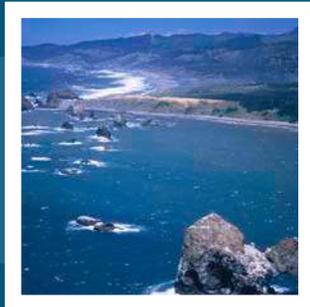
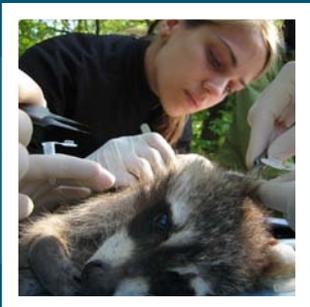


# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2009 Annual Report



The Wildlife Society is an international association of wildlife professionals dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education.

Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve biological diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society.

We encourage professional growth of wildlife professionals through certification, publications, conferences, and working groups.

The Wildlife Society was founded in the U.S. in 1937 and has a current membership of more than 9,000 wildlife professionals and students from more than 60 countries.

## On the front cover

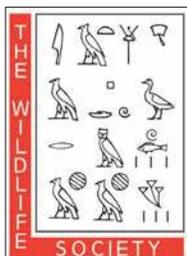
Elk herd grazing in National Elk Refuge, Jackson, Wyoming.  
Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wildlife graduate student Sarah Hamer checks a raccoon for ticks as part of a study on Lyme Disease.  
Credit: Graham Hickling

Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Newport, Oregon.  
Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Capitol dome in Washington, D.C.  
Credit: morguefile.com

A rare Mexican gray wolf in Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro, New Mexico.  
Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



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[www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)

The mission of The Wildlife Society is to represent and serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and its habitats worldwide.

#### Overview

In 2009, The Wildlife Society (TWS) expanded its membership, member benefits, policy work, and programs in keeping with its mission to support wildlife professionals and their work in management and conservation. The Society's leadership and staff met to assess and revise TWS' Strategic Plan. Based on those discussions, the Governing Council determined the top priorities for the coming years. These include:

1. To increase The Wildlife Society's impact on wildlife policy at the state and federal levels.
2. To keep wildlife professionals informed so they can effectively meet growing challenges in wildlife management and conservation.
3. To help create the next generation of diverse, dedicated, and skilled wildlife professionals.

In addition to these core goals, TWS increasingly advocates the use of sound biological information as the basis for wildlife policy, works to further develop and maintain professional standards for wildlife research and management, and strives to increase public awareness and appreciation of the wildlife profession. In sum, despite the difficult economy of 2009, The Wildlife Society had a productive and promising year, and that success is carrying forward.



A technician records swan nest data in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Credit: David Safine/USFWS

## Government Affairs and Partnerships

The Society's Government Affairs and Partnerships program works with TWS members and leadership, with state, federal, and provincial agencies, and with Congress, the Administration, and other organizations and societies to advocate the use of sound science when making wildlife management and conservation decisions.

The group also manages TWS' partnerships with agencies and other science and conservation organizations, ensuring strong working relationships.

**Work with TWS members and leadership.** In 2009, the Government Affairs staff helped establish the Society's official positions on several wildlife management and conservation issues. They helped develop a draft position statement on "The Impact of Border Security Measures on Wildlife." They incorporated member comments into a position statement on "Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle" and distributed the final statement to states, federal agencies, and Congress. They revised numerous position statements that had expired, including those on invasive species, economic growth, the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge, and the confinement of wild ungulates within high fences. They also helped initiate a Technical Review regarding ungulate management in National Parks.

**Outreach to policymakers.** Given the arrival of a new Administration and Congress in 2009, Government Affairs actively worked to reach out to new policymakers and inform them about the Society's goals and priorities. Among these efforts, the staff:

- Developed transition recommendations for the new Obama Administration and the 111th Congress.
- Met with key officials in the Departments of Agriculture and Interior and with the staffs of new members of Congress to discuss TWS' recommendations.
- Submitted expert comments to the USDA on rules implementing conservation programs of the 2008 Farm Bill, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on its Climate Plan, and to the National Park Service on elk management at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

- Provided testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior and Agriculture, advocating for adequate funding of wildlife conservation and management. Requests included \$85 million for State Wildlife Grants, a \$10 million increase for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the full \$6.5 million authorization for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and \$85 million for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.
- Launched a “Take Action” feature in *The Wildlifer* to further engage TWS members in the Society’s wildlife policy work.

**Collaboration with partner organizations.** Because partnerships are essential to the success of TWS’ mission, the Government Affairs group collaborated with numerous partner organizations throughout the year. Joined by 45 other conservation and sportsmen’s organizations, Government Affairs staff submitted a sign-on letter to President Obama thanking him for his memorandum on scientific integrity and emphasizing the importance of science in informing policy decisions. In addition, the staff:

- Worked with partners to hold the Teaming With Wildlife coalition’s annual Fly-In Day, which helped to secure \$90 million in FY 2010 for the State Wildlife Grants program and to educate Congress on the need for permanent, dedicated funding for wildlife management and conservation.
- Joined six other professional societies in sending a letter to President Obama, encouraging him to support the full participation of federal scientists in professional and scientific societies.
- Visited with Congressional appropriators, along with other representatives of organizations that are part of the USGS Coalition, to support strong funding for USGS in FY 2010.



Fly-In Day: TWS Government Affairs staff and partners of the Teaming With Wildlife coalition. Credit: Rachel Brittin/AFWA

In addition to these efforts, the Government Affairs staff also coordinated the fourth year of the TWS Leadership Institute, a program designed to facilitate the development of new leaders within the Society and the wildlife profession as a whole. Funding from the National Wildlife Refuge System allowed us to expand from 10 participants to 15 in 2009 and 2010, a valuable step toward supporting the next generation of wildlife professionals.

## Communications

This was a year of significant transition for the Communication Department, beginning with the name itself. Formerly called Publishing and Information Resources, the department was re-named Communications in the summer of 2009 to reflect its primary focus on *The Wildlife Professional* (TWP)—the Society’s member magazine—and the TWS website.

The department also underwent significant staff reorganization. In effect, the staff that produces *The Wildlife Professional* went from four full-time people to three, which enabled the Government Affairs department to hire an Associate Director. TWP staff in turn gained a rotating six-month editorial intern from Government Affairs. In addition, the Society’s database and IT administrator moved from Communications to Administration, and three Communications staff members received new titles and promotions to reflect their increased responsibilities in light of the reorganization.

### THE WILDLIFE PROFESSIONAL

In 2009, *The Wildlife Professional* marked its third year of publication. To better meet the goal of informing members about developments in the profession, TWP grew from an average of 68 pages to 80 pages. The average number of articles jumped

from about seven to 11, and the editorial staff added several new recurring departments. Among the highlights for 2009:

- **New departments:** TWP launched a new “Field Notes” department, with brief write-ups of practical techniques for wildlife practitioners. We added mentor profiles to complement “Today’s Wildlife Professional,” expanded the Society Pages by including a page of Student News and of Working Group News, and added a page to Science in Short to highlight articles from *The Journal of Wildlife Management* and *Wildlife Monographs*.
- **Special packages:** In 2009 TWP staff increased efforts to package related articles in single issues. The Winter 2009 issue featured a special package of seven articles about wildlife education, describing the challenges facing wildlife education today and exploring potential solutions. TWP staff also planned a special single-topic issue on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and other thematic packages for issues in 2010.
- **Range of coverage:** More members are submitting ideas and articles on a wide range of topics. In 2009 TWP covered issues such as the impacts of lead ammunition, the abuse



of science, the ethics of hunting, the complexities of data sharing, and funding implications of the decline in hunting. We also explored diverse challenges including managing wildlife in natural disasters, managing on military lands, handling human-wildlife conflicts, providing safe wildlife crossings, and understanding the potential impacts of solar energy development.

- New web content: TWP increased its web offerings in 2009 to provide additional content to complement articles. Staff posted web-only stories to accommodate time-sensitive submissions that could not run in the print edition. We also posted numerous videos, photo galleries, full bibliographies, and additional resources, and used RSS feeds and the new TWS blog to draw traffic to the magazine and generate discussion about articles.

**Advertising.** Despite the difficult economy in 2009, total net ad sales for TWP rose 8 percent over 2008, in part because loyal advertisers cited TWP’s “niche audience.” Several new groups advertised for the first time in 2009, including some colleges and universities promoting their wildlife education programs. According to the magazine’s ad sales representative, TWP’s articles and design are “attractive to readers and vendors alike.”

**Awards.** The magazine’s work in 2009 earned two EXCEL Awards from Association Marketing & Publishing. TWP won a silver award in the feature article category for “Getting Out the Oil” (Summer 2009) about the science of cleaning oil out of sea-otter fur, and won a bronze award in the single-topic issue category for our special package on collegiate wildlife education (Winter 2009). We also received two Eco Awards for Excellence in Environmental Communications. Both awards—for individual article and for design—were for “The Price of Protection: The Endangered Species Act Turns 35” (Winter 2008).

**Staff Fellowships.** TWP science writers and editors Divya Abhat and Katie Unger each won fellowships from the Institutes for Journalism and Natural Resources, an organization that trains journalists to cover natural resource and environmental issues in North America. Abhat traveled through the Great Lakes

Region in Canada and the U.S. to learn about invasive species, climate change, agricultural practices, and other critical issues; Unger visited Wisconsin to learn about wolf management, Great Lakes ecology, tribal forest management, and sturgeon telemetry.

### **THE JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

In 2009, The Wildlife Society’s peer-reviewed scholarly journal, *The Journal of Wildlife Management* (JWM), continued to offer relevant research and science pertaining to wildlife management and conservation. JWM printed eight issues and a total of 1,452 pages, averaging 182 pages per issue, with a manuscript acceptance rate of 28.7 percent. The journal had 738 institutional subscribers and 2,604 individuals who subscribed to the journal online. According to *Journal Citation Reports*®, JWM had an impact factor in 2009 of 1.361 (compared to an average of 1.011 for all journals in the zoology category and 1.665 for all journals in the ecology category).

### **WILDLIFE MONOGRAPHS**

In 2009, TWS published two *Wildlife Monographs*. The first (No. 172) was “*Effect of Enhanced Nutrition on Mule Deer Population Rate of Change*” (Bishop, C. J., G. C. White, D. J. Freddy, B. E. Watkins, and T. R. Stephenson), which documented food limitation in the mule deer population in the Uncompahgre Plateau in Colorado through the use of supplemental feeding to manipulate nutritional carrying capacity. The second (No. 173) was “*Nesting Density and Reproductive Success of Piping Plovers in Response to Storm- and Human-created Habitat Changes*” (Cohen, J. B., L. M. Houghton, and J. D. Fraser). It examined changes in adjacent piping plover colonies over an 11-year period on a New York barrier island. According to *Journal Citation Reports*®, *Wildlife Monographs* impact factor in 2009 was 1.50.

### **TECHNICAL REVIEWS**

To make TWS Technical Reviews quickly and freely available to all, TWS adopted a new publishing model. Instead of having them designed, printed conventionally, and sold, TWS arranged to have Technical Reviews produced digitally. Free PDFs of the reviews

will be made immediately available online through a special page of the TWS website, and a minimal number of copies will be printed for sale at cost plus postage.

Individuals can make their own copies of PDFs or order additional print-on-demand copies directly through the printer once TWS inventory is gone. The reviews will also be sold through online booksellers, which will give TWS and its scholarly work greater exposure on the web.

## IT AND DATABASE SERVICES

A staff of only two people manage The Wildlife Society's website, IT, and database services, providing assistance not only to all departments at headquarters but to subunits (sections, chapters, and working groups). The staff works extensively with Communications, Membership Marketing, Certification, Administration and Finance, and Government Affairs. Among their accomplishments in 2009, the staff:

- Launched TWS' blog *Making Tracks*.
- Started a LinkedIn group and Twitter account, expanding TWS social networking capabilities.
- Performed various upgrades to online and database services. Redesigned the template of the membership center to brand it to other TWS sites.
- Launched a new career site.
- Tested a free Annual Conference submission system.
- Began digitizing the Certification Application Process.
- Enabled TWS' first-ever online election (which doubled voter participation).
- Began publishing *The Wildlifer* as a monthly e-newsletter.
- Built an application to allow TWS officers to access their subunit rosters online.
- Purchased and configured a new server.
- Digitized the Leadership Institute application.

## Membership Marketing and Conferences

In 2009, The Wildlife Society (TWS) finished the year with 9,115 members, the highest membership totals since 1997. Membership increased by a gratifying 18.3 percent over 2008, when we finished the year with 7,705 members. One of the major reasons for the increase was the recruitment of 1,727 new members in 2009 compared with 1,114 in 2008—a 55 percent increase.

Among several new membership benefits in 2009:

- We increased the frequency of *The Wildlifer* from quarterly to monthly, and began sending it as an electronic newsletter.
- We redesigned and enhanced the Wildlife Career Center.
- We increased members' ability to communicate with each other and with TWS by introducing The Wildlife Society's blog *Making Tracks*.
- We significantly increased TWS' social networking capabilities and exposure through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Flickr.

**Annual Conference.** TWS hosted its 16th Annual Conference in Monterey, California from September 20-24, 2009. More than 1,500 attendees participated in the conference—an increase of 13.5 percent compared to the previous year's attendance in Miami, Florida. Highlights of the conference included a thought-provoking Plenary discussion titled "Wildlife Science, Its Use and Abuse by Decision Makers."

The conference also featured more than a dozen symposia on a wide range of relevant topics including wildlife conservation and climate change, non-lethal management, biodiversity on Department of Defense lands, science advocacy, impacts sea level rise, marine wildlife disease, predator management, bison restoration, and how economic growth impacts conservation.

Other highlights of the meeting included a memorable opening night reception at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the first-ever TWS Career Fair featuring 18 different organizations, the first-ever student-only field trip, a record number of exhibitors for the trade show, a lively beach party for the student-professional



Participants at the 2009 Annual Conference in Monterey. Credit: TWS

mixer, and the ever-popular Quiz Bowl (with a dramatic victory by Texas A&M University).

**New Working Group and Chapters.** In 2009, TWS established the Climate Change and Wildlife Working Group. The Society also approved the establishment of four new chapters including the Ontario Chapter, the Université Laval Student Chapter, the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville Student Chapter, and the University of Nevada, Reno Student Chapter.

TWS Student Chapters hosted four successful and well-attended student conclaves: The Michigan State University Student Chapter hosted the Midwest Conclave, the University of Maine Student Chapter hosted the Northeast Conclave, the Utah State University Student Chapter hosted the Western Conclave, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Arkansas Tech University Student Chapters jointly hosted the Southeastern Conclave.

**Certifications.** TWS approved 76 Certified Wildlife Biologist® and 82 Associate Wildlife Biologist® certifications, a promising step toward increasing professionalism.

## 2009 TWS Award Winners

During the Annual Conference, TWS hosted its 72nd Annual Awards Ceremony to honor the achievements of the following accomplished members:

**Aldo Leopold Memorial Award:** Ron Labisky

**Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in**

**Applied Wildlife Research:** Richard Kaminski

**Honorary Membership:** James L. Byford and Daniel H. Pletscher

**Special Recognition Service Award:** Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.

**TWS Fellows:** Robert D. Brown, Winifred B. Kessler, John F. Organ, Gary Potts, Misty Lee Sumner, and Robert J. Warren

**Diversity Award:** Jeremy Guinn

**Wildlife Publication Awards**

- **Best Edited Book:** *Wildlife and Society: The Science of Human Dimensions*, edited by Michael Manfredo, Jerry Vaske, Perry Brown, Daniel Decker, and Esther Duke
- **Best Book:** *A Primer on Natural Resource Science* by Fred S. Guthery
- **Best Article:** "Effects of scale on interpreting life-history characteristics of ungulates and carnivores," by R. Terry Bowyer and John G. Kie, published in *Density and Distributions* (Vol. 12, No. 3, 2006)
- **Best Monograph:** "Elk calf survival and mortality following wolf restoration to Yellowstone National Park," by Shannon M. Barber-Meyer, L. David Mech, and P. J. White. *Wildlife Monograph* (Vol. 169, Issue 1, May 2008)

**Jim McDonough Award:** John Olson

**Chapter of the Year:** Wisconsin

**Student Chapter of the Year:** University of Tennessee

**Student Chapter Advisor of the Year:** Kevin Berner

**Donald H. Rusch Scholarship:** Lance McNew

**Group Achievement Award:** Platte River Basin Environments, Inc.



Ron Labisky, left, receives the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award from TWS President Tom Franklin. Credit: Ruxandra Giura/TWS

## Administration and Finance

This department oversees membership services, infrastructure, finances, and staffing. In 2009, it worked with Council to develop an update to the five-year Strategic Plan, following a mid-year planning meeting held near Chicago, Illinois. Among the priorities identified for TWS were: (1) building the Society's influence on key policy decisions, (2) developing the next generation of wildlife professionals, (3) defining the critical challenges that wildlife professionals will face in the coming decades, and (4) providing members with useful information to aid them in their important work. We also began several initiatives to address these key goals.

**New Initiatives.** Progress on the first two priority items included a restructuring of TWS' Publications and Information Resources Department, which subsequently allowed for the hiring of additional Government Affairs staff. We also established a Professional Development Program for Native American Wildlife Students, and obtained Council approval to work with the National Institute for Agriculture (NIFA) in developing a Blue Ribbon Panel on the Future of the Wildlife Profession and its Implications for the Development of the Next Generation of Wildlife Professionals.

In addition, TWS' ad hoc Committee on University and College Wildlife Programs completed a 100-page report on the status of wildlife programs in the U.S. and Canada. Council also formed

ad hoc History and 75th Anniversary Committees to plan and prepare for TWS' upcoming 75th anniversary in 2012.

**New partnerships.** TWS joined with the American Fisheries Society, the Society for Range Management, and the Society of American Foresters to form the new Coalition of Natural Resource Societies (CNRS). As its first act, CNRS wrote a letter to state governors explaining the need for natural resource professionals, even in a down economy. TWS Council also approved a new MOU with the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, TWS partnered with Johns Hopkins University Press to develop a new Wildlife Management and Conservation Book Series, with Paul Krausman serving as its initial editor.

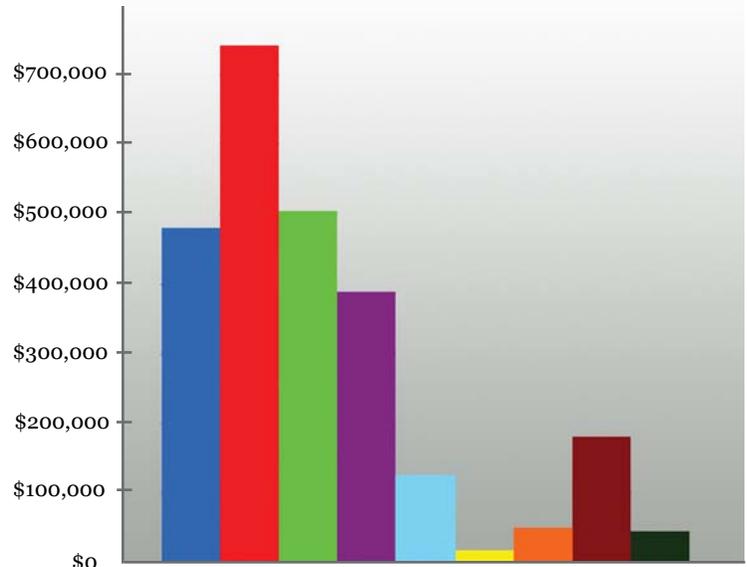
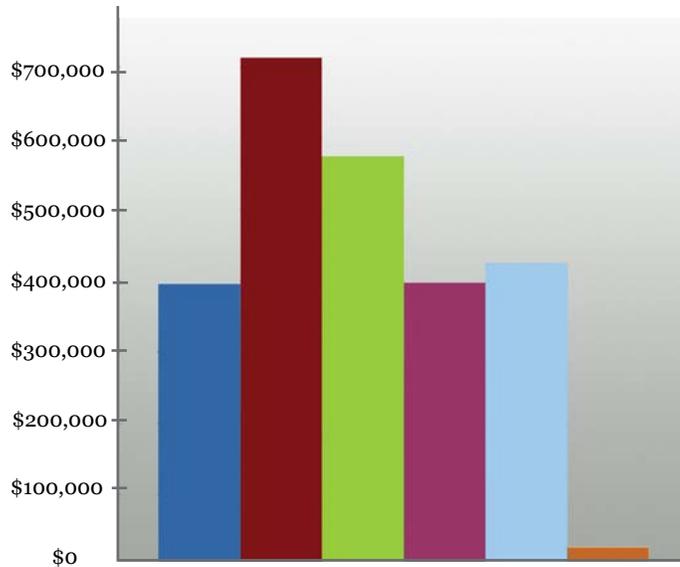
**Staff reorganization.** To add an Associate Director position to the Government Affairs group, we removed a full-time position from the Communications group, shifted a six-month rotating internship position from Government Affairs to Communications, and made the following staff changes: Lisa Moore became Director of Communications and Editor-in-Chief of *The Wildlife Professional*; Katie Unger became the Development Editor, Divya Abhat the Production Editor, Ruxandra Giura the Program Manager of Online Services, and Michael Levin the Program Manager of IT and Database Services. These changes completed the reorganization begun in 2008, and enable the Society to function more effectively in the policy and communications areas.

# Statement of Financial Activities

In 2009, TWS took in slightly more revenue than was expensed. In terms of total net worth, TWS experienced an increase in market value of its investments compared to 2008. The charts below show the distribution of expenses, revenue, and gains on investments in 2009. The statement of position shows our 2009 net worth.

### Expenses

### Revenue and Gains on Investments



■ Membership Services    ■ Publications    ■ Annual Conference    ■ Membership Dues    ■ Publications    ■ Annual Conference    ■ Contributions & Grants    ■ Misc.  
■ Gov. Affairs & Public Service    ■ Management & General    ■ Fundraising    ■ Certification Fees    ■ Interests & Dividends    ■ Gains/Losses on Investments    ■ Book Sales

## Statement of Position for 2009 (As of Dec. 31, 2009)

### ASSETS

Cash	\$151,417
Accounts Receivable	\$265,726
Inventory	\$34,552
Prepaid Expenses	\$21,719
Investments	\$1,367,846
Property and Equipment (net, less depreciation)	\$181,718
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,022,978</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$108,224
Accrued Salaries	\$56,778
Deferred Revenue	\$304,013
Liability under charitable remainder trust	\$13,764
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$469,015</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,553,963</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,022,978</b>

### TWS Council (2008-09)

#### Officers

President: Thomas M. Franklin, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
 President-Elect: Bruce D. Leopold, Mississippi State University  
 Vice President: Thomas J. Ryder, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
 Past President: W. Daniel Svedarsky, University of Minnesota-Crookston

#### Section Representatives

NE: John McDonald, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 SE: William G. Minser, University of Tennessee  
 NC: Alan Crossley, WI Dept. of Natural Resources  
 SW: Bruce Thompson, NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department  
 NW: Ellen Campbell, Northwest Section  
 Western: Donald A. Yasuda, USDA Forest Service  
 Canada: Richard K. Baydack, University of Manitoba  
 CMP: Gary C. White, Colorado State University

### TWS Staff and Editors

Michael Hutchins, Executive Director/CEO  
 Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships  
 Lisa Moore LaRoe, Director of Communications  
 Jane Pelkey, Office and Finance Manager  
 Darryl Walter, Director of Membership Marketing and Conferences  
 Yanin Walker, Operations Manager  
 Shannon Pederson, Subunit & Certification Coordinator  
 Lisa Moll, Conferences & Membership Assistant  
 Divya Abhat and Katherine Unger, Science Writers  
 Ruxandra Giura, Webmaster  
 Michael Levin, Database Administrator/Applications Developer  
 Abraham Miller-Rushing, Wildlife Phenology Program Coordinator  
 Frank R. Thompson, Editor-in-Chief, *The Journal of Wildlife Management*  
 Eric Hellgren, Editor, *Wildlife Monographs*  
 Anna Knipps, Carly Johnson, Dawn Hanseder, Editorial Assistants  
*The Journal of Wildlife Management*  
 Bridget Collins, Terra Rentz, Mary Kazantseva and Angela Whitney, Government Affairs Interns