabirds in near-shore waters from 2000 through the present. This dataset is being used to assess and compare the status and trend of seabirds in the Salish Sea with those in the California Current.

Marty's research activities have resulted in a wealth of publications, such as the 10-, 15-, and 20-year NWFP monitoring reports and more than 40 papers/chapters on murrelet ecology

and conservation, working with a wide-variety of peers. In addition to his research activities, Marty has furthered seabird conservation by serving on various panels and teams, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Marbled Murrelet Recovery Implementation Team, Washington Department of Natural Resources Marbled Murrelet Science Team, and Pacific Lumber Company's Science Review Panel.

Marty retired from the U.S. Forest Service in January 2016. However, that has not slowed him down. He continues to promote murrelet conservation by advising the Oregon State University's at-sea captures to locate nests, guiding a U.S. Forest Service post-doc to get some of the long-term Washington murrelet data analyzed and published, and collaborating with other research scientists to get a diet study underway in Washington.



Tracking Marbled Murrelets. Photo: Diane Evans-Mack

STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

Student presentation awards are given out each year at the PSG Annual Meeting. Oral and poster presentations are judged separately according to guidelines that include originality, presentation style, graphics, format, and research data. The award guidelines and judging forms can be found in the PSG Handbook. Abstracts can be found on the PSG website.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD - PH.D.: CHRIS TYSON (UC DAVIS)

Coordinated provisioning in a pelagic seabird with variable foraging strategies

HONORABLE MENTION - PH.D.: LYNDSEY RANKIN (NORTHERN ILLINOIS)

Measuring nearshore recovery of seabird islands following rodent eradication at the Mercury Islands, New Zealand

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD - MASTERS: JULIA GULKA (UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA)

High individual variation in the foraging ecology of breeding Common Murres

HONORABLE MENTION - MASTERS: GREGORY TAYLOR (SAN JOSE STATE)

Egg turning behaviour and egg temperature in relation to mercury contamination of Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*)

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD - UNDERGRADUATE: GAIL GALLAHER (POMONA COLLEGE)

Working parents in an unpredictable sea: Cassin's Auklet time budgets during the breeding season

HONORABLE MENTION - UNDERGRADUATE: RUTH KAZMARACK (UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON)

Characterization of marine debris ingested by Procellariiformes

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD - PH.D.: JENNIFER HOWARD (WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY)

Species-specific effects of the 2015-2016 El Niño on seabirds breeding at Isla Española, Galapagos

HONORABLE MENTION - PH.D.: CAROLINE CAPPELLO (UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON)

Accuracy of sexing Galapagos and Magellanic Penguins by morphology and behavior

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD - MASTERS: MICHAEL JOHNS (UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS)

Shedding light on the winter movements of Cassin's Auklets

HONORABLE MENTION - MASTERS: JANE DOLLIVER (OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY)

Multispectral processing of high resolution satellite imagery to determine the abundance of nesting albatross

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD - UNDERGRADUATE: KATELYN STONER (USFWS KODIAK NWR)

Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*) nesting ecology on Kodiak Island, Alaska, 2008-2016

HONORABLE MENTION - UNDERGRADUATE: KYLE JENSEN (POMONA COLLEGE)

The life and times of Sea Ranch seabirds: Reproductive success and phenology before, during, and after the 2015 El Niño

REPORTS OF PSG OFFICERS

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2016

Nina Karnovsky

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of PSG. The first PSG meeting I attended was 25 years ago, in 1992 at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology. The camaraderie and passion of the attendees and the relaxed interactions between the speakers and the audience left a huge impression on me. As Chair I have tried to support PSG's mission with the goal of fostering this type of exchange of information about seabirds and furthering seabird conservation. This year has given me much greater insight into the workings of PSG. I have been in awe of the dedication of PSG members to this organization. I am deeply thankful for the guidance I have received from Past Chair Kathy Kuletz, Secretary Jane Dolliver, Treasurer Martin Renner and Stan Senner, Vice Chair for conservation. I am grateful for the patience of EXCO members as I learned the ropes and it has been a joy to work with the very capable Kyra Mills-Parker who will take over as Chair after the Annual meeting. I am so grateful for the hard work of so many volunteers, in particular, Jo Smith for all that she does for PSG. In addition, the amazing local committee triumvirate Peter Hodum, Nathalie Hamel and Scott Pearson are unparalleled in their dedication.

The Bylaws state that the Chair is responsible for executing "the objectives, policies and programs developed by the Executive Council and membership." To that end I have had the opportunity to participate in many of PSG's activities. My primary role this year has been to keep track of and assist in the ongoing decisions and action items in between EXCO calls and to serve as facilitator for discussions and voting on motions during those calls. I have served on the awards committees for both the LAA/SAA awards and the travel awards for students and non-US and Canadian scientists. I was able to participate in several letters for seabird conservation. I created a poster advertising the PSG

annual meeting that was hung at a PICES meeting. I submitted photos and several pieces of writing for the 43rd volume of *Pacific Seabirds* and helped to fundraise for the Annual meeting. I have been the point of contact between PSG and several organizations such as the Biodiversity Library and the International Ornithological Conference organizers. As Chair I have given approval of several changes in committee leaders and I helped adjust Survey Monkey settings for PSG elections. I have worked with the local committee and Justine Miller, of Luana events signing invoices and agreements for the hotel, catering, convention center, AV equipment, poster boards, etc. In short I have tried to lend a hand wherever needed. At the EXCO meeting prior to the Annual meeting, we managed to get through the ambitious agenda. At the Member's meeting I summarized those accomplishments which included a status update on the new Code of Conduct which members will be able to vote on once the policy goes through legal review. Many thanks to the committee who has kept that project going.

In 2016, the 42nd issue *Pacific Seabirds* was published. Past-chair Kathy Kuletz shepherded that project to completion with the help of wonderful volunteers. Jennifer Lang volunteered to be Editor of the next issues.

We had a very successful election with multiple candidates on the ballot and high voter participation. We elected two new members of EXCO and a new Vice-Chair of Conservation and Chair Elect. Three conservation letters were written and submitted on critical conservation issues. The Conservation Fund awarded a grant to support a survey of Indonesian seabirds. The seven species-specific technical committees were all active and our delegates to various organizations represented Pacific Seabird Group very well. New Bylaws were approved this

year and the Code of Conduct is about to go out for comments to members. Thanks to those on the Communications committee who Tweet, PSG has a strong presence on Twitter. PSG is also reaching members via Facebook. The Listserv continues to be an excellent tool for interaction amongst the Pacific Seabird Group. The critical need for a new website and logo was identified at the EXCO meeting in Hawaii and Jo Smith has worked tirelessly to make the new website a reality. Members chose a new logo for PSG as the cherished old one was no longer able to hold up in digital media. The location of the 2018 Annual meeting is going to be in La Paz, Mexico. In addition, a meeting in the near future will be Ensenada, Mexico.

The vibrant participation of PSG's student members and Early Career Scientists (ECSs) is a testament to the health of PSG and the relevance of PSG to the next generation of seabird biologists. At the Tacoma meeting we had both a very successful student mentor session organized by Chris Tyson, and a panel event for ECSs organized by Jane Dolliver. It was a terrific honor to be asked to be the facilitator of the ECS event. The questions were great and the panelists were well chosen to represent a range of life experiences and career paths. It is my hope that this fantastic momentum will continue to grow.

Challenges that I see for PSG in the future are a need for: 1) increased participation on conference calls by more EXCO members. Sometimes a quorum was difficult to secure and we need to have the full diversity of opinions on the calls. Special thanks to our EXCO members in very inconvenient time zones who made an effort to be on the calls (Kuniko Otsuki, Ross Wanless, Stephanie Avery-Gomm), 2) ways to increase membership. There has been a decline in members over the last several years and perhaps the timing of renewals needs to be revised, 3) more volunteers.

REPORTS OF PSG OFFICERS

There are many ways to participate in PSG and there is strong interest in volunteering. Unfortunately the work

burden is falling heavily on a few people. We need to increase engagement of EXCO and PSG members perhaps with

more committees and named volunteer positions.

CHAIR ELECT'S REPORT FOR 2016

Kyra Mills-Parker

Chair Elect Duties for 2017 Scientific Program (22-25 Feb. 2017, Convention Center, Tacoma, WA):

As Chair-elect, I had the honor and responsibility to arrange the 2017 Scientific Program for PSG's 44th Annual Meeting in Tacoma, Washington. This involved several duties I have outlined below:

1. Selected plenary speakers, arranging travel and hotel accommodations

2. Sent request out through Pacific Seabirds listserve for Special Paper Sessions (SPS) and Symposia; as a result, have 5 SPS and 1 Symposium scheduled for the 2017 meeting (total of 133 talks and 52 posters).

3. Organized scientific program, including:

- Sending out announcements for abstracts, and in coordination and with help from Lindsay Young, used RegOnline for abstract submission and registration.
- Sent several abstract submission reminders on listserve and posted on new PSG Website, with the help of Jo Smith.
- Selected a theme for the scientific program: "Sound to Sea: Marine Birds Across the Seascape".
- Organizing schedule for scientific program, which will include 3 concurrent sessions.

4. Worked with SPS and Symposium

leads to coordinate papers and provided additional papers from abstract submitted. Also worked with them on the order of talks in their sessions.

5. Helping to identify Chairs for the general sessions.

6. Worked with the Local Committee to coordinate different aspects of the meeting.

7. General timeline:

a. Registration opened on Sept. 30, 2016.

b. Travel Award Application deadline was 30 October 2015, extended to 20 November

c. General abstract submission deadline was November 18, 2016 and extended to December 2, 2016.

Talks were organized within one symposium, titled "The Values of Long-term Studies: Insights and Synthesis" (18 talks), and five Special Paper Sessions:

- SPS1: Pagophilia in the Time of Warming: Ice Ecology of Polar Seabirds (7 talks)
- SPS2: Sound to Sea: Marine Birds Across the Salish Sea (9 talks)
- SPS3: Bycatch in Fishing Gear and Fish-Oiled Seabirds (10 talks)
- SPS4: Changes in Gull Foraging Ecology (6 talks)
- SPS5: 4th Marine Spatial Planning Session (11 talks)

Some individuals' presentations

had to be moved from the session they requested because:

1. They requested a session in error.
2. Their talk fit better with another session on the basis of what they wrote in their abstract.
3. SPS organizers did not feel comfortable with talks that were submitted for their sessions.

All of the presenters who had no preference for a talk or poster were contacted and all but one opted for a talk.

Program production:

I made a preliminary sketch of the schedule overview on January 17, 2017. Program production (abstracts, sessions, speakers, session chairs) began in earnest on January 20, 2017.

As of January 21, 2017, a total of 163 abstracts were submitted (131 oral, 52 posters) via RegOnline and requests via my email account.

One issue we encountered during the translation of abstract submission and creation of the program was that quite a few people had more than 6 authors that needed to be added manually. Other options of abstract submission should be discussed to avoid this issue as it is time consuming for those creating the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair-elect and forsee the arrangement of the Scientific Program!

PAST-CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2016

Kathy Kuletz

Summary of Past Chair Tasks for 2016-2017:

Based on the PSG Handbook of primary responsibilities for the Past Chair, I report the following:

Assist the Chair with PSG operations: Towards this task I've assisted with organization of EXCO meetings, provided input on the draft Code of Conduct and website renovations to the Communications Coordinator, provided input on letters drafted by the Conservation Chair, and held follow-up teleconferences on various issues as needed. It has truly been a pleasure to work with our Chair, Nina Karnovsky, and our Chair Elect, Kyra Parker. They are a great team for 2017!

As Awards Committee Chair: The Lifetime Achievement Award went to two recipients in 2017, Dr. Dee Boersma and Dr. Sarah Wanless; the Special Achievement Award went to Dr. Martin Raphael. Assisting in the selection of LAA and SAA were the Chair Elect and Chair. I solicited nominations during the 2016 PSG annual meeting and via postings on the PSG listserv. At the closing date of August 15, nominations were submitted by one group (the Former Chairs) and six individuals. The committee submitted their selections to the EXCO for a vote at the September 2016 EXCO meeting, with all approved. Thereafter I contacted the nominees to confirm their acceptance.

As Travel Awards Chair: In 2017 we offered travel awards to 8 students and 4 non-US/Canadian scientists (from Norway, Chile, France, Malaysia). Of the students, 6 were able to accept the award and present at the 2017 PSG meeting. All of the scientists accepted the award, but the scientist from Malaysia, as a citizen of Libya, could not obtain a visa to travel to the U.S. following the President's

executive order blocking travel from selected countries.

The deadline for submitting travel award applications was 30 October, 2016; applications were submitted during registration via RegOnline. Criteria and information that would be required was available on the PSG website, made possible by the Communications Coordinator. Three announcements were sent out via the PSG listerv to remind the public and PSG members of the deadline. The number of applications received this year (12) was lower than in previous years; additional forms of advertising travel awards should be pursued. The committee reviewed applications, including the presentation abstract and the essay of application. The committee (elect, current, and past chairs) decided that all applicants qualified and we offered some level of support to each. After adjusting for the three who could not attend, we allocated a total of \$1,500 for scientists (from the General Fund) and \$3,000 for students, funded primarily from the 2016 Silent Auction and the remainder from General Funds.

Organize student paper judging: Via RegOnline, 53 members volunteered to judge student papers. These were contacted in early February to confirm their availability during the 2017 conference. As in 2016, David Craig helped to revise and summarize the scoring sheet used to judge student oral and poster presentations.

Assist Chair Elect and Local Committee Chair in preparation for the annual meeting: The Past Chair helps in the planning and operations for the annual meeting, including initial budget oversight. These tasks begin almost immediately after the previous annual meeting. I facilitated contacts between

the Tacoma local committee and event planner, Justine Miller, provided guidance on budget and venue selection, and helped with announcements to the PSG listserve or website postings. I assisted the Local Committee in planning for travel and accommodations for LAA and SAA recipients.

Begin the selection and confirmation of future meeting sites: We have confirmation that the 2018 meeting will be in La Paz, Baja, Mexico! The EXCO approved this location during the December 2016 meeting. The local committee chair is Yuri Albores-Barajas of Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE). Others on the local team include Cecilia Soldatini, Eduardo Palacios, and Horacio de la Cueva - all senior researchers at CICESE. They will be partnering with COSCYT (Science and Technology Council of Baja California Sur) and UABCS (Autonomous University of Baja California Sur). The Past Chair is working with Yuri and team to finalize the budget and venue. We all look forward to hearing more about the plans for 2018.

In August, 2018 the PSG will be hosting sessions at the International Ornithological Congress joint meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. The previous Past Chair, Jo Smith, has been working with organizers of the IOC since 2016 to make PSG a part of this event. For 2019, I propose Portland as the meeting location, and several local PSG members have previously expressed interest in hosting a meeting there. I will be soliciting other options for the future, but one that we can count on in the near future is another meeting in Baja! Federico Alfonso Méndez Sánchez, as Director for Development of Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI) will partner with

REPORTS OF PSG OFFICERS

Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste (CIBNOR) to host a meeting in Cabo San Lucas, Baja.

Additional item: During my tenure as Chair in 2015-2016 I served as Interim Editor of *Pacific Seabirds*, and this task extended into my tenure as Past Chair. During winter and spring 2016 I worked with PSG volunteers and a contracted layout specialist to produce volume 42 of PS, which was completed in May 2016 and made available on the PSG

website. I assisted in the transfer of these responsibilities to Interim Editor Jennifer Lang, who successfully oversaw the completion of volume 43 of PS this winter. Many thanks to Jennifer and the volunteers who made that happen.

Recommendations for the future: Accepting the responsibilities of the EXCO is a labor of love for many. I think it worth repeating what our previous Past Chair, Jo Smith, suggested in her 2015 report. To paraphrase - with the

business oversight responsibilities that the EXCO provides, there has been little time to devote to establishing direction for PSG, or to building our resources. The recommendations for addressing these needs were to: 1) review EXCO governance structure and process for making decisions; 2) develop a strategic plan; 3) improve financial resources; 4) create an Annual Meeting Committee (also recommended in the PSG Handbook).

VICE-CHAIR FOR CONSERVATION'S REPORT FOR 2016

Stanley Senner

In 2016, PSG submitted letters of support or comment on three subjects. There is always more that can be done and perhaps should have been done, but as a volunteer organization, we must live with the limitations—especially on time—that apply to members of the executive committee and broader PSG membership.

The following gives a brief account of PSG's interventions in 2016; these are in chronological order:

Pacific Islands Biosphere Reserve, Baja California, Mexico

Date: 4 March 2016
Recipient: Secretario de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Subject: Publication of a decree by the President of Mexico establishing the Biosphere Reserve
PSG Action: Reiterated support for establishment of the biosphere reserve
Outcome: 2.7 million acre reserve established by the President in December 2016.

Oregon Forage Fish Management Plan, Oregon, USA

Date: 8 July 2016
Recipient: Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Subject: Draft Oregon forage fish management plan for state waters
PSG Action: Public comment supporting strengthening and adoption of the draft plan
Outcome: The plan was adopted, including a cap curtailing harvests if a threshold is exceeded.

St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, Alaska, USA

Date: 30 November 2016
Recipient: NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program
Subject: St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination proposed by City of St. George (Pribilof Islands), Alaska
PSG Action: Supported sanctuary concept and described seabird resources
Outcome: Added by NOAA to the "inventory" of successful nominations. Does not guarantee a sanctuary; only further consideration.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

PSG's committees support research, work on conservation, maintain communications, and support members throughout the Pacific. Their reports contain information on field work, current issues, and committee participation. Contact information for committee coordinators (i.e. chairs) can be found near the back of this issue.

NORTHEAST ASIA SEABIRD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Daisuke Ochi and Gregg Howald,
Coordinators

The NE Asia Seabird Conservation Committee meets annually, typically at the PSG meetings in North America.

The group is encouraging information sharing and creating opportunity for relationship building between conservationists on both sides of the Pacific. Here we report on the activities of the NEASCC activities and the future promise of good conservation.

MEETINGS

We met at the 2016 PSG meeting in Hawaii to discuss recent and future research/monitoring outcomes, and the breeding colony restoration projects through introduced species eradication project in Korea, China and Japan.

On the bureaucracy front, we reviewed the history of JSCC activities from 1995 to 2015, and the geographic reach of the committee, under the new name of the NEASCC. We agreed that the committee should not be restricted to Japan, but be inclusive of the Northeast Asian countries of Russia, Japan, China, Taiwan and North and South Korea.

SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

Spotlight survey for Japanese murrelet on Tobishima, Japan: Kenji Yanagawa & Darrel Witworth - To confirm breeding status of Japanese murrelet on Tobishima, spotlight had been carried out in April and May, 2016. However, no breeding individuals were found on the research though Japanese murrelets and rhinoceros auklets were observed.

PLANS FOR 2017

The NEASCC plans to meet at the

PSG Annual Meeting in Tacoma, Washington in February 2017. It is in the interest of the coordinators to move the discussion toward active restoration on breeding colonies, with an emphasis on removal of introduced species. We will investigate ways to cooperate and collaborate further with the goal of bringing together conservationists on both sides of the Pacific.

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Sara Schoen and John Piatt,
Coordinators

The Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee (KMTC) was formed in 2008 out of growing public and government concerns related to the status and conservation of this rare seabird. In 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) included the Kittlitz's Murrelet (KIMU) as a new candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The KIMU remained on the candidate list until 2013, when the USFWS announced a 12-month finding that listing the KIMU was not warranted at that time. The purpose of the KMTC is to: (1) act as a technical authority on the status, distribution, and life history of the KIMU; (2) identify, encourage, and facilitate research; (3) address conservation problems related to the KIMU; and (4) act as a liaison between research and management.

2016 ISSUES, UPDATES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(1) The KMTC last met on 10 February 2016 in conjunction with the Pacific Seabird Group meeting in Turtle Bay, Hawaii. Eight members participated. A meeting summary is

available upon request.

(2) Meeting highlights: Robin Corcoran summarized satellite tag work on Kodiak Island, Leah Kenney discussed results of a study on mercury concentrations in KIMU diets and KIMU nesting ecology in the Aleutian Islands, Kelly Nesvacil summarized survey work in the Wood-Tikchik State Park and Yakutat Bay, and Yumi Arimitsu discussed the influence of glaciers on foodwebs of *Brachyramphus* murrelets. We unanimously agreed that we should maintain the KMTC, despite the decrease in funding and priority given to KIMU research after the "not warranted" listing decision. Three action items came out of our meeting: 1) write a letter to the USFWS about elevating KIMU to tier 1 status, 2) revise KMTC priorities, 3) make a website for the KMTC, and 4) come up with a prioritization list for future research.

(3) Issues: we have not accomplished any of our action items from the last meeting. With a lack of designated funding for KIMU research, and the emergence of other urgent and unexpected tasks (e.g., recent seabird die-offs), it has been difficult to prioritize KMTC work. We are seeking interested parties to help accomplish these action items.

At the next KMTC meeting in Tacoma, Washington, we will meet to (1) identify and summarize KIMU research projects currently underway, (2) discuss revising KIMU TC priorities, (3) consider writing a letter to the USFWS about elevating KIMU to tier 1 status, (4) discuss developing a KMTC website, and (5) revisit what role the KMTC should play in the coming year in the "post-listing decision" environment.

We appreciate the opportunity to coordinate this committee on behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

For more information, contact Sarah Schoen (907-786-7467) or John Piatt (360-774-0516).

SCRIPPS'S MURRELET AND GUADALUPE MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Shaye Wolf and Harry Carter,
Coordinators

In 2012, the American Ornithologists' Union split Xantus's Murrelet into Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*) and Guadalupe Murrelet (*S. hypoleucus*), based on genetic separation. Both species are being considered for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see below). The mandate of the Scripps's Murrelet and Guadalupe Murrelet Technical Committee (SMGMTC; formerly the 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 U.S., Mexico, and Canada." The Scripps's Murrelet occurs at sea along western Baja California, California, Oregon, Washington, and south-central British Columbia; it breeds on islands off southern California and northwestern Baja California. The Guadalupe Murrelet also occurs at sea along western Baja California, California, Oregon, Washington, and south-central British Columbia; but it breeds mainly at Guadalupe Island, with smaller numbers at the San Benito Islands and a few at some other islands as far north as Santa Barbara Island. Below, we summarize SMGMTC activities in 2016:

MEETINGS

The SMGMTC did not meet at the February 2016 PSG Annual Meeting in Hawaii because there were not enough committee members in attendance.

MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

In 2015, the SMGMTC updated part of the Murrelet Management and Restoration Plan that will help guide government and private efforts to protect and restore Scripps's and Guadalupe murrelets at breeding islands in southern California and northwestern Baja California. The draft plan was completed in 2011. While partly revised, a completely revised draft is still not done. No progress occurred in 2016 due to time needed for conservation efforts for other seabirds (especially the Ashy Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma homochroa*). Our goal is to finish the revised draft in 2017 and circulate to all committee members and management agencies for comments.

LISTING STATUS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declined to list Scripps's Murrelet and Guadalupe Murrelet under the

U.S. Endangered Species Act in a decision issued on 21 September 2016. Certain members of the committee assisted the Service in 2014-2016 with needed information. The Service's finding stated that "we find that the stressors impacting the species have either been eliminated or reduced to the point where they are not of sufficient imminence, intensity, or magnitude, either singularly or cumulatively, to indicate that the Guadalupe [and Scripps's] murrelet is currently in danger of extinction (an endangered species), or likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future (a threatened species) throughout all or a significant portion of its range."

The State of California officially listed the Xantus's Murrelet as Threatened in December 2004. However, there is still no recovery plan or implementation schedule. Xantus's Murrelets are listed as Endangered in Mexico; the species is not listed in Canada. None of these designations have been changed since Xantus's Murrelet was officially split into Scripps's Murrelet and Guadalupe Murrelet.

NEST MONITORING AND SURVEYS

Santa Barbara Island: Nest monitoring of Scripps's Murrelets to measure hatching success, timing of breeding, and changes in population size was continued by the California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES: Howard et al.) and Channel Islands National Park (CINP: Mazurkiewicz), with funding from the Montrose Settlements Trustee Council (MSTC). Scripps's Murrelets nested in restoration plots in both artificial and natural nest sites, and active nest sites have been increasing in these locations since 2014.

San Clemente Island: Baseline monitoring of Scripps's and Guadalupe murrelets was completed in 2016 by CIES (Whitworth, Carter & Parker), with funding from the U.S. Navy (USN: Booker). Spotlight surveys are the primary method being used for measuring trends in population size, although a small sample of nests also are being monitored to assess hatching success, timing of breeding and impacts from rat predation. CIES also is preparing a long-term murrelet monitoring plan for the USN.

Santa Catalina Island: The Catalina Island Conservancy (Dvorak) and CIES (Whitworth) continued monitoring of Scripps's Murrelet, using spotlight surveys and nest monitoring.

Prince Island. Scorpion Rocks, Santa Barbara Island and San Clemente Island: Acoustic data on Scripps's and Guadalupe murrelets were gathered with songmeters by the U.S. Geological Survey (Adams) and Conservation Metrics (McKown). They are investigating whether or not acoustic monitoring can be used for monitoring murrelets and storm-petrels, with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Guadalupe, Coronado, Todos Santos, San Martín, San Jerónimo and San Benito Islands: Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas (GECI) continued monitoring activities for Scripps's and/or Guadalupe murrelets, including nest

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

censuses, spotlight surveys, evaluation of reproductive performance, banding, and collecting biological samples (feathers and blood) with funding from the Luckenbach Trustee Council and MSTC.

RESTORATION

Santa Barbara and Anacapa Islands: Active plant restoration efforts by CINP and CIES on Santa Barbara Island were moved to East Anacapa Island in 2016 because island access at Santa Barbara was restricted after a large portion of the dock was lost in winter storms. Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) were eradicated at Anacapa in 2002 and the murrelet population doubled in size by 2014 (CIES: Whitworth & Carter). Murrelets do not currently nest on the top of East Anacapa (where plant restoration is occurring) but they may have nested there prior to the mid 19th century without documentation. Nesting has been documented in sea caves, steep slopes and cliffs since 1994. This work is funded by MSTC.

Guadalupe, Coronado, Todos Santos, San Martín, San Jerónimo and San Benito Islands: In 2016, GECI continued restoration activities through implementing social attraction techniques for murrelets using artificial burrows and acoustic playbacks, and through environmental education and outreach, with funding from the Luckenbach Trustee Council and MSTC.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Introduced Mammals: GECI is working with local fishing communities to enforce measures to prevent re-introduction of non-native species on nesting islands in Baja California. CINP and the USN are discussing biosecurity efforts that could be taken to prevent movements of introduced Black Rats from San Miguel Island to Prince Island. At San Clemente Island, the Institute for Wildlife Studies has been protecting murrelet breeding areas from Black Rats using poison, and cats are being controlled through removals, with funding from the USN.

MARBLED MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Kim Nelson and Peter Harrison,
Coordinators**

The Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee (MMTC) was created in 1986. It has been a longstanding committee of the Pacific Seabird Group. Its roles are to: (1) act as a technical authority about the status, distribution, and life history of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*); (2) encourage, facilitate, and identify research needs; (3) address conservation problems related to the Marbled Murrelet; and (4) act as a liaison between research and management.

MMTC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016

The MMTC met at the Annual Pacific Seabird Group Meeting in Oahu, Hawaii on 10 February 2016. The MMTC Inland Survey Protocol Subcommittee (ISP) is continuing work on revisions to the 2003 survey protocol. Peter Harrison, Washington Department of Natural Resources, is coordinator of this subcommittee. To meet the requests of many MMTC members and various users of the survey protocol, a well-represented group of stakeholders is participating in the process. A thorough revision of the existing protocol is underway. Challenges for the subcommittee this year included incorporating the statistical analysis of the probability of detecting Marbled Murrelet occupancy as a function of the survey effort, and production of an accompanying document that will further recommend conservation actions that land managers should consider when dealing with murrelet habitat and occupied sites. Ongoing peer review of the statistical analysis will provide assistance for incorporating this work into the revised protocol. The subcommittee is also continuing discussion regarding how to develop the accompanying document

that will provide further recommended conservation actions for land managers. A revised protocol is expected to be released in early 2017, with another updated version with the new, peer reviewed statistical analyses in 2018.

The Marine Subcommittee, led by Amilee Wilson, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region, is continuing their work on technical reports for the first four marbled murrelet marine priorities identified in late 2014: (1) mamu bycatch in fisheries; (2) identification of important marine areas; (3) prey resources; and (4) oil mortality. The oil mortality draft report has been completed and is currently in the review/comment process. The MAMU bycatch in fisheries, identification of important marine areas, and prey resources working groups are in the final stages of data compilation and are hoping to have draft technical reports available for comment and review by the end of 2017.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

(1) Expect a revised Marbled Murrelet Inland Survey Protocol in early 2017.

(2) See the Regional Reports in Pacific Seabirds 43 for Washington and Oregon to find the latest information on Marbled Murrelet populations and trends in the Pacific Northwest.

(3) Amilee Wilson has stepped down as chair of the Marine Subcommittee after accepting another position within NOAA and Matt Reed of Hamer Environmental has accepted the chair position.

(4) Katherine Fitzgerald of the USFWS joined the subcommittee in 2016.

ALEUTIAN TERN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Susan Oehlers and Mike Goldstein,
Coordinators**

During the 2016 PSG Annual meeting, the Aleutian Tern (*Onychoprion*

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aleuticus, ALTE) Working Group was formalized as a PSG Technical Committee, with co-coordinators Susan Oehlers (U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Yakutat Ranger District) and Mike Goldstein (U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Region). This group includes members from multiple government organizations (including U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and National Park Service), universities, and national and international non-government organizations (including National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bird Life International), as well as independent researchers. Objectives of this group include; 1) expansion of the committee to include additional resource management agencies including those with marine and coastal jurisdiction, federal research agencies, and additional non-government organizations and international partners, 2) international networking with resource professionals, academic researchers, and local ornithological groups in other countries within the species range, and 3) production of a peer reviewed publication or white paper summarizing current available information on ALTE.

Prior to formation of the PSG committee, the working group developed a conservation synthesis for ALTE, entitled Summary of Information Needs and Research Priorities for Aleutian Tern Conservation (November 24, 2015), led by Dr. Sanjay Pyare (University of Alaska Southeast). A sub-group of committee members expanded on this effort and further developed a draft research and monitoring proposal, with the overall goal to develop methods that address key challenges to studying ALTE and evaluate potential causes for the decline in Alaska. Members of this sub-group also convened in Yakutat in July, 2016 to further collaborate and conduct site visits to the Yakutat area colonies. This draft proposal is a highly valuable tool as we continue to build interest and partner support and pursue research and monitoring funding for

ALTE.

While continuing to refine information, conservation, and research needs for ALTE, committee members and their colleagues have continued to pursue research, monitoring, and outreach as funding allows.

The 6th Annual Yakutat Tern Festival was held on June 2-5, led by Susan Oehlers and Teresa Swanson (U.S. Forest Service) along with multiple partners and sponsors, with the primary purpose to build awareness of the importance of the Yakutat area tern colonies amongst local residents (including youth) and visitors. Susan Oehlers and Nate Catterson (U.S. Forest Service, Yakutat Ranger District), assisted by Kelly Nesvacil and Jon Barton (Alaska Department of Fish and Game), conducted population surveys of known Yakutat area tern colonies. Jon Barton and Christine Schmale (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) conducted a site visit to Dillingham and Platinum to document observations and assess logistics for future ALTE work in the area. Robin Corcoran (USFWS, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge) surveyed known Kodiak area breeding colonies and monitored ALTE nests with remote cameras, and is coordinating with Don Lyons (Oregon State University) on analyzing the photos for various parameters including nest attendance, vigilance, and nest survival rate.

As identified through a recent marking study (Goldstein et al. unpublished manuscript), the Aleutian tern winters, in part, in Indonesia. Mike Goldstein (U.S. Forest Service) and Sanjay Pyare (University of Alaska Southeast) traveled to Indonesia in September 2016 to begin building collaborative relationships with government, non-government, and university personnel, and to locate the species in areas where it has been seen by birders in recent years. Working with rangers from West Bali National Park, Goldstein and Pyare visited one site in southern Bali (Serangan Island) and two sites in west Bali (near Gilimanuck and Menjangan). Working with local

birders from Burung Nusantara, they visited two sites on Java Island (Sunda Strait and Jakarta Bay). The U.S. Forest Service International Programs Asia Pacific Office co-sponsored this trip and participated with liaisons from both Washington DC (Eric Hoenig) and Jakarta (Harityas Wiyoga).

International connections were further enhanced by Martin Renner and others providing input to the ongoing IUCN assessment of range-wide Aleutian tern status as well as by Robb Kaler (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds Management), Simba Chan (BirdLife Asia), and colleagues including Aleutian terns on the agenda of the January meeting of the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership Seabird Working Group. The possibility of adding Aleutian terns to the list of species receiving official Russian – U.S. bilateral cooperation is also currently under investigation.

Committee members are currently collaborating on planning for 2017 field work. Research and monitoring will be conducted at several regional sites, including Yakutat, Bering Sea, and Kodiak Island. Proposed research activities include repeated colony size estimation across the breeding season, monitoring of nesting success using motion sensor cameras, and deploying satellite telemetry tags.

2017 is considered a pilot year for most of these activities, and results will inform our future planning, including a methods workshop planned for winter 2017/2018.

TUFTED PUFFIN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Scott Pearson and Peter Hodum,
Coordinators**

In response to Washington State listing and a federal petition for listing under the ESA, in late 2015 and early 2016 experts were contacted to solicit their participation in an ad-hoc Tufted

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Puffin working group.

In March 2016, a draft proposal to establish a PSG Tufted Puffin Technical Committee was circulated amongst the participants in the informal working group.

A working group conference call was organized for April 2016, during which the draft was discussed and consensus was reached on the value of submitting the proposal to PSG to request official establishment of a technical committee.

The final proposal was submitted to the PSG ExCo in Sept. 2016 and was approved by the ExCo.

A technical committee meeting is planned for the 2017 PSG annual meeting in Tacoma, WA. Topics include: (1) progress on a meta-analysis on puffin trends along the west coast of North America and (2) recent research examining the influence of climate change on puffins and on puffin trends in AK.

SEABIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE

Heather Renner and Robb Kaler

The Pacific Seabird Group's (PSG) Seabird Monitoring Committee met at the annual PSG meeting in Hawaii and discussed three main topics regarding seabird trends, monitoring and data management: (i) synthesize common patterns and identify conservation concerns based on PSG regional reports; (ii) develop a common approach for a Pacific seabird colony censuses throughout the Pacific (California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii and Pacific Islands); and (iii) the future of Pacific seabird monitoring data management.

Seabirds of Conservation Concern – Using regional reports submitted by PSG regional representatives for publication in *Pacific Seabirds* (Volume 42), we identified Tufted Puffins and Aleutian Terns as two seabird species with population trends that appeared to be in steady decline across their Pacific-wide range. Simultaneously,

researchers and managers had begun organizing two ad hoc working groups, eventually receiving support from the PSG Executive Committee to stand-up the Tufted Puffin Technical Committee (co-chairs, Scott Pearson and Peter Hodum) and Aleutian Tern Technical Committee (co-chairs, Susan Oehlers and Mike Goldstein). A common point for both technical committees was the need for coordinated study plans, and better monitoring methods. The Seabird Monitoring Committee will stay involved with each of the technical committees, providing support where necessary (e.g., workshop to formulate study plans, monitoring methods, and data management needs).

Pacific Seabird Colony Recensus – Following the Seabird Monitoring Committee meeting, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) seabird researchers and managers have continued to discuss the concern that “best current estimates” of abundance and breeding distributions of most Pacific seabirds is limited and often relies on historic data. Additionally, monitoring data collected in some areas of the Pacific still require processing and summarizing/reporting. The vast geographic area and large number of species and birds in Alaska and the Pacific islands further confound these issues. To address these challenges, the USFWS and seabird stakeholders held/or intend to hold, three workshops (1 – California Current System: California, Oregon, Washington; 2 – Hawaii and tropical Pacific islands; and 3 – Alaska) to develop survey protocol frameworks to support consistent and comparable data on seabird breeding distribution and abundance. Furthermore, for Alaska, Hawaii/Pacific islands, USFWS is planning a structured decision making approach to prioritize seabird colony recensus efforts. The California Current System workshop was hosted in 2016 by the USFWS in Portland Oregon and included invited participants from state, federal, and non-governmental organizations. In 2017, we intend to further expand these efforts to develop

an integrated Pacific seabird census strategy within Alaska and Hawaii.

Pacific Seabird Monitoring Data Management – To improve communication within seabird scientific community across the Pacific, the PSG formed the Seabird Monitoring Committee in 1992. With monetary and technical support from the USGS Alaska Science Center, the committee developed the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database (PSMD) to archive annual results from long-term seabird monitoring and information on seabird population dynamics. Unfortunately, USGS discontinued serving the PSMD in 2013 and today only a few regional seabird databases attempt to meet the needs of storing raw data and making annual results available. These databases are critical for monitoring seabird trends, but currently lack a unifying vision or long-term support. To address these challenges, a dedicated group of USFWS biologists and managers successfully garnered support for the creation of the Pacific Seabird Program. While funding support will be provided by the USFWS, seabird monitoring and data management in the Pacific includes both state, federal, and non-governmental partners, and participation and engagement by PSG membership is integral to the success of these effort. To that beginning, the USFWS' Inventory & Monitoring Program has hired Steve Holzman to serve as the USFWS Pacific Seabird Program Data Manager. The PSG Seabird Monitoring Committee will assist Steve with relaunching the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database.

Much of the progress reported here by the PSG Seabird Monitoring Committee is due to the determined efforts of many individuals. We especially thank Roberta Swift and Kevin Killbride (USFWS) for their leadership and undaunted determination to promote the effective use of seabirds as indicators of local and large-scale change in the Pacific marine environment.

CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION FUND COMMITTEE

Verena Gill, Chair

This report covers January 2016 to January 2017. Since 2007, PSG has funded 19 projects for a total of \$39,768. Countries covered by the funding include Fiji, Chile, Indonesia, Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, French Polynesia, and China. As of 7 January 2017, the Fund total was \$5236.43. In 2016, we received three inquiries for funding; one project was funded for \$2,000: a project to document seabird distribution around Java Island, Indonesia. Two are still in the process of submitting a full proposal. One final report was submitted and received 26 January 2017 in regards to the Indonesian project previously mentioned.

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 ELECTION

Alan E. Burger, Coordinator

The committee included: Alan Burger (Coordinator), Jane Dolliver (PSG Secretary), Ken Morgan, Kim Nelson and Mark Rauzon.

NOMINATIONS

As usual the committee had to work hard to find candidates for the Chair-elect position – we contacted 17 experienced PSG members before we were able to get two candidates for this position. Finding candidates for the regional representatives was much easier and we had two or more candidates for each of these positions. The full list of candidates is given on the following page with the election results.

2017 ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots closed at midnight on 15 January 2017 after 1 month of voting. Overall, 54.4% of the 375 PSG members voted. This is probably the highest percentage of any election for PSG but it still indicates that almost half the members did not vote, despite two reminders sent via SurveyMonkey to those who had not voted (2 January and 11 January 2017), and publicity via the PSG e-mail listserv and social media.

The committee warmly thanks all these candidates for their willingness to

stand for election and to help run PSG.

SurveyMonkey worked well and the committee had no complaints from members apart from a few whose e-mails had changed from those in the membership file. Comments posted by voters on SurveyMonkey were all favourable and some suggested candidates for future elections. Several Life Members had no current e-mails and therefore did not get the invitation to vote – we suggest that PSG try to update e-mails for these members.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Mark Rauzon resigned from the elections committee on 6 Sep 2016 in order to stand for the January 2017 election. The elections committee currently consists of four PSG members. We will try to recruit at least two more PSG members for 2017 – any suggestions are welcome. Experience within EXCO or extended activity within PSG is helpful within the elections committee. After 4 years as elections coordinator Alan Burger is stepping down after the February 2017 PSG meeting and Katie O'Reilly will become the new coordinator. Thank you, Katie!

SUGGESTIONS

In the 2017 election we had a tie between two leading candidates for one position which was resolved when one of the two withdrew. The PSG bylaws state: In the event of a tie, the selection will be made by a majority vote of the current Executive Council.

Given the relative ease of running elections on SurveyMonkey, the Elections Committee recommends that the bylaws be changed to allow a limited time run-off vote:

In the event of a tie, and if all the tied candidates agree, a run-off election will be held between the tied candidates ending 14 days from the time the relevant voters are notified, with voting limited to those who would normally vote for this position (e.g., all PSG members for Chair-elect and other general positions, PSG members from the specific region for a regional representative, and student members for the student representative). If the run-off election still ends in a tie the selection will be made by a majority vote the current Executive Council. [This wording can be refined for a bylaw change]

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ELECTION COMMITTEE

Table 1. Pacific Seabird Group elections - January 2017

REGION	TOTAL MEMBERS	VOTED	%VOTED
Alaska/Russia	39	28	71.8
Canada	44	25	56.8
Washington/Oregon	88	50	56.8
Northern California	57	27	47.4
S. California/Hawaii/Latin America	64	37	57.8
Non-Pacific U.S.	42	15	35.7
Europe/Africa	14	10	71.4
Asia/Oceania	27	12	44.4

The following is the outcome of the 2016 election, showing all the candidates and those elected:

POSITION	CANDIDATES (*elected in bold)	
Chair-elect	Adrian Gall*	Jennifer Wheeler
Secretary	Jane Dolliver* (re-elected)	Emma Kelsey
Vice-chair for Conservation	Mark Rauzon*	
Washington/Oregon	Peter Hodum* (re-elected)	Elizabeth Phillips

Note: There were no write-in votes. Many thanks to all these members who were willing to stand for election.



Kyra Mills-Parker, Kathy Kuletz, Jaime Jahncke, Jen Zamon, and Nina Karnovsky, all former students of George L. Hunt, Jr., at the 44th PSG Annual Meeting reception in Tacoma, WA. Photo: Jane Dolliver

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Joanna Smith, Coordinator

Highlights

- New PSG website
- New PSG logo
- Revived PSG social media accounts: Facebook, Twitter
- New Instagram account
- New PSG Social Media Policy
- Marine Ornithology has new Managing Editor (see MO report)
- Listserv is moved to BlueHost (see Listserv report)
- All content on website is updated, including attachments and links

Website Report

In 2016, the PSG website was rebuilt using a WordPress template, and the content was reviewed, revised and updated, as needed. The approved budget from EXCO was US\$4,400 and the project was completed on budget. The timeline was to go live in Jun 2016 however the new website went live on 30 Sep 2016. The delays were due to content readiness and timing the approval of the new PSG logo. The design and customisation of the WordPress template was done on contract with Anne Francis Web design. Jo Smith led the refresh project with significant contributions from Jane Dolliver. Seven PSG members volunteered for beta testing and more than 100 comments or suggestions were received and addressed to improve the development site. The website is on the BlueHost account, with the listserv (mailing list). PSG's BlueHost account was not downgraded from Pro Hosting to Basic Hosting as there are indications that website security settings will change in 2017 and all require https so the SSL certificate and dedicated IP will be an industry norm.

Google Analytics was set up to track activity and United States comprises most of the visitors (65%), followed by Canada (12%), Japan (3.5%), Russia

(2.2%) and the United Kingdom (2.2%). Australia, Mexico, France, India and Germany comprise the remaining visitors. Most visitors are using Chrome (51%), Safari (16%) and Firefox (14%). Desktop/laptop is the most common device (86%), with some mobile (11%) and very limited tablet (2%); the website has been designed for all devices. In the last five months, visitor rates to the website were between 250-525 sessions per week. Not surprisingly, the highest activity was the week prior to 3 Dec (778 sessions), just before the abstract deadline. Compared to previous years, visitor rates seemed to be lower however we'll have the best comparison after a 12-month period.

Content is updated regularly on the website and more than 35 updates were done, not including the refresh and taking the site live. On average, there are 3-4 updates to the website every month and then almost daily for the 2-3 weeks prior to the annual meeting. Peak periods for website updates are: (1) after the annual meeting, (2) in late summer/early fall to prep for abstracts and registration opening; (3) late fall when abstracts close and more information is available for the scientific program; and (4) the four weeks leading up to the annual meeting.

PSG Logo

A new PSG logo was designed in 2016 and was officially adopted by EXCO on 13 Oct 2016. The logo was designed on contract with Anne Francis Web design, and after all the modifications the cost was \$1,200. A new logo was created so that it was scalable and be compatible with the myriad of technological platforms and uses. After previewing up to six concepts, the EXCO selected three designs to present to members for a vote (tropicbird, rhinoceros auklet, albatross)

and a survey was sent to members in late September. The survey had a 58% response rate; the highest for any PSG survey, and 48% responses went to the albatross design. The other logo choices received 26% of the votes each. PSG's first logo is featured on the PSG website and includes information on what it represented to those who were involved in the design in the 1970s. The new logo was on the website on 3 Dec 2016.

Social Media

A social media policy was developed in 2016 and will be submitted to EXCO for approval at the annual meeting. The policy is intended to establish norms and clarify expectations regarding content or activity so as to be aligned with PSG's mission, Bylaws and Handbook.

Facebook

Information submitted by Jane Dolliver, edited by Jo Smith

PSG's Facebook page was rejuvenated in Feb/Mar 2016 and has an active feed to PSG's new website. PSG's Facebook page now has 1,118 followers and 1,147 likes, a 11-fold increase over followers in Nov 2014, the last time this account was active. The weekly average post reach is 3,648. The PSG Chat Room has 175 members. A lot of attention is paid to PSG's Facebook page and an estimated 750 posts have been made since Feb 2016, nearly three times the 270 made the year before. Some of the challenges include searching for new content and photos, as well as contingency plans when being offline for extended periods. These challenges can be solved, respectively, by creating a photo library with help from members, and scheduling up to one week of posts during fieldwork.

Facebook recommendations for 2017:

- The possibility of paid posts to reach prospective members.
- Post to the PSG's Facebook page

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

and Chat room page. Encourage members to post to the Chat room.

- Ask members for links to their society, class, institution or organisation website.
- Ask members to send jobs, grants, research and other updates to the PSG Secretary in addition posting to the PSG listserv.

Twitter

Information submitted by Stephanie Avery-Gomm; edited by Jo Smith

The @PacificSeabirds twitter account was revived in Feb 2016 and has experienced considerable growth this past year! The number of Followers increased 7 fold, from 101 to 701, with an average of 20 new followers each month. On average, 11 tweets are sent each month, which generate 9,500 impressions and 580 profile visits, a 36x increase over the monthly average number of profile visits for the period before the revival. Since Feb 2016, there have been 136 posts, about 11 per month. One highlight in 2016 was that @PacificSeabirds presented during the World Seabird Twitter Conference (#WSTC2), attracting nearly double the average number of monthly profile visits to the site. Challenges included getting the account restarted because passwords and recovery account information was

not recorded. Also, during the 2016 PSG Annual Meeting in Hawaii, @PacificSeabirds was not active and some members were frustrated about the lack of an official hash tag for the meeting.

Twitter recommendations for 2017:

- Identify PSG members that are on Twitter. Members could self identify during conference registration. Or, there could be a sign up sheet at registration.
- For The 2017 PSG meeting, use the hash tag #PSG2017.
- PSG has an opportunity to be involved in the 3rd World Seabird Twitter Conference (#WSTC3) in April 2017. PSG needs to identify 4 new things to say about PSG.
- Twitter usage statistics are available for 8 months, and then disappear so need to remember to login and record data before it disappears.

Instagram

Information submitted by Katsu Frausto, edited by Jo Smith

An Instagram account was created for PSG in 2016. As of January 2017, there are 37 followers and there have been 100 likes. There have been 10 posts for PSG.

Some of the issues are figuring out the copyright for a picture that does not belong to PSG, or whomever is posting

on behalf of PSG.

Instagram recommendations for 2017:

- This platform would be great for younger generations. Young and mid career scientists, as well as general public interested in birds.
- Post more photos, and ask permission to use others photos.

Thanks!

Many thanks to all those who have helped with communications this past year: Jane Dolliver, Stephanie Avery-Gomm and Katsu Frausto for their wonderful leadership on the social media accounts; Annette Henry and Lisa Ballance for the excellent website to transition from; Pat Baird for her assistance in reactivating the Facebook and Twitter accounts; Nina Karnovsky and the EXCO for their input and advice on the website refresh and new logo design; website Beta testers for their excellent suggestions; and all others that reviewed, revised, or provided new content for the website – Jane Dolliver, Verena Gill, Nathalie Hamel, Kathy Kuletz, Kyra Mills- Parker, Louise Blight, Jennifer Lang, Stephanie Avery-Gomm, Chris Tyson, Stan Senner, and others. Finally, a huge thanks to all the PSG members that contributed photos to the new website – they are fantastic!



Kathy Kuletz, Bill Sydeman, Kim Nelson, and Doug Forsell at the Hotel Murano during the 44th Annual PSG Meeting in Tacoma, WA. Photo: Adrian Gall

CODE OF CONDUCT

Joanna Smith, Communications Committee Coordinator

The Pacific Seabird Group is developing a Code of Conduct for all members. Most non-profit organisations have a Code of Conduct today (also called Code of Ethics, Code of Professional Conduct), and it is one of the policies that was recommended to PSG by an independent audit in 2014.

In order to make this happen, an Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee was formed in 2015 at the San Jose, California, PSG Annual Meeting and, over a period of 18 months, the Committee created a draft Code of Conduct with input from the Executive Council, member's suggestions, and advice from other organisations. The Committee reviewed similar Codes from respected societies, organisations and government agencies in United States, Canada and Europe. A range of factors was considered including applicability across 16+ countries where members reside, diversity of member affiliations (e.g., students, academia, non-profit, government, consulting, retired), feasibility and practicality to implement

and uphold. The Code elements and investigation approach were informed by examining other codes including American Ornithological Society and Society of Conservation Biology.

In February 2017, the Committee presented the draft Code of Conduct to the EXCO for review and discussion. The EXCO recommended to the Committee that the draft undergo legal review and then be sent to members for comments. Thus, the process for reviewing the draft Code of Conduct, then finalising and approving it is as follows: (1) legal review of draft Code of Conduct; (2) distribute for member input; (3) Committee revises document based on member input; (4) Committee submits revised draft to Executive Council for review and approval to send to members for a vote; (5) EXCO Secretary submits revised Code to members for a vote via online ballot (accept, not accept); (6) member vote is taken to EXCO for discussion and approval; (7) Code is posted online. If there are significant comments or EXCO does not approve

for member voting, then steps 2-4 will be repeated. It is expected that the entire process will be completed in 2017-2018 and the document approved by EXCO at the PSG Annual Meeting in La Paz, Mexico, depending on the quantity and nature of comments during legal and member reviews. As is true for all PSG policies, the Code of Conduct will undergo review in the future and be revised, as needed.

For questions or more information, please contact Joanna Smith, Chair of Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee via email: communications@pacificseabirdgroup.org

Ad hoc Code of Conduct Committee members: Joanna Smith – Chair 2016-2018; Jen Zamon – Chair 2015-2016; Anne Harfenist; Annette Henry; Ken Morgan; Kim Nelson; and Jennifer Provencher

PSG LISTSERV

Verena Gill, Manager

In December 2015, PSG launched a new listserv on BlueHost and a few months later closed the listserv hosted by a U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) server, its home since the PSG listserv inception. Some concern has been expressed about accessing the archives from the old FWS listserv. The FWS account is no longer available to anyone and the login site is no longer

a valid web page. It appears FWS has changed their entire Listserv system but as I am no longer a FWS employee I am not privy to that.

As of 10 Jan 2017, the new listserv has 704 subscribers up from 510 subscribers a year ago. The old listserv at a final count had 902 subscribers however many of these addresses were out of date and redundant. The new

PSG listserv has 3,000+ subscriber capacity.

Verena drafted 'Terms and Conditions' for the new listserv that are being reviewed by EXCO. They are for listserv etiquette which has not always been the best at times. Most professional listservs have terms and conditions. Once final they should be posted on the PSG web site.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jennifer Lang, Coordinator

As of 25 January 2017, 683 current and lapsed PSG members were recorded in RegOnline (Table 1). Of this total, PSG consists 84 life members, 264 individual members, and 63 student members, totaling 412 confirmed members in the online system. Compared to 2016, there are 20 fewer confirmed members and 64 more lapsed members.

The decrease in membership appears to have stemmed from individuals with expired credit card information and members who forget to renew their membership at the turn of the new year. Many members and non-members try to instate their membership before the end of the year, and in turn, lapse when April rolls along. I have taken time to change these specific memberships to be considered current for the upcoming year, but some accounts may have been

missed, especially those that were paid for in November.

PSG members are a diverse group of researchers, supporters, and students. Current, confirmed members represent 18 countries, compared to the 22 countries in 2015; 29 USA states, compared to 28 in 2015; and 8 Canadian provinces.

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED

To boost membership, an email was sent out on 24 August 2016 to the PSG Listserv to encourage members to update or create their membership with PSG. This was primarily sent to remind members to renew their membership to allow them to vote in the elections, and encourage individuals who use the listserv to become a confirmed member. We are unsure about the number of non-

member users of the PSG listserv because the list of user emails is inaccessible or not available to be distributed.

As of 1 January 2016, I addressed 56 emails and/or issues from members and fulfilled 6 requests from EXCO members, not including creating member lists for representatives. Requests from EXCO are primarily related to elections, mailing lists, or budget inquiries.

ISSUES ENCOUNTERED

UNRESOLVED: Members who pay for a membership late in the year (Nov/Dec) whose memberships lapsed in that year would have to pay for a new membership in Jan. I allow rollover of membership if the member requests it or brings attention to it. We discussed this issue in the December 2016 EXCO call.

Table 1. Totals of membership type and status of membership since 25 January 2017

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	CONFIRMED	LAPSED	TOTAL
Honorary	1	0	1
Life	81	0	81
Life payment plan	3	0	3
Individual	91	6	97
Individual recurring	173	137	310
Student	5	14	19
Student recurring	58	58	116
Grand total	412	271	683

CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Melanie Steinkamp and John Piatt, Coordinators

The Corresponding Membership Committee provides PSG membership to researchers and conservationists in developing countries. Committee members presently include Melanie Steinkamp and John Piatt. To retain “Corresponding Membership”, recipients are asked to provide a brief report on research or conservation in their area at least every three years for Pacific Seabirds. Corresponding members facilitate other communications, such as the Indian Ocean Seabird Group Newsletter that has been periodically posted to the PSG List-Serv.

There are a total of 16 Corresponding Memberships allotted by the PSG. We can make those names available upon request.

Changes over the past year:

- There have been no changes over the past year

The goals of the Committee in 2017 are to gain two new members. We will be asking for reports from all Committee Members this year. Please contact Melanie Steinkamp if you have suggestions for other members. Contact: Melanie Steinkamp: Melanie_Steinkamp [at] fws dot gov

MARINE ORNITHOLOGY

Louise Blight, Managing Editor

Overview and transition to new Managing Editor:

In January 2016, Louise Blight took over from Tony Gaston as Managing Editor. This followed a gradual hand-over of a couple of months and the transition has gone smoothly. The journal continues to benefit financially from a weak Canadian dollar, and interest in Marine Ornithology (as measured by submission rates and website visits) remains strong. Marine Ornithology seemingly continues to be seen as filling a niche in seabird science and conservation worldwide.

David Ainley continues as Editor-in-Chief, with 2016 as his third year as the sole person in this role. Managing Editor transitioned from Tony Gaston to Louise Blight. Technical editing continues to be done by Carolyn Brown, with help from Gabriela Rangel (Portuguese, Spanish speakers); Online Editor is Ben Saenz and layout continues with Reber Creative.

Two issues, 44(1) and (2), were published in 2016, containing a total of 34 papers and 6 book reviews and totaling 253 pages. This compares

favourably with Volume 43 in 2015, the largest published by MO to date at 262 pages. Issue 44(1) included a special paper section on Ashy and Leach's Storm-petrels, the published results of a special session held at PSG's 2015 meeting. Both issues appeared at the website on time in April and October. First authors came from 15 countries: US (13 papers), Canada (4), Australia (2), UK and British overseas territories (Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha; 3), Germany (2), and one each from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Sweden, South Africa. The area of origin of the papers published in 2016 included the above countries plus New Zealand, Portugal, and Antarctica. Total words published: 174,394, plus appendices appearing only at the website. We waived page charges for authors with no institutional support, who represented about 25% of published papers (down from 50% in 2015; new editorial policy of stricter criteria for determining support).

PayPal and financial management:

Prior to 2016, electronic payments

to MO were processed through PSG, which meant additional work for PSG's Treasurer and no ability for MO to track payments. In early 2016 we improved Marine Ornithology's financial management by transitioning the journal to its own PayPal account. Invoicing and receipt of page charges and subscription fees now largely occur via PayPal rather than cheque or international money order. This workflow has not only saved time but resulted in an increased ability to pursue delinquent page charges, with a near-100% payment rate in 2016 (only 1 author currently delinquent).

Twitter account (@MarineOrno):

In 2016, MO joined Twitter with great success, e.g., currently at 500 followers, large spike in viewing MO website as new issue tweeted (spike from ~30 visits/d to 204 visits/d). So far an effective way to increase visibility of the journal and individual papers.

Support from other seabird societies:

Japan Seabird Group was eight years in arrears in its contribution fees; paid in 2016 and reinstated as a supporter. The

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

MARINE ORNITHOLOGY

Seabird Group is discussing whether to continue supporting MO as they have recently reinvigorated their own journal.

Website and other online updates:

The Online Editor and past and present Managing Editors have all identified the need for better inclusion of MO articles in internet (e.g., Google Scholar) and aggregator (e.g., Web of Science) search results. Thanks to a grant of \$4000 from PSG, a redesign of the Marine Ornithology website is underway to facilitate this. Work is about halfway completed toward a new website, including a design refresh (current design is 10 years old) and database and code update with a focus on Google-compatible content — required by Scholar to crawl our pages and index our papers — and arranging for DOI numbers for manuscripts. All this will allow us to spread the reach of MO much further across the web, which is our primary delivery mechanism, and will also address one of our identified barriers to the submission of more high-impact papers. This work will be completed at about one-third of market rate due to an considerable in-kind donation of time by the Online Editor (thank you, Ben).

The future — food for thought on MO's circulation and open-access

publishing model:

Our subscription numbers for hard copies of the journal are very low and continue to decline. At some point in the not too distant future, MO will face the decision of whether to become an online-only journal.

Competing in the world of open access publishing is an issue that is facing all science journals of the 2010s. Fortunately, Marine Ornithology is well-placed in this regard as we already have a model that allows us to publish our papers without charging our readers for them. Although we do not have an impact factor (which attracts submissions) at present, our publication rate is healthy (see “Overview”, above) and results in a steady trickle of income from page charges.

We are also fortunate to have access to a subsidy from the PSG Publications Fund. This model is currently adequate to publish the journal; however, a couple of drivers of increasing costs are on the horizon:

- Potential loss of our copy editor. Our outstanding English-language Technical Editor, Carolyn Brown, is considering leaving us in 2017 to further other career opportunities such as writing for Nature. If she moves on, we will be incurring increased copy editing costs as her rate to us is deeply discounted.

- Moving to an Impact Factor (IF) model. For several years, PSG and Marine Ornithology have discussed pursuing an impact factor for the journal. We will begin the application process in 2017. However, obtaining an IF will induce a transition period for the journal; it should eventually lead to an increase in submissions, and along with that, increased workload for our largely volunteer team. This will either require increased funding for the journal in order to absorb increased workload, or a move toward rejecting ‘lower impact’ papers to avoid increasing workload. However, one of MO's original objectives included publishing papers on marine birds that were unlikely to be published elsewhere, and it is arguably a role we should retain even if we obtain an IF in the future.

As a final note, we are seeking sponsors to appear on marineornithology.org; please contact the Managing Editor if you are interested in placing your business logo there and supporting the journal.

Sincerely,

Louise Blight (Managing Editor), David Ainley (Editor-in-Chief), Ben Saenz (Online Editor)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Chris Tyson

Students comprise a substantial part of the Pacific Seabird Group community. We currently have 70 active student members, with 50 student members either lapsed or graduated. This represents an increase in the student membership over the past year. Student members are extremely active within the society. Of all registrants scheduled to present at the 44th annual meeting in Tacoma, 30% are students. Last year in Turtle Bay, 25%

of all presenters were students. Student members range across many different education levels with at least 16 doctoral, 14 masters and 6 undergraduates among those who are scheduled to present at the annual meeting this year.

Student members are also active in other aspects of the society with multiple students serving on the Executive Council or in other coordinator positions within the society. Students are also

taking initiative within the society in other ways by enhancing the online presence of the society through social media.

The silent auction held at the annual meeting continues to be a success. Last year at the Turtle Bay meeting we had a large number of donations, and the auction raised a total of \$2,308. These funds go towards supporting student travel to the annual meetings. Students

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

have repeatedly identified this source of funding as vital to their attendance at the annual meetings.

The student-mentor night at the annual meeting continues to be an important event where students have a chance to meet and to network with a range more experienced Pacific Seabird Group members. At the upcoming

meeting in Tacoma, we will explore a new format for this event in an effort to facilitate connections between students and mentors. Students and non-students are strongly encouraged to participate in this event.

Students are vital not only to the future of the Pacific Seabird Group, but also to its present. Gaining new student

members is a perennial challenge for the Pacific Seabird Group. To encourage students to join, it is vital for students to see the value in being a member of the Pacific Seabird Group. Members can facilitate this goal by encouraging and supporting student members in their research and at annual meetings.

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

Ellen Paul, OC Executive Director; Pat Baird and Doug Forsell, PSG Representatives to OC

The Pacific Seabird Group was one of the founding organizations of the Ornithological Council in 1992. The OC is a separate 501c3 nonprofit organization incorporated in Washington DC with a board comprised of two representatives from each of its 10 member ornithological societies. PSG contributes approximately 3% of the OC operating budget. Most of our budget goes to salary and expenses of our Executive Director, Ellen Paul. She is ready and very willing to help ornithologists navigate permitting processes, and is especially knowledgeable in the areas of import/export of specimens, banding, US migratory bird and endangered species permits, and animal welfare issues related to ornithological research.

Please contact your society representatives or Executive Director Ellen Paul [e-mail: ellen dot paul [at] verizon dot net; phone 301/986-8568] for more information on any matter of interest to you. We welcome your input at any time and are particularly interested in hearing about issues or problems of concern to you that we may not be addressing.

The Ornithological Council seeks to:

- Ensure that the best ornithological science is incorporated into legislative, regulatory, and management decisions that affect birds;

- Enhance the ability of ornithologists to pursue professional activities; and
- Promote the influence of ornithology in public affairs.

The work of the Ornithological Council focuses on permits, animal welfare issues, research funding, and other policies that affect ornithologists and ornithological societies. Activities representative of OC's work over the past year follow.

Permits

In the past year, our Executive Director, Ellen Paul, has helped over 110 scientists with a variety of permit issues, including MBTA, ESA, and CITES import/export, MBTA and ESA banding, MBTA scientific collecting, and ESA recovery permits as well as Animal Care and Use Permits. "Help" means anything from simply advising them which permits they needed, to advising them on best strategies to get a permit, to walking them through the complex import-export process, or helping rephrase researchers' answers to permit questions to better satisfy Permit agencies. Ornithologists also notify the OC about problems they have encountered with obtaining permits, or communication with agencies, etc., and the OC works with the agencies to identify the source of the problem and devise ways to correct the problem.

- The Director continues to revise permit guidelines on the OC website for import/export for each of the U.S. states, and Canadian provinces because the regulations and procedures constantly change.

- The OC is pursuing an effort to persuade all 50 states to consider exempting holders of Federal MBTA permits from state permit requirements. The state wildlife agencies are operating under difficult budget constraints and this change would free up resources without reducing protection for MBTA species.

For example, the OC submitted extensive comments that urged the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to implement a provision in the existing regulations that would exempt holders of Federal banding permits from the requirement for state permits and to extend this practice to all permits for ornithological research on species protected under the MBTA, except for state-listed endangered species. Because of this, the CDFW revised its regulations for scientific collecting permits (state permitting agencies use the term "scientific collecting" to mean "scientific research"). CDFW

- Because of OC's discussions with the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management (DMBM), permit

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

staff will develop a “national standard operating procedure” (NSOP) that will be implemented in all regions. The OC will continue to press for a continuation (or resumption) of the use of a single permit for all species from all countries, without numerical limits.

- The USFWS has apparently developed a policy on the use of drones, also known as Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (sUAVs), and has promised to provide it to the OC. Upon receipt, the OC will share it with the ornithological community.

- The OC continues to monitor the pending revision of the bird banding regulations, first drafted in 2009, and moving through the approval process within the Department of the Interior ever since. The OC will continue to monitor and participate in the process as opportunities arise, and will consult with partner organizations and individuals with expertise as to specific issues, as needed.

- As the situation with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza changes daily, OC has been in contact with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on a regular basis to determine how restrictions on imports of avian material are changing. The OC relays all information to ornithologists immediately. In addition, APHIS has sought input from OC as to ways to reduce the burden of these restrictions.

- The OC has been working to try to simplify the Custom and Import Declarations system for wildlife research imports. The Customs and Border Protection is implementing an online automated customs declaration system called “ACE” or Automated Commercial Environment. Eventually, all Customs declaration information as well as the import declarations required by other agencies such as APHIS and USFWS will be entered through ACE. Obtaining access to the ACE system is a complicated process; these online declarations are usually handled by customs brokers, which ornithologists rarely use, in part due to the additional

expense

The OC has been in discussion with The Director of Compliance for a large, freight forwarder and customs brokerage based in Detroit. The OC asked them to prepare a proposal for handling the imports and exports for wildlife research. This company is willing to develop the expertise to deal with the USFWS and APHIS paperwork and procedures hoping that if everyone uses this broker, there will be enough transactions that it will be worthwhile for them to develop the expertise to handle avian imports

Once the proposal is final, the OC will distribute it to the wildlife research community.

- The OC assisted many individual ornithologists in devising effective strategies for responding to challenges encountered in obtaining approval of research protocols. For instance, OC is working with one ornithologist whose Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) insisted that he submit a separate protocol for each species he planned to study. Typically, assistance begins by compiling official policy and agency guidance and may entail discussion with the IACUC or other university officials.

- On occasion, the OC is asked to address questions of occupational health and safety. These issues arise because at most institutions, they must be addressed in animal welfare protocols. In the past year, we assisted an ornithologist whose IACUC insisted that gloves must be worn at all times when handling birds and responded to several questions from IACUC members on a variety of research protocols such as diet supplementation prior to release of wild birds held in captivity.

Animal Welfare

The OC continues to make progress in assuring that implementation of the Animal Welfare Act and related policies are more attuned to conditions encountered in wildlife research. Our efforts this past year include the following:

- Training and outreach for the ornithological community: The OC organized a workshop at the North American Ornithological Conference to help NAOC participants understand the animal welfare policies in the U.S. and Canada and use this information to improve their research protocols. Plans are underway for additional training opportunities including a webinar series and a workshop to be held in collaboration with the Scientists’ Center for Animal Welfare and the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM).

- Together with the ASM, the OC published a detailed review of the application of key US Federal animal welfare policies in the context of wildlife research. This document was requested by the Animal Subject subcommittee of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fdp/index.htm>), a consortium of US Federal funding agencies and research institutions and universities. The document was published in the ILAR Journal, which is the peer-reviewed publication of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) of the National Research Council (of the National Academies of Science).

- Euthanasia and Institutional Animal Care and Use Protocol review - In 2013, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) published revised Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. The federal grant-making agencies require use of an AVMA-approved method of euthanasia as a condition of compliance with the Animal Welfare Act. Despite a submission from the OC of observational data to support the continued classification of what has until now been called thoracic compression (TC) as at least “conditionally acceptable” the AVMA chose to re-classify it as unacceptable.

The AVMA would not reconsider this classification without data from a study that measured brain activity to support the contention that TC is humane. With financial support from the AOU, the OC arranged to have such a study conducted

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

by Joanne Paul-Murphy, DVM Dipl. American College of Veterinary Medicine and Dipl. American College of Animal Welfare. With the assistance of ornithologist Andy Engilis (Curator, Museum of Fish and Wildlife Biology, UC Davis), Dr. Paul-Murphy compared the rapidity of TC with another method that the AVMA considers to be acceptable.

The outcome supported the contention of ornithologists (as asserted in a fact sheet prepared by the OC) that the method entails cardiac compression rather than compression of the thorax and that it is extremely rapid. The study was completed in the spring of 2014 and in the spring of 2016, Dr. Paul-Murphy, Dr. Engilis, and their colleagues submitted the manuscript to the American Journal of Veterinary Research (an AVMA publication).

Once the paper has been published, the OC will press the AVMA to change the classification of what will now be called rapid cardiac compression. In the meantime, the OC Fact Sheet has been used successfully by many ornithologists to convince their institutions to allow the use of cardiac compression. A second paper detailing the correct manner to conduct this technique and explaining the physiological process will be submitted to another journal.

- USDA regulation of birds – As the result of a lawsuit in 2000, the USDA reversed its long-standing exclusion of rats, mice, and birds from Animal Welfare Act implementation.

The OC learned that USDA is planning to draft the proposed regulation, so in anticipation, the OC has been working with several research institutions that, because they do research only on birds, have not been required to register with the USDA. The USDA maintains that because it has no regulations, it can't inspect bird facilities and that therefore, they will not register such facilities. However, other Federal law, including grant-making rules, requires compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, which also entails the establishment of an IACUC,

review of research protocols, and annual reporting to the USDA.

The Ornithological Council wrote a letter to USDA General Counsel and the Animal Care administrators, asking them to either accept registrations from these institutions or issue a formal letter from General Counsel stating that registration is not required so that the eligibility of these institutions for federal funding is not jeopardized by lack of compliance with federal law.

- In 2012, the National Science Foundation (NSF) had given official recognition to the OC publication Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research as the appropriate animal welfare standard for ornithological research.

- In August 2015, the OC learned that NSF had entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Institutes of Health Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, calling for OLAW to administer NSF's animal welfare program. It was said (by OLAW) that NSF would be revising its Grant Proposal Guide to remove recognition of the taxonomic guidelines and instead impose a requirement to adhere to the *ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, a standard that, beyond general principles, has almost no relevance to wildlife research. Thus far, the change has not occurred and the OC has worked to persuade NSF that the best animal welfare practices are biologically based and rest on expertise of biologists who work with those species and that therefore, NSF should continue to recognize the taxonomic guidelines.

Other policies that affect research and scientific societies in the US (including funding)

After consultation with the member society conservation committees, the OC submitted comments to the USFWS on its plans to issue an EIS that would propose methods to regulate the take of birds incidental to otherwise lawful activities, such as energy production or telecommunications infrastructure.

Comments focused on issues such as the need for appropriate monitoring, research into mitigation measures, and predictive research to determine which areas are most likely to be of concern.

Other services to the ornithological community

- Small Grants Program continued for an additional year – The original donor and a second donor agreed to renew their contributions so the OC has continued the Small Grants program for another year.

- Upon request, OC offers lectures for faculty and students on permits, animal welfare issues, the role of science in bird conservation, and other topics of interest. We are planning a series of webinars to expand the reach of this effort.

- The OC has kept scientists informed about policy changes that affect the way they do their research. Via Ornithology Exchange and direct e-mail as well as use of the NEOORN list owned by Van Remsen, OC posted updates on various issues of concern.

Providing scientific information about birds

OC provides scientific information about birds to government agencies, business entities, landowners, the press, and others.

OC management and news

Dan Klem, who represents the Wilson Ornithological Society on the OC Board of Directors, has been re-elected Chair. Gwen Brewer, who represents the Neotropical Ornithological Society, has been re-elected Vice Chair.

WORLD SEABIRD UNION REPORT

Kathy Kuletz and Ken Morgan, PSG Representatives to the WSU

The Pacific Seabird Group is a founding member of the World Seabird Union (WSU), which was incorporated in January 2012. The WSU is made up of 25 marine ornithological organizations with members representing 52 countries. Kathy Kuletz is the PSG primary delegate to WSU and Ken Morgan is the secondary delegate; our terms extend from October 2015-2020. The recommended five year term allows the representative to start after a World Seabird Conference (WSC) and participate through the next WSC. PSG has one vote on the WSU Executive Council, although both representatives can attend conference calls and engage in discussions. WSU council meetings occur roughly every two months, and monthly during the year preceding the WSC. Between March 2016 and December 2016 the WSU held five meetings, in which either the primary or secondary (or both) PSG representatives participated. There will be a WSU conference call February 15, 2017. PSG members that are in the WSU council will also have an informal meeting during the PSG meeting in Tacoma on Friday evening, February 24.

The mission of the WSU is to “place seabird research, management, and conservation into a worldwide

perspective”, thereby creating global partnerships that will facilitate the sharing of research, knowledge, and ideas on a global level and into the future. The activities and business of the WSU can be accessed via the Seabirds.net web site, which also includes a link to our PSG web site. A big part of bringing seabird researchers together is the World Seabird Conference, with WSC3 anticipated to occur in fall of 2020. In Nov 2016, the PSG communications coordinator (Jo Smith) posted a link on the PSG website soliciting proposals for WSC3. The WSU council received two proposals for hosting the meeting; these will be reviewed and discussed during the February conference call. Funds remaining following settlement of all accounts from the 2015 WSC2 will be put towards planning and securing the venue for 2020, and towards continuance of WSU legacy initiatives (see Seabirds.net/World Seabird Union for details).

During 2016 and extending into 2017, the WSU will work to define and establish standing committees to keep on top of tasks between conferences. The main proposed standing committees include but are not limited to ones for financial planning, review of conservation proposals and venue proposals, conference planning,

fundraising, communications, and Early Career Scientists.

Since 2015 the WSU has sponsored an ad hoc Conservation Sub-committee to support member organizations in their efforts to protect seabirds and their habitat. The committee is convened when a member group raises an issue of concern for their country and seeks support (such as a letter) from the WSU. Those seeking to have seabird conservation issues raised and supported through the WSU Conservation Committee should first contact their regional seabird group and the group’s WSU representative. Nicholas Carlile is now serving as the WSU contact regarding Conservation letters.

Through Seabirds.net, the WSU has hosted two twitter conferences, and registration is currently open for the World Seabird Twitter Conference III (WSTC3), which will occur in April 2017. The previous WSTCs were great successes and provided an accessible way to share research and ideas. Through the hard work of Grant Humphries and others, Seabirds.net and twitter have become an important avenue for communicating within (and beyond) the seabird world.



Jessica Behnke, Federico Méndez-Sánchez, Jen Boyce, Kuniko Otsuki, and Katie O'Reilly speaking on the panel for Early Career Scientists. Photo: Jane Dolliver

PSG NEWS

Read about changes to Pacific Seabirds and other transitions in 2017.

TRANSITIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

One of the unique qualities of the Pacific Seabird Group is its strong membership-based operations. The PSG relies on the active engagement of its members to complete the business of PSG, including running the Executive Council, serving as an interface between PSG and regional members, conservation initiatives, and planning and execution of our annual meetings. Those who step forward contribute their expertise and time, ranging from hours to years of work. There is, of course, turnover, which is good for PSG growth and it allows others to benefit from this valuable experience. We would like to thank and honor those who handed over the baton in 2017.

Stan Senner has served as Vice-Chair for Conservation since 2013, and after three years of hard work promoting conservation of seabirds around the world, he will be handing his appointment to Mark Rauzon. Thank you, Stan, for all of your dedication throughout your term. Alan Burger is also stepping down after four years of coordinating the PSG elections. We appreciate your many hours of seeking and personally contacting members to fill much needed volunteer positions to keep PSG running. We cannot thank you enough, and welcome Katie O'Reilly as our new elections coordinator. We would like to thank Katsu Frausto for creating and maintaining PSG's instagram account and welcome Laura Bliss as the new instagram manager. The Executive Council would also like to welcome Kyle Elliot, Stephanie Avery-Gomm, and Thomas Van Pelt to the Corresponding Members Committee. PSG welcomes three newly elected members to the Executive Council: Adrian Gall (Chair Elect), Andre Raine (Southern California Regional Representative) and Trudy Chatwin (Canada Regional Representative). The Executive Council also would like to thank all those members who were nominated for elections this year, and took part in the election process – we hope that you will put forth your nomination again and thank those that have volunteered for other positions.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As the new dedicated editor of *Pacific Seabirds*, my goal is to provide readers with up-to-date information about Pacific Seabird Group news. To do so, this bulletin will be published online twice a year: one in the summer reporting proceedings from that year's annual meeting, and the other in the winter reporting regional member updates and end of year budgets. Thank you to Executive Council members for their support and timely submission of reports, Jane Dolliver for providing content, and Nina Karnovsky and Kyra Mills-Parker for their valuable insight and guidance in the production of these documents. I am grateful for all of the individuals who have contributed their time and effort to keep publishing *Pacific Seabirds*.

Thanks to the efforts of PSG's Past Chair, Nina Karnovsky, *Pacific Seabirds* is now searchable and available in the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Explore this wonderful resource on your own at www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

As always, we welcome new ideas and people. If you are interested in contributing to *Pacific Seabirds* or would like to join the editing team, please contact me at editor [at] pacificseabirdgroup dot org.

- Jennifer Lang



Inspiration on the final slide to Dee Boersma's plenary: "Only you can change the world." Photo: Jane Dolliver

MEETING NEWS

PSG'S 44TH ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 2017

Kyra Mills-Parker

The 44th annual meeting was held at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center in Tacoma, Washington. The theme of the scientific program was 'Sound to Sea: Marine Birds Across the Seascape.' Tacoma greeted meeting attendees with a mixture of sun, clouds, rain, and even a bit of snow on one of the days. Despite the mixed weather, the seabird discussions and excellent food and drink inside the Convention Center kept everyone happy and warm.

One of the many benefits of the annual meeting is that it is a great opportunity for taking advantage of seabird researchers from around the world coming together. Because of this, typically, the Wednesday prior to the official beginning of the meeting, many meetings take place, including the Executive Council, and several Technical Committee meetings, including the Kittlitz's, Marbled Murrelet, Tufted Puffin (a new committee), Aleutian Tern (another new committee), and the Scripps's and Guadalupe Murrelet. In addition, the USFWS Pacific Seabird Program and the PSG Seabird Monitoring Committee meetings took place on Wednesday. Two more meetings took place on Friday, the North Pacific Albatross Working Group

and the Gillnet Bycatch meeting.

Thursday morning started bright and early with a great opening welcome from the local committee (Nathalie Hamel, Scott Pearson, and Peter Hodum) as well as Nina Karnovsky, PSG chair, who entertained us with a personally-written ukulele song! After that warm welcome the meeting was launched with an excellent plenary presentation by P.D. Boersma (Univ. of Washington), a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, whose talk was entitled, "Natural History and Long-term Studies are Fundamental to Science." The following day, George Divoky from Friends of Cooper Island, gave a thought-provoking plenary entitled, "The Importance and Unimportance of Seabirds in the New Abnormal."

The scientific program included five Special Paper Sessions (SPS): Pagophila in the Time of Warming: Ice Ecology of Polar Seabirds (7 talks), Sound to Sea: Marine Birds Across the Salish Sea (9 talks), Bycatch in Fishing Gear and Fish-Oiled Seabirds (8 talks, 3 posters), Changes in Gull Foraging Ecology (7 talks), and Marine Spatial Planning (9 talks, 1 poster). In addition to the SPS, there were talks within the general topics,

including Behavior (1 poster), Breeding Biology (7 talks, 7 posters), Climate Change (3 talks, 1 poster), Conservation Biology (10 talks, 4 posters), Contaminants and Marine Debris (3 talks, 6 posters), Foraging Ecology (11 talks, 5 posters), Genetics (1 poster), Management Policy Planning (4 talks, 1 poster), Population Biology (7 talks, 5 posters), Restoration and Eradication (6 talks), Tools and Techniques (6 talks, 5 posters), and Tracking and Distribution (8 talks, 9 posters). Overall, there were 124 oral presentations and 52 poster presentations.

William Sydeman and Julia Parrish co-convened an all-day symposium, entitled 'The Values of Long-term Studies: Insights and Synthesis', which included 17 talks and 1 poster. This symposium provided an excellent review of several of the long-term seabird studies around the world and was well-attended. Julia made sure to keep speakers on time by wearing her pointy boots!

During this annual meeting there were many opportunities for student participation and engagement, including the poster session, the Early Career Event panel and discussion on Friday, and the Student Mentor Reception, which followed the Early Career Event. A special thanks to Chris Tyson for organizing the Student Mentor Session and making it happen. We will certainly be continuing to try to engage students at future meetings.

On Saturday morning P.D. Boersma and Sarah Wanless were honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards (presented by Julia Parrish and William Sydeman, respectively), and Martin Raphael was presented with a Special Achievement Award after gave a great presentation of Martin's many achievements.

The Conservation Committee meeting on Saturday was very well attended, perhaps because lunch was provided! Regardless of the reason, we heard from



Jennifer Boyce, Alejandra Fabila-Blanco, Esmeralda Bravo-Hernández, Maria Felix, Yuliana Rocío Bedolla-Guzmán, and Federico Alfonso Méndez-Sánchez at the 44th PSG Annual Meeting reception in Tacoma, WA.

MEETING NEWS

Stan Senner one last time as chair of the Conservation Committee, since Mark Rauzon has graciously agreed to take this on.

At the banquet on Saturday evening, awardees were presented with special local gifts. Winners of best student papers and posters were given by Kathy Kuletz. The day and the meeting ended with some lively music and dancing. Fun was had by all.

I want to end with a special thanks to the many people that helped make this meeting a success! In particular, I want to thank the session and symposium conveners: John Piatt, Doug Bertram, Nathalie Hamel, Enriqueta Velarde, Stefan Garthe, Scott Shaffer, Jo Smith, David Pereksta, Julia Parrish, and Bill Sydeman. Also, I want to thank the general session chairs: Jennifer Lang, Lindsay Young, Tom Good, Jen Zamon, Aly McKnight, Jay Penniman, Brian Hoover, Shiway Wang, Susan (Allie) Hunter, and Maria Félix-Lizárraga.

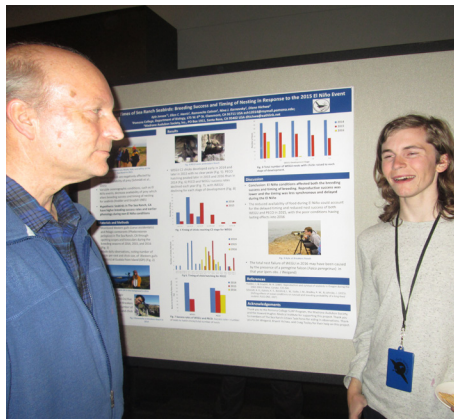
Without the herculean efforts of Justine Miller and the local committee, this meeting would not have happened. This is also true of Lindsay Young (RegOnline guru), Jo Smith (website queen), as well as the tireless work of the EXCO members, especially Kathy Kuletz (past Chair) and Nina Karnovsky (PSG Chair), and Jane Dolliver (PSG Secretary).

Thanks to all who attended and hope to see you next year in La Paz!

Hasta Pronto!
Kyra Mills-Parker



PSG after hours at the Hotel Murano, Tacoma, WA. From left to right: Adrian Gall, Shiway Wang, Chris Krenz, Marc Romano, Kathy Kuletz, Bill Sydeman, Kim Nelson, Doug Forsell, Jennifer Provencher, Gregg Howald, and Jennifer Boyce. Photo: Adrian Gall



Harry Carter speaking with Kyle Jensen from Pomona College at the poster session. Photo: Kuniko Otsuki



Stan Senner mentoring students at the Student-Mentor mixer. Photo: Jane Dolliver



George Divoky, Jane Dolliver, and Max Czapanskiy at the Tacoma Convention Center. Photo: Jane Dolliver



Ruth Kazmarack, Jennifer Lang, Ed Melvin, and Pam Michael at the student-mentor mixer. Photo: Jane Dolliver

MEETING NEWS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Pacific Seabird Group's board of directors, the Executive Council (EXCO), meets at each Annual Meeting and several times a year via conference call. Minutes are available on the PSG website after they are approved at the subsequent meeting. A summary of the Annual Meeting minutes is provided in *Pacific Seabirds*. All PSG members are welcome to attend EXCO meetings and contact PSG council members if they have questions, suggestions, or concerns.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

22 February 2017

44th Annual Meeting, Tacoma, Washington
Tacoma Convention Center

Summary of actions by EXCO

February 2016-February 2017:

- Passed a balanced FY2016 PSG operating budget
- Organized and held the 44th Annual PSG Meeting in Tacoma in February 2017, with 263 attendees, including 133 oral presentations and 52 posters
- Sent three Conservation Letters to government agencies
- Maintained a membership of 412 members representing 18 countries
- Maintained a listserv with 510 active members and 1000 weekly views to social media accounts
- Approved the PSG Social Media Policy v1.1 and the draft PSG Code of Conduct v4.1
- Approved PSG sponsorship for the 27th International Ornithological Congress commencing in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 19-26 August 2018

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

Past Chair's Report:

Sarah Wanless and Dee Boersma received Lifetime Achievement Awards, and Marty Raphael received a Special Achievement Award at the 44th PSG conference in 2017. Travel awards were presented to 8 students and to 4 non-US or Canadian scientists.

La Paz, Baja, Mexico has been selected and confirmed to be the site of the 2018 annual PSG meeting with Yuri Albores-Barajas of Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE) as the local committee chair. We all look forward to hearing of future plans in Mexico for next year.

Chair's Report:

In 2016, the Chair oversaw the work of all committees and led 10 conference calls to facilitate EXCO projects

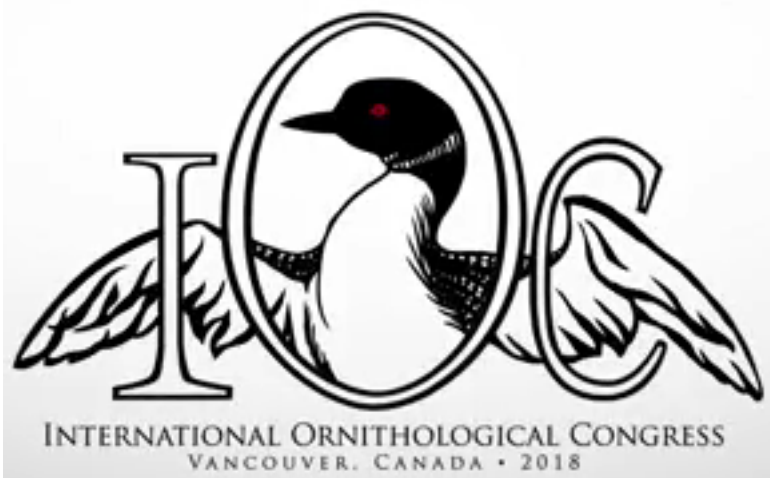
throughout the year. In addition to support and assistance to the elections committee, the local committee and the communications committee, important accomplishments include passing an update to the PSG Bylaws, approving the PSG Social Media Policy, adding Pacific Seabirds in the Biodiversity Heritage Library, implementing a new logo, and launching an updated PSG website.

Chair-Elect's Report:

The Chair-Elect took the lead in organization of the 2016 PSG Annual Meeting, including selecting a theme, organizing special paper sessions and symposia, planning concurrent sessions, securing two plenary speakers and producing the 2017 program and abstract book.

Vice Chair for Conservation's Report:

Three Conservation letters were sent in the past year: (1) to the Pacific Islands Biosphere Reserve re: supporting a decree by the President of Mexico establishing the Biosphere Reserve, (2) to the Oregon Forage Fish Management Plan re: draft Oregon forage fish management plan for state waters, (3) to the St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary re: support St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination proposed by City of St. George (Pribilof Islands), Alaska



SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES

The 2018 Annual Meeting will be hosted in La Paz, Baja, Mexico with Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE) as the local committee chair.

OTHER BUSINESS

Membership:

PSG has 412 current (paid) members, including 63 student members and 84 lifetime members, representing 18 countries. The goal for 2017-2018 is 500 members.

MOTIONS

The new 2017-2018 EXCO members:

EXCO approved new membership-elected candidates for the 2017-2018 EXCO. They include: Adrian Gall (Chair Elect), Mark Rauzon (Vice-Chair for Conservation), Andre Raine (Southern California, Latin America, and Hawaii Regional Representative), and Trudy Chatwin (Canada Regional Representative). We also welcome

Katie O'Reilly as our new elections coordinator.

May 2016: 1) Approve the PSG Social Media Policy v1.1 with changes discussed and approval from the Vice-Chair for Conservation on page 2, bullet #6; 2) Include Pacific Seabirds (the publication) in the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

June 2016: 1) Approve the Marine Ornithology proposal to increase web searchability; 2) Approve the 2017 Annual Meeting budget

August 2016: 1) Present revised logos 4, 5, and 6 to the membership

September 2016: 1) Approve the Tufted Puffin Technical Committee proposal, 21 Sept 16; 2) Approve the recommendation of P.Dee Boersma and Sarah Wanless for the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award and Marty Raphael for the 2017 Special Achievement Award.

December: 1) Accept the draft PSG Code of Conduct v4.1; 2) Allow the

ad-hoc Code of Conduct Committee to share the draft PSG Code of Conduct with PSG members for review and comment after legal review; 3) Approve La Paz, Mexico as the 2018 PSG Annual Meeting location with Yuri Albores-Barajas/CICESE as Local Committee Chair

January: 1) Accept Trudy Chatwin as the Canada Representative on ExCo, 2017-2019



Executive council members at the 44th PSG Annual Meeting. Standing, left to right: Peter Hodum, Robb Kaler, Jane Dolliver, Trudy Chatwin, Adrian Gall, Martin Renner, Chris Tyson, Stan Senner. Kneeling, left to right: Stephanie Avery-Gomm, Kathy Kuletz, Kyra Mills-Parker, Kuniko Otsuki, Nina Karnovsky. Photo: Nina Karnovsky

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 are also 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 on-line bulletin Pacific Seabirds (www.pacificseabirdgroup.org) and the journal Marine Ornithology (www.marineornithology.org). Current and past issues of both journals are available online.

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 R. 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. *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 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

PUBLICATIONS OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

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. **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. Yutaka Watanuki, Harry R. Carter, S. Kim Nelson and Koji Ono (conveners) and 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** - contact the Chair at Chair@pacificseabirdgroup.org

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** - contact the Chair at Chair@pacificseabirdgroup.org

BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF XANTUS'S MURRELET. Harry R. Carter, Spencer G. Sealy, Esther E. Burkett, and John F. Piatt (editors). 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

SEABIRDS AS INDICATORS OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS. John F. Piatt and William J. Sydeman (editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Girdwood, Alaska, February 2006. Published 2007 in *Marine Ecology Progress Series* Volume 352:199-309. **Available free of charge at** <http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v352/#theme>

THE SALISH SEA ECOSYSTEMS: STATUS AND IMPACTS OF CHANGES ON MARINE BIRDS. Scott Hatch (editor), Douglas F. Bertram, John L. Bower, and Patrick D. O'Hara (guest editors.) 2009. *Marine Ornithology*, Salish Sea Symposium Issue 37: 1-76. **Available free of charge at** <http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/publications/Hatch.etal.2008.pdf>

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. org; also contact the Scientific Program Chair for the annual meeting.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

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 FOR 2017-2018

Committees do much of PSG's business, as well as the conservation work for which PSG is respected. The committees welcome (and need) information concerning their issues. Please contact one of these Coordinators with input, updates, to apply for a small grant (see PSG's website for eligibility), or if you wish to help a committee with its work.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Nina Karnovsky, email: pastchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org; **Kyra Mills-Parker**, email: chair@pacificseabirdgroup.org; and **Adrian Gall**, email: programchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Joanna Smith, email: communications@pacificseabirdgroup.org

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Mark Rauzon, email: conservation@pacificseabirdgroup.org

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Melanie Steinkamp, email: Melanie_Steinkamp@fws.gov

CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION SMALL GRANTS COMMITTEE

Verena Gill, email: verena.gill@gmail.com

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Katie O'Reilly email: PSG_Elections@pacificseabirdgroup.org

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

Martin Renner, email: Treasurer@pacificseabirdgroup.org; **Kenneth T. Briggs**; and **Jim Kushlan**

ALEUTIAN TERN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Susan Oehlers, email: soehlers@fs.fed.us and **Michael Goldstein**, email: migoldstein@uas.alaska.edu

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

John Piatt, email: jpiatt@usgs.gov and **Sarah Schoen**, email: sschoen@usgs.gov

PSG COMMITTEE COORDINATORS FOR 2017-2018

MARBLED MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Kim Nelson, email: [kim_dot_nelson\[at\]oregonstate_dot_edu](mailto:kim_dot_nelson[at]oregonstate_dot_edu) and **Peter Harrison**, email: [peter_dot_harrison\[at\]dnr_dot_wa_dot_gov](mailto:peter_dot_harrison[at]dnr_dot_wa_dot_gov)

MARINE ORNITHOLOGY

Louise Blight, editor; email: [marine_dot_ornithology_dot_manager\[at\]gmail_dot_com](mailto:marine_dot_ornithology_dot_manager[at]gmail_dot_com)

NORTHEAST ASIA SEABIRD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Gregg Howald, email: [gregg_dot_howald\[at\]islandconservation_dot_org](mailto:gregg_dot_howald[at]islandconservation_dot_org) and **Daisuke Ochi**, email: [otthii\[at\]affrc_dot_go_dot_jp](mailto:otthii[at]affrc_dot_go_dot_jp)

SCRIPPS'S MURRELET AND GUADALUPE MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Yuliana Bedolla-Guzman, email: [yuliana_dot_bedolla\[at\]islas_dot_org_dot_mx](mailto:yuliana_dot_bedolla[at]islas_dot_org_dot_mx) and **David Mazurkiewicz**

SEABIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE

Heather Renner, email: [heather_renner\[at\]fws_dot_gov](mailto:heather_renner[at]fws_dot_gov) and **Robb Kaler**, email: [robbkaler\[at\]gmail_dot_com](mailto:robbkaler[at]gmail_dot_com)

TUFTED PUFFIN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Peter Hodum, email: [WA_dot_OR_Rep\[at\]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org](mailto:WA_dot_OR_Rep[at]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org) and **Scott Pearson**, email: [scott_dot_pearson\[at\]dfw_dot_wa_dot_gov](mailto:scott_dot_pearson[at]dfw_dot_wa_dot_gov)

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Jennifer Lang, email: [membership\[at\]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org](mailto:membership[at]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org)

LISTSERV COORDINATOR

Verena Gill, email: [listserv\[at\]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org](mailto:listserv[at]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org)

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Joanna Smith, email: [communications\[at\]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org](mailto:communications[at]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org)

PSG DELEGATE TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSS AND PETRELS (ACAP)

Ken Morgan, email: [acap_delegate\[at\]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org](mailto:acap_delegate[at]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org)

PSG DELEGATES OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Pat Baird, email: [pab7\[at\]sfu_dot_ca](mailto:pab7[at]sfu_dot_ca) and **Doug Forsell**, email: [DJForsell\[at\]aol_dot_com](mailto:DJForsell[at]aol_dot_com)

PSG DELEGATE TO THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Melanie Steinkamp, email: [Melanie_Steinkamp\[at\]fws_dot_gov](mailto:Melanie_Steinkamp[at]fws_dot_gov)

PSG DELEGATE TO THE WORLD SEABIRD UNION

Kathy Kuletz, email: [pastchair\[at\]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org](mailto:pastchair[at]pacificseabirdgroup_dot_org)

PSG LIFE MEMBERS 2017-2018

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Philip and Myrtle Ashmole
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G. Vernon Byrd
John Cooper

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Haruo Ogi
John F. Piatt
Spencer G. Sealy
Larry B. Spear*
Robert E. Ricklefs
Miklos D.F. Udvardy*
Sarah Wanless
John Warham*

**deceased*

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Hiroshi Hasegawa
Lora Leschner

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Vivian Mendenhall
S. Kim Nelson
Arthur L. Sows
Steven M. Speich*
Martin Raphael

Mark J. Rauzon
Gus B. Van Vliet
Yutaka Watanuki
Lindsay C. Young

**deceased*

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Members announcements of meetings, reduced rates on conferences and some publications, subscription to the PSG listserv, and most importantly, the knowledge of contributing to the study and conservation of Pacific seabirds wherever they occur. Annual membership is for one calendar year and expires each year on December 31.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual membership: \$40

Student membership: \$30

Life membership: \$1,200 (can be divided into 5 annual payments of \$240)

All Life member contributions are dedicated to PSG's Endowment Fund, a fund to support the publications of the PSG, principally *Marine Ornithology*.

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

To join the Pacific Group or renew your membership, please go to: <https://www.regonline.com/psgmembership>

To edit information on an existing membership, please follow the link above and login using the e-mail address that you used to renew your membership (which may be different from your mailing-list e-mail address).

If you have any questions, please notify our Membership Coordinator: membership@pacificseabirdgroup.org

The Membership Coordinator is responsible for maintaining the membership database, assisting members with updating their information, sending new member information to the listserv coordinator, etc.

MEMBER RESOURCES

For access to the Pacific Seabird Group mailing list, please contact the coordinator at: listserv@pacificseabirdgroup.org.

Connect with the Pacific Seabird Group through our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/PacificSeabirdGroup>

Follow PSG on Twitter (@PacificSeabirds) and Instagram (@pacific_seabird_group)

For access to the Pacific Seabird Group Listserv, please contact the coordinator at: listserv@pacificseabirdgroup.org

PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 2017-2018

OFFICERS

Chair	Kyra Mills-Parker , email: chair@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Past Chair	Nina Karnovsky , email: pastchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Chair-Elect	Adrian Gall , email: programchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Vice-Chair for Conservation	Mark Rauzon , email: conservation@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Treasurer	Martin Renner , email: treasurer@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Secretary	Jane Dolliver , email: secretary@pacificseabirdgroup.org

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Alaska and Russia	Robb Kaler , email: ak.ru_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Canada	Trudy Chatwin , email: canada_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Washington and Oregon	Peter Hodum , email: wa.or_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Northern California	Anna Weinstein , email: noca_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Latin America, S. CA, Hawai'i	Andre Raine , email: soca.hi.la_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Non-Pacific United States	Samantha Richman , email: us.exc_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Europe and Africa	Ross Wanless , email: eu.af_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Asia and Oceania	Kuniko Otsuki , email: asia.oc_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Student Representative	Chris Tyson , email: student_rep@pacificseabirdgroup.org

COORDINATORS (non-voting)

Communications Coordinator	Joanna Smith , email: communications@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Listserv Coordinator	Verena Gill , email: listserv@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Membership Coordinator	Jennifer Lang , email: membership@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Website Coordinator	Joanna Smith , email: communications@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Elections Coordinator	Katie O'Reilly , email: PSG_elections@pacificseabirdgroup.org