

PACIFIC SEABIRDS



A Publication of the Pacific Seabird Group

Volume 46, Number 1

2019

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 to (1) increase the quality and quantity of seabird research through facilitating exchange of information; (2) identify and assess the importance of threats to seabird populations; and (3) provide government agencies and others with expert advice on managing populations of seabirds. PSG is headed by an Executive Council composed 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 US\$50 (individual); US\$35 (student, undergraduate and graduate); and US\$1,500 (Life Membership, payable in five US\$300 installments). Two-year memberships are also available for individuals for US\$90 and for students for US\$55. Dues are payable on our website or by check to the Treasurer; see the PSG website 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 a twice-yearly on-line news bulletin and archive of PSG activities. This issue summarizes the proceedings of the annual PSG Conference and reports on the work committees have completed or have in progress in the previous year. Back issues of the PSG Bulletin and Pacific Seabirds are posted on the group's web site.

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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, **Emma Kelsey**, membership@pacificseabirdgroup.org

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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 influenced the course of research, conservation, and/or education throughout the world.

DR. ELIZABETH FLINT

By Lindsay Young

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) honored Dr. Elizabeth Flint with a Lifetime Achievement Award in February 2019 in Kaua'i, Hawai'i. Beth is the Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Pacific Remote Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the Seabird Coordinator for the Pacific Islands Refuges, a position she has held for the last 28 years.

Beth received her undergraduate degree from the University of Montana, and a Ph.D. in Biology from University of California - Los Angeles in 1985 where her work focused on Sooty Terns. Professionally, she has served as a role model and mentor for hundreds of nascent seabird biologists over the years. You would be hard-pressed to find a seabird biologist in the Pacific who has not worked with, or benefited from Beth's knowledge.

Beth is a passionate advocate for habitat restoration and protection, particularly



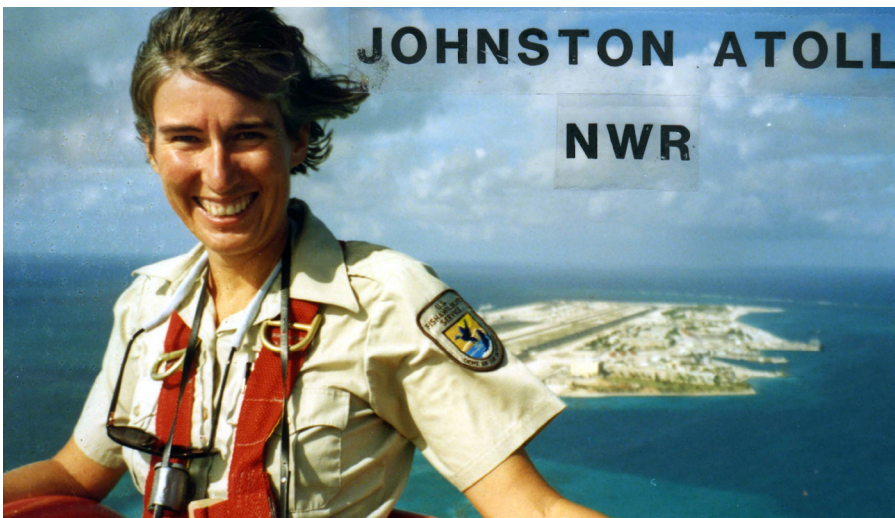
Beth at work surrounded by Laysan Albatrosses. Photo courtesy of Beth Flint.

when it comes to the removal of invasive species, and has led the charge on multiple complex eradication projects that collectively benefit millions of seabirds across the U.S. Tropical Pacific (e.g. Palmyra, and Midway Atoll).

Outside of working with the USFWS,

Beth is a biologist and advocate for promoting science in her life. She collects 100-year old biology posters originally used in college classrooms and is a tireless advocate for the funding and promotion of science, frequently visiting school groups and serving as a long time Judge in the Hawaii state Science Fair. Beth has such humility that she doesn't seek a spotlight. Despite this humility, she is also unafraid to challenge people and ideas based on the best available science. She will not stand for untruths from friend or foe, and that is what makes her a fantastic scientist and true advocate for seabirds. Her knowledge of the life history of tropical seabirds and how to integrate management to benefit them is unparalleled.

Beth has been responsible for monitoring and protecting millions of seabirds representing the 25 species nesting at the refuges. She also plans and implements the biological monitoring, research, recovery,



Beth with Johnston Atoll in the background. Photo courtesy of Beth Flint.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Dr. Elizabeth Flint

restoration, and management programs in the Pacific Remote Islands complex. The region that Beth is responsible for is arguably the most important area for tropical seabirds worldwide and Beth has dedicated her life and career to their protection and conservation. In recognition of her mentorship to early career seabird biologists and her unwavering dedication to protect and conserve seabirds across the tropical Pacific, Beth is well deserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Beth speaking at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016. Photo courtesy of Beth Flint.



Michelle Hester, David Flint, Beth, and David Hyrenbach at the Hawaii March for Science. Photo courtesy of Beth Flint.



Beth among a team of albatross counters on Midway Island. Photo courtesy of Beth Flint.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

DR. DAVID C. DUFFY

By Mark Rauzon and Daniel Roby



David in his element on Prince William Sound, Alaska. Photo courtesy of David Irons.

David Cameron Duffy is currently a Professor of Botany, and a Graduate Professor of Zoology, and of Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, as well as the Director of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Dave began his career at the tender age of nine helping at the Children's Science Center of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. At age 13 he initiated a decade-long field investigation into the population biology, foraging ecology, and conservation of Common and Roseate terns for the Museum's Great Gull Island Project. Dave attended Harvard University, where field trips to Yucatan and Colombia as an undergraduate ignited his interest in tropical biology. After earning a B.A. degree in Biology from Harvard in 1975, he moved to Princeton University to pursue a Ph.D. degree in Population Biology. His dissertation research at Princeton focused on the population dynamics, nesting ecology, and foraging ecology of Peruvian

seabirds in the highly productive Humboldt Current, and combined his interests in the tropics and in seabirds. Two years of field work led to a number of classic papers on Peruvian guano seabirds, El Niño effects on seabirds, nest site competition among seabirds, fisheries/seabird interactions, and impacts of tick parasitism on Peruvian seabirds. Six months on one Peruvian island taught him that environmental perturbations can affect isolated seabird colonies in complex ways, a theme that has continued in his research throughout his professional career.

After receiving the Ph.D. degree from Princeton in 1980, Dave moved to the Galapagos Islands, where he served as the Director of the Charles Darwin Research Station. During his two-year stint as Director, he took a station that was on the verge of financial collapse and turned its fortunes around by securing new funding support and rebuilding the professional staff. While in the Galapagos he also worked with Malcolm Coulter and Robert Ricklefs on

Blue-footed Booby growth and apparent food supply across the archipelago.

Dave then accepted a 5-year position as Chief Scientific Officer for the Benguela Ecology Programme at the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology in South Africa, where he supervised a research team of 10 scientists investigating seabird/fisheries interactions. This included research on Swift Terns, African Penguins, and Cape Cormorants with Roy Siegfried, Rory Wilson, and others. During the 1983 El Niño, Dave worked with John Cooper, Vere Shannon, and others to look at the effects on seabirds and their prey off South Africa, the Galapagos, and in the South Atlantic. Later, in 1993, he published *Stalking the Southern Oscillation: Environmental uncertainty, climate change and North Pacific seabirds*, an outgrowth of a PSG symposium. The paper examined perturbations at the scale of years, decades, centuries, and millennia, discussed how climate change might affect Pacific seabirds, and how seabird biologists might approach the problem. During the 1997-1998 El Niño/Southern Oscillation event, he generated a weekly blog of events (<http://archive.fo/3hbGX>) that documented the apparent worldwide effects of the phenomenon.

After his stint with the FitzPatrick Institute, Dave moved back to the Western Hemisphere where he served as a Visiting Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences at the Universidad Nacional in Costa Rica. There he established, designed, and directed the first Latin American center for wildlife research, and continued his research on seabird foraging ecology. This was followed by a two-year, NSF-funded position as the Executive Director of the International Association for Ecology at Athens,

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Dr. David C. Duffy

Georgia, whose goal was to maintain and expand programs to support ecologists in developing countries.

After ticks caused the abandonment of a colony of several hundred thousand guano seabirds that Dave studied in Peru, he became interested in exploring what controls tick parasitism in seabird colonies. This led to the next chapter in Dave's professional life, first as the Executive Director of the Seatuck Foundation in Islip, New York, and then as the Principal Investigator for the Cooperative Project on Lyme Disease for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Seatuck Foundation. There he led the effort to understand the role of the environment in controlling the tick vectors of Lyme Disease in the northeastern U.S. (A serendipitous side project demonstrated that seabirds can transport Lyme spirochetes between hemispheres.) Along the way, he found time to serve as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Marine Sciences Research Center at the State University of New York Stony Brook, investigate whether eastern deciduous forests ever recover from clearcutting, model the non-linear dynamics of fish schools, produce the first evaluations of seabird conservation in Ecuador and Peru, investigate why Double-crested Cormorants get no respect, and examine

milk sickness, the disease that killed Lincoln's mother. During this time he also worked with David Schneider, Alec MacCall, and Dan Anderson to explore methods of formalizing fishery interactions with seabirds in *Seabird-fisheries interactions: evaluation with dimensionless ratios* (1992) and *Seabird-fishery interactions: a manager's guide* (1994).

Then Dave migrated north to the University of Alaska, Anchorage, where he was promoted from Assistant Professor to Full Professor in the Department of Biology in a scant four years, while serving as the Program Manager for the Alaska Natural Heritage Program. But during Dave's time in Alaska he became perhaps best known for serving as the Project Leader for the Apex Predation Ecosystem Experiment (APEX), a long-term, multi-disciplinary, multi-million dollar research project in Prince William Sound designed to understand the trophic factors that were limiting the recovery of seabirds and other top-trophic level predators in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

In the first 18 years of Dave's career, he managed to accomplish more than most of us do during a professional lifetime. But then, a little over 20 years ago, Dave migrated with his wife, Maria, and their two children, Alex and Domonique, to

Hawaii, where Dave joined the faculty of the University of Hawaii and became the Director of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. The Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit has as its mission to conserve the resources of the Hawaiian Islands and other Pacific Islands, and in the last 20 years been awarded about 1,000 grants and contracts totaling over \$250 million, plus supports a staff of 460 scientists and managers.

Despite the heavy administrative demands of this position, Dave has managed to continue teaching, advising graduate students, and conducting research on strategies for restoration of Hawaii's native ecosystems, and particularly the conservation biology and restoration ecology of seabirds. He has written reviews of seabird management and conservation science in the Islands, and an examination of the invasive species committees, uniquely Hawaiian community-based creations. He also served as Principal Investigator for an NSF Biocomplexity Project on avian malaria, examining whether new approaches at different scales might yield answers to the biggest threat to the Islands' endangered forest birds. He has been grateful to former students Lindsay Young and Aron Hebshi for helping him keep his feet wet with seabird work. He has also been fortunate to continue work in Alaska with David Irons, Susan Oehlers, and others on multiyear studies of the long-distance migration of Arctic and Aleutian terns.

Dave's research interests have varied widely from the organism level to the ecosystem, but his focus has always remained on how natural systems respond to perturbations, either natural or anthropogenic. Most recently he has become interested in how to shape management and science to respond to the problem of invasive alien species in Hawaii by asking how much science do you need and how can management measure whether it is being effective? His work has also focused on the effects of feral and domestic cats that are major predators in the Hawaiian and



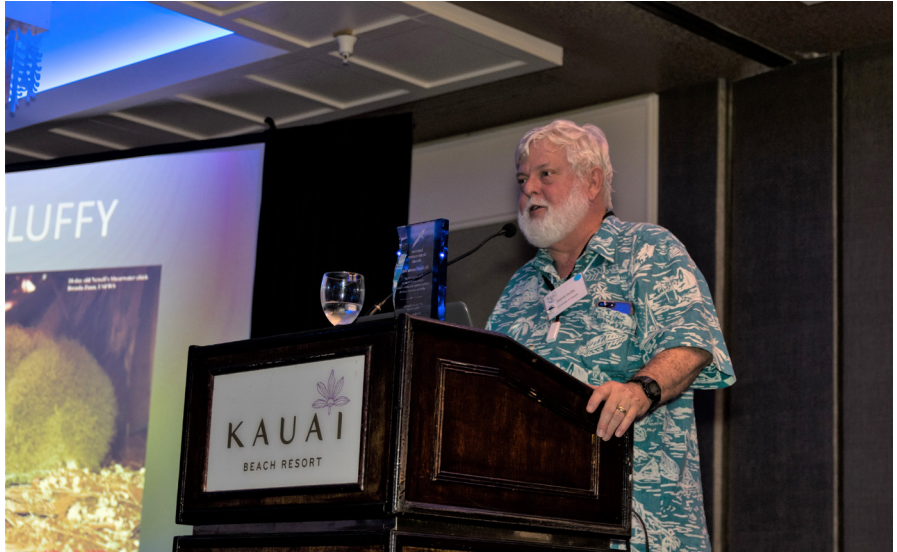
Dan Roby presenting David his award at the 46th PSG Annual Meeting in Kaua'i.
Photo: Tim Lawes.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Harry R. Carter

Galapagos Islands, as well as vectors of toxoplasmosis, a disease that affects humans, Hawaiian monk seals, and even marine birds such as boobies.

Dave's publication record is extensive and includes more than 125 scientific journal articles and book chapters, most on seabird ecology. For all of the accomplishments listed here, and many more too numerous to list in the limited space available, Dave is richly deserving the PSG Lifetime Achievement Award.

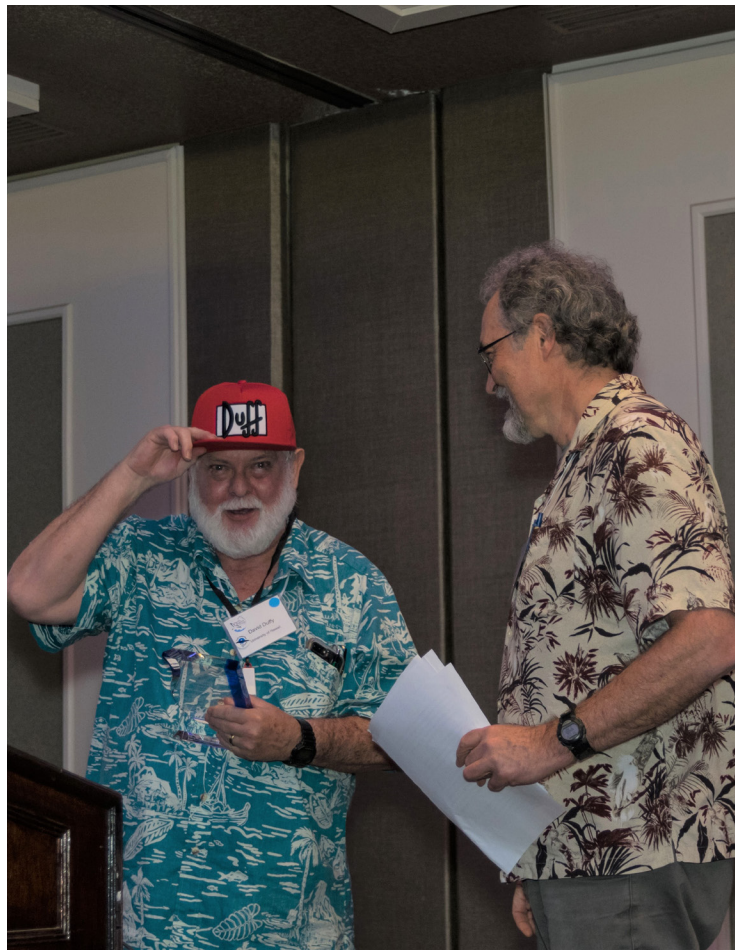
Dr. David Cameron Duffy was presented with the PSG Lifetime Achievement Award on 28 February 2019 at the Pacific Seabird Group's 46th Annual Meeting in Kaua'i, in recognition of his major contributions to seabird ecology and science-based efforts to conserve seabirds.



David accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 46th PSG Annual Meeting in Kaua'i. Photo: Tim Lawes.



David holding a shearwater chick.



Dan Roby presenting David with the award and a "Duff" hat. Photo: Tim Lawes.

STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

Student presentation awards are given out at each year at the 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.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Best Student Paper Award - Doctorate: Ruth Dunn (University of Liverpool)

A Model to Estimate Seabird Field Metabolic Rates

Best Student Paper Award - Doctorate: Johannes Fischer (Victoria University of Wellington)

A Critically Endangered Seabird Species Fails to Respond to Eradications of Multiple Invasive Predators

Honorable Mention - Doctorate: Jennifer Howard (Wake Forest University)

Effects of Aging on the Foraging Behavior of a Long-lived Seabird in the Galápagos

Best Student Paper Award - Masters: Keenan Yakola (University of Massachusetts Amherst & Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center)

Long-term Trends and Potential Drivers of Chick Diet in Four Tern Species in the Gulf of Maine, USA

Honorable Mention - Masters: Andrea Estandía (Durham University)

Genome-wide Data Reveal the Deep Evolutionary History of Oceanic Seabirds (*Procellariiformes*)

Best Student Paper Award - Undergraduate: Tessa Nania (University of Puget Sound)

Using Age to Assess Retention Time of Ingested Plastic in Seabirds

Honorable Mention - Undergraduate: Jessica Idle (University of Hawai'i at Manoa)

Human Presence near Wedge-tailed Shearwater Burrows and its Impact on Nesting Success

People's Choice Award: Hannah Moon (University of Hawai'i at Manoa)

How do Seabirds Perceive Light? Spectral Effects on the Temporal Sensitivity of Hawaiian Seabirds

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Best Student Paper Award - Doctorate: Caitlin Kroeger (University of California, Santa Cruz)

At-sea Energetics of Campbell and Grey-headed Albatrosses in Relation to Southern Ocean Wind Variability

Honorable Mention - Doctorate: Ui Shimabukuro (SOKENDAI [The Graduate University for Advanced Studies])

Diving and Flying Activity of Rhinoceros Auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*) During the Non-breeding Period

Best Student Paper Award - Masters: Sonya Pastran (Simon Fraser University)

Habitat Utilization of Marbled Murrelets in Haida Gwaii, BC: Using Long-term and Additional Data from Laskeek Bay

Honorable Mention - Masters: Jill Tengeres (Oregon State University)

Passive Monitoring to Investigate Predation Pressure at Aleutian Tern Colonies in Coastal Alaska

Best Student Paper Award - Undergraduate: Makenzie Weber (Oregon State University)

Variation in Phenology and Reproductive Success of Three Cormorant Species in Central Oregon

Honorable Mention - Undergraduate: Alyssa Nelson (Oregon State University)

Quantifying Top Down Effects of Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Disturbances on a Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) Colony

People's Choice Award: Ann Wiley (University of Akron)

Foraging Behavior and Reproductive Success of Brown Boobies (*Sula leucogaster*) Across an Environmental Gradient

REPORTS OF PSG OFFICERS

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2018

Adrian Gall

Welcome to 2019 and another year for the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) to support seabird research and conservation! As we look forward to getting together in Kaua'i, it is also worth looking back at 2018 and the wonderful accomplishments that PSG members' fees, volunteered time, and additional donations to PSG have made possible:

- The PSG 2018 meeting in La Paz, Mexico had a net positive balance of new members, especially those from Latin America, and a positive balance to PSG's General fund.
- The General and Student Travel Funds are supporting a record number of student, Early Career Scientist, and non-US/Canada scientist travel awards for PSG 2019.
- First time offering pre-reserved rooms for students at PSG 2019.
- The Corresponding Membership program is revived and actively seeking participants to broaden PSG's perspective and participation throughout the Pacific Rim.
- The most conservation letters ever written in a 2-year period (22 topics addressed! 60 letters sent!), thanks to our Vice-Chair for Conservation Mark Rauzon and the members who raised issues and produced drafts of text.
- Full slate of candidates for the PSG election.
- Over 280 people registered, and more than 180 abstracts submitted for PSG 2019.
- Local Committees in place and planning already under way for PSG 2020 in Portland, OR and PSG 2021 in San Diego, CA.

This impressive (but not exhaustive) list of accomplishments is thanks to our powerfully motivated members of the Executive Council (ExCo), most especially the officers: Past Chair Kyra Mills, Chair-Elect Dave Craig,

Secretary Jane Dolliver, Treasurer Kirsten Bixler, and Vice-Chair for Conservation Mark Rauzon. My responsibility as Chair is to "execute the objectives, policies and programs developed by the Executive Council and membership." As an organization, it was our goal in 2018/2019 to maintain the wonderful momentum coming out of the meeting in La Paz to strengthen and support the connections with Latin American members. This goal guided decisions that included where to have meetings in the next few years, how to recruit more Corresponding Members, and a concerted effort to raise funds to support travel for non-U.S./Canada scientists. Other objectives for this past year included catching up on bookkeeping and accounting tasks, enacting recommendations from the Membership Committee to enhance recruitment and retention of members, and exploring ways to reduce the environmental footprint of our annual meetings.

I facilitated the monthly ExCo calls and followed up as needed with action items resulting from the calls. This task was easily accomplished thanks to Secretary Jane Dolliver, who did an excellent job of scheduling meetings, preparing agendas, tracking action items, and keeping us on the right side of process and policies outlined in the PSG Handbook. I also guided the Request For Proposals process to select an event planner for PSG 2019. This process was used to avoid any possible conflict of interest as one of the candidates was a spouse of an ExCo member. I supported exploring digital solutions to replace the printing of paper programs and the Local Committee's efforts to provide only useful swag for the conference that will reduce the use of disposable items. As a member of the Awards Committee, I reviewed, ranked, and helped select recipients for this year's Lifetime Achievement and

Travel awards.

In a carryover from last year, I set up and managed the registration process for the annual meeting in Cvent, PSG's cloud-based event management software. Jenny Howard, Jill Tengeres, and Jane Dolliver took over management of the event website and did an excellent job of keeping the many pages up-to-date. I also assisted new Membership Coordinator Emma Kelsey in taking over management of memberships from outgoing coordinator Jennifer Lang.

Thank you for your membership dues and extra donations that support the Conservation Grants Program, the travel awards, and the meetings that bring us together to dive deep into seabird biology, ecology, and conservation. Whenever a call went out to support these worthy causes, PSG's members answered it with generosity and compassion.

There are still challenges ahead, however. In this coming year, PSG will need to:

- Maintain and expand the relationships with donors and members that fund its good work.
- Recruit new volunteers to contribute to the Corresponding Members committee, the Local Organizing Committees, editorial work at our journal *Marine Ornithology*, delegate to the OC, and other tasks.
- Engage in formal strategic planning
- Publish the Code of Conduct, revised PSG Handbook.
- Keep exploring ways to improve the abstract submission and review process and building of the scientific program.

This organization is incredibly fortunate to have an energized and engaged membership with folks that have been volunteering for over 40 years (!) mentoring those who are just now coming on board. I have been

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involved with PSG for over 15 years and have watched with admiration and wonder as the mantle of the founding members is being passed on to a new cast of characters every bit as dedicated, inspired, and

entertaining as the original group. Entertaining? Oh yes. There is no way PSG would have survived and thrived if it weren't a whole lot of fun with good friends. I am grateful for all of

the enthusiasm and teamwork that has made my tenure as Chair enjoyable and productive.

Muchas gracias, mahalo nui loa, and thanks so much!

CHAIR-ELECT'S REPORT FOR 2018

David P. Craig

Chair Elect Duties for 2019 Scientific Program (27 February – 3 March 2019, Lihue, Kaua'i, Hawai'i):

- Theme of the meeting - Seabirds in a Changing Pacific: Ensuring a Future, Fighting the Plastic
- Call for Special Paper sessions, symposia, and workshops sent out via the list serv, Facebook, and Twitter 16 July 2018; second call 14 August 2018.
- June through August 2018 explored improving abstract and presentation schedule management with mobile apps from Whova and Cvent. Based on costs, the decision was to retain hand-management of schedule and abstracts using google docs to process and digital pdfs.
- Worked with Chair and Communications Committee to maintain the conference website hosted by Cvent and linked to registration.
- Call for abstracts open 10 September – 15 December 2018
- Abstracts accepted 14 December 2018, with a couple more trickling in after the deadline for a total of 209 abstracts submitted, before withdrawals.
- Invited plenary speakers on 1 June 2018; 5 plenary speakers confirmed.
- Participated in Lifetime and Special Achievement Award decisions in late October.
- Participated in Travel Awards decisions in mid-December.
- Organized Session Chairs.
- Organized the Scientific Program

of 3 concurrent sessions with assistance from André Raine and Local Committee.

- Reviewed program prior to printing with special attention to talk schedule, profiles of plenary speakers, and Letter from Scientific Program Chair.
- Compiled abstract book.

Lessons Learned

Cvent's Abstract Management tool was great for taking in abstracts and for some correspondence with presenters. In building this year's Cvent registration we forgot to include a choice for presentation of oral, poster, or no preference for abstracts with the initial call for abstracts which required a lot of following up correspondence.

Mysteriously, 24 of those who submitted abstracts that were accepted missed the notification of that acceptance. Luckily through informal social networks many people learned others were accepted and they contacted me or others in ExCo. I re-sent acceptance messages to all authors and invited them to review their accepted abstract and my formatted versions of that abstract in a GoogleDoc. At least 18 of the 24 who missed the initial acceptance subsequently found my original 'accepted abstract' message in spam filtered folders.

Details were managed in a GoogleSheet based on a 2018 template to schedule the sessions, which allowed for a collaborative approach with version records.

Cvent registration and event website worked seamlessly. The Communications Committee was

critical in setting up the event website and in coordinating information consistently and up-to-date between the Cvent event website, the PSG website, listserv, and social media. Adrian Gall's recommendation last year to phase out use of the PSG website for delivering information to the membership about the meeting and direct attentions towards the Cvent website was successful. I recommend priority updates on the Cvent website with reminders through the PSG website, listserv and social media.

Registration and the program were especially challenged for a second year in row. This year it was because many travel requests from U.S. government employees were denied or held in limbo by their agencies in connection with the longest federal furlough in history. The timing of the furlough was especially challenging with some U.S. government employees only able to confirm their attendance on 15 February. There was time consuming and negative synergy because of the restricted use of email by U.S. government employees and my need to contact them about their intent to present an oral or poster presentation. Including a registration field for a secondary personal email is recommended.

Scientific Program

145 oral presentations and 54 posters.

Six Plenary speakers:

1. Sabra Kauka (Hawaiian Studies Kumu at Island School)
2. Dr. Mark Rauzon (Laney College)
3. Dr. David Duffy (University of Hawaii)

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4. Dr. Helen James (Smithsonian Institution)
 5. Dr. Tony Gaston (Environment and Climate Change Canada)
 6. Dr. Beth Flint (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Special Paper Sessions
1. Restoration of Procellariiform Seabirds, Conveners: Lindsay Young and Eric VanderWerf (Pacific Rim Conservation) 8 talks, 2 posters
 2. Specimen-based Historical Research, Conveners: Helen James (National Museum of Natural History) and Peggy Ostrom (Michigan State University) 10 talks, 2 poster
 3. Seabirds and Indigenous Cultures, Conveners: Jaime Ojeda (University of Victoria) and Cristián Suazo (Justus Liebig University-Giessen & ATF-Chile, BirdLife International) 6 talks, 1 poster
 4. Human Dimensions of Seabird Conservation: Challenges and Solutions Conveners: Verónica López, (Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge); Hannah Nevins, (American Bird Conservancy) 9 talks, 2 poster
 5. Plastic ingestion in seabirds and its chemical effects Convener: Yutaka Watanuki 8 talks, 2 poster
- Workshops
1. Predator Control Workshop: Predator Control for Seabird Protection offered by Kyle Pias and Alex Dutcher
 2. Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter SM4 Workshop, offered by Ali Donargo (Wildlife Acoustics)
 3. Hot Topics Round Table, offered and moderated by Adrian Gall
-

PAST-CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2018

Kyra Mills

Summary of Past Chair Tasks for 2017-2018:

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

Assist the Chair with PSG operations: Adrian Gall, PSG Chair, has been a pleasure to work with and is an extremely competent person that I admire very much. I have tried to assist where needed, although Adrian took on the lion's share (and more), as I was going through some challenging personal issues. I participated in EXCO meetings, provided input on monthly decisions and on letters drafted by the Conservation Chair, and held follow-up teleconferences on various issues as needed.

As Awards Committee Chair: This year it was decided to award the Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) to two recipients: Dr. David Duffy and Dr. Beth Flint. They will be honored at the upcoming PSG Annual Meeting in Kaua'i. Assisting in the selection of the LAA were the Chair-Elect (David Craig) and Chair (Adrian Gall). I solicited nominations during the 2018 PSG annual meeting and via postings on the PSG listserv. The committee submitted their selections to the EXCO for a vote

at the September 2018 EXCO meeting, with all approved.

As Travel Awards Chair: In 2019 we received 48 student and ECS travel award applications. Because of limited funds, we were only able to offer awards to 24 people for a total amount of \$10,750. We offered 6 Early Career Scientist grants, 2 awards to non-U.S./Canadian scientists, and 15 grants to students (as compared to 36 in 2018, when we received a large Packard grant).

Organize student paper judging: In the weeks leading up to the 2019 meeting I will be coordinating the judging of student papers and posters. For the first time ever, we will be trying an online system of recording scores, which will hopefully make this process much more efficient for the selection of the winners. In addition, this year we are implementing, for the first time, a People's Choice Award (winner and runner-up) in the categories of best oral and best poster presentation (open to all presenters, not just students). Voting is open to all meeting attendees, and certificates will be presented at the party.

Assist Chair Elect and Local Committee Chair in preparation for the annual meeting: Whenever possible I have tried to be of assistance to the

Chair-Elect, David Craig and the local committee chairs (Jessi Behnke and André Raine).

Begin the selection and confirmation of future meeting sites: The EXCO has received and already approved the selection of the locations for the 2020 meeting (Portland) and the 2021 meeting (San Diego).

Recommendations for the future: (1) include a question with registration that specifically asks if individual students want to be considered for student presentation award (wasn't done this year and would save an extra step); (2) consider setting aside funds for supporting invited speakers or to have a targeted plea to solicit funding for supporting these invited speakers (perhaps by the local committee?); (3) consider waived registration fees in the total amount of the award to avoid confusion and to lessen the financial burden on PSG; (4) in general, the student, ECS, and non-U.S./Canada travel awards needs more guidelines (which group should have priority over the limited funds, what is the selection rubric, what to do about registration fees for award winners, how to resolve the issue of invited speakers).

VICE-CHAIR FOR CONSERVATION'S REPORT FOR 2018

Mark Rauzon

In 2018-19, I sent 22 key letters, with an additional 26 iterations sent to a variety of affiliated constituents associated with the key letter. Key concerns for future actions are wind energy, feral cat colonies, and the perpetual Marbled Murrelet issues involving fisheries, logging, and wind energy siting. Working with American Bird Conservancy's wind energy team is critical to aiding PSG, by letting a louder voice set the policy that we echo.

In August 2018, I represented the Pacific Seabird Group at the International Ornithological Congress, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Together with Simba Chan (BirdLife Asia), we convened a symposium session on Conservation-Reliant Seabird Species, including Chinese-crested Terns (*Thalasseus bernsteini*) and other seabirds, with presenters from China, New Zealand, and USA.

Below are our letters submitted in 2018/2019 starting with the most recent:

1. 14 February 2019; To: Secretary David Bernhardt, U.S. Department of the Interior; Re: Substantial deficiencies in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Arctic Wildlife Refuge. PSG Vice-chair for Conservation and EXCO officers signed a letter co-authored by Stan Senner, former Vice-Chair for Conservation for PSG.
2. 28 January 2019; To: Jean Thurston, Coordinator, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Renewable Energy Task Force Office of Strategic Resources; Re: Commercial Leasing for Wind Power Development on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore California - Call for Information and Nominations.
3. 30 December 2018; To: Species Conservation Policy Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Policy Division, Government of Ontario, Canada; Re: A proposed no-limit hunting of the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) in Ontario, Canada. The Pacific Seabird Group strongly protests the wholesale slaughter of Double-crested Cormorants proposed by the Government of Ontario. EBR Registration number 013-4124
4. 10 December 2018; To: Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Re: Comment on USFWS Proposed Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) Listing. The Pacific Seabird Group strongly urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Black-capped Petrel as "Endangered" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. FWS-R4-ES-2018-0043
5. 29 November 2018; To: Karen Witherspoon, Senior Project Planner, Lewis County Community Development Department; Re: Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Pacific Seabird Group provided comments on the DEIS for the Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project.
6. 12 November 2018; To: Seaside City Council, California; Re: Habitat creation for Heermann's Gulls (*Larus heermanni*). The Pacific Seabird Group supports Coastal Administrative Permit CAP-18-01, the proposal to replace the eroded island in Roberts Lake with a floating nesting island for the nesting Heermann's Gulls.
7. 5 November 2018; Washington Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Re: The Pacific Seabird Group is writing to comment on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment for the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy.
8. 21 August 2018; To: Masaharu Nakagawa, Minister of the Environment, Government of Japan; Re: PSG expresses concern for the placement of the Goto-shi offshore wind power generation project, east of Fukue Island, Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan.
9. 30 July 2018; To: Phil Anderson, Chair of the F.7 Future Council; Re: The Pacific Seabird Group gratefully acknowledges your great efforts in mitigating seabird bycatch in the fisheries industry. We now request the Council add the agenda item: "ESA mitigation measures for seabirds" to the November 2018 Council meeting.
10. 25 July 2018; To: The Honorable Grant Robertson, Minister of Culture and Heritage, New Zealand; Re: National Museum of New Zealand staff reduction: The Pacific Seabird Group calls on Minister Robertson to not support the proposed restructuring of the Te Papa Museum.
11. 25 July 2018; To: The Honorable Josh Frydenberg, Minister for the Environment and Energy; Honorable Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change; Gabrielle Upton; Annastacia Palaszczuk, Premier of Queensland; Re: Balloon Ban: PSG strongly supports the call for an Australia-

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wide ban on the release of balloons and the use of helium to inflate balloons. We call on all States and Territories to change their littering act to specify releasing helium balloons.

12. 1 July 2018; To: Jason Miner, Natural Resource Advisor to Governor Brown, Members of the Coastal Caucus, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission, ODFW staff, and Governor's Office; Re: Misrepresentation of scientific information in the letter sent by Oregon's Coastal Caucus. PSG expresses great concern regarding the misrepresentation of scientific information in the letter sent by Oregon's Coastal Caucus to the ODFW Commission prior to the June 2018 meeting and the Commission's recent decision to reverse the uplisting of the Marbled Murrelet under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. The information in the Caucus letter does not accurately represent the science it quotes; much like other testimonies at the June hearing opposed to uplisting the species. The Oregon Coastal Caucus letter cherry-picks select scientific data that does not reflect the science.
13. 29 June 2018; To: Cliff Johnson, Senior Planner, County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department, California; Re: Scoping comments for the Environmental Impact Statment (EIS) /Humboldt Wind Energy Project, California. The Pacific Seabird Group is providing scoping comments on the Environmental Impact Report for potential Humboldt Wind Energy Project. We are concerned that this project could significantly impact the Marbled Murrelet.
14. 21 June 2018; To: The members of the Coastal Caucus and ODFW Commissioners; Re: Protest decision to reverse the uplisting of the Marbled Murrelet under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. The Pacific Seabird Group expresses our great concern regarding the misrepresentation of scientific information in the letter sent by Oregon's Coastal Caucus, to the ODFW Commission prior to the June 2018 meeting and the Commission's recent decision to reverse the uplisting of the Marbled Murrelet under the Oregon Endangered Species Act.
15. 5 June 2018; To: Chair Finley and Commissioners: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission; Re: Comments on Marbled Murrelet Draft Survival Guidelines. PSG provided comments on the draft survival guidelines for the Marbled Murrelet which is currently listed as endangered under the state and federal Endangered Species Act.
16. 31 May 2018; To: Mark Ostwald, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Re: Scoping comments for EIS/ Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project, WA. PSG provided scoping comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for potential Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project proposed for Lewis and Thurston Counties, Washington.
17. 31 May 2018; To: Karen A. Witherspoon, Lewis County Community Development; Re: Scoping comments for EIS/ Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project, WA. PSG provided scoping comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for potential Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project proposed for Lewis and Thurston Counties, Washington.
18. 15 April 2018; To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Re: Endorsement for Environmental Assessment of Midway Seabird Protection Plan PSG strongly endorses the proposed plan to eradicate House Mice from Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Update: The USFWS completed the planning and consultation phase of the Midway Seabird Protection Project for the eradication of invasive mice at Midway Atoll as of February 2019. Our Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and several documents were completed for this project including the Final Environmental Assessment and its six Appendices. Appendix F documents the 107 Public Comments we received and our responses. All compliance documents can be found at the Midway Atoll website: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Midway_Atoll.
19. 8 March 2018; To: David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i; Re: Comments of Hawai'i Administrative Rules. PSG provided comments for the following: Chapter 13-232-57.1 Feeding of colony strays or feral animals prohibited; Chapter 13-232-57.2 Animal abandonment and creating or contributing to colonies prohibited.
20. 22 March 2018; To: Wildlife Protection and Nature Reserves Division, State Forestry and Steppe Administration, Beijing, China; Re: In February 2018, photographs of dead seabirds for sale as food were posted on social media in China. It appeared that murrelets and loons were caught in nets and the key concern was that Japanese Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus wurmizusume*) were among the birds for sale at Lianyungang, Jiangsu, China.
21. 18 March 2018; To: Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska; Re: PSG urged support for the Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act. This critically-needed legislation will greatly contribute to conservation of these magnificent, yet highly imperiled seabirds that we highlight as our logo.
22. 20 March 2018; To: State of Hawai'i; Re: Testimony SCR 36. PSG requested rejection of this proposal as Trap/Neuter/Release as not an effective long-term strategy to eliminate cat colonies.

SECRETARY’S REPORT FOR 2018

Jane Dolliver

Motions passed by the 2017-2018 PSG Executive Council

March 2018

1. Conduct a compilation report, review or audit in FY2018
2. Approve FY2018 budget
3. Approve conference organizer RFP process

April 2018

1. Approve PSG 2019 annual meeting budget
2. Approve PSG 2021 location – San Diego, California
3. Establish the Former Chairs’ Fund on the PSG website

May 2018

1. Approve committee-nominated PSG 2019 conference organizer
2. Extend conference organizer position to runner-up if nominated candidate declines

June 2018

1. Approve PSG 2019 venue and \$1000 deposit
2. Approve PSG 2020 location – Portland, Oregon

July 2018

1. Refund the PSG checking account with the amount spent on publications in FY16 and FY17, with approval from the endowment trustees.

August 2018

Call 1

1. Conduct quarterly internal statements on PSG finances, \$1500
2. Approve draft FY2019 budget
3. Approve PSG 2019 registration rates
4. Approve letter of recommendation for Laura Bliss

Call 2

1. Spend up to \$2200 on a conference scheduling app for PSG 2019
2. Approve revised draft FY2019 budget
3. Commit all EXCO to fundraise from at least 6 organizations for PSG 2019

Call 3

1. Decline the use of an app at PSG 2019
2. Increase PSG membership rates

September 2018

No motions

October 2018

1. Approve two, Lifetime Achievement Awards to be presented at PSG 2019
2. Approve a partial deposit for two shared student rooms at PSG 2019
3. Approve PSG 2020 conference organizer
4. Approve two-year membership rates and advertising on the PSG website

November 2018

1. Approve PSG 2020 venue
2. Approve the rest of the deposit for two shared student rooms at PSG 2019
3. Approve PSG 2021 venue
4. Approve the purchase of hats for PSG 2019

December 2018

1. Approve PSG 2021 conference organizer

January 2019

No motions

February 2019

Call 1

1. Approve support of WSTC#5 ECS award proposal, \$200
2. Purchase PSG Life Member buttons, up to \$500
3. Create the “People’s Choice Award” at PSG 2019
4. Create 500 PSG stickers for distribution at PSG 2019

Call 2

1. Approve membership-elected candidates to the PSG 2019-2020 EXCO

Secretary Milestones in 2018-2019

In addition to serving on the Executive Council, the Secretary also serves on the Elections Committee (per the PSG Handbook). The current Secretary has elected to serve on the Communications Committee, Conservation Committee, and the Ad-hoc Policies and Procedures Committee. In 2018, the Secretary also elected to assist the Corresponding Members Committee, the 2019-2021 Local Committees, and the Membership Committee. Those roles include:

Executive Council

- Polling EXCO for availability, scheduling 16 calls and calendar invites, 48 reminder emails
- 16 call invites separately to all PSG Committee heads, Local Committees 2019, 2020, 2021
- 80 pages of transcript-like notes
- Updates on PSG workplan and annual timeline, reminder emails
- Detailed review of annual operating budget and ongoing resource to Treasurer
- Proposal and report assistance for EXCO and external funding requests
- Keep running list of volunteer opportunities, connect prospective volunteers with Committees

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Communications

- Website updates, annual meeting section and website posts (about 60/year)
- Significant contributions to Facebook. This platform is now at about 2,600 likes + follows and a weekly post reach of 10,000. “The Seabird Group” (UK) has 1.5K, PSG’s page has grown an order of magnitude (started at about 500 in 2015).
- Pacific Seabirds copy editing and photo database from PSG 2018

Conservation

- Forwarding letter suggestions via email, social media (2+)
- Providing feedback on all drafts and resolving comments (16 letters)

Elections

- Communicating with, and securing candidates for positions outside Chair-Elect (9 candidates)
- Sending adjusted ballots to 12 people, 7 reminders to over 200 people
- Providing 3 updates to EXCO, creating final report for candidate approval

Annual Meetings

- Post-2018 meeting survey set up and results report
- Conference organizer RFP process document and organization
- PSG 2020 and PSG 2021 Local Chair solicitation and proposal assistance
- PSG 2020 venue and budget assistance
- PSG 2021 venue assistance

PSG 2019 Local Committee

- Pre-2019 meeting survey set up

and results report

- Forward post-2018, 2017, 2016 reports, budgets for 2016-2018
- Near daily email communication re: meeting details
- Kick-off meeting, volunteer duties sheet, PSG 2019 program
- Coordinating between LOCO and social media team, PSG website, Cvent web team (100+ posts)
- Fundraising assistance (\$1500)
- Registration updates for EXCO calls
- Reminders to leads and co-leads re: student events, judging, registration deadlines, etc.
- Student judging e-forms and judging organization google sheet
- Student mentor session and ride sharing e-forms – forwarded from 2018

Membership

- Transition meeting and vital workplan goals and check-ins
- Membership pin design and logo

Corresponding Members Committee

- Assistance finding replacement co-coordinators
- Kick-off meeting and list of non-represented countries, Central America leads Ad-hoc policies and procedures Committee
- Compilation of edits to be included in the PSG Handbook
- Conflict of Interest forms from all EXCO, signed each year

Projects and needs, 2019-2020

Jane will:

1. Complete the PSG Handbook version 2019 (leftover from 2017)
2. Mentor the next Secretary Feb 2019 – Feb 2020; create a draft PSG EXCO calendar

The next PSG Secretary should:

1. Help the EXCO set two financial goals, at a minimum:
 - a) fundraising plan for PSG 2020 with fundraising goals (annual meeting is historically the best way for external organizations – government and state agencies, consulting firms - to donate to PSG)
 - b) membership plan with membership goals (the bulk of PSG operating funds)
2. Continue to assist and be the liaison to EXCO on the Elections Committee
3. Assist the Treasurer in record-keeping and PSG EXCO file storage
4. Assume management of EXCO deadlines and deadline reminders
5. Continue to provide EXCO notes from calls within 24-48 hours

Closing thoughts

Like many volunteer-run organizations, PSG continues to struggle with a structure where 3-6 extremely proficient (albeit over-worked) people complete the vast majority of the Society’s annual work. The Officers need to address this within a larger planning workshop or advisory board setting. This may include hiring a professional who specializes in organizational structure and strategic planning.

PSG FINANCIAL REPORT

Kirsten Bixler, Treasurer

FY19 Budget Summary

The Executive Council (EXCO) of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) passed a budget for fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019) on August 21, 2018. The budget was fiscally responsible with an anticipated surplus for both restricted and unrestricted funds. This was achieved by removing all non-essential expenses and raising membership rates. PSG website maintenance and listserv expenses were shifted to publication costs to be paid for through the restricted endowment fund. In addition, the budget was re-organized to allow tracking of profit/loss for both the unrestricted and restricted fund categories. A detailed budget with actuals is included in *Pacific Seabirds 45:2*.

PSG completed a financial audit for the first time in 2012 and it was anticipated at the time, that audits would be completed every five years. PSG's accountant did not recommend an audit be completed on FY2017 financial accounting. This was in large part because the level of change within the organization within a five year period (i.e. as many as three treasurers) is so great that an audit would not provide the EXCO with assurance that financial accounting is complete and accurate for four of every five years. Instead, the EXCO voted to complete four quarterly internal financial statements each

year. These statements require basic proofing by the accountant and provide confirmation to EXCO that accounting is up-to-date. The first quarterly internal financial statement was completed in FY2019 for the period October – December 2018 and was presented to EXCO in January 2019.

A bank account was opened for the Former Chairs Fund during FY2018 to facilitate fundraising from the Former Chairs. Project proposals will be selected for funding at the Former Chairs' meeting during PSG Annual Meetings.

Since PSG took over the production of Marine Ornithology (MO) in 2000, the publication has been owned and primarily funded by PSG. In recent years, finances for MO were separate from PSG but during FY2018, PSG took over financial accounting for the journal. Taxes were filed jointly beginning in FY2017. PSG plans to open a bank and PayPal account for use by MO during FY2019.

Highlights of February 2018 to February 2019

- FY2018 budget approved
- FY2017 taxes filed
- Opened a Former Chairs Fund bank account
- Created a Former Chairs Fund donation button on the PSG website
- PSG membership rates increased

- FY2019 budget approved
- Refunded the PSG checking account with the amount spent on publications in FY2016, FY2017, and FY2018 from the endowment fund with approval from the endowment trustees
- Conducted a quarterly internal financial statements on PSG finances in January 2019
- Submitted FY2019 tax information to accountant

Highlights of February 2018 to February 2019

- Re-activate SAM.gov (System for Award Management) account for PSG
- Consider moving to accounts to new bank because First Hawaiian Bank has high fees and few branch locations
- Open bank and PayPal accounts for MO
- Complete charitable giving registration for PSG so can accept donations via Facebook
- Assist Election Committee with Treasurer candidates in 2020
- Update Treasurer's Handbook
- Create draft Document Retention Policy
- Create draft Reimbursement Policy

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

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

The Northeast Asia Seabird Conservation Committee (NEASCC) meets annually, typically at the PSG meetings in North America.

The group is encouraging information sharing and creating opportunities for relationship building between conservationists on both sides of the Pacific.

Below, we summarize NEASCC (changed from JSCC) activities in 2018 as shared by committee members:

MEETINGS

We met at the 2018 PSG annual meeting in La Paz, Mexico to discuss recent and future research and conservation projects in Alaska, Indonesia, and Japan. We had nine participants to discuss the conservation of Japanese Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus wumizusume*), Chinese Crested Terns (*Thalasseus bernsteini*), Aleutian Terns (*Onychoprion aleuticus*), and Ancient Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*).

SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

Dr. Shuihua Chen (Zhejiang Museum of Natural History, China) in collaboration with Dr. Daniel Roby (Oregon State University, USA) and Dr. Stephen Kress (Audubon Society, USA) implemented the 6th year of a restoration project of the critically endangered Chinese Crested Tern at Jiushan Islands and Wuzhishan Islands in the Eastern China Sea. The project involves the use of a social attraction technique to attract Greater Crested Terns (*Thalasseus bergii*) to the restoration sites with the

intention of then luring Chinese Crested Terns to the established colony. With close monitoring, data on breeding biology and threats were collected. In 2018, more than 9000 Greater Crested Terns were attracted to the two modified breeding grounds and 3,500 chicks fledged at the end of the breeding season in August. A total of 77 Chinese Crested Terns also bred at the two sites, and at least 25 chicks fledged - the first time the total number of individuals (chicks and adults) of this very rare seabird has surpassed 100. In addition, a further 11 Chinese Crested Terns were recorded from Mazu Islands and Penghu Islands in Taiwan, and one unnamed island in South Korea.

Yutaka Watanuki, Akiko Shoji, Tatsuro Kitagawa (MS student, Hokkaido University, Japan) and Jumpei Okado (PhD student, Hokkaido University, Japan) continued a long-term program monitoring the diet and breeding of seabirds at Teuri Island in the Sea of Japan. Slaty-backed Gulls (*Larus schistisagus*) had exceptionally high breeding success, Black-tailed Gulls (*L. crassirostris*) bred successfully following several years of failed breeding, and Rhinoceros Auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*) had moderate breeding success after four years of failed breeding attempts, which suggests improved feeding conditions in the local marine ecosystem. Also, the Environmental Department of Japan continued a restoration program of Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) on Teuri Island. In 2018, more than 50 breeding birds visited the site and 18 chicks fledged.

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Sarah Schoen and John Piatt

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 (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*, 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.

SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

In 2018 at-sea surveys for all marine birds, including KIMU, were conducted in Prince William Sound (PWS) in July by the USFWS (Robb Kaler), and in the fall/winter by the PWS Science Center (Mary Anne Bishop and Anne Schaefer). The PWS Science Center and U.S. Geological Service (USGS, Yumi Arimitsu and John Piatt) have been coordinating on an Integrated Predator Prey survey in PWS September 2017-2018, and they plan to continue those surveys at least through 2021. The USGS also plans to conduct marine bird surveys along coastal hydroacoustic transects in PWS in June/July 2019. USGS conducted at-sea surveys in Cook

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

Inlet and Kachemak Bay in July 2018, and plan to do so again in July 2019. The National Park Service (NPS) conducted nearshore marine bird surveys in the Kenai Fjords National Park in March 2018, and plan to do so again in spring 2019. The NPS also conducted their annual KIMU survey in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The USFWS (Kathy Kuletz and Liz Labunski) oversees a suite of at-sea surveys monitoring the offshore waters of Alaska to provide post-breeding distribution data on murrelets throughout most of Alaska (with exception of Southeast Alaska). These surveys were conducted from 2006-2018, and USFWS plans to continue monitoring through 2021. The USGS and USFWS (Dave Douglas et. al) are working to publish post-breeding KIMU satellite tag results.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ISSUES, UPDATES

The KMTC last met on 21 February 2018 in conjunction with the Pacific Seabird Group annual meeting in La Paz, Mexico. Four members participated.

Meeting highlights: Kelly Nesvacil summarized survey work by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Southeast Alaska, and Kathy Kuletz sent an update about USFWS survey efforts in Prince William Sound and in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas. We discussed creating a website for the KMTC and considered writing another letter of concern to the USFWS suggesting that they raise the level of “special concern” for KIMU from a 2 to a 1. This is in response to the potentially renewed threats to KIMU associated with the recent extreme warming events in the North Pacific.

Issues: in the past few years this committee has primarily used the PSG annual meeting to discuss current work on KIMU and to network and brainstorm with other members but has otherwise not been very active. With a lack of designated funding for KIMU research, the “not warranted” listing decision of the USFWS, and the recent massive die-off events of other seabird

species, it has been difficult to prioritize work on KIMU.

At the next KMTC meeting in Kauai, Hawaii, we will meet to (1) identify and summarize KIMU research projects currently underway, (2) discuss the future role of the KMTC, and (3) reconsider writing a letter to the USFWS on KIMU, discussing: renewed threats with extreme warming events, and raising the level of “special concern” from a 2 to a 1. We appreciate the opportunity to coordinate this committee on behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group. For more information please contact Sarah Schoen (sschoen@usgs.gov) or John Piatt (jpiatt@usgs.gov).

SCRIPPS'S MURRELET AND GUADALUPE MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Yuliana Bedolla and David
Mazurkiewicz**

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. 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 2018:

MEETINGS

The SMGMTC met at the February 2018 PSG annual meeting in La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Committee members provided updates on ongoing monitoring, research, restoration, and conservation activities, and discussed the status of the management and restoration plan. Discussion also included the Craveri's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus craveri*) status and conservation within its range.

The Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) science working group meeting was hosted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on Santa Cruz Island in June of 2018 with support from Channel Islands National Park (CINP), California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES) and Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI). Bi-national agenda items included coordinated monitoring of shared species such as Scripps's and Guadalupe Murrelets. Ideas to support and fund monitoring and analysis were highlighted.

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 2017 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 2018 and circulate to all

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

committee members and management agencies for comments. This process will be continued and hopefully completed in 2019 with additional consideration and assessment of the status and conservation of Craveri's Murrelet as highlighted during the 2018 meeting.

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) and Channel Islands National Park (CINP: David Mazurkiewicz), with funding from the Montrose Settlements Trustee Council (MSTC) and CINP. Scripps's

Murrelets nested in restoration plots in both artificial and natural nest sites, and active nest sites have been increasing in some of these locations since 2014.

Anacapa Island: A small grant was submitted and received by CIES from the Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) for increased SCMU monitoring at Anacapa in 2018 to help continue documentation of SCMU recovery at this location post rat eradication. Surveys included both spotlight population monitoring and nest site reproductive monitoring. This effort helps add to the robust 15-year data set compiled during this important management action. A second grant was submitted to the SJV and received by CIES and partners for support to continue monitoring in 2019 at Anacapa.

San Clemente Island: CIES (Michael Parker, and Darrell Whitworth) and U.S. Navy (USN) conducted limited nest monitoring in their 7th year of ongoing studies at the island. Plans for 2019 include continued nest monitoring and spotlight surveys.

Santa Catalina Island: CIES (Darrell Whitworth) collaborated with the Catalina Island Conservancy to discuss ways to support and monitor SCMU in coming years. Plans in 2019 could involve monitoring at this location.

Guadalupe, Coronado, Todos Santos, San Martín, San Jerónimo and San Benito Islands: Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI) continued monitoring activities for Scripps's and/or Guadalupe murrelets, including nest censuses, spotlight surveys, evaluation of reproductive performance, banding, and collecting biological samples (feathers and blood) with funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Fundacion Carlos Slim/World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and other sources.

RESTORATION

Santa Barbara and Anacapa Islands: Active plant restoration efforts by CINP and CIES on Santa Barbara Island were reduced to maintenance of existing restoration sites in 2018. Active habitat restoration is currently underway on

East Anacapa Island for a second year in 2018 due to continued access issues at Santa Barbara Island with loss of the dock. 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 occur in close proximity in cliff areas near restoration sites. Nesting has been documented in sea caves, steep slopes and cliffs since 1994. This work is funded by MSTC. A small grant was submitted and received by CIES from the Sonoran Joint Venture for increased SCMU monitoring at Anacapa in 2018 to help inform restoration efforts.

Guadalupe, Coronado, Todos Santos, San Martín, San Jerónimo and San Benito Islands: In 2018, 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 NFWF, Fundacion Carlos Slim/WWF, and other sources.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Introduced Mammals: GECI initiated feral cat eradication (4-year project) on Guadalupe Island in the last spring with funding from NFWF, and continues 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 U.S. Navy are discussing biosecurity efforts that could be taken to prevent movements of introduced black rats from San Miguel Island (SMI) to Prince Island. A proposal was submitted to NFWF in 2017 to look at feasibility of rat eradication at SMI. 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.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

MARBLED MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Kim Nelson

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*, MAMU); (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

The MMTC met on 21 February 2018 at the PSG annual meeting in La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Twenty-one people were in attendance for the half day meeting that summarized our 2017 activities. We are meeting again on 27 February 2019 and the PSG annual meeting in Kauai, Hawai'i.

Peter Harrison has resigned as Co-Chair of the MMTC and Kim is currently looking for a replacement to help with the protocol revision and other duties.

PROTOCOL SUBCOMMITTEE

The Inland Survey Protocol Subcommittee has been working diligently throughout 2018 and into 2019 to complete a revision of the protocol before the 2020 field season. We have created two working groups that meet monthly: one group is working on the text and figure revision (Chaired by Kim Nelson) and the other group is working on a revised statistical analysis of the probability of occurrence using up-to-date survey information (Chaired by Gary Falxa). Statisticians from Weyerhaeuser are working with the team and conducting the analyses. We have hired a facilitator, Jennifer Arnold

of Reciprocity Consulting, to help us get through the difficult revision issues. PSG has contributed to the facilitator, as have state and federal agencies and private industry in Oregon and Washington. Our progress has been slow but steady and we are still on track to have a draft ready for peer review in late summer.

MARINE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Marine Subcommittee, led by Matt Reed, Hamer Environmental L.P. is continuing their work on technical reports for the first four Marbled Murrelet marine priorities: (1) MAMU bycatch in fisheries; (2) identification of important marine areas; (3) prey resources; and (4) oil mortality. Groups 5-8 have been identified but not started. They include: chemical contaminants, wind/wave farms, marine aquaculture and marine construction. Due to the work schedules of many of the subcommittee members, the subcommittee was unable to meet in 2018. We are hoping that 2019 will be more productive. The subcommittee is also looking for a co-chair to help move the group forward on the first four priorities.

ALEUTIAN TERN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Susan Oehlers and Mike Goldstein,

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

BirdLife 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.

The approximately 30-member committee fosters state, provincial, national, and international collaboration to study the Aleutian Tern, and meets in conjunction with the PSG annual meeting as well as formally and informally throughout the year. Several new technical committee members were added in 2017, primarily as a result of networking through PSG and the Alaska Bird Conference, as well as referrals from existing committee members.

This annual report summarizes accomplishments of the technical committee, including highlights of individual member contributions, during the 2018 fiscal year.

MEETINGS

Collaboration between committee members occurred throughout the year. The committee formally met during the annual PSG conference in La Paz, Mexico, and several additional side meetings between members took place during the conference. A subset of committee members also attended the Northeast Asia Conservation Committee meeting to present ALTE migration data and to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

The committee, with primary financial support from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, convened an Aleutian Tern Conservation Planning meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, January 26-27. The overarching goal was to work

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

towards methods for assessing statewide Aleutian Tern population size and trend, with a specific focus on developing methods for estimating abundance at the local (i.e. colony) scale. Methods recommended for investigation as a result of this meeting, including ground based visual counts, ground-based photos, aerial photos obtained through drones, and acoustic recordings, were then pilot tested at multiple study sites in Alaska (including Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Homer area, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, Yakutat Forelands, Naknek, and Dillingham). Data are being analyzed with follow-up work to refine the techniques anticipated for the 2019 field season.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A subset of committee members continued to collaborate on a pilot study deploying Platform Transmitter Terminal (PTT) tags in 2 regions: Yakutat and Dillingham. Twelve PTT tags were deployed, and multiple colony surveys were conducted throughout the season. Additionally, a pilot nest monitoring study utilizing remote cameras was continued on the Yakutat area colonies.

In addition to the Yakutat and Dillingham area surveys, monitoring was conducted by committee members on the Kenai Peninsula (Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and Homer area), Copper River Delta, Naknek, and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (including nest camera monitoring and collection of nest-site habitat data).

Committee member Martin Renner collected diet data from Aleutian Terns by photographing bill loads carried by adults feeding young. Several targeted colonies failed to produce young, but bill load data were obtained on Kodiak Island and in Naknek, Bristol Bay.

Committee members Heather Renner, Daniel Roby, and Don Lyons, with support from the U.S. Geological Survey Science Support Partnership Project, implemented the project “Survey and assessment of large Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus* colonies in

northern Sakhalin, Russia.” During 20–27 June 2018, Renner, Lyons, and private consultant Martin Renner (Tern Again Consulting) visited three major island colonies on the northeast coast of Sakhalin Island, and conducted surveys with the participation and support of Russian experts. They assessed colony size using counts of flushed individuals, the size and density of nesting areas, and aerial imagery obtained using drones. The observed numbers were less than previously reported, however analyses of aerial imagery to confirm this conclusion is ongoing, and other mitigating factors are being considered. Short and long-term actions have been identified to maintain engagement between Russian and American experts and to improve population assessments across the entire species range, and a number of additional actions and products will be developed subsequent to the preliminary project report and trip summary.

In October, committee member Sanjay Pyare traveled to Indonesia to begin 5 months of Aleutian Tern international research and outreach/networking with Indonesian researchers, government agencies, and students. This project is supported by a 2018-2019 Fulbright Scholarship awarded to Dr. Pyare titled “Aleutian Tern migration research as a flagship for Indonesian-U.S. collaboration, conservation and education.”

GRANTS

A subset of committee members were approved for 3 collaborative National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants for continued tagging and monitoring work, colony-level methods refinement, and beginning development of a statewide monitoring framework.

Several additional grants were applied for through committee member collaborations or individually and either were not accepted or are pending approval.

SEABIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE

Heather Renner and Robb Kaler

The Seabird Monitoring Committee was formed in 1992 to promote: (i) a better coordinated program for monitoring Pacific seabirds; (ii) greater standardization of field methods; (iii) timely availability of results; and (iv) effective use of seabirds as indicators of local and large-scale change in the Pacific marine environment. During the 2017 PSG annual meeting in Tacoma, Washington, the Seabird Monitoring Committee met and discussed 2016 population trends and worked to identify conservation concerns meriting elevation to the PSG Executive Committee and the PSG Conservation Committee. Additionally, the Seabird Monitoring Committee discussed the recently created U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Pacific Seabird Program (PSP), which grew from a meeting held at the 2015 PSG annual meeting in San Jose, California.

In 2018, the PSG Seabird Monitoring Committee co-chairs Robb Kaler and Heather Renner (USFWS biologists and USFWS PSP steering committee members) participated in the USFWS PSP to help create a Pacific-wide program aimed at developing a comprehensive understanding of the health of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Pacific. The USFWS PSP and its partners have made excellent progress in 2018:

- The “National Protocol Framework for Monitoring Common Murre and Brandt’s Cormorant Breeding Colonies in the California Current System,” written by Bill Bridgeland (USFWS, retired), was finalized by Shawn Stephensen (Acting PSP Coordinator, USFWS biologist), and recently passed review by the USFWS National Inventory and Monitoring Program. Official approval is pending.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

- Steve Holzman (USFWS PSP Data Manager) gathered most of the available population estimates for seabird colonies in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California, and he has created Access databases and a web-based mapper to allow easy access to historical data (some a century old). These data will be archived on the USFWS SERVCAT platform for permanent safekeeping. Access to historical data will be vital to researchers developing new protocols and survey methods, and will allow us to better track population change over time.
- Determined that the seabird colony data presented in a 1979 publication by Daniel H. Varoujean, "Seabird Colony Catalog: Washington, Oregon, and California" has never been digitized and have begun entering that data to make the Seabird Colony Catalog more complete and provide a better history of change. A 1980 publication, "Catalog of California Seabird Colonies," has additional information that might be included. The Data Manager will meet with Gerry McChesney (Manager, Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge) in March to discuss this further.
- Archived nesting data from Rose Atoll for the following seabird species: White Tern (*Gygis alba*), Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*), Black Noddy (*Anous minutus*), Brown Noddy (*A. stolidus*), and Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*).
- Kevin Killbride (USFWS Region 1 Inventory & Monitoring Coordinator) and Steve Holzman (USFWS PSP Data Manager) coordinated with Scott Hatch (Institute for Seabird Research and Conservation) to update the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database with plans to get the database back on-line in 2019.

The progress reported here by the PSG Seabird Monitoring Committee is due to the determined efforts of many individuals. We especially thank Roberta Swift, Bill Bridgeland, Kevin Killbride, Shawn Stephensen, and Holly Freifeld for their leadership and determination to promote the effective use of seabirds as indicators of local and large-scale change in the Pacific marine environment.

In 2019, Heather Renner is stepping down as co-chair of the Seabird Monitoring Committee. During the monitoring committee meeting in Hawai'i, we'll see if anyone is interested in stepping up to assist. Heather will continue to advise the committee but will no longer be co-chair.

TUFTED PUFFIN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Peter Hodum and Mark Hipfner

The first in-person meeting of the technical committee took place at the 2017 PSG annual meeting in Tacoma, WA.

The Technical Committee meeting scheduled for the 2018 PSG annual meeting in La Paz had to be cancelled due to sparse attendance (only 3 Committee Members were present – Peter Hodum, Nacho Vilchis, and Doug Forsell).

In 2018, funding was secured through Environment and Climate Change Canada to carry out the laboratory analyses for the study of population genetic structuring in Tufted Puffins (*Fratercula cirrhata*) across the eastern Pacific. This project is being led by Theresa Burg (University of Lethbridge). As of the end of 2018, samples have been provided to Dr. Burg's lab from British Columbia (145 samples from Triangle Island) and Alaska (130 samples in total from Buldir, Aiktak, Chowiet, and Suklik islands – many thanks to Nora Rojek, Heather Renner, and their field crews).

Also in 2018, funding was secured by Scott Pearson, Peter Hodum, Nacho

Vilchis and Joe Gaydos to purchase Platform Transmitter Terminal (PTT) tags in order to examine non-breeding season movement patterns of Tufted Puffins that breed in Washington State. The goal was to capture puffins on the water, at night, and adjacent to the colonies late in the chick-provisioning period. Unlike successful on-the-water captures in May and June a number of years ago, they found no birds on the water in 2018. For the upcoming nesting season (2019), the plan is to capture birds at the same time of year but on the colony.

Washington State completed its draft Tufted Puffin Recovery Plan, which will soon be submitted for public review. The plan benefited from helpful reviews from Mark Hipfner and Heather Renner.

The second in-person meeting of the Tufted Puffin Technical Committee is scheduled for the 2019 PSG Annual Meeting in Kaua'i, Hawaii. We are expecting this meeting to be better attended than last year's. Items tentatively on the agenda for the 2019 meeting include an update on the genetics project and an appeal for sample collection from colonies from California north to Washington; Species Status Assessments from US Regions; and an update on the range-wide meta-analysis being led by Scott Pearson.

NORTH PACIFIC ALBATROSS WORKING GROUP

Gregory Spencer

The North Pacific Albatross Working Group (NPAWG) was established over 10 years ago out of concern for apparent increases in albatross bycatch among several North Pacific commercial fisheries and many ecologists were expressing concerns that mortality rates might be adversely affecting albatross populations. These issues prompted awareness and resulted in efforts by the NPAWG to facilitate the sharing of information among researchers and managers to foster collaboration and advancement in albatross conservation.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

Each year during the annual Pacific Seabird Group meeting, NPAWG convenes a meeting to enable resource managers, researchers, scientists and conservation management professionals with backgrounds in seabird ecology, albatross biology and ecology, fishery management, and all aspects of the science of albatross conservation at one dedicated venue to share updates on their work and to discuss known and emerging threats, actions being taken to address these, and advancements toward achieving conservation priorities. The species receiving the majority of attention by NPAWG include the Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*), Laysan Albatross (*P. immutabilis*), and Black-footed Albatross (*P. nigripes*).

The meeting in La Paz, Mexico in 2018 was a great success. We had

17 enthusiastic participants from 4 countries (U.S., Mexico, Japan, New Zealand), most of whom stayed the entire 3 hours. Lots of discussion, questions, and dialogue stimulated by the presentations that enabled the group to stray into other relevant albatross-related topics.

Going forward, as a group, we are updating our contact information for working group participants and identifying the best platform for sharing data and information, reference materials and current literature related to North Pacific albatross conservation. Enhancing the exchange of information and generating working discussion among participants throughout the year will be an emphasis going forward.

NPAWG wishes to thank the Pacific Seabird Group for continuing

to recognize our working group as a vibrant and focused group of professionals with a diverse background in seabird ecology, fishery science, and conservation management. Each year we grow stronger because we work hard to bring the most current and compelling issues in albatross conservation forward and work toward identifying challenges and achievements in a collaborative, forward thinking capacity.

We look forward to an exciting meeting in 2019, during the 46th annual meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group on the island of Kaua'i and continuing to build on the collaborative achievements and working initiatives that have been identified as core themes and which, to a significant degree, form the basis of the 2019 meeting.

CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION FUND COMMITTEE

Verena Gill, Chair

This report covers January 2018 to January 2019. The members of the Committee are: Verena Gill (Chair), Craig Harrison, Bill Henry, Dave Duffy, Doug Forsell, Louise Blight, Melanie Steinkamp, and Marc Romano (new in 2018). We said goodbye and thank you to Mark Rauzon and Shannon Fitzgerald in 2018.

As of 30 January 2019, the Fund total is \$5,361.55. Since 2007, PSG has funded 22 projects for a total of \$45,648, although one was never completed (Juliana Coffey in 2013) and most of the money for that project was returned. Countries covered by the funding include Fiji, Chile, Indonesia, Guatemala, Malaysia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, French Polynesia, and China.

In October 2018, we received one inquiry for funding and one we received another in the first few days of 2019. We are still waiting on a full proposal for the 2018 project and we are in the final stages of funding the 2019 project for \$1,990. The 2019 project is: Reducing light pollution for creating safer skies to the Chilean Storm-petrels. The PI is Rodrigo Silva. Once this project is funded our Fund total will be \$3,371.55 minus bank transfer fees. Therefore fundraising will need to occur before more projects are funded.

Table 1. Accepted proposal and current status as of January 2019

PERSON	COUNTRY COVERED BY PROPOSAL	REQUEST	AMOUNT FUNDED	STATUS
Lyanne Pierina Ampuero	Peru	Tracking of Guanay Cormorants (<i>Leucocarbo bougainvillii</i>) at Punta San Juan, Peru	\$1,880	Project Ongoing
Rodrigo Silva	Chile	Reducing light pollution for creating safer skies for the Chilean Storm-Petrels	\$1,990	Final funding stages

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT 2019 ELECTION

Katie O'Reilly, Coordinator; Jane Dolliver, Committee Member

The election committee members are: Katie O'Reilly (Coordinator), Yuri Albores-Barajas, Stephanie Avery-Gomm, Jane Dolliver (PSG Secretary), Peter Kappes, Ken Morgan, Kim Nelson, and Marc Romano.

Candidate Acquisition

Using a Google doc listing previous nominees and suggestions, Katie and Jane contacted members to gauge their interest in running for EXCO positions. Katie posted one announcement on the listserv asking for nominations. Two nominees were secured for each position, with the exception of Chair-elect. Chair-elect is typically the hardest position to fill – Katie and Jane really pushed four candidates and only one could commit to running this year. The committee is grateful to everyone who decided to run. As always, please contact the Elections

Committee if you have candidates to put forward on next year's ballot – we've already started that list!

Electronic Balloting

Katie sent an announcement on the listserv just before the election in late December, reminding people to check their membership status. Stephanie and Jane were extremely helpful this year in setting up the SurveyMonkey electronic balloting. Stephanie set up ballots for all eight regions once the candidate biographies were secured by Katie. Jane, with assistance from Stephanie and Emma Kelsey (Membership Coordinator), kept tabs on the election from 2 January 2019 to 12 February 2019. Jane sent six people ballots for their new region after they contacted the Committee to let us know they had moved. Two ballots were re-sent due to

a ballot typo. Four ballots were sent to late-renewing members. A total of seven reminders were sent to members who had not yet voted on 12 and 28 January, and 4, 8, 11, and 12 February. A sampling of typical comments submitted on Survey Monkey by voters were positive.

The overall voter turnout was 56% or 257 of 459 members (see table below).

Changes to the Committee in 2019

The Elections Committee needs a Co-Coordinator for 2019-2020 because Katie assumes the role of Local Committee Chair for PSG 2020 in Portland, Oregon. One possibility is that Jane assumes the Co-Coordinator role, after she steps down as Secretary in March 2019. Olivia Bailey will join the Elections Committee as the incoming Secretary (see above) and the Committee's liaison to the EXCO.



The Executive Council meeting during the 46th PSG annual meeting in Kaua'i. Photo courtesy of Adrian Gall.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Table 1. Pacific Seabird Group elections - January 2019

REGION	TOTAL MEMBERS	VOTED	%VOTED
Alaska/Russia	41	30	73.2
Canada	42	27	64.3
Washington/Oregon	91	59	64.8
Northern California	62	42	67.7
S. California/Hawaii/Latin America	123	49	39.8
Non-Pacific U.S.	47	27	57.4
Europe/Africa	13	7	53.8
Asia/Oceania	40	16	40.0
ALL REGIONS	459	257	56.0

The following is the outcome of the 2019 election, showing all the candidates and those elected:

POSITION	CANDIDATES (*elected)	
Chair-elect	Rob Suryan*	
Vice-chair for Conservation	Peter Hodum*	Mark Rauzon
Secretary	Olivia Bailey*	Allison Patterson
Canada	Kerry Woo*	Trudy Chatwin
Washington/Oregon	Rachael Orben*	Jason Jannot
Non-Pacific U.S.	Mary Cody*	Aly McNight
So. CA/Latin America/HI	Cristián Sauzo*	André Raine

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

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Joanna Smith, Coordinator

For the third year in a row, all of PSG’s communications platforms and publications are active, up-to-date, and receiving a lot of attention from PSG members and beyond. PSG is very lucky to have an energetic and skilled group of volunteers that are committed to keeping PSG’s social media presence active and alive, ensure that PSG has an active listserv for member discussions and information sharing, provides the Pacific Seabirds publication to members twice yearly for their reading enjoyment, manages Marine Ornithology on behalf of consortium that supports that journal, and provides a website for the society. As the Coordinator, I am constantly amazed, inspired, and impressed by how much is done by the volunteers on this committee and the very high standard of content and posts generated.

Communications Committee members:

Facebook

Jane Dolliver and Jacqueline Huard (incoming lead 2019)

Instagram

Laura Bliss

Listserv

Verena Gill

Marine Ornithology, Managing Editor

Louise Blight

Pacific Seabirds, Editor

Jennifer Lang

Twitter

Stephanie Avery-Gomm and Julia Gulka (incoming lead 2019)

Website

Joanna Smith, Olivia Townsend, and Jane Dolliver (incoming lead 2019)

Highlights 2018

- Facebook hit 2,500 followers!
- Twitter exceeds 1,000 followers!
- Instagram exceeds 1,000 followers!
- Listserv has 844 subscribers and

approved listserv policy.

- Pacific Seabirds published two issues in 2018
- Marine Ornithology obtained Journal Impact Factor – starts in June 2019

Recommendations

- Recommend Jane Dolliver as the new PSG Communications Committee Coordinator. Jane has been PSG Secretary for four years (two terms), is the outgoing Facebook Coordinator, and supports the website. Jane is an active student member and has been a member of PSG for 10+ years, serving on multiple local committees and other volunteer positions.
- The PSG Annual Meeting is a huge undertaking. I recommend, again, that the EXCO form a standing annual meeting committee so that each year EXCO and volunteers are not learning for the first time how to host an annual meeting including the communications that are needed for members and public.
- Recommend continuing with same structure for this committee, with a Coordinator and volunteers managing the various platforms.
- Recommend that the new volunteers continue to think of ways to keep the platforms fresh and engaging.

After four years, I am stepping down from this Committee and am pleased at how much we have all done to make PSG communications great. A huge thank you to all the PSG members that have contributed to making PSG communications what they are today including the members below plus Annette Henry, Lisa Ballance, Pat Baird, and EXCO past and present. A special

thank you to the current committee members, and to Jane and Stephanie who are handing their social media platforms to new leads – congratulations to both of you for hitting your target followers!

WEBSITE REPORT

Jo Smith, Webmaster;
Jane Dolliver

The main purpose of the PSG website is to provide a reliable and consistent platform for members and potential members to find information about the Society, a landing page for the annual meeting information, maintain a record of PSG’s public documents, and provide information about the society’s mission. Maintaining the website requires a small expense for the hosting fees, domain name, and maintaining the template with security updates. The occasional expertise is required to solve issues and PSG reaches out to Anne Francis Web Design at a very reasonable price.

The most common page accessed is still the “Annual Meeting” home page, with 1,153 views in the last month (source: Google Analytics). Number of visitors are up slightly from last year.

Table 1. Number of website visitors and page views, 2017-2018 (source: Google Analytics)

Year	# Visitors	Total Pageviews
2017	15,921	45,011
2018	17,602	41,552

Recommendations

- Add new content to the student and Early Career Scientist pages.
- Lots could be done with the seabird photo gallery if someone was inspired to add content, facts,

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

trivia and information about the species featured.

- The webmaster needs to be in tune with the annual cycle of PSG business so that documents are uploaded and kept current: EXCO members, committee members, conservation grant recipients, EXCO minutes, SAA and LAA awards, etc. Time is needed to update a lot of information after elections and the annual meeting, thus the webmaster should be afforded this time and provided the documents from EXCO and the committees.

LISTSERV REPORT

**Verena Gill,
Listserv Coordinator**

As of 28 January 2019, the new listserv has 844 subscribers up from 774 subscribers a year ago. The old U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-based listserv at a final count had 902 subscribers, however many of these addresses were out of date and redundant. The new PSG listserv has a 3,000+ subscriber capacity. The listserv policy was approved by EXCO in September 2017 and posted to the PSG website in February 2018.

MARINE ORNITHOLOGY REPORT

Louise Blight, Editor

Publishing: In 2018 Marine Ornithology (MO) published two issues with a total of 29 papers, 4 book reviews, and 206 pages. Submissions were by primary authors from more than 15 countries; MO's geographical scope continues to be broad. The journal continues to publish on time, as it has for several years now. Our Twitter feed and announcements to the PSG listserv and Facebook page continue to drive traffic toward the journal website, and traffic seems to be up about 40% in 2018 compared with 2017 (as inferred from

monthly Google Analytics reports).

Staffing: In 2018 we expanded the number of volunteer staff at Marine Ornithology. Jenna Cragg joined MO as Assistant to the Managing Editor (Louise Blight), and Iain Duncan now assists Ben Saenz (Online Editor). This need for additional capacity was driven by the growing complexities of online publishing, and a related desire by the Managing Editor to stave off potential burnout of the primary volunteer editors (Ben, Louise, and David Ainley as Editor-in-Chief). Jenna is currently wrapping up a project developing a web page featuring our associate editors, which when completed will look similar to the approach used by Avian Conservation and Ecology. Iain is currently working on updating MO's mobile website.

In 2018 we added two new associate editors to the Editorial Board: Cristián Suazo (Justus Liebig University, Germany and BirdLife International, Chile), and Glenn Crossin (Dalhousie University, Canada). These two new members replace Rob Barrett following his retirement, and bring welcome expertise in South American seabirds, bycatch, and avian physiology. Other staffing changes include Rachel Buxton taking over from Pat Baird as Book Review Editor, and Rosalyn Johnson and Kyra Nabeta replacing Carolyn Brown as copy editors. Carmen Antaky now curates our Twitter feed.

Impact Factor: PSG has had a long-standing interest in MO obtaining "an impact factor". In point of fact there are several formal impact factors available, but usually what is meant by this is the Impact Factor (IF) that is calculated by Journal Citation Reports (JCR) based on publications indexed by Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thompson Reuters) in the Web of Science Core Collection. In mid-2017, Marine Ornithology applied to be indexed in Web of Science's Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE; the primary WoS science index). We were accepted for indexing in November 2018. MO will therefore soon have a JCR

Impact Factor. I will wait to announce this officially via the PSG listserv etc. as information on indexed journals' citation activity isn't posted on Web of Science until June of the following year (e.g., June 2019 for 2018 citation data).

Financial: In 2018 the journal was self-supported by authors' page charges, member society fees, and subscriptions. Our number of subscribers continues to decline, which is not surprising given that MO is freely available online. I have investigated going to an online-only publication model, but it transpires that in the world of science publishing a print edition signals credibility (i.e., that a journal is not a predatory one). In addition, the cost of the print edition is entirely covered by subscription fees, so we will continue to produce it for now. Note that Copy Editors Rosalyn and Kyra, and our layout company, Reber Creative, are still the only paid roles at MO. In 2018 we trialed payment of honoraria to the editorial staff (David, Ben, Louise, Jenna, Iain) from the PSG Publication Fund. Total amount was \$US 5,800, which was offset by the fact that PSG's annual \$6,000 contribution was not requested in 2018. Marine Ornithology continues to be supported financially by the Japan Seabird Group, African Seabird Group, Australasian Seabird Group, and the Dutch Seabird Group.

Potential issues

If MO's Impact Factor (IF) leads to an increase in manuscripts submissions, we may need to move to an online journal submission system. An open access model is available but is not free. We anticipate an increase in page charges (and/or support from PSG's Publication Fund) will be required to cover this additional cost. MO has not increased its page charges in 3 years, and they are the lowest among comparable journals. We'll keep PSG apprised of any related issues.

Requests

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- We will likely request honoraria for volunteer editorial staff again in summer 2019.
- I am still unsure whether we will request the annual \$6,000 from PSG's Publication Fund in 2019. Once the upcoming journal issue is out in April I will have enough information to estimate annual production costs; these increased partway through 2018 due to new copy editors, as our previous copy editor had been invoicing us at well below market rate.

PACIFIC SEABIRDS REPORT

Jennifer Lang, Editor

Volume 44 Number 2 and Volume 45 Number 1 were published on the PSG website on 16 September 2018. Publication of Volume 44 Number 2 was delayed due to the delay in the close-out of the FY2017 budget. This issue contained members' regional reports and reported on the FY2017 actuals. Volume 45 Number 1 contained articles honoring lifetime and special achievement award recipients, student presentation awards, and reports submitted to the Executive Council for the PSG Annual Meeting held in La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico. These issues were completed with the contributions of Robb Kaler and the EXCO via Jane Dolliver, and helpful reviews by Jane Dolliver, Kirsten Bixler, Jo Smith, Adrian Gall, and David Craig. I would like to thank these dedicated individuals for taking the time to review these documents, as well as thank members of the EXCO and authors honoring lifetime and special achievement award recipients for supplying their reports.

As of 1 February 2019, Pacific Seabirds Volume 45 Number 2 is in its last stages of editing, pending the submission and addition of the Treasurer's report. This issue will include regional reports from current members and the FY2018 budget for PSG.

Challenges

The biggest challenges encountered for publication were obtaining photographs and written products from EXCO members and individuals honoring award recipients. Early requests and periodic communication are key to receiving these pieces in a timely manner to publish on time.

FACEBOOK REPORT

Jane Dolliver,
Facebook Coordinator

Summary Statistics as of 27 January 2019

- Approximate page views/month: 600
- Approximate post reach/month: 25,780
- Approximate page likes/month: 42
- Approximate page follows/month: 42
- Approximate post engagements: 7,203
- Global page likes: 2,502 (48% increase over 2017)
- Global page follows: 2,558 (50% increase over 2017)
- Approximate weekly post reach: 7,525 (70% increase over 2017)
- Approximate weekly post engagements (i.e., reactions): 2074 (98% increase over 2017)
- 195 members in the PSG Chatroom (+1 over 2017)
- 90% page responsiveness, 4-hour response time (+ 197 minutes over 2017)

Volunteer time

Managing the PSG Facebook account has taken approximately 40 min daily or 243 hours this past year to create and share content and interact with PSG's friends. Goals set for 2018 were achieved:

1. Reaching 2,500 page likes and page follows (up about 50% from last year)
2. Posting at least once daily (most

days, 2-3 posts)

3. Advertising for #PSG2019 (29 posts in the month of January alone)

Opportunities and challenges

Last year we found paying for promotional posts was not worth PSG's money. This year, we experimented with posting frequency. A posting frequency of about every 8 hours seems to be ideal (does not overload readership, grows PSG page views, likes, engagements). Two things tend to get the most likes/views/engagements: 1) PSG original content – photos, stories and 2) job advertisements. Peer-reviewed scientific article links tend to get the fewest likes/views/engagements.

The biggest challenge to maintaining PSG's Facebook account is time. It is a significant load for a single person, even with the ability to schedule posts in advance. As such, PSG can respond by: a) decreasing the number of posts in 2019 and b) encouraging two people to maintain the platform.

Kudos

Kudos in particular to Andre Raine, who provided dozens of images to advertise for PSG 2019 and coordinated with members of the local committee to make sure posts were accurate. Thanks also, to Oregon State University colleagues Olivia Bailey, Kirsten Bixler, Sam Stark, and Jill Tengeres for modeling PSG 2019 silent auction items. Finally, thanks in advance to Tim Lawes, who agreed to be the PSG 2019 lead photographer and provide content for all PSG's social media platforms during the annual meeting.

In February 2019, Facebook management will transition to Jacqueline (Jac) Huard.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

TWITTER REPORT

Stephanie Avery-Gomm,
Twitter Coordinator

The @PacificSeabirds twitter account was revived in February 2016. The number of account followers has increased from 101 before revival to 701 in January 2017, to 1,051 in January 2018. In January 2019, Twitter now has 1,356 followers!

On average, from January - December 2018, 14 tweets were sent each month, which generated 13,600 impressions and 363 profile visits per month. The annual meeting (February) and the World Seabird Twitter Conferences (typically April/May) generated the most activity. The hashtag #PSG2018 was used for the 2018 annual meeting and attached to tweets to advertise events and talks. Several organizers of the World Seabird Twitter Conferences held an informal session to answer questions during a coffee break. Julia Gulka has been assisting with Twitter in 2018 and is now taking the lead on curating content for the PSG Twitter account.

Recommendations for 2019:

- Twitter usage statistics are available for 8 months, and then disappear so need to remember to login and record data before it disappears.

ACTION: Twitter manager should set reminders to download stats in July 2019.

- The Twitter Manager should engage with the World Seabird Twitter Conference and with the World Seabird Union (worldseabird@gmail.com) regarding opportunities to promote PSG over social media.
- In the lead up to PSG2020,

the local committee should be contacted regarding social media engagement and the meeting hashtag #PSG2020 should be promoted.

ACTION: Twitter manager to set a calendar reminder for fall of 2019 to coordinate a conversation about opportunities with the Communications Committee & Local Committee.

- At PSG 2020, we could take the opportunity to identify and engage with PSG members that are on Twitter. Members could self-identify during the conference registration, there could be a signup sheet at registration, and people could be encouraged to share their twitter handle on their Title slide or poster. Signs to encourage people to follow us on all social media platforms could also increase followers.

ACTION: The Twitter account manager must remind the EXCO of this suggestion prior to the next meeting registration opening.

INSTAGRAM REPORT

Laura Bliss and Olivia Townsend,
Instagram Coordinators

The @Pacific_Seabird_Group Instagram was created in May 2016. The number of followers has increased from 60 in Feb 2017, to 505 in January 2018, and now 1,004 as of January 2019!

On average, three posts are made per month, a total of 108 posts since February 2018. Seabird photography generates the most activity, the max number of likes in 2018 was 216. The number of likes is usually above 50.

Our two highest performing posts in

2018 were a #PSG2019 field trip post with a photo of an albatross (216 likes), and a photo of a Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*) by Michael Johns (214 likes). These two posts also had the most comments (discussion).

The primary benefit of the Instagram posts is scientific communication and outreach to the general public, as well as the birding/bird photography community. Our audience really enjoys seabird photos, and they usually read the educational caption.

Instagram recommendations for 2019:

- The average number of posts per month has dropped since 2017, likely due to field season and PhD obligations. Posting about once a month will improve our average. Continue to identify and connect PSG members that are on Instagram. This will be especially useful for attracting students and early career scientists since the younger crowd is more likely to have Instagram than Facebook these days.
- Continue to encourage photo features. We could occasionally invite people to have their photos featured on our Instagram by tagging us.
- Perhaps regular posts to the listserv would also encourage these types of submissions. Continue weekly (#seabirdersaturday) or semi-weekly posts. Instagram is best for photographic images; we should continue to focus on bird photography, photos of PSG members in the field, and other candid photos of scientists.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Corey Clatterbuck

Items Completed

New this year: PSG Prepaid Room option for students for #PSG2019. The prepaid room option acknowledges that cost of attendance deters student participation in conferences, and that all elements of paying for the conference must be provided up-front. Though travel awards help ease the cost of conference attendance and are much appreciated by students, they are only payable during or after the conference has taken place. We had 12 students inquire about signing up, and ended up with 1 reserved room for 4 students at #PSG2019. Guidelines for the prepaid rooms are:

- Students must be current members of PSG.
- When signing up, students must indicate their gender & genders they are comfortable rooming with. Room assignments are left up to the Student Representative.
- Students must sign an agreement with PSG that states the following:

1) that students are responsible for paying PSG for the room for all nights of the conference (4 nights), regardless of the number of nights actually spent in the room; 2) Any room damages are the liability of the students; 3) Students must remit payment to PSG no more than 60 days past the final date of the conference

- Students must sign up individually; groups of students are not permitted.

Two events at #PSG2019: Early Career Scientist Panel (5 panelists!) & Student-Mentor Social (at least 76 attendees!)

PSG Student Committee: Multiple volunteers got in touch after the annual meeting in La Paz 2018 to help with #PSG2019! This year's student volunteers include:

- Vivian Pattison, Student-Mentor Social
- Janelle Lopez, Early Career Scientist Panel

- Nicole Kleponis, Rideshare & Roomshare logistics

- Sonya Pastran, Silent Auction

Contacted student membership on multiple occasions to (1) gather opinions on how PSG can best serve them and (2) communicate information about PSG student opportunities & initiatives

To-do in 2019-2020

- Finalize funding for Student Small Grants & advertise in a timely manner – need EXCO's help!
- Greater integration with the local committee in volunteer coordination and silent auction volunteers.
- Improve on current model for PSG Prepaid Rooms – specifically, set a deadline for signing up and notification
- Be creative about roles for student volunteers beyond helping with PSG Annual Meeting events

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Kyra Mills, Past Chair

Lifetime and Special Achievement Awards

This year the committee selected to award the Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) to two recipients: Dr. David Duffy and Dr. Beth Flint. They will be honored at the upcoming PSG Annual Meeting in Kauai. Assisting in the selection of the LAA were the Chair-Elect (David Craig) and Chair (Adrian Gall). I solicited nominations during the 2018 PSG annual meeting and via postings on the PSG listserv. The committee submitted their selections to the EXCO for a vote at the September 2018 EXCO meeting, with all approved.

Travel Awards

In 2019, we received 48 student and ECS travel award applications, for a total requested amount of \$47,159. Because of limited funds, we were only able to offer awards to 24 people for a total amount of \$10,750. We offered 6 Early Career Scientist grants, 3 awards to non-US/Canadian scientists, and 15 grants to students (as compared to 36 in 2018, when we received a large Packard grant).

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Emma Kelsey, Coordinator

Since the PSG meeting in La Paz in February 2018, the leadership of the membership committee was passed from Jennifer Lang to Emma Kelsey. In November 2018, Cheryl Horton joined Emma in assisting with membership committee efforts.

In July 2018, the membership committee started a straight-forward membership drive that consisted of a series of emails sent to the PSG listserv encouraging people to become a PSG member or to renew their membership. As part of the membership drive, PSG membership system was updated. Memberships now renew on the anniversary of when the member signed up instead of being canceled at the beginning of the calendar year. In addition, two-year membership options were set up so members don't have to remember to renew every year. Efforts were made to "clean up" memberships by consolidating individuals who had

multiple membership under different names and addresses. Below are the totals in membership types:

Current Membership Total = 629

Individual Members = 367

Lifetime Members = 81

Student Members = 203

Membership appreciation was also part of the 2018 membership campaign, with efforts to appreciate membership taking precedence over efforts to confront people who weren't members or who had let their membership lapse. As part of this effort, Life Members will now receive recognition at PSG meetings in the form of a pin to wear on their name tags. We hope to continue to recognize and appreciate membership through a membership summary report shared with members via the listserv and website after each Annual Meeting focused on how membership dues and/or other donations contributed to the organization over the

previous 12 months. The summary will serve as a thank you to membership, highlighting the good work they are doing through paying dues, making donations, acquiring sponsorships, and participating in the Annual Meeting. The tone will be positive and seek to expand upon momentum from the meeting.

Future membership committee efforts will include:

- An ongoing effort to merge account for individuals who have accounts under different names or email addresses.
- Updating the regional assignment to change when a member's address changes to a new region. In addition, assign regions to members that aren't currently assigned to one.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kyle Elliot, Stephanie Avery-Gomm, and Thomas Van Pelt, Coordinators

The Corresponding Membership Committee (CMC) members include:

- Stephanie Avery-Gomm – stephanie.averygomm@gmail.com (co-lead – looking for replacement in March)
- Kyle Elliot – haliaetetus@gmail.com (co-lead)
- Thomas Van Pelt – tvanpelt@transboundary.net

An additional member is sought.

Background

The Corresponding Members Committee (CMC) is a committee associated with the Executive Council. As described in the PSG Handbook, the

Corresponding Members Committee "was established to support seabird researchers and conservationists in developing countries. It provides memberships to select people with the requirement that they provide an article to Pacific Seabirds at least once every three years in return. The committee is limited to provide a maximum of 16 corresponding memberships."

Actions to date

Membership Management Process

The new membership management system (CVENT) does not have a 'Corresponding Member' (hereafter "CM") classification, and as a result

some confusion has arisen regarding the membership status of individuals on the list we were provided with.

Stephanie has worked with Emma Kelsey (PSG membership coordinator) and Adrian Gall to set up a CVENT process whereby Corresponding Members have a special 3-year membership type that generates a Welcome message and automated report reminders.

The Corresponding Committee has established that CM lasts for 3 years and that at the end of that 3-year period CM may be invited to maintain their status for an additional 3 years if they have submitted reports.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

New Members

Stephanie has followed up with all previous CM, who in some cases had been listed as ‘individual members’ or ‘honorary members’ and invited them to renew their Corresponding Membership. She also contacted grant recipients from developing countries, and reached out to contacts within the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership to seek suggestions for nominations.

In total, the Pacific Seabird Group now has 5 Corresponding Members:

- Suazo, Cristián; Chile (previously a CM)
- Valle, Carlos; Ecuador (previously a CM)
- Flores, Marcelo; Ecuador (previously a CM)
- Songco, Angelique; Phillipines (manager at management office of Tubbataha Reef Nature Park of the Philippines, an important seabird site with thousands of terns and boobies)
- Smith, Alanna; Cook Islands (Alanna Smith is a project officer with the Te Ipukarea Society, a BirdLife Pacific Partner, supporting seabird survey and monitoring work in the Cook Islands)

Contacted and awaiting response:

- Noni, Fransisca; Indonesia (EAAFP seabird working group member)

- Ampuero, Lyanne; Peru (grant recipient)
- Faulquier, Lucie; French Polynesia (grant recipient)
- Hamza, Abdulmaula; Malaysia (grant recipient)
- Murillo, Yovana; Peru (grant recipient)

Purpose and value of a Corresponding Membership to Corresponding Members

With the age of paper correspondence and physical copies of Pacific Seabirds behind us, the Committee has brainstormed some new directions for its members, and some new recruiting strategies to reinvigorate PSG’s international outreach. In March 2018, two members of the committee (Stephanie and Thomas) had a Skype meeting to brainstorm additional benefits that Corresponding Members may receive from PSG. No further steps have been taken to expand the scope of benefits for Corresponding Members, as efforts have been focused on establishing a new system & finding new corresponding members.

Next steps/Recommendations

1. Fill Stephanie Avery-Gomm’s position as Co-coordinator in March/April 2019
2. Finish setting up process with CVENT, in collaboration with Emma Kelsey
3. Establish concrete actions to ensure a closer connection

between Corresponding Members Committee and Membership Coordinator(s)

4. Discuss posting names of corresponding members to website once each year – with links to their profiles on seabirds.net (if exists).
5. Advise Pacific Seabirds Editor that we have new CM, who they are, and that reports will be forthcoming in the next year or two.
6. Follow up in 1 year (January 2020) to seek report submissions for the first CM.
7. Continue to seek new members from target regions (possibly by asking for recommendations from BirdLife for partner organizations), including:
 - N PACIFIC: Russia
 - ASIA: Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia
 - CENTRAL AMERICA: Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama
 - S. PACIFIC: Papua New Guinea, American Samoa, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Palau, Guam, French Polynesia, and some even smaller island groups in the South Pacific

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 ca. 20 ornithological organizations with members representing 52 countries. The PSG delegates to the WSU, Kathy Kuletz and Ken Morgan, attend the monthly meetings via teleconference. Our terms continue until the Third World Seabird Conference (WSC3, October 2020). PSG does not vote on decisions before the WSU Executive Council, although both representatives attend conference calls and engage in discussions. Between February 2018 and January 2019 the WSU held meetings each month via teleconference. A synopsis of each meeting is posted at Seabirds.net and official meeting minutes are posted after final acceptance by the Council. Currently, detailed meeting notes are available through July 2015, and annual reports through 2012, although

the Chair is working to bring these up to date. The activities and business of the WSU can be accessed via the Seabirds.net website. During 2018, the WSU continued to define and establish standing committees that remain active between conferences. Current standing committees include those for financial planning, review of conservation proposals, conference planning, fundraising, communications, early career scientists, awards, and elections. In 2018, a proposal was accepted to form a WSU 'Specialist Committee on Seabirds & Plastic Pollution'. The WSU welcomed a new Chair for Communications, Sjúrdur Hammer, who took over for Grant Humphries. The Conservation Sub-committee supports 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. Nicholas Carlile is the WSU Conservation Sub-committee contact person.

The WSC3 will be in Hobart, Australia, 19-23 October 2020, with arrangements on-going by local hosts, the Australasian Seabird Group. To submit workshop or symposia proposals for the WSC3, go to (<https://worldseabirdconference.com/symposia-submission/>), or for general information go to: www.seabirds.net/world-seabird-conference.

Also through Seabirds.net, the WSU hosted its fourth World Seabird Twitter Conference (WSTC4) in April 2018; as with the previous three, it was a great success. The WSTC4 recorded 2,667 total tweets over the event, with an audience of 1.18 million people (3.35 million impressions), and 601 contributors – many of whom were PSG members; for more see <http://www.seabirds.net/wstc4.html>.

NORTH PACIFIC MARINE SCIENCE ORGANIZATION (PICES) REPORT

Rob Suryan

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) is an intergovernmental scientific organization with membership from six North Pacific rim countries. The Marine Bird and Mammal Section (S-MBM) of PICES provides scientific expertise to the PICES community and their FUTURE program (Forecasting and Understanding Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of North Pacific Marine Ecosystems), as well as to other scientific and technical committees. S-MBM identifies important problems, scientific questions, and knowledge gaps for understanding the impacts

of climate change and anthropogenic factors on marine birds and mammals and ecosystems in the PICES region through workshops, topic sessions and scientific reports. S-MBM is currently led by Kaoru Hattori (Japan) and Patrick O'Hara (Canada)

Current Efforts: S-MBM focus for 2015-2020 is Climate and Trophic Ecology of Marine Birds and Mammals. This effort is led by Andrew Trites (Canada), Yutaka Watanuki (Japan), Bill Sydeman (USA), and Elliott Hazen (USA). A key objective is to synthesize new dietary information and estimate food consumption using a new

generation of bioenergetic models.

2018 Accomplishments: Workshop at the annual PICES meeting: Diets, Consumption, and Abundance of Marine Birds and Mammals in the North Pacific. Co-conveners: Andrew Trites (Canada), Tsutomu Tamura (Japan), Yutaka Watanuki (Japan), Robert Suryan (USA). The consensus of attendees was that there was sufficient improvements in knowledge for marine mammals to warrant updating the prey consumption estimates for all species in all PICES regions (i.e., a full update to Hunt et al 2000, Predation by Marine Birds and Mammals in the Subarctic North

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

NORTH PACIFIC MARINE SCIENCE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Pacific Ocean, PICES Rpt #14). For birds, however, there was skepticism on the value of a similar exercise given limited improvement in abundance information – at least until a primary survey database is updated. Workshop attendees highlighted the added value of this effort in considering how climate change at high latitudes will affect changes in species distributions, abundances, and ultimately prey consumption. This is particularly true given recent observations in the Arctic

regions, including the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. Considering changes in arctic marine ecosystems should be an important future topic of discussion for PICES and S-MBM.

2019 Plans: S-MBM proposed one paper session and one workshop for the PICES 2019 annual meeting that will take place 16-27 October 2019 in Victoria, BC.

Session: Implications of prey consumption by marine birds, mammals, and fish in the North Pacific. Co-

conveners: Andrew Trites (Canada), Rob Suryan (USA), Tsutomu Tamura (Japan), Kirstin Holsman (USA).

Workshop: Potential food competition between top predators and fisheries in the North Pacific. Co-conveners: Yutaka Watanuki (Japan), Bill Sydeman (USA), Libby Logerwell (USA), Andrew Trites (Canada)

PSG Involvement: We need to recruit more seabirders to participate in PICES!

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 (OC) 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 (ellen.paul@verizon.net) for more information on any matter of interest to you. The OC is particularly interested in hearing about issues of problems of concern to PSG affiliates, so feel free to provide input at any time.

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.

The PSG representatives to the OC are appointed by the Chair. Doug Forsell will be stepping down from his 27 year tenure as PSG representative as soon as someone can be identified to replace his position, which will hopefully be sometime in 2019. He will certainly be missed by the board!

Between June 2018 and July 2018 (latest summary report on Birdnet), the Ornithological Council has done the following:

1. Submitted a second set of comments to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) of the National Institutes of Health pertaining to the potential reform of animal welfare laws, as mandated by the 21st Century Cures

Act. These comments focused on specific changes that the animal welfare agencies (OLAW and the Animal Care program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) are considering. As before, the OC focused on burdens to the researcher (as opposed to the institution) and the use of these policies to better animal welfare. The OC comments supported the idea of continuing review using risk-based methodology (a logical extension of the standard operating procedure concept); harmonizing guidance issued by the two agencies; streamlining the guidance; refraining from regulating via guidance (which actually violates the law!); expanding the scope of guidance documents to include the taxon-based materials such as *Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research*; and advocating for increased opportunities for stakeholder input into guidance documents.

2. Pursued discussion with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Division of Migratory Bird Management about many long-standing permit policy and procedures problems. Met with Eric Kershner (Branch Chief for the Branch of Conservation, Permits, and Policy) and Ken Richkus (Deputy Division Chief and Acting Division Chief since

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

Brad Bortner retired). For the first time in many years, we are hopeful that our persistent efforts are about to bear fruit! Key among these changes underway: an upcoming online permit application and reporting system that may be completed as soon as February 2019, extending permit duration, and completing long-pending standard operating procedure manuals and the scientific collecting policy (which has been in draft since 1995).

3. Met with Aurelia Skipwith, the Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary (and acting Assistant Secretary) for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to urge Department of the Interior (DOI) support for the efforts of the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management, including funding for the online permit application and reporting system, staffing, and efforts to reform and streamline permit procedures. During that meeting, OC also informed Ms. Skipwith of the decades of effort by OC and others to reach an agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) regarding the ownership of specimens collected on NPS land. This problem was on the brink of resolution via a “permanent custody” agreement. The NPS was planning a press conference and a pilot project comprising five museums but then suddenly and without explanation reversed course and left things to stand in the same unsatisfactory situation that had been problematic for biology collections for at least 30 years. At the same time, the OC asked Ms. Skipwith to look into the petition filed by the OC in 2014 to suspend or revoke the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) “validation” requirement, which has proved unworkable and has the potential to result in the loss of valuable imported research material.

4. Submitted a request to USDA regulatory reform initiative to increase import permit duration to three years. The only reason for the one-year duration is the need for the fees generated by import applications. The OC explained that extending the permit duration would

decrease the agency workload and decrease burden on the stakeholders.

5. Spearheaded an effort to bring attention to serious resource limitations at the U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Lab (BBL). The OC learned that there is a real possibility that the BBL will not have funding for its current data management software, much less funding for a much-needed upgrade. Loss of the data management system would almost certainly force a shut-down of the banding program, with dire consequences for ornithological research. The OC also learned that the BBL is in need of permission from the DOI to move forward to fill four approved positions. The OC shared this information with other organizations – including Ducks Unlimited, the Flyway Councils, the Wildlife Society, and bird observatories – and proposed a sign-on letter to Timothy Petty, Ph.D (DOI Assistant Secretary for Water and Science), but due to the urgency of the situation (department budgets will be submitted to the White House Office of Management and Budget on Sept. 10), chose instead to send its own letter and encourage the other organizations to do likewise. To date, the Atlantic Flyway Council, twelve bird observatories, and one independent research institution have sent letters. The OC is attempting to arrange for an in-person meeting with Dr. Petty.

6. OC is working on a side-by-side analysis of the new California scientific collecting permit regulation, comparing it to the proposed regulation and with OC requests and suggestions (prepared with the input of numerous ornithologists and research organizations in California); fielded questions from ornithologists, submitted follow-up questions to the agency, and updated the California permits information on the BIRDNET permits page.

7. Worked with Jeff Stratford, the new chair of the conservation committee of the Wilson Ornithological Society, on options and strategies for that society’s conservation efforts.

8. In anticipation of a resolution

(or at least a temporary resolution) of the import problems resulting from the implementation of the “ACE” declaration system by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), OC has resumed efforts to update the import manual for scientific specimens and samples. In the meantime, OC has continued to act as a liaison between the research community and the CBP with regard to specific problems that occur.

9. Investigated a report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) pertaining to animal welfare regulations as those regulations pertain to federal agencies. The report is of concern because it addressed the issue of the “field studies” exemption and the long-pending regulations pertaining to birds. The GAO is one of the most highly respected of government agencies but they have no expertise in these issues and no understanding of how difficult, if not impossible, it would be to issue guidance on field studies. The Animal Care program of the USDA, which also lacks such expertise, seems to be continuing its efforts to do just that, and again, with essentially no input from experts.

10. Circulated the research papers by Joanne Paul-Murphy, Ph.D (supported by the American Ornithological Society) and Andy Engilis (published in the Condor) pertaining to rapid cardiac compression. We explained that these papers should suffice as “scientific justification” to approve a departure until the AVMA changes the classification (at that point, it would no longer be a departure) or, if the AVMA opts not to change the classification, then to continue approving departures. This information was sent to the IACUC-Administrator’s listserve, the Scientists’ Center for Animal Welfare, PRIM&R (a leading research ethics organization), AAAALAC International (a private accreditation organization), the Association of Avian Veterinarians, and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians.

11. Assisted 10 individuals with permit issues this month. Names are provided in reports to society leadership.

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS (ACAP) REPORT

Ken Morgan, PSG Delegate

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is a multilateral agreement that works towards the conservation of albatrosses and petrels through the coordination of international efforts. The 13 ACAP Parties are supported by a small Secretariat in Hobart, Australia. ACAP's work is aided by Non-Party Range States and several Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations. ACAP's Advisory Committee (AC) provides implementation guidance; and in turn, the AC is supported by three working groups: i) Population and Conservation Status (PaCSWG); ii) Seabird Bycatch (SBWG); and iii) Taxonomy (TWG). Every three years, ACAP Parties meet (referred to as the Meeting of the Parties [MoP]), whereas the AC, the PaCSWG and the SBWG meet in each of the intervening years.

As reported in Pacific Seabirds (vol. 45(1)) pacificseabirdgroup.org/psg-publications/pacific-seabirds/ throughout the year, John Cooper (ACAP's honorary Information Officer) posts information on ACAP activities, conservation issues, publications, etc. to ACAP's Latest News as well as to ACAP's Facebook page www.facebook.com/AlbatrossesandPetrels/.

All ACAP's Latest News posts (beginning 1 January 2013) are available at: www.acap.aq/en. If you have news relevant to albatrosses and petrels that you wish to have featured, contact John (email address available under ACAP's home page – click on 'Send Message'). I am greatly indebted to John for allowing me to 'harvest' excerpts from ACAP's Latest News; without access to this rich resource, I would have very little to report. The following is a brief summary of ACAP news and activities throughout 2018.

In February, ACAP represented by

Anton Wolfaardt (Co-convener of the SBWG), participated in a workshop in Cusco, Peru, focused on data available to estimate seabird bycatch and to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures, data gaps and methods for estimating seabird bycatch in southern hemisphere tuna fisheries. The workshop was part of a much larger project ("Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction [ABNJ]" - also known as the "Common Oceans Tuna Project") that is striving to achieve responsibility, efficiency and sustainability in tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ. More information is available at: www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/projects/tuna-biodiversity/en/.

At the end of March, ACAP invited applications for the position of ACAP's Executive Secretary. Marco Favero, the incumbent at the time, had decided to step down near the end of 2018; Marco had been the Executive Secretary since February 2016, and prior to that, he served (for 9 years) as the Chair of the AC.

In early May, the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP6) took place in Kruger National Park, South Africa. Delegates from all 13 ACAP Parties (Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) attended MoP6. Other participants included observers from three Range States: Canada (Ken Morgan), USA (Mi Ae Kim and Katy Sater), and Mexico (Humberto Berlanga Garcia). Of note is the fact that this was the first ACAP meeting attended by a representative of Mexico's Federal Government. Humberto is an employee of CONABIO (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y

Uso de la Biodiversidad [National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity]).

A major achievement of MoP6 was the adoption of a resolution to allow 'member economies' of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, whose fishing vessels overlap with the ranges of albatrosses and petrels (listed in ACAP's Annex 1: acap.aq/en/acap-species), to participate as an observer in ACAP meetings. It is hoped that the resolution will help facilitate ACAP's engagement with other distant-water fishing nations that operate in the range of the ACAP-listed species; and will lead to improvements in mitigating threats faced by the species. The full MoP6 report is available at: acap.aq/en/meeting-of-the-parties/mop6.

In mid-December 2017, ACAP had announced that funding would be available (through the ACAP Small Grant program), to help the Agreement meet its objective of achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels. By the end of the closing period, ten grant applications were received. In early August, ACAP announced that six of the applications would be supported; the successful parties and project titles are:

- Argentina: Assessing the overlap between threatened pelagic seabirds and trawl fisheries operating in the northern Patagonian Shelf;
- Brazil: Hookpod for seabirds and sea turtles: looking towards a multi-taxa approach for reducing bycatch in pelagic longlines;
- Brazil: Prevalence and magnitude of plastic exposure (macro and microplastics and select chemical compounds) in albatrosses and petrels off the shores of Argentina and Brazil;

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2018

ACAP REPORT

- Ecuador: Comprehensive review of the Bi-national Plan of Action for the Critically Endangered Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*);
- New Zealand: Global review of nature and extent of trawl net captures; and,
- Spain: First conservation diagnosis of the Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) in Ibiza.

Over \$110,000 AUD was awarded to these projects. For more information, see: acap.aq/en/news/latest-news/3088-acap-makes-six-small-grants-to-help-albatross-and-petrel-conservation-in-2018.

In late November, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the ACAP Secretariat and the Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

(SIOFA). The objective of the MoU between ACAP and the SIOFA is to facilitate efforts to minimise the bycatch of albatrosses and petrels (in Annex 1) that occur within the area to which SIOFA applies. More information about SIOFA is available at: www.apsoi.org/.

At the beginning of December, Christine Bogle became ACAP's third Executive Secretary, replacing predecessors Marco Favero and Warren Papworth. Christine brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position, including being proficient in all three of ACAP's official languages (English, French, and Spanish). More information about ACAP's third Executive Secretary is available at: www.acap.aq/en/14-news/latest-news/3138-acap-s-new-executive-secretary-a-former-new-zealand-diplomat-takes-over-in-december?highlight=WyJjaHJpc3RphbmUiXQ.

Shortly after becoming the Executive Secretary, ACAP signed a MoU with the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO). The objective of this MoU is to facilitate cooperation between SEAFO and ACAP to minimise the incidental by-catch of albatrosses and petrels (in Annex 1) that occur within the SEAFO convention area. More information about SEAFO is available at: www.seafo.org.

The signing of the MoUs with SIOFA and SEAFO brings the total to 12 agreements between ACAP and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and other international bodies: www.acap.aq/en/documents/mous.

Last but not least, the next meetings of ACAP's AC, SBWG, and PaCSWG will take place in Florianópolis, Brazil, between 8 and 17 May, 2019.



Laysan Albatrosses. Photo courtesy of David Pereksta.

PSG NEWS

Read about changes to Pacific Seabirds and other transitions in 2019.

EDITOR'S NOTE

My goal as editor is to provide readers with up-to-date information about Pacific Seabird Group news. To do so, this bulletin is 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, Olivia Bailey for providing content, and Marc Romano, Theodore Squires, Jane Dolliver, Adrian Gall, and David Craig for reviewing.

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@pacificseabirdgroup.org.

- Jennifer Lang

TRANSITIONS AND THANK YOU'S

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 2019.

We would like to thank Mark Rauzon for serving as Vice-Chair for Conservation. Thanks to you, PSG has had the most conservation letters written in a two-year period (60 letters and 22 topics addressed!). Welcome, Peter Hodum, who will be taking over the position in 2019 after having served as the Washington and Oregon representative since 2013. Thanks to Trudy Chatwin (Canada representative), Samantha Richman (Non-Pacific U.S. representative), and André Raine (Southern California, Latin America, Hawaii representative) for the years they served as representatives for their region's members. Welcome, Kerry Woo, Rachael Orben, Mary Cody, and Cristián Sauzo, to the Executive Council as the new representatives of Canada, Washington and Oregon, Non-Pacific US, and Southern California/Latin America/Hawaii, respectively. A huge thank you to Jo Smith who served as Communications Coordinator and web manager, and Jane Dolliver who served as Secretary for two terms; Jane will be stepping into the Communications Committee Coordinator position and Olivia Bailey will serve as the new Secretary. Last but not least, we're excited to have Rob Suryan elected into the Executive Council as the new Chair-Elect.



Members at the Lifetime and Special Awards dinner at the Hotel Marina. Photo credit: Kyra Mills.

MEETING PHOTO GALLERY

PSG'S 46TH ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 2019

Photos: Tim Lawes



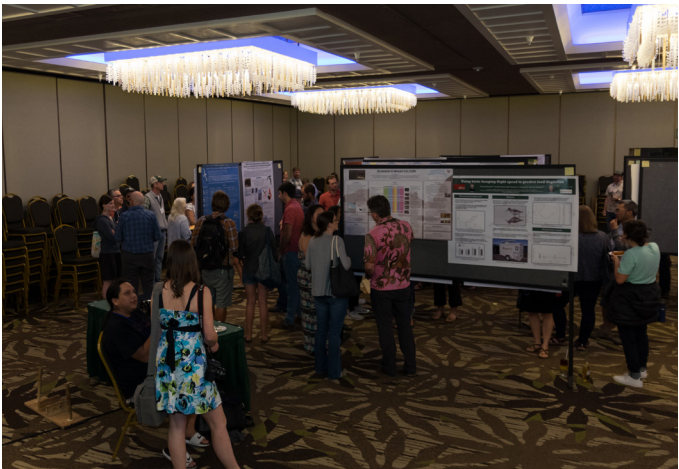
Attendees gathering for the opening ceremony of the 46th PSG Annual Meeting.



Chair Adrian Gall at the Welcome Plenary.



Welcome reception at Lihue.



Poster session.



Items for bid at the silent auction.

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

27 February 2019

46th Annual Meeting, Lihue, Kaua'i, Hawai'i

Kaua'i Beach Resort

Summary of actions by EXCO

February 2018-February 2019:

- Organized and held the 46th PSG Annual Meeting in Kaua'i, Hawai'i in February 2019, with 280 registrants, including 145 oral presentations and 54 posters
- Sent 22 Conservation Letters to advocate for seabird conservation
- Maintained a membership of 629 members
- Maintained a listserv with 844 active members
- Social media successes include: 2,558 global followers on Facebook, 1,004 followers on Instagram, and 1,356 followers on Twitter.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

Past Chair's Report:

Dr. Elizabeth Flint and Dr. David Duffy received Lifetime Achievement Awards at the 46th PSG conference in Kaua'i, Hawai'i.

In 2019, we were able to offer travel awards to 24 people including six Early Career Scientist grants, two awards to non-US/Canadian scientists, and 15 grants to students.

Chair's Report:

In 2018, the Chair oversaw the work of all committees and led conference calls

to facilitate EXCO projects throughout the year. Accomplishments in 2018 include:

- The PSG 2018 meeting in La Paz, Mexico had a net positive balance of new members
- The General and Student Travel funds are supporting a record number of student, Early Career Scientist, and non-US/Canada scientist travel awards for PSG 2019.
- The Corresponding Membership program is revived and actively seeking participants to broaden PSG's perspective and participation throughout the Pacific Rim

Chair-Elect's Report:

The Chair-Elect took the lead in organization of the 2019 PSG Annual Meeting, including selecting a theme, organizing special paper sessions and symposia, planning concurrent sessions, securing six plenary speakers and producing the 2019 program and abstract book. Creation and management of registrations, and receiving abstracts were all done using Cvent.

Vice Chair for Conservation's Report:

Twenty-two conservation letters were sent in the past year, with an additional

26 iterations sent to a variety of affiliated constituents associated with key letter. Key concerns for future actions are wind energy, feral cat colonies, and the perpetual Marbled Murrelet issues involving fisheries, logging and wind energy siting.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be hosted in Portland, Oregon with Kim Nelson and Katie O'Reilly as the local committee chairs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Membership:

PSG has 629 current (paid) members, including 367 individual members, 203 student members, and 81 lifetime members.

The new 2019-2020 EXCO members:

EXCO approved new membership-elected candidates for the 2019-2020 EXCO. They include: Rob Suryan (Chair-Elect), Peter Hodum (Vice-Chair for Conservation), Olivia Bailey (Treasurer), Kerry Woo (Canada Representative), Rachael Orben (Washington and Oregon Representative), Mary Cody (Non-Pacific U.S. Representative), and Cristián Sauzo (Southern California, Latin America, Hawai'i Representative).

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; 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 2019-2020

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

Adrian Gall, email: pastchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org; **David Craig**, email: chair@pacificseabirdgroup.org; and **Rob Suryan**, email: programchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org

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David Mazurkiewicz, email: david_mazurkiewicz@nps.gov

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TUFTED PUFFIN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mark Hipfner, email: mark.hipfner@canada.ca

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

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PSG DELEGATE TO THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Reggie David, email: davidr003@hawaii.rr.com

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Trudy Chatwin, email: trudy.chatwin@gmail.com

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PSG DELEGATES TO THE WORLD SEABIRD UNION

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Pat Baird
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Gus Van Vliet
Richard Veit
Enriqueta Velarde Gonzalez
Kees Vermeer
Ignacio Vilchis
John and Jane Warriner
Yutaka Watanuki
Jennifer Wheeler
Jeff Williams

**deceased*

HONORARY MEMBER

John Cooper

RECIPIENTS OF PSG'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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Philip and Myrtle Ashmole
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P. Dee Boersma
W.R.P. Bourne
Richard G.B. Brown*
G. Vernon Byrd
Harry R. Carter*
John Cooper

Malcolm Coulter*
John Croxall
David C. Duffy
Elizabeth Flint
Anthony Gaston
Charles Guiguet*
Michael P. Harris
Thomas R. Howell*
George L. Hunt, Jr.
Karl W. Kenyon*

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

**deceased*

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Malcolm Coulter*
Franklin Gress
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Hiroshi Hasegawa

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Vivian Mendenhall
S. Kim Nelson
Arthur L. Sowls
Steven M. Speich*

Martin Raphael
Mark J. Rauzon
Gus B. Van Vliet
Enriqueta Velarde
Yutaka Watanuki
Lindsay C. Young
**deceased*

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Members receive the following benefits: 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 31 December. Lifetime memberships are also available. All Life member contributions are dedicated to PSG's Endowment Fund, a fund to support the publications of the PSG, principally *Marine Ornithology*.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual membership: \$50 USD

Two-year individual membership: \$90 USD

Student membership: \$35 USD

Two-year student membership: \$55 USD

Life membership: \$1,500 USD (can be divided into 5 annual payments of \$300 USD)

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

To join the Pacific Seabird Group or renew your membership, please go to: <http://tiny.cc/psgmember>.

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, and other member assistance as needed.

MEMBER RESOURCES

To subscribe to the Pacific Seabird Group Listserv, please go to: lists-psg.org/mailman/listinfo/pacificseabirds_lists-psg.org
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>

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PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2019

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Past Chair	Adrian Gall , email: pastchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org
Chair-Elect	Rob Suryan , email: programchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org
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