

PACIFIC SEABIRDS



A Publication of the Pacific Seabird Group

Volume 47, Number 1

2020

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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PSG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR #BLM AND DIVERSITY

June 6th, 2020

Dear PSG community,

Seabirds cross ecological and geo-political boundaries and remind us that diversity is a most treasured attribute in nature. Likewise, cultural and racial diversity are critical for a thriving and innovative scientific community.

Recent high profile acts of racial violence including the unjustified killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery emphasize the failures in our society that Black people and other people of color navigate on a daily basis. As an organization, the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) unequivocally condemns all forms of racism, including the systemic biases that ultimately undermine the livelihoods, rights, freedoms, health, and safety of Black, Indigenous, and People of color.

This moment provides us an opportunity for self-reflection. PSG recognizes the lack of diversity in our own organization and yet we strongly believe diversity is essential to foster the type of community we wish to build and need to advance the science and conservation of seabirds. In light of this, we are committed to action, to work toward breaking down racial barriers and other forms of discrimination to achieve a common culture based on diversity – to spread the wings of PSG to everyone, including ethnic minorities and all expressions of diversity. Positive change takes time and commitment from everyone in our organization. To ensure the long-term success in this effort, we welcome your input. Please reach out to members of the PSG EXCO directly to add your thoughts and suggestions.

We can all strive to be better advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion and together we can remove barriers. We must lead by example and speak out when racial or cultural injustice occurs. #BlackLivesMatter #ItStartsWithUS

Estimada comunidad del PSG,

Las aves marinas cruzan fronteras ecológicas y geopolíticas, las que nos recuerdan que la diversidad es uno de los atributos más preciados en la naturaleza. Igualmente, la diversidad cultural y racial son críticas para una comunidad científica próspera e innovadora. Los recientes actos de violencia racial, incluyendo los asesinatos injustificados de George Floyd, Breonna Taylor y Ahmaud Arbery, enfatizan las fallas en nuestra sociedad que la gente negra y gente de otro color navegan a diario.

Como organización, el Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) condena inequívocamente todas las formas de racismo, incluidos los prejuicios sistémicos que finalmente socavan los medios de vida, derechos, libertades, salud y seguridad de las personas negras, indígenas y gente de color.

Este momento nos brinda una oportunidad para la autorreflexión. El PSG reconoce la falta de diversidad en nuestra propia organización y, sin embargo, creemos firmemente que la diversidad es esencial para fomentar el tipo de comunidad que deseamos construir y necesitamos para avanzar en la ciencia y la conservación de las aves marinas. A la luz de esto, estamos comprometidos con la acción, a trabajar para romper las barreras raciales y otras formas de discriminación, para así lograr una cultura común basada en la diversidad – para extender las alas del PSG a todos, incluyendo minorías étnicas y todas las expresiones de diversidad.

El cambio positivo toma y el compromiso de todos en nuestra organización. Para garantizar el éxito a largo plazo en este esfuerzo, damos la bienvenida a sus aportes. Por favor comuníquese directamente con los miembros del PSG EXCO para agregue sus pensamientos y sugerencias aquí.

Todos podemos esforzarnos para ser mejores defensores de la diversidad, equidad e inclusión, y juntos podemos remover las barreras. Debemos liderar con el ejemplo y hablar cuando ocurre una injusticia racial o cultural.
#LasVidasNegrasImportan #ComienzaConNOSOTROS

Respectfully,

The PSG Executive Council

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. Julia K. Parrish

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) honored Julia K. Parrish with a Lifetime Achievement Award in February 2020 in Portland, Oregon. The award was given “in recognition of her significant achievements and impacts not just in the field of seabird ecology, but also fisheries science, marine ecosystem ecology, citizen science and seabird conservation.” In the conduct of these activities, and in her role as an educator, Professor Parrish has constantly set a high bar in pursuit of academic excellence and has advocated for a diverse research culture. The Pacific Seabird Group as a whole, and her many students, collaborators, and colleagues specifically, have all benefited enormously from her presence among us these past thirty-plus years, and we look forward to many more years of her spirited leadership.

Julia started her academic career by completing a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and biophysics in 1982 at Carnegie-Mellon University, but apparently came to her senses and pursued a Ph.D. in zoology at Duke University under Dr. Peter Klopfer, completing her dissertation on “Costs



Julia discussing the importance of art in science with The Natural Histories Project

and benefits of schooling in fish” in 1988. Publications arising from this dissertation research include several of her most widely cited works. After a brief and productive post-doc at UCLA with Dr. William Hamner, Julia did the post-doc hopscotch in 1990-1991 to the Fisheries Research Institute at the University of Washington, or “U-dub”. There followed a rapid advancement from various Research Associate positions to Assistant Professor in the School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences in 2000, followed by appointment to full Professor only 8 years later.

Her service to the University of Washington and its academic community has been exemplary. In her 20+ years at UW, Julia has sat on hundreds of administrative and academic committees, served on 19 graduate student committees, supervised 6 post-docs, taught about 60 undergraduate and graduate courses, collaborated in 59 funding proposals worth about \$6 million, authored more than 70 journal and book publications. Within and outside of the UW, Julia has presented more than 70 invited talks, and provided numerous research program reviews, grant reviews, journal reviews, expert testimonies, and sat on many advisory panels.

Julia’s awards and honors are as diverse as they are impressive: NOAA Year-of-the-Ocean Environmental Hero (awarded by V.P. Al Gore in 1998); Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow (2006); UW Distinguished Teaching Award (2008); Elected Fellow, American Ornithologist’s Union (2008); Champion of Change for Citizen Science, presented at The White House in 2013 for the development and implementation of the COASST program; Elected Fellow, Ecological Society of America (2016); and finally,



*Julia Parrish on Tatoosh Island, WA in 1995
- COASST*

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Dr. Scott and Martha Hatch

the Ransom A. Myers Memorial Lecturer in Marine Conservation (2016).

Today, Julia is the Wakefield Endowed Professor in the UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs within the College of the Environment. Finally, within this “Ivory Tower” framework, Julia is also the Executive Director of the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (or COASST), a 20-year old citizen science program responsible for training 1,000s of participants to collect monthly data on the identity and abundance of beach-cast birds from northern California north to the Arctic Circle and west to the Commander Islands in Russia.

In terms of research contribution Julia now works at the intersections of marine ecology, conservation, resource management, and the broad usefulness of citizen science. Her academic focuses have involved the behaviors of communal organisms (including colonially nesting birds and schooling fish), seabird ecology, and marine conservation. Her rich array of publications include groundbreaking correlations between seabird populations and marine heatwaves, inclusive social networking for environmental data collection, and the interfaces between fish and seabird ecology. Such work

represents incredibly useful information and original thinking necessary for the furtherance of science as a whole.

PSG recognizes Julia for her commitment to diversity in all its forms. Julia has passionately insisted that local community members have a voice in science. She has always advocated for local and tribal involvement, and has shown that citizen science/volunteer projects can meet the highest levels of scientific rigor and can have an amazing depth. Julia always insists, “Science is a team sport!”

Of note are Julia’s special efforts to encourage and mentor female students and interns in science. Specifically, she has mentored 9 female graduate students, 10 female research coordinators, and nearly 200 female undergraduate interns.

Also of note are her efforts to increase diversity and inclusion in science through her leadership role with the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars program at the University of Washington (a two-year leadership fellowship, 130 total fellows). In light of the challenges she faced as the second female to receive tenure within her academic department, she continues to address equity and inclusion gaps that students, postdocs, and new faculty members still face nearly three decades after she embarked on her own scientific

career. Dr. Parrish has been a leader and role model for female scientists, never afraid to say it like it is and stick to her principles, but in the end putting people and development of young researchers first.

Julia has taken an active leadership role in PSG. She was PSG’s fourth female Chair (as a postdoc!). Her current students, former students, postdocs, and COASST volunteers continue to present their work at PSG and are often active members of PSG’s governing body. She also continues in a long string of fruitful collaborations with colleagues in PSG and around the world. She has led by example, constantly challenging us to seek the highest standards of scientific investigation and interpretation.

We are genuinely indebted and grateful to the ongoing contributions and comradery of Professor Parrish in the Pacific Seabird Group community. Few people are more deserving of this award reserved for those of the highest caliber among us. For exemplary contributions to marine ecology, citizen science, academic excellence, and diversity in all forms, the Pacific Seabird Group honors Julia Parrish with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



Julia delivering a presentation to Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería in Peru

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PSG's Special Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has performed outstanding, long-term service for the Pacific Seabird Group, or who has achieved an outstanding and significant exemplary accomplishment for the betterment of seabird research, education, and/or conservation, or both.

Dr. Martha and Scott Hatch

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) honored Martha and Scott Hatch with a Lifetime Achievement Award in February 2020 in Portland, Oregon. The award was given “in recognition of their mentorship to early career seabird biologists and lifelong efforts to use seabirds to understand ecosystem change in Alaska, especially at the Semidi and Middleton Islands.”

Long-term partnerships are critical to the lifetime reproductive success of seabirds, and the Hatches have demonstrated that the same can be true of seabird biologists. Martha & Scott have worked together on many field trips to remote islands, co-authored important papers in seabird biology, run one of the longest seabird monitoring programs in the Pacific, mentored countless early career seabird biologists, and currently administer the Institute for Seabird Research & Conservation, a non-profit they created post-retirement. Scott received his BSc at the University of Washington (1975), MSc at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (1978), PhD from Berkeley (1985), served as Chair of the PSG (1988), Editor of *Marine Ornithology* (2005-2011) and is a PSG Life Member. He also worked for the United States Geological Survey as a Research Wildlife Biologist studying Alaskan seabirds for 37 years. He has dedicated his life to the study of Pacific seabirds, especially fulmars, kittiwakes and auks, and has published close to 150 scientific papers on the topic. Martha likewise made significant contributions to seabird research on the Semidis and Middleton Island, and was an author on a number of key papers. She received her BSc from the University of Western Washington (1975) and MSc from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (1979), retiring in 2012 from her job as a professor and associate dean at



Scott and Martha in Portland, OR for PSG 2020

University of Alaska Anchorage.

The Hatches are seabird ecologists, conservation biologists, and natural historians. Based on several field seasons on the Semidis, the Hatches provided the basic natural history for an entire suite of species, including northern fulmars and all three Pacific puffins. In total, they spent over 24 months on the Semidis between 1976 and 1981. Later, in the 1990s and 2000s, they brought their children Kyle and Megan, to help them on Chowiet Island in the Semidis. Field work became a family affair, and their respective commitments manifest in a number of ways. On one memorable occasion, they left the island in a storm, bearing the season's worth of data. As a precaution in case of capsizing, Martha tied the data to herself because she was the stronger swimmer (and the data were clearly the most important passenger on the boat). All Hatch family members long ago resigned themselves to having a kitchen that doubles as the “laboratory” where Middleton diet

samples (translation: seabird vomit) are processed.

In 1995, the Hatches began to focus their efforts on the seabird community of Middleton Island, in the Gulf of Alaska. Robert Rausch (1958) reported that two-thirds of the steep sea cliffs were occupied by black-legged kittiwakes. After a massive earthquake in 1964, the entire island was uplifted by 3.5 m which initiated great changes to the seabird habitat and community. Today, Middleton's cliff-nesting seabirds have declined markedly and breed almost exclusively on human-made structures, primarily the SS Coldbrook shipwreck and on the decaying buildings of an abandoned US Air Force Station (active 1958-1963).

After reading about J. Coulson's kittiwake colony at Newcastle, the Hatches were inspired to establish a unique research site at Middleton that facilitated the shift from cliff- to structure-nesting. They retrofitted a former Cold War radar tower by partially

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Dr. Scott and Martha Hatch

partitioning external crossbeams into nest-sized sites and installing 600 sliding one-way windows, accessible from inside the tower. The Hatches completed this massive construction project with the assistance of their family (and an impressive set of DIY skills, even for field ecologists). Martha is known for her prowess with a hammer drill, and Scott can usually be located by following the sound of heavy machinery or welding sparks. The tower stands over 20 meters high and, unfortunately, it is the first obstacle that a Southern gale in the North Pacific meets. So, the entire Hatch family keeps their schedule flexible for inevitable spring and fall repair construction projects, before and after the seabirds are breeding on the tower.

Each year, free-living pelagic cormorants and black-legged kittiwakes breed behind each window, banded, monitored and, for a subset of kittiwakes, supplementally fed. The Middleton tower is a true seabird panopticon, and has facilitated a wealth of detailed behavioral and physiological research that would not be possible anywhere else in the world. The Middleton kittiwake study is the only ongoing, long-term individual-based study of any seabird in the Gulf of Alaska, currently in its 43rd year! The Hatches' work on Middleton demonstrated that Pacific kittiwakes live longer and have fewer offspring than their Atlantic counterparts. A series of physiological and behavioural studies have shown how Pacific kittiwakes invest more heavily in themselves than their offspring compared to Atlantic kittiwakes, one of very few examples of within-species differences in life history traits in seabirds. The tower also hosts nesting pelagic cormorants, and most of the detailed knowledge about this species comes from the Hatches' work on Middleton, including evidence that individuals specialize on the same foraging behavior year after year, and measurements of dive depth and flight costs. The Middleton system has led to 3-4 papers per year for 20 years on seabird ecology, including in prestigious journals such as *Proceedings of the*



Scott and Martha Hatch in 1976 at the Semidis and 2014 at Middleton.



Martha escorts a kittiwake from the tower for special treatment.

Royal Society B, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, and has generated some of the best evidence for carry-over effects, odor based kin recognition and links between movement and fitness in any seabird, among many other discoveries.

The long-term supplemental feeding study has provided an abundance of experimental evidence about the role of food availability in shaping life-history, behavior and physiology of a marine top predator. For 25 years, the Hatches have ensured that a subset of breeding

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • Dr. Scott and Martha Hatch

kittiwakes are hand-fed an unlimited supply of fish, 3 times per day, throughout the breeding season. Thousands of pounds of fresh capelin, caught at spawning grounds in Atlantic Canada, make the long journey to Anchorage, AK, into the Hatch Hatchback, to the middle of the Gulf Alaska via charter flight, to the back of an ATV, to a hoist or to the backs of the Hatches and their field crews, who haul them up 6 flights of stairs to a set of freezers in the top of the tower. The fate of every single fish is meticulously recorded into an app written by Scott, who coded data entry programs for Pocket PCs decades before this was common. This rigorous experiment has yielded the bulk of experimental knowledge on the effects of marine food supply on seabirds.

The Hatches have advanced the idea of using multiple seabirds as avatars for changing oceans. Their long-term monitoring of the entire Middleton seabird community (including black-legged kittiwakes, pelagic cormorants, glaucous-winged gulls, rhinoceros auklets, tufted puffins, and common murre) yields comprehensive sampling of remote ocean environments, with the movement, physiology, diet and reproductive success of each species telling us something different about the environment. For example, some of the first GPS tracks for seabirds were from birds on the Middleton tower, as described in “The Seabird’s Cry” by Adam Nicolson. Now, most of the seabird species at are tracked in detail throughout the annual cycle, providing insight into both their own natural history and changing ocean environments year-round. The Hatches have also made major contributions to the conservation of Pacific seabirds on Middleton, which once had the largest kittiwake and pelagic cormorant colonies in the world. Population numbers are down to about 5% today, but the remaining colony is managed intensively for those species. The Hatches have now developed housing projects for five of the six seabird species studied on the island. Several thousand pairs of murre, kittiwakes

and cormorants owe their existence to the Hatches, since it is increasingly rare for these species to successfully fledge chicks at natural sites. In addition to these three cliff-nesters, rhinoceros auklets and tufted puffins benefit from artificial burrows that facilitate long-term monitoring. Projects of this scale and rigour are rare, and most often managed by either government agencies or academic research groups rather than by small non-profits kept afloat by two individuals.

The world’s oceans are continually changing, but pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss have led to unprecedented changes in recent years. One of Scott’s recent papers demonstrated that data from Middleton seabirds captured the 1977 climate regime shift as well as its reversal in 2008, which was then overwhelmed by ‘the Blob’. The longitudinal diet samples from rhinoceros auklets have contributed to understanding of the effects of this marine heatwave on the greater Gulf of Alaska ecosystem. These are just two excellent examples of how seabirds can serve as indicators for the entire marine ecosystem. In Homer’s poem, Odysseus is lost at sea until a seabird aithuia (Nicolson argues it’s a kittiwake) alights on the sea and guides him home. Some of the Hatches’ seabird avatars may guide us to a more enlightened and ethical treatment of our Oceans.

The Hatch family affair on Middleton extends far beyond their own blood relatives. Over the past 30 years, over 100 early career scientists have become part of the Middleton family, including many that have gone on to become well-known seabird researchers. Each summer, a “core crew” of graduate students and volunteers from all over the world develop their skills on Middleton, participating in monitoring, diet studies, and experiments testing hypotheses about seabird physiology, ecology and behavior. The Hatches also warmly welcome new collaborators, extending their scientific and logistical support (as well as personal hospitality) with the singular goal of helping seabirds

and seabird research on Middleton thrive. The project is truly international, drawing researchers from Europe, Asia, Africa and North America. Each person who joins the Middleton family has benefitted from the vision, infrastructure, and logistical support provided by the Hatches, who continue to write grants, coordinate field camp logistics, train developing seabird biologists, participate in field season work, and spend many frigid, blustery months on the island, maintaining and improving the site each year before the birds and field crews arrive, and after they have left.

Success in seabirds means returning to the same site year after year, being faithful to the same partner, getting along with the neighbours, and finding the resources to invest enormous energy into raising offspring each year. This same philosophy has made the Hatches successful parents, seabird biologists and stewards of Middleton Island. They run the long-term field station year-after-year, expending enormous quantities of their own energy reserves and relying on one another to consistently pull off successful field seasons. At the same time, they support fellow field biologists at all developmental stages, and continue to build community in seabird science. For their unflagging efforts in seabird research and conservation in the northern Pacific, it is fitting that PSG has awarded them with its highest honor.

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: Leo Uesaka (University of Tokyo)

Ocean Wave Observation in Northwest Pacific by Utilizing Biologging Data from Streaked Shearwater

Honorable Mention - Doctorate: Natasha Gillies (University of Oxford)

Apparent Intra-pair Coordination May Arise Through Individual Behavior in Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*)

Best Student Paper Award - Masters: Iana Nimz (Hawaii Pacific University)

Barcoding: DNA-Barcoding of Barf Yields Insights into Seabird Foraging Ecology

Honorable Mention - Masters: Sonya Pastran (Simon Fraser University)

Marbled Murrelets Through Time: Long-term Hotspot Persistence and Habitat Use of a Threatened Seabird

Best Student Paper Award - Undergraduate: Ariel Heswall (Univeristy of Aukland)

Seabird Sensory Ecology Morphology, and Bycatch

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Best Student Paper Award - Doctorate: Jazzmine Waugh (University of Washington)

A Baseline Approach to Assessing Taxon-specific Susceptibility to Oil Spills

Honorable Mention - Doctorate: Laura Bliss (University of Manitoba)

Winter Habitat Associations of Marine Predators in the Northern California Current using Classification and Regression Tree

Best Student Paper Award - Masters: Naya Sena (Hokkaido University)

Testing the Attraction of Two Procellariiform Seabirds to Dimethyl Sulfide

Honorable Mention - Masters: Olivia Townsend (San José State University)

Spatiotemporal Habitat Use of Red-tailed Tropicbirds Breeding in the Main Hawaiian Islands: a Multi-Colony Approach using GPS Tracking

Best Student Paper Award - Undergraduate: Ray Martin (Oregon State University)

Who's Home - Nest Attendance of Western Gulls Nesting in Town and in the Colony

REPORTS OF PSG OFFICERS

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2019

David P. Craig

Welcome to 2020 and another year for the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) to support seabird research and conservation! As we look forward to getting together in Portland, it is also worth looking back at 2019 and the incredible accomplishments that PSG members' fees, volunteered time, and additional donations to PSG have made possible:

- The PSG2019 meeting at Aqua Kauai Beach Resort, Lihue, Kaua'i, Hawaii, had a net positive balance of new members and a positive balance to PSG's General fund.

- The PSG2019 meeting was opened in a fantastic welcoming ceremony by indigenous Hawaiians, and the scientific program included our first dedicated session about indigenous knowledge and seabirds.

- The social media team has made a record number of posts and significantly grown our contacts and social networks.

- The General and Student Travel funds are once again supporting a record number of students, Early Career Scientist, and non-US/Canada scientist travel awards for PSG 2020.

- Second time offering pre-reserved rooms for students at PSG 2020

- The Corresponding Membership program is revived and actively seeking participants to broaden PSG's perspective and participation throughout the Pacific Rim.

- Full slate of candidates for the PSG election.

- Over 245 people registered, and more than 170 abstracts submitted for PSG 2020.

- PSG2020 is the first time offering of a video conference option and part of reducing our carbon footprint and including greater member participation.

- A Code of Conduct was approved by a large margin of our members following six years of thoughtful consideration and hard work by ExCos present and past.

- The Local Committee is in place and planning already well underway for 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 notably the officers: Past Chair Adrian Gall, Chair-Elect Rob Suryan, Secretary Olivia Bailey, Treasurer Kirsten Bixler, and Vice-Chair for Conservation Peter Hodum. Special thanks to Jo Smith, Jane Dolliver, and Verena Gill for their leadership in promoting equitable communication and in advance of an approved Code of Conduct.

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 2019/2020 to maintain the notable momentum that started at the La Paz 2018/2019 meeting to strengthen and support connections with Latin American members. Although we had many fewer Latin American attendees in Kaua'i, we did prioritize some of the travel awards with these values in mind and hope to attract our Latin American colleagues to the upcoming meeting in San Diego. We need to continue to recruit more Corresponding Members and to increase our effort to raise funds to support travel for non-US/Canadian scientists.

The annual meeting in Kaua'i started with a beautiful, welcoming ceremony by indigenous Hawaiians and an amazing plenary by Sabra Kauka that include local stories and knowledge about Hawaiian seabird ecosystems. This welcome was a credit to members of the local committee who have been cultivating authentic, collaborative relationships between seabird conservation and local Indigenous people for many years. Our institutional connections with the Native and Indigenous communities in Oregon are not as secure as Kaua'i,

but conversations have started with the Grand Ronde and Siletz in the hope of doing better at a future meeting in Portland.

Other objectives for this past year included maintaining our bookkeeping and accounting tasks, which were done faultlessly by Kirsten Bixler, Treasurer.

Following recommendations from the Membership Committee to enhance recruitment and retention of members is ongoing. The tone and language of the PSG Listserv have been identified as problematic at times, and we have reports of members leaving or considering leaving PSG because of non-inclusive language. We have started to refine and promote our process of responding to complaints on the listserv and expect to do significantly more work towards inclusive language with the support of our new Code of Conduct.

We are continuing to explore ways to reduce the environmental footprint of our annual meetings, and thanks to an initiative by Lindsay Young, we have been piloting our first video conferencing efforts this year at PSG 2020. In-person meetings are valuable for sharing ideas about seabird science and conservation, and the social interactions that occur at conferences are vital to our community. Still, most members feel an urgency to do more.

I facilitated the monthly ExCo calls and followed up as needed with action items resulting from the requests. This task was easily accomplished thanks to Secretary Olivia Bailey, who did an excellent job of scheduling meetings, preparing agendas, tracking action items, and keeping us on the right side of the process and policies outlined in the PSG Handbook. Special thanks to recent past Secretary Jane Dolliver and Past Chair Adrian Gall, who were extraordinarily generous in supporting the rest of the team and me on ExCo when we were inexperienced on particular points of order or PSG history.

REPORTS OF PSG OFFICERS

As a member of the Awards Committee, I reviewed, ranked, and helped select recipients for this year's Lifetime Achievement and Travel awards.

Jenny Howard, Jill Tengeres, and Jane Dolliver took over management of the event website in 2019 and continued to do an excellent job of keeping the many pages up-to-date. Adrian Gall continued her three years running leadership of the Cvent software, which helps membership and meeting management. The Cvent software is now also helping manage abstracts, which is a significant time-saver over the laborious google doc construction of the scientific program used by me in 2019.

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:

- Engage in formal strategic planning with particular attention to promoting an inclusive community that is minimizing our environmental impact and maximizing our scientific and conservation influence for the preservation and understanding of seabirds.
- Implement our Code of Conduct and develop a new standing committee to consider real and perceived violations of the code.
- Maintain and expand the relationships with donors and members that fund our excellent 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.
- Keep exploring ways to improve the abstract submission and review process

and building of the scientific program.

- Explore the development of a Native and Indigenous land acknowledgment practice for PSG.

As we engage in this 47th Annual Meeting, we are deeply grateful to have founding members among our ranks and individuals who have volunteered more than 40 years of service to PSG. The importance of mentors past and present is significant in helping advance science, conservation, and the community of increasingly diverse people who want to understand and preserve the wonder of seabirds. Thank you to those of you who count yourself as elders, wise with experience from the past.

When I was at my first PSG in the late 1980s, it was great for me, seeing marbled murrelet data I collected presented by my mentor, but now as I reflect, I realize unlike today, there were almost no women. PSG carries the colonial history of most scientific groups being overrepresented by white men. Still, PSG has made improvements, and as I conclude my year as Chair, I am grateful that my most essential leadership mentors in the recent past have been Kim Nelson, Jo Smith, Katie O'Reilly, Jane Dolliver, and Adrian Gall.

I want to encourage those with lots of historic science knowledge to challenge yourself to listen carefully to the newest members of PSG and follow their lead about new forms of communication. That may include using twitter as a form of science communication or taking the time to ask someone their preferred pronouns. New modes of communication involve being thoughtful about being anti-sexist and anti-racist. Take every opportunity to meet people you do not know yet and strike up a conversation on topics far and wide. The conference theme "connecting the land and the sea" provides an analogy for us to search for intersections between the environment that seabirds live in and the social world that seabird scientist live in.

Seabirds are for everyone, and seabirds need everyone.

Take care of yourself, take care of each other, and have a great time!

CHAIR ELECT'S REPORT FOR 2019

Rob Suryan

I had a slow start into my new role as Chair Elect, primarily kicking off with serving on the awards committee to select Student Research Grants in the spring followed by Lifetime Achievement Awards, then Travel Awards. The remainder of my year was focused on the PSG 2020 meeting and scientific program.

PSG 2020 Scientific Program

Workshops and Special Paper Sessions - The response to my call for workshops and symposia was surprisingly low. I am not certain if this was because my call went out late (July) or because potential organizers had already put effort into proposals for the 3rd World Seabird Conference (WSC3). We put out a call for WSC3 workshop and symposium proposals several months before those for PSG 2020 and received an overwhelming response for WSC3; including many from would be PSG 2020 attendees. We had to reject 10 (nearly one quarter) of the symposia proposals for WSC3 and with more time investment, I may have been able to steer some of these to PSG 2020. Furthermore, abstract submissions for the two PSG2020 special sessions were quite low, only five abstracts each. This also is in sharp contrast to the large response of abstract submissions for WSC3. Nonetheless, the PSG 2020 scientific program has shaped up nicely. We have two Special Paper Sessions, one workshop, and two Hot Topic Discussions.

Plenaries – We have five plenaries, two from Lifetime Achievement Award recipients and three invited speakers, two of which were based on being local scientists from the Pacific Northwest and presenting on topics of current interest - climate change effects on ecosystems and seabird populations. In the spirit of diversity and inclusion and ensuring student and early career PSG members are well represented, Jane Dolliver had a brilliant idea of starting a new

(hopefully annual) plenary called Early Achievements in Research and Science Communication that is given by an early career PSG member. Jane was also successful in getting a donor to support the majority of this plenary speaker's travel.

Contributed Talks – We ultimately ended up with about 116 oral presentations and 48 posters. The topics that received the most abstracts were Conservation Biology, Tracking and Distribution, and Tools and Techniques.

Digital Conferencing – We are making the leap to digital conferencing at PSG 2020! Lindsay Young championed this effort after much discussion on the PSG listserv regarding the environmental impact of meeting attendance. Lindsay submitted a proposal to the PSG EXCO with estimated costs of using Zoom digital conferencing services. After much discussion within the EXCO, with Lindsay, and the local committee to consider cost estimates, we decided to start with all the plenaries and one concurrent session streaming online. Streaming one room allowed us to spend extra funds to upgrade to higher speed wired internet and an upgraded computer that could integrate the presentation microphone into the webcast for good sound quality. We arranged the program so that all the main events are in the room that is web connected. We decided on a low registration cost of \$45 for remote meeting attendance. Digital conferencing is not only a win for reducing meeting travel, but also increases inclusion in our meetings for those who cannot afford to attend or their current situation does not allow them to travel. There are unlimited ways to expand this effort and the very creative minds of PSG members will no doubt make it happen. A couple items discussed included hyper-local clusters or hubs where members gather for remote attendance. In addition, we could strive to have presentations given

from remote sites (two-way presenting), rather than simply remote viewing (one-way) of the main meeting.

Future PSG meetings and PSG's carbon footprint – There has been much discussion on the PSG listserv regarding this topic and suggesting that meetings might be biennial or even longer intervals. Joanna Smith and other former EXCO members have looked into member interest (surveys) and the financial aspects of not holding meetings annually or skipping the PSG meeting during years of the WSC, so there is some background information for this discussion. Less frequent or lower carbon footprint meetings are some of the many ways that PSG can help lower the overall impact of our activities. Our suggested way forward is to consider having a subgroup within the Conservation Committee that is willing to lead this discussion and find agreeable solutions.

PAST-CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2019

Adrian Gall

Summary of Past Chair Tasks for 2019-2020:

Assist the Chair with PSG operations: David Craig, PSG Chair, jumped in to the role enthusiastically and needed little assistance with operations over the past year. I participated in the teleconference meetings throughout the year and advised on a few of the issues that came up regarding member behavior and interactions.

Awards Committee Chair: The awards process continues to evolve and is getting increasingly challenging as the founding cohort of PSG retires. There are many accomplished seabird biologists with long and distinguished records that are deserving of recognition, more than PSG has the resources to honor. As a member of the Awards Committee for the past 3 years and now chair, I have created a collection of GoogleDocs that I hope will be useful for the process in the future. The first is the spreadsheet tracking all nominations by year. This will allow future Awards Committees to consider the number of times that someone has been nominated, in addition to their nomination in the current year. The second is a scoring sheet to standardize the scoring of nominees and facilitate the compilation of scores. We also have similar tracking scoring sheets for the travel and student research awards.

The first awards given in this past ExCo year were the Student Research Grants. These grants were generously funded by the Former Chairs fund. We received grant proposals from 11 students (2 undergraduates, 6 Masters, and 3 PhDs). The grant applications were reviewed by the Awards Committee (Chair Elect Rob Suryan, Chair David Craig, and myself), Former Chair Nina Karnovsky, and Student Representative Corey Clatterback. Thanks to the generosity of the Former Chairs, we offered grants

to Sierra Ray Martin, Jacqui Glencross, Jill Tengeres, and Jaime Ojeda in April 2019.

In August, the Awards Committee reviewed 10 nominations submitted for Lifetime and Special Achievement awards and recommended 2 Lifetime Achievement Awards: Martha and Scott Hatch for their work in Alaska; and Dr. Julia Parrish for her work establishing the COASST program and mentoring students as a professor at the University of Washington. Katie O'Reilly assisted in ordering the trophies that will be presented to them at the annual meeting in Portland. The list of nominees is recorded in the GoogleDoc "PSG LAA/SAA nomination history" for consideration in future years.

The travel awards were highly competitive this year, with 46 applications submitted for consideration. We had \$13,690 to disburse, with most of those funds (\$10,556) available only to students. We offered grants to 11 students, 1 Non-US/Canada scientist, and 2 Early Career Scientists. The number of awards was lower this year than last year because the awards committee was careful to account for registration costs when disbursing the awards.

There are 16 judges signed up so far to judge the 24 student talks and 11 student posters submitted for this year's Student Presentation Competition. We are building on last year's effort and using online Google Forms to record scores and judges' feedback. We are also using an online system of GoogleSheets to have judges sign up for specific talks ahead of the meeting. Jane Dolliver has volunteered to assist with the People's Choice Award, given to the best talk and poster of the meeting, judged solely on content and not on the affiliation or career stage of the presenter.

Assist Chair Elect and Local Committee Chair in preparation for the annual meeting: My primary service to the Local Committee has been to assist in the set-up and operation of registration through Cvent. This is the third year that I have managed registration for the meeting. Jane Dolliver, Jill Tengeres, and Jenny Howard assisted by managing most of the updates for the event website, also operated through Cvent.

Begin the selection and confirmation of future meeting sites: The EXCO has received and already approved the selection of the locations for the 2021 meeting in San Diego. We will be discussing the best course of action for planning future meetings at this year's ExCo, taking into account comments from the membership to consider a lower meeting frequency and alternative methods of meeting (i.e., virtual meetings) that will have a smaller carbon footprint in years to come.

It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve as Chair of the Pacific Seabird Group. I look forward to my continued involvement as a Former Chair and forever cheerleader for the mentorship and camaraderie that this organization offers its members.

VICE-CHAIR FOR CONSERVATION'S REPORT FOR 2019

Peter Hodum

I assumed the role of Vice-Chair for Conservation in February 2019. At that time, I was on a year-long sabbatical and was out of the country until the end of May 2019. Given the timing of my sabbatical, Mark Rauzon generously offered to extend his service as Vice-Chair for Conservation through March 2019.

During 2019, we wrote/co-wrote seven letters to relevant decision-makers on a variety of issues associated with seabird conservation. I also have three letters currently in draft form that will be submitted in February 2020.

Below are summaries of the seven letters submitted in 2019, in chronological order from the most recent:

1. 14 November 2019: PSG and four partner organizations (Audubon California, American Bird Conservancy, San Diego Audubon Society and Sea & Sage Audubon) sent a letter to the Chair of the Pacific Fishery Management Council to communicate concern about potential bycatch of Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*) in the Hawaiian shallow-set longline fishery and potential significant harm to the federally Endangered Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) outside the West Coast EEZ.
2. 15 October 2019: PSG co-wrote and co-signed a joint letter along with Audubon California, American Bird Conservancy, Center for Biological Diversity and Portland Audubon to the West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service in support of proposed rules for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery and associated seabird bycatch avoidance measures. In addition, we encouraged the inclusion of “enforceable” to key sections as well as task and timelines for reviewing the status of Short-tailed Albatross north of 36°N.
3. 28 July 2019: PSG submitted a letter to the Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division of the Canadian Wildlife Service to provide comments on proposed changes to the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations, specifically focusing on improving the definition of “unoccupied nest”, adding Cassin’s Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) and Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) to Schedule 1, and adding the following four species that do not build nests but use established nest sites to Schedule 1: Common Murre (*Uria aalge*), Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*), Razorbill (*Alca torda*), and Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grille*).
4. 3 July 2019: PSG wrote a letter to the California Coastal Commission in strong support of the proposed South Farallon Islands Invasive House Mouse Eradication Project, affirming that the US Fish and Wildlife Service would follow best practices and take the appropriate precautionary measures outlined in the Environmental Impact Study to minimize potential short-term negative impacts of the eradication.
5. 20 May 2019: PSG submitted a letter to the Regional Director of the Alaska Region of the US Fish and Wildlife Service expressing renewed concern for the status and viability of Kittlitz’s Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*) and encouraging the timely development and implementation of a proactive conservation plan and the drafting of a Species Status Assessment. The letter provided a summary of key findings and observations since the not-warranted listing determination.
6. 7 March 2019: PSG submitted a letter to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program of the Bureau of Land Management opposing oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and identifying significant deficiencies in the draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.
7. 28 January 2019: A letter submitted to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Renewable Energy Task Force expressing concern over the breadth and depth of peer-reviewed data to be included in BOEM’s California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway Databasin and the lack of detailed location information on the three proposed sites for offshore wind energy installations in California. In addition, the following two letters are currently being drafted for submission in February 2020:
 1. To the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding proposed rulemaking on management of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), specifically relaxing depredation permit requirements at aquaculture operations and expanding state powers to initiate control programs to protect wild and stocked fish.
 2. To the US Fish and Wildlife Service opposing the agency policy that the law does not prohibit incidental take of migratory bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
 3. To the Governor of Virginia requesting mitigation action in the form of building an artificial island for nesting terns following the paving of South Island, previously important breeding habitat for 20,000 larvae, including the state-listed Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*). Looking forward, key emerging and priority issues include ongoing proposed changes to conservation legislation in the United States, wind energy, management of invasive species issues, fisheries bycatch for multiple seabird species in multiple fisheries, climate change impacts, and funding to support conservation actions included in

REPORTS OF PSG OFFICERS

funding to support conservation actions included in species recovery plans.

Challenges:

In my limited experience in the position of Vice-Chair for Conservation, I see two significant challenges to ensuring that the effectiveness of the Conservation Committee is maximized. First, the Vice-Chair is likely to have

have limited time and energy to devote to following following pressing seabird conservation issues and crafting letters on behalf of PSG on those issues.

Second, the PSG membership as a whole needs to be more engaged in sharing priority issues/topics with the Vice-Chair and, when possible, in helping to write letters on topics in

in which they have expertise.

Moving forward, my plan is to send out more regular messages on the PSG listserv requesting that PSG members share priority conservation issues

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2019

Olivia Bailey

Motions passed by the 2019-2020 PSG Executive Council

February 2019

1. Approve PSG 2021 room block.
2. Approve Jane Dolliver as Communications Coordinator.
3. Approve Code of Conduct, v.5.
4. Approve changes to PSG bylaws, added Article III, Section 6 and Section 7.

March 2019

1. Approve MMTC proposal for facilitation in the amount of \$3,375 USD.
2. Approve MMTC revised MAMU survey datasheet.

April 2019

No motions

May 2019

1. Approve EBSCO hosting all volumes of Pacific Seabirds.

June 2019

No motions

July 2019

No motions

August 2019

Call 1

1. Approve the PSG 2020 annual meeting budget.

Call 2

1. Approve two Lifetime Achievement Awards to be presented at PSG 2020.

2. Approve closing PSG accounts at First Hawaiian Bank and opening accounts at Axos Bank.

September 2019

1. Approve PSG FY2020 budget

October 2019

No motions

November 2019

1. Approve e-conferencing for PSG 2020 in the amount of \$583.47 and e-conference registration rates.

December 2019

1. Approve revision to Code of Conduct, v5 – add language that Code of Conduct is not retroactive and issues should be directed to PSG Secretary and send the revised Code of Conduct to a PSG member vote.

January 2019

1. Approve ECS Environmental Change Survey and General Members Survey.

Secretary Milestones in 2019-2020

In addition to serving on the Executive Council, the Secretary also serves on the Elections Committee.

The current Secretary has elected to assist the Communications Committee, the 2020 Local Committee, the Ad-hoc Code of Conduct Committee, the Student Committee, and the Ad-hoc Policies and Procedures Committee.

Those roles include:

Executive Council

- Polling EXCO for availability, scheduling 9 calls and 27 reminder emails.
- 9 call invites separately to all PSG Committee heads, Local Committees 2020 and 2021.
- 70 pages of transcript-like notes.
- Proposal and report assistance for EXCO.
- Updates on PSG workplan and annual timeline, reminder emails.
- Keep running list of volunteer opportunities.

Elections Committee

- Candidate recruiting.

Communications

- Pacific Seabirds copy editing.

Student Committee

- Review of ECS Survey.
- Input on Student-Mentor Social, ECS Panel, and Climate Forum formatting.

PSG 2020 Local Committee

- Pre-meeting survey set-up.
- Advice on field trips and banquet.

Ad-hoc Code of Conduct Committee

- Member vote set-up.

Ad-hoc Policies and Procedures Committee

- *Conflict of Interest forms signed*

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 2019

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

NORTHEAST ASIA SEABIRD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

**Daisuke Ochi and Gregg Howald,
Coordinators**

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

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

MEETINGS

We met at the 2019 PSG meeting in Kauai, Hawaii, to discuss recent and future research. 13 participants discussed Conservation projects and needs as shown here:

- Japanese Murrelet surveys at Biro-jima (Miyazaki, Japan), Muji-cho (Tokushima, Japan), and Korea (presented by Mike Parker). Need for inventory (database) of the species.
- Aleutian Terns in Alaska and their migration routes and wintering ground in Indonesia (by Susan Oehulers, Don Lyons)
- Chinese Crested Tern population recovery project (by Chen Shuihua, Dan Roby)
- Rhinoceros Auklets on Teuri Island, Japan and their post-breeding dispersal and wintering grounds (by Yutaka Watanuki)
- Wintering alcids: Rhinoceros Auklets, Japanese Murrelets, Ancient Murrelets (by Yutaka Watanuki, Tony Gaston)
- Gillnet bycatch in Korea (by Ki-Baek Nam)

- Gillnet bycatch in Japan (by Yasuko Suzuki)

SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

Gillnet bycatch project: In collaboration with fisheries in Haboro, Hokkaido, BirdLife International (Yasuko Suzuki) and Wild Bird Society of Japan (Yutaka Yamamoto, Hiroko Okamoto) conducted small scale at-sea trials of potential mitigation measures for seabird bycatch in gillnet fisheries. The project also developed a nation-wide hotspot map to identify high risk areas of gillnet seabird bycatch in collaboration with Nobuhiko Sato of the University of Tokyo.

Chinese Crested Tern survey by Simba Chan:(See the Asia and Oceania Report).

Seabird breeding survey reported at Teuri Island by Yutaka Watanuki (See the Asia and Oceania Report).

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Sara Schoen, Coordinator

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 2019, at-sea surveys for all marine birds, including KIMU, were conducted in Prince William Sound (PWS) in the fall/winter by the PWS Science Center (Mary Anne Bishop and Anne Schaefer). The PWS Science Center and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS; Yumi Arimitsu and John Piatt) continued their Integrated Predator Prey survey in PWS September 2019. The USGS also conducted marine bird surveys along coastal hydroacoustic transects in PWS in June/July 2019 and conducted at-sea surveys in Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay in July 2019. The National Park Service (NPS) and USGS conducted nearshore marine bird surveys in the Kenai Fjords National Park in March 2019. The NPS also conducted their annual KIMU survey in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in July 2019. The USFWS (Kathy Kuletz and Liz Labunski) oversaw 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 the exception of Southeast Alaska). The USGS and USFWS (Dave Douglas et al.) are working to publish post-breeding KIMU satellite tag results.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ISSUES, and UPDATES

(1) The KMTC last met on 27 February 2019 in conjunction with the Pacific Seabird Group meeting in Kauai, Hawaii. Nine members participated.

(2) Meeting highlights: Caitlin Marsteller and Sarah Schoen summarized survey work by the USGS in Cook Inlet, Robb Kaler summarized

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2019

the USFWS surveys in Prince William Sound and discussed nesting ecology in the Aleutian Islands, and Kathy Kuletz provided updated on USFWS surveys for *Brachyramphus murrelets* in offshore waters. We discussed drafting another letter of concern to the USFWS given a suite of emerging issues, including potentially renewed threats to KIMU associated with the recent extreme warming events in the North Pacific.

(3) Actions: Sarah Schoen drafted of a letter of concern for KIMU, incorporating great input from KMTC members. Peter Hodum edited our letter and distributed it to the USFWS on behalf of the Conservation Committee on May 22, 2019. Carbon copied on the letter were the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the NPS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the USGS. On January 31, 2020 we were forwarded a response letter from the USFWS dated June 11, 2019.

At the next KMTC meeting in Portland, Oregon, we will meet to (1) identify and summarize KIMU research projects currently underway, and to (2) discuss follow up options to the response letter from the USFWS. 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).

SCRIPPS'S MURRELET AND GUADALUPE MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Yuliana Bedolla and David
Mazurkiewicz, Coordinators**

In 2012, the American Ornithologists' Union split Xantus's Murrelet into Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*, SCMU) and Guadalupe Murrelet (*S. hypoleucus*, GUMU), based on genetic separation. In September 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declined to list these species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, although

they remain protected as state-threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act and are listed as endangered in Mexico. The mandate of the Scripps's Murrelet and Guadalupe Murrelet (and Craveri Murrelet) Technical Committee (SMGMCMTTC; formerly the Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee) of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) 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." During the non-breeding season, the Scripps's Murrelet occurs at sea off the Pacific coasts of western Baja California, California, Oregon, Washington, and southern British Columbia; it breeds on at least 12 islands off southern California and northwestern Baja California. The Guadalupe Murrelet occurs at sea in the same areas as Scripps's Murrelet during the non-breeding season; but it breeds mainly at Guadalupe Island, with smaller numbers at the San Benito Islands and perhaps a few other islands as far north as Santa Barbara Island. The Craveri's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus craveri*) breeds on many islands in the Gulf of California and at least 4 islands off the coast of Baja California from Asunción to San Martín. Post-breeding, it ranges into waters off southern California and occasionally further north. Its conservation status is threatened/vulnerable (IUCN 2019) and is impacted by many of the same stressors and concerns as Scripps's and Guadalupe Murrelets, hence its inclusion in development of a conservation plan for these species.

Below, we summarize SMGMCMTTC activities in 2019:

MEETINGS

The SMGMCMTTC met at the February 2019 PSG Annual Meeting in Kauai, HI (agenda included). 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 status and conservation within its range.

The Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) science working group meeting was hosted by Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI) in Ensenada, BCS, MX in June of 2019. Bi-national agenda items included coordinated monitoring of shared species such as SCMU and GUMU. Ideas to support and fund monitoring and analysis were highlighted.

MURRELET MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

In 2015, the SMGMCMTTC 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 complete. Some progress occurred in 2019, mainly focused on the best way to move the plan forward, revising scope, and seeking funding to support this effort. This process will be continued and hopefully completed in 2020 with additional consideration and assessment of the status and conservation of Craveri's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus craveri*) as highlighted during both the 2018 and 2019 meetings.

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 September 21, 2016. Members of the committee provided the Service with needed information in 2014-2016. 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

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2019

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.

2019 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: Mazurkiewicz), with funding from the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program (MSRP) 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 2019 to help continue documentation of SCMU recovery at this location post rat eradication. Surveys included both spotlight population monitoring and nest site reproductive monitoring in 2019. This effort helps add to the robust 15 year data set compiled during this important management action.

San Clemente Island: In 2019, the California Institute of Environmental Studies (Parker and Whitworth), Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS), and US Navy (USN) conducted nest searches and monitoring, spotlight surveys, and at-sea captures in their 8th consecutive year of population monitoring at the island. Another complete year of population monitoring is planned for

2020.

Santa Catalina Island: In 2019, CIES (Whitworth) collaborated with the Catalina Island Conservancy (Brenner and Hamblen) to conduct nest searches and monitoring, spotlight surveys, and at-sea captures at the island. Similar monitoring is planned for 2020.

Guadalupe, Coronado, Todos Santos and San Benito Islands: GECI continued monitoring activities for Scripps’s and/or Guadalupe Murrelets, including nest censuses, spotlight surveys, evaluation of reproductive performance, and banding with funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Packard Foundation, ABC, Fundación Carlos Slim/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 2019. Active habitat restoration is currently underway on East Anacapa Island for a second year in 2019 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 area near restoration sites. Nesting has been documented in sea caves, steep slopes and cliffs since 1994. This work is funded by MSRP. A small grant was submitted and received by CIES from the Sonoran Joint Venture for increased SCMU monitoring at Anacapa in 2019 to help inform restoration efforts.

Guadalupe, Coronado, Todos Santos and San Benito Islands: In 2019, 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, ABC, Fundación Carlos Slim/WWF

and other sources.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Introduced Mammals: GECI is advancing steadily in the feral cat eradication (4 year-project to be completed in 2021) on Guadalupe Island with funding from NFWF, Packard Foundation, Fundación Carlos Slim/WWF, and continues working with federal government and local fishing communities to enforce measures to prevent re-introduction of non-native species on nesting islands in Baja California.

CINP and the USN are discussing biosecurity efforts that could be taken to prevent movements of introduced black rats from San Miguel Island (SMI) to Prince Island. A proposal was submitted to NFWF in 2017 that funded a feasibility study for rat eradication at SMI.

At San Clemente Island, CIES and IWS have been using motion-sensor cameras to detect predator activity (feral cats, island fox, and rats) in murrelet breeding areas. IWS are actively removing feral cats, with funding from the USN.

MARBLED MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Kim Nelson, Coordinator

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; (4) act as a liaison between research and management; and (5) develop a science-based inland dawn survey protocol for management and research that provides for the conservation of the Marbled Murrelet

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2019

over the long-term.

The MMTTC met on February 27th, 2019 at the PSG Annual Meeting in Kauai, HI. Twenty-one people were in attendance for the half day meeting that summarized our 2018 activities. We are meeting again on February 12th, 2020 at the PSG Annual Meeting in Portland, OR.

Peter Harrison has resigned as Co-Coordinator of the MMTTC. Bill McIver has recently taken over duties as Co-Coordinator to help run the MMTTC.

Protocol Subcommittee

The Inland Survey Protocol Subcommittee has been working diligently since 2018 to complete a revision of the inland dawn survey protocol before the 2021 field season (new release date). We have created two working groups that meet monthly: one group is working on the text and figure revision (led 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 (led by Gary Falxa). Statisticians from Weyerhaeuser worked with the team and completed the analyses in May 2019. 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 2020.

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. Priorities 5-8 have been identified but have not been addressed: (5) chemical contaminants, (6) wind/wave farms, (7) marine aquaculture,

and (8) marine construction. The subcommittee is also looking for a co-chair to help move the group forward on the first four priorities.

Sound Subcommittee

The Sound Subcommittee, led by Rich Golightly, met several times during 2019. They are working on summarizing: (1) on-going hearing studies on murrelets, (2) review of MAMU nesting chronology, (3) visual disturbance criteria, and (4) sound metrics. They are also reviewing the recommendations used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for minimizing sound disturbance to birds and are making recommendations for revision with updated information on murrelets.

ALEUTIAN TERN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Susan Oehlers and Mike Goldstein,
Coordinators**

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. Initial 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, such as

the East Asian flyway council; 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 40-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. Committee membership is not static, and several new technical committee members were added in 2019, primarily as a result of networking through PSG as well as referrals from existing committee members.

This annual report summarizes accomplishments of the technical committee, including highlights of individual members' contributions, during the 2019 calendar year.

Meetings

Collaboration between committee members occurred throughout the year. The committee formally met during the annual PSG conference in Kauai, and several additional informal meetings between members took place during the conference. A subset of committee members also attended the Northeast Asia Conservation Committee meeting 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, on April 9-10, 2019. The meeting objective was to facilitate a common understanding of alternative sampling and population estimation methods for Aleutian Terns at breeding colonies, including assumptions, advantages, and limitations. Our long-term goal is to develop a standardized approach to population estimation when we have confidence that our colony counts and the sampling approaches

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2019

can be integrated. We used this time to refine the methods initiated and pilot tested in 2018 (ground based ocular counts, ground-based photo counts, aerial photos obtained through drones, and acoustic recordings), which set up 2019 field work, and planned subsequent analysis and discussion at the 2020 meeting (tentatively set for March 2020). The technical committee anticipates that refinement of these methods for estimating Aleutian Tern abundance at a single colony will position the group to undertake a statewide or regional survey in the coming years that can use a standardized and rigorous approach to estimate Aleutian Tern population sizes and monitor population trends over broader spatial and temporal scales.

Acomplishment Highlights

A subset of committee members continued to collaborate on a pilot study deploying PTT transmitter tags. Ten PTT tags were deployed on Aleutian Terns at colonies in the Kodiak area.

Colony level monitoring (direct counts) was conducted on the Yakutat, Copper River Delta, and Kodiak area colonies. Nest monitoring via remote cameras continued in the Yakutat and Kodiak regions. Additional cameras were deployed at colonies in Prince William Sound and Copper River Delta. Nest habitat data were collected at Kodiak area colonies.

Alternative methods for estimating colony abundance, first pilot tested in 2018, were implemented at a suite of sites, including acoustic monitoring, ground based photos, and aerial (drone) based photos.

Twenty-nine Aleutian Tern and 12 Arctic Tern chicks on the Kodiak road system were banded, a record high since banding efforts began in 2017.

Photographic sampling of prey delivery to establish a baseline diet for ALTE chicks, initiated in 2019, continued in 2019, with sampling conducted in Yakutat, Kenai Peninsula, and Kodiak. Comparative opportunistic images of Arctic Tern bill loads were taken at Yakutat, Kodiak, and

Anchorage.

While conducting field work in Yakutat, two geolocators from birds tagged in 2010 were recovered and sent to the British Antarctic Survey to ascertain whether the data are recoverable.

Beginning in late fall of 2018, Sanjay Pyare completed 5 months of Aleutian Tern international research and networking with Indonesian researchers, government agencies, and students, supported by a 2018-2019 Fulbright award entitled “Aleutian-tern migration research as a flagship for Indonesian-U.S. collaboration, conservation and education.” Dr. Pyare worked with local students, NGOs, agencies, researchers, and community members, promoting migratory bird research, and conducting surveys for wintering terns.

Grants

A subset of committee members was approved for a collaborative National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Pacific Seabird Program grant for continued tagging and monitoring work, colony-level methods refinement, development of a statewide monitoring framework, initiation of a database to house tern colony occupancy and abundance data, and initiation of a study on Aleutian Tern population genetic structure across Alaska. The grant is being administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, with Robin Corcoran as lead investigator.

Publications

Yordan, K., B. Emmanuel, F.N. Tirtaningtyas, S. Pyare, and M.I. Goldstein. 2019. Locating and identifying non-breeding Aleutian Terns *Onychoprion aleuticus* in Indonesia. *BirdingASIA* 31: 28–32.

Goldstein, M.I., Duffy, D.C., Oehlers, S., Catterson, N., Frederick, J. and S. Pyare. 2019. Interseasonal movements and non-breeding locations of Aleutian Terns *Onychoprion aleuticus*. *Marine Ornithology* 47: 67–76.

TUFTED PUFFIN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Peter Hodum and Mark Hipfner,
Coordinators**

The Tufted Puffin Technical Committee was formed in 2017 in order to address the following goals: (1) provide technical advice on Tufted Puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*, TUPU) status, distribution, and life history, (2) identify, facilitate, and prioritize research needs, (3) identify and assess population threats and potential conservation measures, (4) act as a liaison between research and management, and (5) bring together and create partnerships of interested parties throughout the range of the species. Since its initiation, the committee has held in-person meetings at the 2017 (Tacoma) and 2019 (Kauai) PSG meetings and multiple conference calls to prioritize research and conservation actions and develop collaborative partnerships.

The 2019 meeting in Kauai had 14 committee members in attendance and was extremely productive. Participants provided updates on Tufted Puffin research activities, status assessments and recovery planning. Doug Forsell gave a presentation on the methods used in Tufted Puffin surveys in the Aleutian Islands in 1980-81. Population status updates were provided for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and Triangle Island, BC. Leah Kenney provided an update on the federal range-wide status assessment being undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to a petition to list the species under the Endangered Species Act, with the final decision expected in July 2020. Scott Pearson provided an update on the status of the draft Tufted Puffin Washington State Recovery Plan and a manuscript on a meta-analysis of TUPU population trends throughout their North American range. Meeting participants also discussed monitoring and survey methods, both on-colony and at-sea. Importantly, the meeting provided a platform on which to continue to develop a range-wide population

genetics project, led by Theresa Burg and Mark Hipfner, to assess whether or not genetic structure exists between breeding populations. Scott Pearson also provided a summary of a satellite tagging project on late-season breeding Tufted Puffins in Washington State, with on-water night captures unsuccessful in August 2018 and plans for on-colony captures in August 2019.

The population genetics study made significant progress in 2019, with Theresa Burg and colleagues analyzing samples from Alaska, British Columbia and a limited number of samples from California, Oregon and Washington. The technical committee has been critically important in facilitating the acquisition of samples for the study. Additional samples are required from TUPUs breeding in California, Oregon and Washington.

Post-breeding movements and habitat usage patterns by TUPUs has been identified as an important information gap to address. Environment and Climate Change Canada biologists have successfully deployed GPS tags on TUPUs on Triangle Island to better understand the spatial ecology of TUPUs. The attempt to deploy satellite tags on late-season TUPUs in Washington State was minimally successful, with only one tag successfully deployed.

The multi-investigator meta-analysis of TUPU population trends in North America is in an advanced draft stage and will be submitted to a journal for review in early 2020.

The Washington State Tufted Puffin Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review was finalized in 2019 and is now available: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/02051/wdfw02051.pdf>

The third in-person meeting of the Tufted Puffin Technical Committee is scheduled for the 2020 PSG Annual Meeting in Portland, OR.

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 North Pacific commercial fisheries. 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. Each year during the annual PSG meeting, NPAWG convenes 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 (*Phoebastria immutabilis*), and Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*).

Meetings

The 2019 NPAWG meeting was held during the 4th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group on the island of Kauai. We had nearly 30 attendees take part in discussions and information updates were delivered by 12 biologists on subjects ranging from national policy, population monitoring, demographic modeling, bycatch reduction measures and mitigation in US and foreign fisheries, regional issues, research initiatives, and emerging conservation initiatives. The meeting, easily consumed the entire 2.5 hour time allotment. Lots of discussion, questions, and dialogue stimulated by the

presentations and informational updates enabled the group to stray productively into other relevant albatross-related topics and subject areas.

Going forward, as a group, we continue updating our contact information for working group participants those who simply wish to remain abreast of NPAWG activity. Last year, our information sharing platform (wiki), which has traditionally facilitated access to shared reference materials and current literature related to North Pacific albatross conservation, was discontinued. In 2020, we are planning to work on setting up a new, longer-term platform where we can upload relevant content, especially “gray literature” and unpublished material that can facilitate access to current information and be used as a tool to strengthen collaboration. Enhancing the exchange of information and generating working discussion among participants throughout the year is important to NPAWG and helps facilitate collaborative exchange among core participants leading up to the annual working group meeting.

Summary

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 to bear and work toward identifying challenges and achievements in a collaborative, forward thinking capacity. We look forward to an exciting meeting in 2020, during the 47th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group in Portland, Oregon, promoting our capacity to build on collaborative achievements, working initiatives, and goals that have been identified as core themes and which, to a significant degree, will form the 2020 meeting.

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2019

CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION FUND COMMITTEE

Verena Gill, Chair

This report covers January 2019 to January 2020. The members of the Committee are; Verena Gill (Chair), Craig Harrison, Bill Henry, Dave Duffy, Doug Forsell, and Marc Romano, Michelle Kissling (new in 2019), Trudy Chatwin (new in 2019), and Doug Causey (new in 2019). We said goodbye and thank you to Louise Blight and Melanie Steinkamp in 2019.

As of 26 February 2020, the Fund total is \$6043.65. Since 2007, PSG has funded 24 projects for a total of \$49,628 although one study 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 2019 we received nine proposals to review. Two of these were funded (see tables below). Four were considered not eligible. We asked for more information on two projects that we never heard back from. Finally one project was rejected because we did not think it a good use of PSG money.

Two final reports were delivered – see table below:

PERSON	COUNTRY COVERED BY PROPOSAL	REQUEST	AMOUNT FUNDED	REPORT SUBMITTED?
Ana García	Chile	Characterization of Marine Debris in Nests of Red-legged Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax gaimardi</i>) and Inca Tern (<i>Larosterna inca</i>) in Northern Chile	\$1,990	Project ongoing
Rodrigo Silva	Chile	Conservation of Storm Petrels in the Atacama Desert	\$1,990	Yes; received February 17, 2020

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Emma Kelsey, Coordinator

Overall membership stayed strong throughout 2019. The number of individual and student members dropped toward the end of 2019. The total membership number for PSG currently stands at 458.

In 2019, several outstanding membership issues were addressed: membership profiles were updated and consolidated for individuals who had multiple profiles and membership regions were also updated. The PSG Membership Coordinator Handbook was also updated.

In 2020, I plan to reinvigorate PSG membership in a couple of ways:

- In coordination with other members of the PSG exco, I plan to share a letter with the PSG email list reinforcing the code of conduct and the fact that kindness matters in PSG. We hope this will increase moral and participation among individuals who have been slightly alienated by some voices within the PSG community
- Following up on our “Kindness Matters” message, we hope to send out a series of positive emails to the email list motivating people to become members or renew their membership. I plan to brainstorm with current members and the ExCo on different ways to invigorate membership.

**ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT
2020 ELECTION**

Katie O'Reilly

The committee included: Katie O'Reilly (Coordinator), Jane Dolliver (member), Oliver Bailey (member).

Current Election

The PSG Elections for the 2020-2021 Executive Council were closed on Friday, 31 January, 11:59PM. A final message was sent early on 31 January to let voters know that Friday was the last day to vote. There were some very tight races for Regional Representative of Northern California, and Regional Representative of Europe and Africa, Regional Representative of Asia and Oceania.

Summary of Election Process

1. Five members reported not being sent a ballot, though they were current members. In each case, members were current and either a) their institution blocked the ballot b) their ballot did not reach them. These 5 members received a ballot via a) another email b) a link to the survey (not an email).

2. Re-sent 7 student ballots after realizing there was an error and early voters were not directed to the "are you a student?" page.

3. Changed a typo on the Europe/Africa ballot

4. Sent ballots on 2 Jan. Sent weekly reminders on 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/29/20

5. Added 10 late-renewing members to ballot distribution lists on 1/10/20

Summary of 2020 Voter Turnout

1. 50.5% reporting, society-wide, with 2 days left and 1 reminder left. The goal is to have 50% reporting – this is a high bar which PSG reaches (with weekly reminders!) in most years.

2. Reporting by region: Alaska/Russia 69%, Asia/Oceania 37%, Canada 62%, Europe/Africa 46%, Non-Pacific U.S. States 49%, Northern California 53%, Southern California 37%,

Washington/Oregon 58%.

Summary of Time Committed

1. Prospective candidate emails ~18 hours

2. Ballot set-up and QA/QC ~10 hours

3. Ballot checks and reminders ~4 hours

4. Final report and updates to EXCO, committee members ~3 hours

5. Total time estimated ~35 hours

Reccomendations for Future Elections

This committee is still in need of additional volunteer help, especially for ballot set-up, QA/QC, checks, and reminders. We kindly request that the 2020 Chair make progress on our original request from 2019. If willing, we welcome participation by members who had to recuse themselves from the Committee to run as a candidates in 2020.

The following is the outcome of the 2020 election, showing all the candidates and those elected:

POSITION	CANDIDATES (*elected in bold)	
Chair-elect	Roberta Swift*	
Treasurer	Kirsten Bixler*	
Alaska/Russia	Marc Romano*	Susan Oehlers
Northern California	Katie Stoner*	Laney White
Asia/Oceania	Chung-Hang Hung*	Luke Einoder
Europe/Africa	Nina O'Hanlon*	Julie Miller
Student Representative	Kristin Brunk*	Katie Douglas

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

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Jane Dolliver, Coordinator

Now in its fourth year, the PSG Communications Committee is responsible for three social media platforms, two websites, one listserv, publication of the Pacific Seabirds bulletin and management of the journal *Marine Ornithology*. Not surprisingly, this hard-working team donates an immense amount of time and in-kind support to PSG, about 727 hours annually (valued at ~\$18,500 – PSG portion) and 2,600 hours annually (valued at ~\$66,000 – Marine Ornithology portion).

Communications Committee members:

Facebook

Jacqueline Huard

Instagram

Laura Bliss

Listserv

Verena Gill

Marine Ornithology, Managing Editor

Louise Blight

Pacific Seabirds, Editor

Jennifer Lang

Twitter

Julia Gulka

Website

Jane Dolliver

Highlights 2019

- Likes and follows to ALL social media accounts (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) grew in 2019!
- The listserv now exceeds 900 subscribers.
- Two issues of Pacific Seabirds were published and a third is nearly complete.
- Marine Ornithology published 40 papers and is now indexed in the Web of Science's Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE).

Recommendations

- Use PSG 2020 to recruit additional help, especially Sept 2020 – Feb 2021, ahead of the annual meeting.
- Continue to find ways to profile

individual PSG members (see #30EarthMonthHeroes campaign below).

- Continue to capture photos, video, and short quotes at annual meetings, especially mentor sessions.
- Gather testimonials from PSG awardees for website and social media.

WEBSITE REPORT

Jane Dolliver, Coordinator

In March 2019, all pages were reviewed for broken links and high priority content updates (e.g., EXCO and Committee changes). These updates occurred throughout spring 2019. The Website Coordinator spends 80 hours annually adding new posts, updating and adding content to pages, communicating with webmaster, EXCO, external organizations wishing to post jobs.

- Total visitors (20,963) and total page views (45,923) increased over the previous year.
- 55% are new visitors, 45% are returning visitors
- Average session duration is 1min:46sec, 2 pages viewed
- 67% of viewers are from the U.S., 6% Canada, 3% U.K., 3% Japan, 3% Mexico, 2% Chile
- 60% of incoming viewers bounce to the annual meeting site

Goals in 2020

- Work with new Student Rep to update student and early-career scientist profiles
- Contact Vice-Chair for Conservation monthly to receive content updates
- Contact Secretary monthly to receive content updates
- Fill Assistant Coordinator role

LISTSERV REPORT

Verena Gill,

Listserv Coordinator

As of 17 Jan 2020, the new listserv has 909 subscribers up from 844 subscribers a year ago. The old USFWS-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 3,000+ subscriber capacity.

The following language was added to the introductory description about the list. It will be included, as html, at the top of the listinfo page. It was also added to the new-subscriber welcome message.

Before your post, please consider the diversity of your audience and that almost 1000 seabirders that may read it. The PSG Listserv Policy (2017) and PSG Code of Conduct can be found at our organizational records link (<https://pacificseabirdgroup.org/about-us/organizational-records/>).

The Listserv Coordinator spends 104 hours annually approving new subscriptions, and delayed posts, updating and archiving content.

MARINE ORNITHOLOGY REPORT

Louise Blight, Editor

Publishing: In 2019 (issues 47(1) and (2)), we published 40 papers, totalling about 200,000 words. Rachel Buxton took over fully as Book Review Editor last year, and has enthusiastically been commissioning a series of excellent reviews of books published on a wide range of topics related to seabirds and conservation science. MO continues to produce two issues per year, though these have increased slightly in number

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

of pages per issue.

Following our mandate and byline of being “a journal of seabird science and conservation”, we continue to publish a broad mix of papers. These range from MSS with the potential for wide-reaching impact (e.g., on genetic structuring of Black-legged Kittiwake in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans; or on defining wintering range and migration routes of Aleutian Tern) to those filling smaller knowledge gaps via a natural history focus. Authors hailed from nearly 20 countries.

After a multi-year wait, Marine Ornithology is now indexed in Web of Science’s Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE). Having a JCR Impact Factor is anticipated to increase number of manuscripts submitted to the journal over time. Traffic to MO’s website also saw an increase from the previous year, including a doubling of users in some months of 2019 vs. the same months of 2018. Our Twitter account now has >1,100 followers, with numbers slowly increasing after an initial surge.

MO continues to be self-supported by authors’ page charges, member society fees, and subscriptions, with the cost of publishing largely offset by the volunteer editorial team. Rosalyn, Kyra, and Reber are based in Canada so the strong US dollar continues to be an advantage.

Potential issues

As noted in previous reports, MO’s current model is unsustainable over the longer term as it relies heavily on volunteer labour by a stable, long-term team with specific areas of expertise. The successes outlined above, and the rapidly changing world of science publishing, will presumably continue to increase demands on volunteers, and finding replacements once the current crop burn out or leave grows increasingly unlikely with increasing workload. Thus, Marine Ornithology will eventually need to follow the recent example of other society-published

journals (such as *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Journal of the Entomological Society of Canada*, etc.) in moving to a publishing service provider such as Oxford University Press (OUP), or otherwise spending considerably more money per year to recruit professional staff. This is not necessarily a negative thing given a healthy endowment fund, but preparing for this will be better than crashing into it unawares.

The journal online will see at least two improvements early in 2020 — Iain Duncan has been working on updating programming so that the MO website will load properly on mobile devices; and Jenna Cragg has completed a series of bios of the Editorial Board. These are ready to be loaded to the website, so look for profiles and photos of MO’s talented Associate Editors and EIC soon (currently listed on MO’s About page).

Requests

- In 2018 we trialled payment of honoraria to the editorial staff from the PSG Publication Fund. Total amount was \$US5800 — \$1600 each to David, Ben, Louise; \$500 each for Jenna, Iain), which was offset by the fact that PSG’s annual \$6K contribution was not requested that year. We retroactively request those same amounts for 2019, with the addition of \$500 for Rachel Buxton, for a total of \$6300.
- We again will not be requesting the annual \$6K contribution for 2019.

PACIFIC SEABIRDS REPORT

Jennifer Lang, Editor

Volume 46 (2)

As of 28 January 2020, Pacific Seabirds Volume 46 Number 2 is in final layout stages, pending the submission and addition of the Treasurer’s report.

This issue will include regional reports from current members and the FY2019 budget for PSG.

Challenges

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

Editor Succession Plan

Volume 46 Number 2 will be my last edition of Pacific Seabirds as editor. I enjoyed creating this bulletin over the past three years, allowing me to keep in touch with PSG members and amazing seabird work, but have since started a new career outside of the seabird world that doesn’t allot me a lot of time to devote to volunteering. Thankfully, Theodore Squires has graciously offered to take over as editor; his enthusiasm and editing experience assures me that Pacific Seabirds will be in good hands. I am working on creating a Pacific Seabirds handbook including timeline suggestions for procuring documents and editing for timely publications, and creating templates in Adobe InDesign that would allow for easier document creation. I hope to continue to be involved in editing and with PSG, but for now, I’ll have to see you all later. Thank you to all of the people willing to devote their time to volunteer for this wonderful organization. Thanks in particular to Robb Kaler who has compiled and edited regional reports for years, Jane Dolliver who does so much for PSG in various roles and for her sharp eye for edits, Marc Romano and Theo Squires for assisting me with final edits throughout the document, Kirsten Bixler for her dedication to accurate budget reporting, and all of the EXCO members I’ve had the pleasure of

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2020

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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TWITTER REPORT

**Stephanie Avery-Gomm,
Twitter Coordinator**

The @PacificSeabirds twitter account was revived in 2016, since then, followers have steadily grown from 101 before revival, to 701 in 2017, to 1,051 in 2018, to 1,356 in 2019. In January 2020, Twitter now has 1,753 followers!

On average, from Jan - Dec 2019, 26 tweets were sent each month, which generated 45,750 impressions and 42 profile visits per month. Both number of monthly tweets and impressions increased from 2018, while profile visits decreased. The annual meeting (Feb) and the #30EarthMonthHeroes campaign (Apr) generated the most activity overall. The hashtag #PSG2019 was used for the 2019 annual meeting and attached to tweets to advertise events and talks. It was also very successfully used by conference participants. As part of PSG 2020 registration, we have asked registrants to provide their twitter handle. Julia Gulka is the lead on curating content for the PSG Twitter account, but Edward Jenkins and Jenny Howard have been assisting. In particular, Jenny helped run the account in 2019.

Recommendations for 2020:

The Twitter Manager should engage with the World Seabird Union (worldseabird@gmail.com) regarding

opportunities to promote PSG over social media and in relation to the 2020 World Seabird Conference. The Communications team should consider additional opportunities for engagement. The #30EarthMonthHeroes was a successful campaign, and there may be other similar opportunities. In addition, explore the possibility of a member takeover as an additional outreach opportunity.

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.

The top 5 posts of 2019:

1. #30EarthMonthHeroes post honoring Joanna Alfaro Shigueto (171 likes)
2. Laysan albatross photos to promote "Kalama's Journey", one of the documentary films shown at PSG 2019 (153 likes)
3. Red-footed booby painting by Olivia Townsend for the PSG 2019 silent auction (153 likes)
4. PSG 2020 logo debut (149 likes, also had the most comments of any post in 2019)
5. #30EarthMonthHeroes post honoring Lindsay Young (144 likes)

Top cities of our followers:

1. Honolulu, HI
2. Hilo, HI

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3. Santiago, Chile
4. Portland, OR
5. Seattle, WA

Age distribution of our followers supports that Instagram is overall a younger audience:

- o 46% between the ages of 25-34
- o 20% between the ages of 35-44
- o 13% between the ages of 18-24
- o 12% between the ages of 45-54

Recommendations for 2020:

- o Continue photo promotions such as our successful series in 2019 highlighting students and early-career scientists that won awards from PSG.
- o “Connect with PSG on Instagram” sign-up sheet at the PSG 2020 reg desk

FACEBOOK REPORT

Jane Dolliver,
Facebook Coordinator

Summary Feb 2019-Jan 2020:

- Average page views/month: 500
- Average post reach/month: 3,700
- Average page likes/month: 20
- Average page follows/month: 20
- Average number of engagements/months: 1,500
- Total page likes: 3,315
- Total followers: 3,475
- Average number of posts/month: 67

Opportunities and Challenges

Last year we found 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, in February 2019, the following goals were set:

- a) decreasing the number of posts in 2019 - one every day or every other day
- b) soliciting additional help at PSG 2019; making sure two people to

maintain the platform

Jacqueline Huard joined the group in December 2018 and Jane Dolliver continues to support with postings, especially conference and ExCo related content. Facebook viewership and followers have increased throughout the year with spikes near the annual conference and this may be a good time to target additional content.

Goals for 2020 include:

- Participate (via multiple posts leading up and on the day of) for World Albatross Day
- Post (almost) everyday
- Get back to themes & create 3 or 5 specific themes

PSG 2020 EVENT WEBSITE REPORT

Jenny Howard, Coordinator; and Jill Tengeres, Assistant Coordinator

Overview:

The Cvent website went live on October 2, 2019 for #PSG2020. 17 active pages including:

Home, Contact Us, Local Committee, Field Trips, Merchandise, Registration & Fees, Silent Auction, Abstract Guidelines, Agenda, Presenter Information, Scientific Program, Meeting Sponsors, Sponsorship & Exhibitors, Students, Travel Awards, Travel & Accommodations, Venue Location, and Presenter Information.

Plenary Speakers was present as a page in the 2019 Cvent but we never received plenary info or biographies this year so this page didn’t go live in 2020.

Recommendations for PSG 2021:

- We recommend having one person that can dedicate a lot of time, or two people that could work seamlessly together. Jenny and Jill worked really well together on Cvent the past two years probably because they were

colleagues and friends before becoming Cvent managers.

- It would be helpful if the PSG secretary or ExCo member sends an introductory email to Cvent team and LoCo to get the ball rolling. Start early because it can take a while to acquire all the key information, especially with people’s field schedules.

- Cvent team can create a folder of documents that need to be updated and included on the website for PSG 2021, which should be easy to make edits to. Everyone should have access to this (possibly via Google Drive or Dropbox) so that the Local Committee can see early on in the process what information will be needed to launch Cvent.

- It would be good to figure out a way for the Cvent website URL to be the one that Google generates at the top when searching “PSG Annual Meeting 2020”; maybe look into SEO.

- Add Google Analytics to track visits to website. Possibly do this under Cvent: Promotions & Communication > Web > Weblinks > Google Analytics Then enter Google Tracking ID from PSG Google Analytics account.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Corey Clatterbuck

Items Completed:

Student Research Grant: With the fundraising efforts of Nina Karnovsky and many generous PSG Former Chairs, we offered \$4K in grants to 4 current students in May 2019: Undergraduate - Ray Martin (Oregon State University); Masters - Jacqui Glencross (University of Tasmania) and Jill Tengeres (Oregon State University); PhD - Jaime Ojeda (University of Victoria). Many thanks to the Awards Committee for evaluating all of the strong applications. We plan to offer the SRG again in 2020, but need to check in with current Former Chairs Head to ensure this is a possibility.

Rapid Environmental Change (REC) survey: The original purpose of the survey was to gather relevant information about the survey topic to share with Virginia Morandini and Juliet Lamb, the ECS panelists on the PSG2020 REC panel. Though the panel format has since changed, the ExCo still found it valuable to gather the views of this younger cohort of PSG. The survey consists of 15 questions, some multiple choice and some free-response. As of 4 Feb 2020, we have 33 responses to the

ECS Survey. The survey will close on 7 Feb 2020. Results and summaries will be presented at the Rapid Environmental Change panel & the Conservation Committee events at PSG 2020 and posted on the Students & Early Careers section of the PSG website. There has been discussion of the usefulness of the survey as a pilot for a similar survey for all PSG members.

PSG 2020 Events

Silent Auction: PSG 2019 raised a record high \$4,794 for student travel. We had many donations collected by the Kauai LOCO as well as donations from PSG members. PSG 2020 has no dedicated LOCO volunteer but we have some local donations courtesy of Kim Nelson as well as items from PSG members. In the future, I would like to see a Silent Auction volunteer on the LOCO.

Prepaid Room: Given the success of the prepaid room in Kauai 2019, we opened the prepaid room option for PSG2020, but no rooms filled. This is likely due to the numerous housing and public transportation options in Portland, OR.

ECS Panel: This year we will host 4 panelists: Rob Suryan, Yasuko Suzuki, Yat-Tung Fat, and Nina Karnovsky. Janelle Lopez and Don Lyons generously volunteered to recruit panelists & run the event.

Student-Mentor Social: To help students and mentors make more valuable connections, we are hosting a match-based event in 2020. Students and mentors filled out a pre-registration survey identifying their research interests and job sector experience/interests. The volunteers for this event (Vivian Pattison and Adrian Gall) are working on matching students to mentors. Based on current registration counts, we plan to have 55 attendees at this year's event!

To-do in 2020-2021

- Student Research Grant
- Greater integration with LOCO in volunteer coordination and silent auction volunteers
- Incorporating events geared towards ECS who are not students
- Experiment with methods for engaging ECS remotely year-round

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Adrian Gall, Past Chair

(Appended from Past Chair Report) The first awards given in this past ExCo year were the Student Research Grants. These grants were generously funded by the Former Chairs fund. We received grant proposals from 11 students (2 undergraduates, 6 Masters, and 3 PhDs). The grant applications were reviewed by the Awards Committee (Chair Elect Rob Suryan, Chair David Craig, and myself), Former Chair Nina Karnovsky, and Student Representative Corey Clatterbuck. Thanks to the generosity of the Former Chairs, we offered grants to Sierra Ray Martin, Jacqui Glencross, Jill Tengeres, and Jaime Ojeda in April 2019.

In August, the Awards Committee reviewed 10 nominations submitted for Lifetime and Special Achievement awards and recommended 2 Lifetime Achievement Awards: Martha and Scott Hatch for their work in Alaska; and Dr. Julia Parrish for her work establishing the COASST program and mentoring students as a professor at the University of Washington.

The travel awards were highly competitive this year, with 46 applications submitted for consideration. We had \$13,690 to disburse, with most of those funds (\$10,556) available only to students. We offered grants to 11 students, 1 Non-US/Canada scientist, and 2 Early Career Scientists. The number of awards was lower this year than last year because the awards committee was careful to account for registration costs when disbursing the awards.

NORTH PACIFIC MARINE SCIENCE ORGANIZATION (PICES) REPORT

Rob Suryan

Background: 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)

S-MBM Projects: S-MBM completed its 2015-2020 focus on Climate and Trophic Ecology of Marine Birds and Mammals and a draft report will be completed for the October 2020 PICES meeting. Lead for this effort included

Yutaka Watanuki and Bill Sydeman. A key objective was to synthesize new dietary information and estimate food consumption using a new generation of bioenergetic models, particularly for marine mammals.

S-MBM is now discussing what their next 5-year project (2021-2025) will be. One possibility is focusing on the interaction between MBMs and other ecosystem components and stressors, and might include such topics as forecasting changes in forage species and response of top predators or MBMs as ecological indicators and predictors of changing marine ecosystems.

2019 Accomplishments: Workshop from the PICES 2019 meeting where seabirds were represented included: (1) Biological Oceanography Committee workshop on potential food competition between top predators and fisheries in the North Pacific. Leaders for this workshop included Yutaka Watanuki and Bill Sydeman; (2) Biological Oceanography Committee topic session on implications of prey consumption by marine birds, mammals, and fish

in the North Pacific. Co-lead for this session included Rob Suryan; (3) Marine Environmental Quality Committee topic session on environmental indicators of plastic pollution in the North Pacific, with a plenary presentation by Stephanie Avery-Gomm on Seabirds as biological monitors of microplastic pollution in the Pacific.

Limitations: One of the limitations that S-MBM has faced in PICES is the lack of representation on the broader committees. We have tried different approaches to change the status quo, but with little luck. However, with new PICES leadership, there may be some new avenues.

Looking Forward: The new Executive Secretary and lead for PICES is a long-time collaborator with numerous PSG members and is an ardent contributor to integrated ecosystem studies. We are hopeful this might help to improve MBM representation within the organization.

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

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

The Ornithological Council is pleased to provide to the Pacific Seabird Group this report, which is intended to provide an overview of OC's recent and ongoing activities in the context of our mission and is largely a compilation and update of the activities reported in the bimonthly NewsBRIEFS published between February 2019 and February 2020.

Our work focuses on animal welfare issues, permits, research funding, and other policies that affect ornithologists and ornithological societies.

Permit issues involving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The OC has continued to press the USFWS on a number of pending a number of requests to the USFWS including the OC's 2014 petition asking the agency to suspend a particularly challenging import requirement for CITES species.

Status of classification of rapid cardiac compression: In early 2020, the AVMA published an update to its guidelines on euthanasia, which did not change the classification of rapid cardiac

compression, as requested by the OC. Executive Director Paul notified the ornithological community, posted an open letter to the IACUC, reiterating the OC's position that recent scientific papers provide a scientific justification for a departure from the ILAR Guide, which mandates compliance with the AVMA guidelines, and communicated with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, urging them to state that they recognize RCC notwithstanding the AVMA guidelines and the ILAR Guide.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

Import controls by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC): The OC learned in April 2019 that the CDC will now include avian material in its control of import of animal products, despite its acknowledgment that such efforts duplicate the USDA/APHIS import controls and do not provide any additional protection of the public's health. Executive Director Paul participated in a conference call with CDC and USDA/APHIS in September, in an effort to clarify the CDC requirements and encourage the two agencies to coordinate their efforts so as to reduce or eliminate conflicting or duplicative requirements. The OC has requested that the CDC convene a federal advisory group to assess the biological foundations of the CDC restrictions. The OC also requested a scientific review of the CDC import requirements, but was informed there was no such process available.

Challenges to imports due to Customs and Border Protection procedures: In May, Executive Director Paul met with two leaders at U.S. Customs and Border Protection to address long-pending questions and concerns regarding the import of avian research material, pertaining in particular to hand-carried imports. Since the institution of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system for declaration of imports, many ports have refused to allow the informal entry procedures that are allowed by law. CBP officials informed the OC that they are developing new, simplified forms that can be used in lieu of an ACE entry. The OC has offered to participate in beta testing of both the new paperwork and the new automated entry and continues to press for an app to allow importers to access ACE to declare their imports.

Outreach to authors of PLOS article re: animal welfare in wildlife biology: Executive Director Paul contacted the lead author of a paper published in PLOS in April 2019 that urged journals to refrain from publishing articles that

they deem to have involved inhumane treatment of animals, even if the study methods had been approved by an animal care committee. She discussed the factual errors (most resulting from a lack of knowledge of the policies in the United States) and erroneous assumptions. The lead author agreed to work with the Executive Director Paul to write a follow-up paper and to submit an erratum (on a relatively minor misstatement of fact) to PLOS.

Remote surveillance regulation: In January 2018, the OC submitted a petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requesting that they issue a proposed regulation on the use of drones. In July 2018, USFWS officials informed the OC that a regulation had been drafted and was in the approval process. That regulation has not yet been published for comment; the OC will continue to track its progress.

Consultation with APHIS re: new online permits system: The OC was selected as one of several stakeholders to consult with APHIS on the development of a new online permits system. Executive Director Paul participated in an all-day, in-person meeting of stakeholders and later tested a mock-up of the new web interface. One change that will be possible with the new system is that others will be able to access the user's permit (with permission from the user). The OC has been requesting this for years, because the permit holder is often not available to renew or amend as needed.

Limits on use of controlled substances in field research: The OC opened a discussion with the Drug Enforcement Agency regarding the use of federally controlled substances in field research. Although researchers can obtain DEA licenses, the DEA restricts use of the substances to the registered location, making an exception only for veterinarians pursuant to a recent change in the law. State restrictions on the use of state-controlled substances

such as isoflurane, also pose barriers to field research that requires the use of anesthesia or chemical substances for euthanasia. The OC also undertook an effort to communicate with state legislatures and/or relevant regulatory agencies regarding restrictions on access to and the use of state-controlled substances in ornithological research.

Assisting OC Member societies with policy matters: At the request of the American Ornithological Society (AOS), the OC consulted with the chairs of the AOS Committee on Collections to review several USFWS permit application forms. Federal agencies are required, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, to obtain permission from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before seeking information from the public. Among the issues of concern is the burden to respondents. As part of the process of obtaining permission from OMB - which must be renewed every three years - the agencies must seek public comment. Although the forms under review were still valid, the agency decided to seek public comment because the online system might affect the burden on respondents. With the input from the Collections Committee chairs, the OC drafted letters on two permit applications (CITES Certificate of Scientific Exchange and eagle exhibition permits - which despite the title also applies to scientific purposes) for submission to the USFWS.

Giving ornithologists information: The OC informed the ornithological community about issues important to ornithologists, including the status of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act incidental take litigation in the federal courts, the delays in permit issuance in USFWS Region 8, California's new incidental take law, and the status of litigation over protection for Sage Grouse.

Assistance to individuals: The OC assists individual ornithologists in obtaining the permits necessary to complete their research and devising

REPORTS TO PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2020

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

effective strategies for responding to challenges encountered in obtaining approval of research protocols. We also respond to questions from IACUC members. During the period covered by this report, we assisted 24 individuals permit issues and 3 with animal welfare issues. The OC also

provided information about rapid cardiac compression to the IACUC chair at Occidental College, to the attending veterinarian at Florida Atlantic University.

OC management: Ellen Paul, who served as the Ornithological Council's

Executive Director for over twenty years, left the organization at the end of May. We thank Ellen for her tireless work on behalf of ornithologists. Laura Bies, previously the director of government affairs at The Wildlife Society and a freelance conservation policy analyst, joined the OC's staff as the new Executive Director.

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

Ken Morgan, PSG Delegate

As previously reported, ACAP is a multilateral agreement focused on conserving albatrosses and petrels, through coordinating efforts of ACAP Parties, Range States (non-Parties which have breeding populations of, or are visited by, ACAP-listed species) and environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). ACAP's Advisory Committee (AC) provides implementation guidance; and, the AC is supported by a Secretariat (Hobart, Australia) and three working groups: i) Seabird Bycatch (SBWG); ii) Population and Conservation Status (PaCSWG); and iii) Taxonomy (TWG). John Cooper (honorary ACAP Information Officer) posts information on ACAP activities, conservation issues, etc. to ACAP's LatestNews(ALN): <https://www.acap.aq/en/news/latest-news> and to ACAP's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AlbatrossesandPetrels/. Once again, I'm indebted to John for allowing me to extract excerpts from ALN. The following provides a brief summary of 2019 ACAP news and activities.

On February 14th, the USA renewed its attempt to become an ACAP Party. Congressmen Lowenthal and Fitzpatrick, introduced bill H.R. 1305 "To implement the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, and for other purposes." to protect imperiled seabirds from international fishing threats while increasing ongoing seabird

conservation efforts in the USA and abroad. ALN reported that: "The Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act ties together existing US laws and statutes..." and "...authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to implement fisheries conservation measures, increase international fisheries enforcement and cooperate internationally on conservation efforts." <https://www.acap.aq/en/latest-news/3233-the-usa-makes-a-new-attempt-to-become-a-party-to-the-albatross-and-petrel-agreement>.

The following month, the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife of the House Natural Resources Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives held a legislative hearing on Bill H.R. 1305. Ed Melvin (Washington Sea Grant, University of Washington, Seattle [retired]), provided testimony in support of the bill: <https://www.acap.aq/en/latest-news/3264-congress-holds-a-hearing-progress-with-usa-efforts-to-become-a-party-to-the-albatross-and-petrel-agreement>

On May 5th, ACAP began the 2019 round of meetings in Florianópolis, Brazil with a 1-day workshop to develop ways for ACAP to engage more effectively with tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) to deliver ACAP conservation goals. On May 6th, the 3-day long

9th SBWG meeting began; followed by the 2-day long 5th PaCSWG meeting. Ten (of 13) ACAP Parties (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, United Kingdom, Uruguay), five Range States (Bahama's [for the 1st time], Canada, Japan, Namibia, USA) and six NGOs (Associação R3 Animal, BirdLife International, Humane Society International [HSI], Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, Pro-Delphinus, Projeto Albatroz [PA]), participated in one of or both working group meetings. The RFMO workshop and working group reports are available at: <https://www.acap.aq/en/working-groups/seabird-bycatch-working-group/seabird-bycatch-wg-meeting-9/acap-s-rfmo-strategy-workshop>, <https://www.acap.aq/en/working-groups/seabird-bycatch-working-group/seabird-bycatch-wg-meeting-9> and <https://www.acap.aq/en/working-groups/population-and-conservation-status-working-group/population-and-conservation-status-wg-meeting-5>

The 11th meeting of the AC (AC11), also held in Florianópolis (May 13 - 17), was attended by nine Parties (as above except South Africa), four Range States (as above except Japan), two NGOs (HSI, PA), and for the 1st time, Chinese Taipei (a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum), as an observer: <https://www.acap.aq/en/latest-news/3299-new-observers->

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ACAP REPORT

en/latest-news/3299-new-observers-attend-the-eleventh-meeting-of-acap-s-advisory-committee-in-brazil .

During AC11, the committee declared that there was an urgent and continuing conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels. ALN reported that: “Thousands of albatrosses and petrelsdie every year as a result of fisheries.....Despite efforts that have been put into researching and recommending effective mitigation measures to address seabird bycatch ...”. <https://www.acap.aq/en/latest-news/3324-acap-s-advisory-committee-declares-a-conservation-crisis-for-albatrosses-and-petrels> .

Also during AC11, a paper was tabled proposing the establishment of a World Albatross Day (WAD). The proposal received great support, as it aligned well with the goal of giving ACAP greater visibility to address the conservation crisis. An Intersessional Group (IG) was formed to move the proposal forward. Post AC11, the IG decided that WAD would be marked annually on June 19th to commemorate the date in 2001 the ACAP agreement was signed in Canberra, Australia. As well, the IG decided that eradicating introduced pests at breeding sites of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters would be the theme for the inaugural WAD. The full AC11 report is available at: <https://www.acap.aq/en/>

[advisory-committee/ac11](https://www.acap.aq/en/advisory-committee/ac11)

On September 2nd ALN announced the call for 2019 ACAP Small Grants Applications for project funding to help ACAP achieve its conservation objectives, with total available funds of approximately \$115 000 (AUD). By the close of the application period (October 25th), 15 proposals had been submitted.

Lastly, on October 11th, ALN announced that there was an official WAD logo: <https://www.acap.aq/en/latest-news/3412-world-albatross-day-adopts-an-official-logo> .

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 20 marine ornithological organizations with members representing 52 countries. The PSG delegates to the WSU, Kathy Kuletz and Ken Morgan, attend the (approximately) monthly meetings via teleconference. Our terms extend from one World Seabird Conference (WSC) through the next (approximately five years). PSG does not vote on decisions before the WSU Executive Council, although both representatives can attend conference calls and engage in discussions. A synopsis of each meeting is posted at Seabirds.net and official meeting minutes are posted after final acceptance by the Council. Planning for the Third World Seabird Conference (WSC3) has been underway and related activity has increased in preparation for the conference, which will be in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 19-23 October 2020. Details on sessions and workshops, and the latest plans for the WSC3 are available at: <https://worldseabirdconference.com/>. The activities and business of the WSU can be accessed via the Seabirds.net web site.

Current standing committees include those for financial planning, review of conservation proposals, conference planning, fundraising, communications, early career scientists, awards, and elections. 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.

PSG NEWS

Read about changes to Pacific Seabirds and other transitions in 2020.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Well it's been a wild ride friends! After assisting as an associate editor of *Pacific Seabirds* for a few years, I took over for Jennifer Lang as the editor of *Pacific Seabirds* at the start of 2020. I was completely unprepared for what would ultimately be a very turbulent period in global science and all of our daily routines. Along with previous editors it is my sincere hope to compile news and updates from the Pacific Seabird Group in an organized and accessible fashion. While the goal has been to provide two publications annually, and I sincerely hope to return to that format, the upheaval of Covid-19 caused a delay to this issue in particular. I would like to thank the Executive Council members for their support and generally timely submission of reports, and especially I would like to thank Jane Dolliver for assisting with content early in my transition. Natasha Gillies was instrumental in the preparation of this issue and Wieteke Holthuijzen provided some reviewing assistance on the back end. I am grateful for all of the individuals who have contributed their time and effort to keep publishing *Pacific Seabirds* and am hopeful to live up to the fine editors who came before me.

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.

- *Theodore Squires*

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 2020.

We would like to thank Kirsten Bixler for serving as Treasurer and are grateful for her continued financial leadership in 2020, as she continues to serve in that position. Thank you to Luke Einoder (Asia and Oceania), Ross Wanless (Europe and Africa), and Kirsten Lindquist (Northern California) for the years they served as representatives for their region's members. Welcome, Chung-hang Hung, Nina O'Hanlon, and Katie Stoner as the new representatives of Asia and Oceania, Europe and Africa, and Northern California, respectively. We would also like to thank Marc Romano, as he will continue to serve as the Alaska and Russia representative for another term. We would like to thank Corey Clatterbuck for her support of PSG's students and Early Career Scientists in her role as the Student Representative. Welcome, Kristin Brunk, who will be taking over as Student Representative in 2020. A huge thank you to Jo Smith who served as Chair of the ad hoc Code of Conduct Committee until the Code of Conduct was ratified at the 2020 Annual Meeting in Portland. Last but not least, we're excited to have Roberta Swift elected into the Executive Council as the new Chair-Elect.

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

12 February 2020

47th Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon

Hilton Portland Downtown

Summary of actions by EXCO

February 2019 – February 2020

- Organized and held the 47th PSG Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon in February 2020, with 316 registrants, including 116 oral presentations and 47 posters.

- Sent 7 Conservation Letters to advocate for seabird conservation.

- Maintained a membership of 485 members.

- Maintained a listserv with 909 active members.

- Social media successes include: 3,475 global followers on Facebook, 1,217 followers on Instagram, and 1,753 followers on Twitter.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

Past Chair's Report:

Dr. Julia Parrish and Dr. Scott and Martha Hatch received Lifetime Achievement Awards at the 47th Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. In 2020, we were able to offer travel awards to 13 people including 2 Early Career Scientist grants, 1 award to a non-US/Canadian scientist, and 11 grants to students. Thanks to the generosity of the Former Chairs, we awarded 4 Student Research Grants in 2019.

Chair's Report:

In 2019, the Chair oversaw the work of all committees and led conference calls to facilitate EXCO projects throughout the year. Accomplishments in 2019

include:

- The PSG 2019 meeting at Aqua Kaua'i Beach Resort, Lihue, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, had a net positive balance of new members and a positive balance to PSG's general fund.

- The PSG 2019 meeting was opened in a fantastic welcoming ceremony by indigenous Hawaiians, and the scientific program included our first dedication session about indigenous knowledge and seabirds.

- PSG 2020 is the first time offering of a video conference option and part of reducing our carbon footprint and including greater member participation.

- A Code of Conduct was approved by a large margin of our members.

Chair-Elect's Report:

The Chair-Elect took the lead in organization of the 2020 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:

Seven conservation letters were sent in the past year. Key concerns included: 1) potential bycatch of Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*) in the Hawaiian shallow-set longline fishery and potential significant harm

to the federally Endangered Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) outside the West Coast EEZ, 2) support of proposed rules for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery and associated seabird bycatch avoidance measures, 3) improving the definition of "unoccupied nest", adding Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) and Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) to Schedule 1, and adding the following four species that do not build nests but use established nest sites to Schedule 1: Common Murre (*Uria aalge*), Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*), Razorbill (*Alca torda*), and Black Guillemot (*Cephus grille*), 4) support of the proposed South Farallon Islands Invasive House Mouse Eradication Project, 5) for the status and viability of Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*), 6) oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and 7) the breadth and depth of peer-reviewed data to be included in BOEM's California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway Databasin.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held virtually. The 2022 Annual Meeting will be hosted in San Diego, California with Nacho Vilchis as the local committee chair.

OTHER BUSINESS

Membership:

PSG has 4485 current (paid) members,

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

including 319 individual members, 71 student members, and 95 lifetime members.

MOTIONS

The new 2020-2021 EXCO members:
EXCO approved new membership-

elected candidates for the 2020-2021 EXCO. They include: Roberta Swift (Chair-Elect), Kirsten Bixler (Treasurer), Marc Romano (Alaska and Russia Representative), Katie Stoner (Northern California Representative), Chung-hang Hung (Asia and Oceania

Representative), Nina O'Hanlon (Europe and Africa Representative), and Kristin Brunk (Student Representative).

PSG'S 47TH ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Jane Dolliver and Kim Nelson

In what now feels like the last professional conference hosted before the COVID-19 pandemic, Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) members migrated to one of our "core use" sites, Portland, Oregon, for the 47th annual meeting, February 12-15, 2020. Over these four days, 303 people representing 14 countries shared their research under the theme, "Seabirds – Connecting Land and Sea," including 108 oral presentations and 48 posters. We welcomed 40 students and 65 early-career scientists as next generation leaders in the field.

Per usual, prior to the welcoming reception, PSG festivities started at 8am on Wednesday with 8 technical committee meetings, 2 workshops and the PSG Executive Council meeting. Evening socializing and networking moved the 23rd floor Skyline Room of the Hilton Downtown Portland for a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues over drinks and small bites.

The Scientific Program Committee prepared a cross-cutting, multidisciplinary program highlighting work on 51 species from the Pacific Rim and beyond. To kick it all off, Nick Bond began with a plenary on marine heat waves and their impacts on Pacific Northwest ecosystems and climate modeling, followed by a workshop on interdisciplinary approaches to advancing seabird conservation (Rachel DeMotts and Peter Hodum). For the first Early Achievement in Research and science communication plenary, Juliet Lamb highlighted the value of keeping your research front-and center, in both

the public eye and on social media. This made for great segue into the Early Career Scientist Panel discussion hosted by Janelle Lopez including PSG members Nina Karnovsky, Rob Suryan, Yasuko Suzuki, and Yu Yat Tung and an evening poster session filled with young faces presenting 48 posters across 14 topics.

Friday's program continued this emphasis on innovative collaborations, beginning with Julia Parrish, the first 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. In 1999, Julia created the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team beached bird program which blends the "who" of citizen science with the "what" – seabird science. Special Paper Sessions (SPS) included Foraging Ecology at the Land-Sea Interface (Stefan Garthe and Scott Shaffer) and the 5th SPS on Seabirds and Marine Spatial Planning (David Pereksta and Joanna Smith) – both an exciting mix of animal behavior, spatial statistics, human dimensions, and environmental policy. In a second ode to long-term datasets, Katie Dugger dove deep into Adélie penguin survival and age-related recruitment and breeding propensity at Cape Crozier. The intersection of climate and people continued into the night at the Climate Change Reassessment Forum hosted by George Divoky, David Duffy, and Enriqueta Velarde and among discussions of the 54 students and 22 mentors, part of the evening mentor-mixer.

Another celebration of mentorship and science partnerships began on Saturday

morning with the presentation of the second 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award to Scott and Martha Hatch. Scott regaled the crowd with the 34-year history of seabird research on Middleton Island, when black-legged kittiwakes first nested on the radio tower. An afternoon of tracking, foraging and tools and techniques aptly followed until it was time to wine and dine together at the banquet. Adrian Gall took the mic to announce 14 travel awards and 13 presentation awards met with thunderous applause, Jane Dolliver, Kim Nelson, and Katie O'Reilly handed off nametags and budget spreadsheets to upcoming Local Chairs Nacho Vilchis and Annette Henry, and Rob Suryan passed the Scientific Chair baton to Roberta Swift.

Such celebrating would not be possible without Chair David Craig, who opened PSG 2020 with an indigenous land acknowledgement, and Past Chair Adrian Gall who rallied the troops to review and organize the 2020 travel, presentation, and people's choice awards. Kudos to Corey Clatterbuck, who reimagined the 2020 student mentor session, and raised \$4,000 from the silent auction, and to PSG Treasurer Kirsten Bixler who kept those debits and credits in order. Lastly, we owe our gratitude to Olivia Bailey, and Justine Miller and Luana Events who kept all these moving pieces moving forward!

See all of your faces for virtual PSG 2021 and in-person (hopefully) for PSG 2022, San Diego!

MEETING PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Timothy Lawes



EXCO Meeting on February 12th, 2020



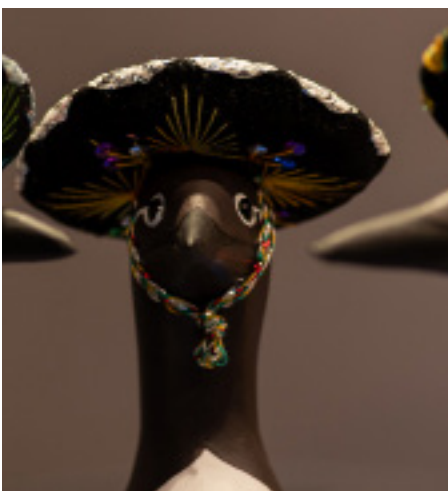
Poster Session Attendees



Student Paper Award Winners



Student Mentor Sessions



Vendor Items on Display



Members Meeting in the Atrium Ballroom

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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CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION SMALL GRANTS COMMITTEE

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PSG COMMITTEE COORDINATORS FOR 2019-2020

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Gregg Howald, email: gregg.howald@islandconservation.org and **Daisuke Ochi**, email: otthii@affrc.go.jp

SCRIPPS'S MURRELET AND GUADALUPE MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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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

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PETRELS (ACAP)**

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PSG DELEGATE TO THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

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

PSG DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

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PSG DELEGATES OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

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PSG LIFE MEMBERS 2019

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Sarah G. Allen
Daniel W. Anderson
Edgar P. Bailey*
Pat Baird
Lisa Ballance
Don Bishop
Jennifer Boyce
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Craig Strong
Takaki Terasawa
W. Breck Tyler
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

David Ainley
Daniel W. Anderson
Philip and Myrtle Ashmole
James C. Bartonek
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*
Martha Hatch
Scott Hatch
Michael P. Harris
Thomas R. Howell*
George L. Hunt, Jr.
Karl W. Kenyon*

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

**deceased*

RECIPIENTS OF PSG'S SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Alfonso Aguirre-Muñoz
Malcolm Coulter*
Franklin Gress
George J. Divoky
Craig S. Harrison
Hiroshi Hasegawa

Lora Leschner
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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>

Follow PSG on: Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/#!/pacificseabirds>

Instagram https://www.instagram.com/pacific_seabird_group/

PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2020

OFFICERS

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Past Chair	David Craig , email: pastchair@pacifcseabirdgroup.org
Chair-Elect	Roberta Swift , email: programchair@pacifcseabirdgroup.org
Vice-Chair for Conservation	Peter Hodum , email: conservation@pacifcseabirdgroup.org
Treasurer	Kirsten Bixler , email: treasurer@pacifcseabirdgroup.org
Secretary	Olivia Bailey , email: secretary@pacifcseabirdgroup.org

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