



# THE MAINE CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

# THE MAINE WILDLIFER



SUMMER 2014

## LEARNING A BIT MORE ABOUT SEA DUCKS AND MYSELF: MAINE AND BEYOND

*By Lucas Savoy, Biodiversity Research Institute*

As a Wildlife Research Biologist with Biodiversity Research Institute, a Gorham, Maine based non-profit organization, I have had the great fortune of working with a diverse group of birds, a more diverse group of biologists, and in extremely varied habitats. I entered the wildlife world through a pair of binoculars and my Teva sandals, scouring the wooded shorelines of New England lakes and ponds, looking for common loon nests. I look back at those experiences fondly and I often miss those Tevas, lakes and ponds. I eventually traded my sandals for a pair of Extra Tuff boots (and a warmer jacket) and spent less time scouring lakes and ponds looking for loon nests. These days, I spend the vast majority of my field time in a small boat, studying sea ducks along the Atlantic Ocean, and beyond. Those days were, however the ones that piqued my interest in sea ducks. Those exact loon lakes contained several species of sea ducks; many of them breeding, such as the common merganser, hooded merganser, and common goldeneye and some simply passing through to points north, such as the white-winged scoter, surf scoter, and long-tailed duck. I

seemed to find myself taking extra long looks though my binoculars or additional pictures with my camera, whenever I saw a sea duck on my pond. What started as keeping tabs on the species of duck that was occupying an artificial nest box on my pond evolved into taking more frequent day trips during the winter to Maine's coastline in search of sea ducks. I was hooked. I spent countless hours trying to photograph common eiders, scoters, and a real Maine winter gem, the harlequin duck. I started to read papers and reports written about sea ducks, their natural history and ecology. They are incredibly fascinating ducks. Lucky for us in Maine, the common eider can be found along Maine's coastline throughout the year. Other sea duck species, including the harlequin duck, the scoters, and long-tailed ducks, reside in Maine only during the winter months.

I was eager to learn more about sea ducks; less reading more doing. I recall, almost ten years ago now, being given the opportunity to initiate a hands on field sea

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*Common Eider—Boston Harbor*

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## FEATURE ARTICLES

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duck study. Yes, finally! I had done a great deal of reading, had plenty of experience handling birds and was pretty certain I was ready to begin trapping sea ducks in Maine during the winter. Ignorance is bliss...

My first hurdle was to figure out how to get sea ducks in hand. The particular study I was embarking upon required the capture of wintering sea ducks and the collection of blood and feathers to look at contaminant concentrations. At this point, I had several years experience handling birds and collecting blood and feathers. However, many sea ducks require a highly specialized capture technique, referred to as a floating mist net. It's similar to a land-based mist net, but not similar at all. A series of ropes, pulleys, anchors, decoys, carabiners, organization, and persistence are required. Oh, and a couple of boats to set up the net and extract captured birds. The list of experienced "floating mist netters" is small, and on the Atlantic coast, smaller.

My first stop was Brad Allen, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Bird Group Leader. Brad was a wealth of knowledge on all things bird and wildlife as well as being genuinely experienced and knowledgeable in the sea duck world. A couple years prior, Brad introduced me to the sea duck "celebrities" while I was attending my first North American Sea Duck Conference in Annapolis, Maryland. For any wildlife biologist meeting the authors of publications



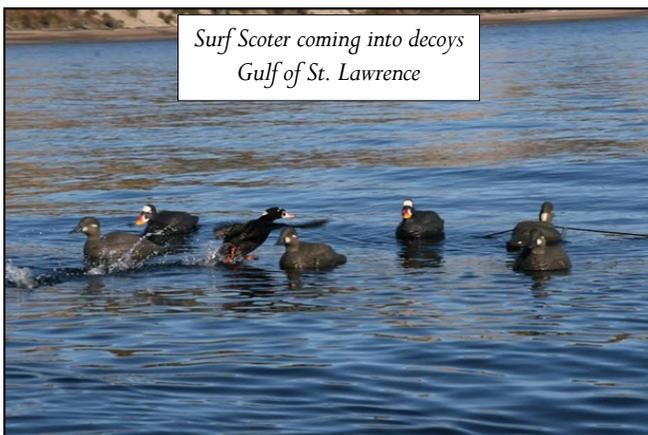
*Harlequin Duck  
Grand Teton Natl. Park*

you have read, photocopied, lost, re-photocopied - is pretty exciting. Brad had also been involved with a harlequin duck trapping, banding, and satellite telemetry project in Maine. That project used the infamous floating mist net capture technique. Brad then pointed me in the direction of Glen Mittelhauser. Glen is well-known for his harlequin duck studies at Isle au Haut, Maine, in which he captured and color banded hundreds of wintering harlequin ducks at Isle au Haut, to study their winter ecology. Glen is no stranger to

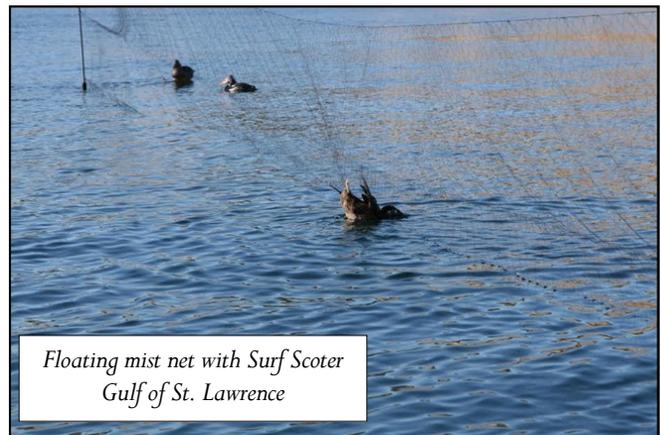
working on Maine's winter ocean, and greatly experienced in the floating mist net technique. I met up with Glen in mid-coast Maine, and he graciously got my feet wet in the floating mist net arena. After spending some time that day with Glen setting up shop, I had it all figured out. Easy peasy.

What I didn't take into account, Glen would not be there the first time I deployed the set up on my own, in December, in the dark. I quickly learned why that list of "floating mist netters" is so short. Let's just say, like some wines, setting up mist nets on the ocean, in the winter, in the dark, is an acquired taste. And like many good wines (and plenty of cheap varieties), I really enjoy it.

The floating mist net technique has been my life-line for the sea duck research that I currently conduct in Maine and beyond. Over the past several years I have been involved in sea duck studies in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Delaware, North Carolina, Quebec,



*Surf Scoter coming into decoys  
Gulf of St. Lawrence*



*Floating mist net with Surf Scoter  
Gulf of St. Lawrence*

## FEATURE ARTICLES

*(Sea Ducks—Continued from page 2)*

Canada, and Siberia, Russia. The studies have focused on contaminants, winter ecology, satellite telemetry, seasonal movements, migration, and offshore wind power. The most recent field stint carried me to Wyoming, to mist net and color band breeding harlequin ducks in the mountain



streams of the Grand Tetons. For many reasons, my experience with trapping harlequins in the remote streams of the Grand Tetons has been one of the most special yet, but for each sea duck adventure I can recall many fond memories, and with each experience, I have learned more about sea ducks and, myself.

## LOVING A SPECIES TO DEATH

*By Marcus B. Gray—Twitter: @GrayFeist; LinkedIn: WLDLFR*

Elephants are often in the news. Articles about poaching incidents, game rangers killed, arrests made, etc. bombard the general public almost weekly. Misinformation or lack of detailed information about the issues surrounding the species is rampant. Some organizations would rather use the sensationalist momentum to pay their overhead than promote on-the-ground conservation. Accurately depicting the situation in Southern Africa for the savannah elephant would be an inconvenient truth – well, at least, the groups would not be able to raise money in the same ways for the same purposes (i.e., eliciting an emotional response to elephant plight). Although elephants are the flagship representative of charismatic mega fauna and one of the species that contain the essence of Africa, pachyderms are the poster child for population mismanagement.

### Population Status

Savannah elephants are overpopulated. There was a time when preservation of elephants meant saving every individual animal on the planet. Similar to white-tailed deer in the early 20th Century, interested parties have done a wonderful job avoiding extinction and bolstering numbers. Now, there needs to be well thought out stewardship of the species. The threat of extinction currently comes from overpopulation.

Elephants are degrading their own habitat. By pushing over trees, affecting water quality through increasing soil erosion/fecal contamination and over-grazing; jumbos have reduced the carrying capacity for dozens of

species – including themselves. Elephants are one of the few wildlife species that have the luxury of walking 25+ kilometers to find water and forage. Other animals are stuck with the desertification proliferated by Africa's "sacred cow." Calf recruitment is nearly non-existent in some reserves, certainly insufficient for population maintenance.

### Much Ado About Ivory

No one likes poaching. Well, perhaps the poachers. There is a difference between mortality that has a population-level effect and that which does not. Poaching rates are only able to increase staggeringly due to the sheer abundance of animals. More elephants available to poach equates to a seemingly inexhaustible resource to poachers. Local communities need real economic solutions. Escalating violence does not help anyone. Destroying stock piles of ivory is counterproductive because now those animals truly died for nothing, a complete and total waste. Instead, use confiscated ivory to fund science-based management of elephants and their habitat. By controlling a lawful market for ivory through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), prices can be stabilized and overexploitation avoided. It is time to beat the poachers at their own game.

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## FEATURE ARTICLES

*(Wildlife at Unity College—Continued from page 3)*

### Sustainable-Use Conservation

Many folks may not realize that there is already a lawful, regulated harvest for elephants; you just cannot sell the ivory. The difference between poaching and legal hunting is that local communities benefit in more ways than just the funds derived from killing an animal today. Businesses specializing in lodging, food and other services flourish. Hunters are often willing to travel to more remote locations and thus serve as the initial catalyst for bolstering more diverse tourism to areas that previously were not a party to the revenue streams. We manage dozens of species in North America through sustainable-use, why is it so difficult to fathom overseas?

### The Future

Is it too late to correct the mistakes of the past several decades? How do we get there? Few people would advocate for wholesale culling of elephants for political reasons. However, wildlife management agencies may

not want to abandon the method completely. Obviously, the meat and ivory products from animals removed by agency action or through regulated harvest must benefit local people. Otherwise, the incentives for poaching remain. If elephants continue to be managed with a hands-off approach, human-elephant conflicts will only increase in the short term. Long term, elephant populations will continue to age with decreasing numbers of calves reaching maturity. We will likely reach an inconvenient time when the aging elephants begin to die off while poaching continues to increase at an exponential rate. At the intersection, some enterprising groups will exclaim a link between the drastic decline in elephant numbers and the rampant poaching. They will raise funds with anti-poaching campaigns and work tirelessly to address a source of mortality that is really not the issue. Rather, the focus of conservation efforts must be directed at proper range management, maintaining appropriate elephant population levels and reducing human-wildlife conflict. I hope we are not too late.



*Courtesy of Ron Thomson Publications. I had the opportunity to meet Ron at the International Wildlife Management Symposium in British Columbia, December 2011.*

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### WILDLIFE STUDENT SUMMER

By Abbey Feuka

Summer is always an exciting time for wildlife students here in Maine. After jumping the hurdle of securing a seasonal internship, young ecologists like me are anxious to get out into the field and start putting our wildlife education to work. Students and professionals alike will tell you that working the field is the best way to pick up skills needed for higher-level positions. Despite the long hours, muggy air, and swarms of insects found in Maine, I can honestly say that I couldn't think of a better job than working in the vernal pools of Orono.

I started work with vernal pools last summer with Ph.D. student Kristine (Kris) Hoffmann, who works under Drs. Malcolm Hunter and Aram Calhoun at the University of Maine in Orono. She advertised volunteer positions through our Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, where we first met. I volunteered on her blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*) project over the summer, where I learned about the ecology of vernal pools, a wetland I did not know much about coming into the project. I gained a great deal of appreciation for amphibians and their habitat that summer. I loved the work so much that I signed on to a paid part-time

position through the school year, and am continuing work this summer.

Kris studies the movement and population dynamics of blue-spotted salamanders in Orono's vernal pools, with an emphasis on determining the effects of urbanization of the surrounding areas on the population. A typical day on the job includes checking the drift fences set up around the pools to count the salamanders and frogs coming out of the pool to breed. Though we only weigh and measure blue-spotted salamanders, we also keep a count of all the spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*) and wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) that breed there, as well as the occasional red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*), eastern red-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), and green frog (*Rana clamitans*) passing through. We also collect tail clips of the blue-spotted salamanders to gather their genetic information, as many of the blue-spotted salamanders in Orono are actually triploid hybrids of the "true" blue-spotted salamander and the Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*).

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Marking the location of a blue-spotted salamander that was tracked by radio telemetry. Weather and vegetation data are collected to determine habitat preferences after they leave vernal pools. Photo credit: Kristine Hoffmann.



Placing a salamander trap we designed in a small vernal pool in Orono's University Forest. We take counts of spotted salamanders, blue-spotted salamanders, and wood frogs at a variety of wetlands around Orono to see which animals use them. Photo credit: Kristine Hoffmann.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

*Wildlife Student Summer, continued from page 5)*

My favorite part of the job is helping track the salamanders' movements using radio telemetry and PIT tags. Not only is tracking them around the woods a fun part of the job, but it's amazing to see how far a nine-centimeter animal can travel in one rainy night. Kris's research is trying to determine just how far the adult salamanders will travel from the pool after breeding, to better create a buffer zone for development and forest management around Maine's vernal pools. It's been enlightening to see the human dimensions aspect of this research, with Dr. Calhoun actively working to improve legislature on development near vernal pools.

This summer I will be starting my own project in conjunction with Kris's work for my Honors thesis, which will involve determining the effects of light pollution on metamorph-stage salamander dispersal. I'm beyond excited for the opportunity to conduct my own research and contribute to the vernal pool project.

Working for a graduate student has given me hands-on insight into designing and conducting a research study that I would not have acquired through my coursework. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to gain experience so early on in my career as a wildlife ecologist. My membership in The Wildlife Society

helped me obtain my summer position, as well as develop relationships with other professionals through the Maine Chapter. The Wildlife Society and the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology Department at the University of Maine have both opened doors for me in terms of my career in Wildlife Ecology. I hope other students take advantage of the opportunities that groups like The Wildlife Society provide and make the most of this beautiful Maine summer.

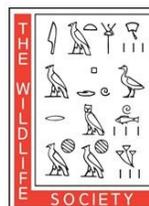


*Sewing traps in the lab. This was part of our winter preparation for spring field work. Photo credit: Kristine Hoffmann.*



The Wildlife Society website is full of member resources, links to the member portal, global wildlife news and policy, and information on becoming a Certified Wildlife Biologist. Check it out!

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



**MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS**

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE BY LAUREN GILPATRICK**



Happy summer METWS members! I sit here on the solstice, reflecting on the mid-year season and listening to all the birds that are finally singing, breeding and nesting. I’m enjoying the smell of fresh-cut grass, flowers bursting everywhere, and pollinators buzzing about. The Baltimore Orioles nesting in the driveway fledged last week, I helped band two seven-week old Bald Eagles,

and I’m looking forward to upcoming bat research in Acadia National Park. Our gardens are growing well and we still have a couple of moose roasts in the freezer. Life is wicked good this Maine summer!

I think it’s critical to take extra time to sit outside and soak in all the sounds, sights, and smells during these fleeting and seemingly few long days we get around these parts. It appears to be another great year for ticks, mosquitoes, and blackflies - but also lightning bugs, moths, and some butterflies!

This fall we will once again find a black bear referendum on the ballot in Maine. My vision for the year is to have the membership vote on the 2014 METWS black bear information sheet and position statement, release a fall newsletter highlighting bears, and have a potluck dinner/fall meeting sometime after the elections are over.

I hope everyone is having a productive summer season, seeing great critters, working hard, and having fun!

**MAINE  
WILDLIFER  
SUBMISSIONS**

**I ask and encourage METWS members to send in black bear opinions, comments, stories, blurbs, and photos for the fall edition of *The Maine Wildlifer*.**

**Please email newsletter materials to [LGILPATRICK@hotmail.com](mailto:LGILPATRICK@hotmail.com) by**

**September 1, 2014.**



*Hummingbird Clearwing Moth (Hemaris thysbe)*



*Precipitous declines in the northeast population of Monarch butterflies last year are a*

## MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS

7 May 2014

Catherine Elliott, PhD  
UMaine Cooperative Extension  
Sustainable Living Specialist  
5741 Libby Hall, Rm 105A  
Orono, ME 04469-5741

Dear Cathy,

I just wanted to write again to say thank you to Maine TWS for the support that Unity College students received in attending the NEAFWA conference in Portland. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time; students learned a good deal while they were there and made some valuable connections.

I am graduating on Saturday but I know the upcoming Student Chapter president McKinley (Kiki) Bell will be very busy making plans for getting even more involved in the fall and attending more professional events. We are all very happy to finally officially have a student chapter here on campus and to be a part of TWS.

I included a picture of most of our group and comments from all of the members who were able to attend because of your support. I know some students got ideas for a senior thesis, learned about job opportunities, or met people, with whom they are able to maintain a professional relationship with; all of which is a completely invaluable experience made possible in part by the help of your organization.

In the testimonies below you will see all of our students were very happy to have had this experience and have taken a lot away from it. I greatly appreciate your support of our group, I am also very happy with how welcoming ME-TWS has been to our students throughout the last year. Your kindness and support has been very helpful and many of our students look forward to getting more involved. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely,

*Destiney Priest*



### METWS gives a warm welcome to the OFFICIAL Unity College Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

“The trip to the NEAFWA conference in Portland was a great opportunity for me and other students. We were able to network with professionals in the field as well as learn about projects currently going on. I am so thankful for the support we received. Without it, I would not have been able to have this incredible opportunity.”

*~Maddie C.*

“NEAFWA was a great learning and networking experience. It gave me insight on the different roles and careers that are available within Wildlife related jobs. Thanks so much.”

*~Samantha S.*

“The knowledge gained from attending the variety of sessions will assist me in my career, as well as providing me a view of the types of projects that are possible in my future. The networking opportunities allowed me to reconnect with professionals that I had worked with previously, as well as meet new people in my field. Without the funding provided by ME-TWS, attendance to this conference would have been very difficult.”

*~Eve D.*

*(Continued on page 9)*

**MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS**

*(Continued from page 8)*

“The NEAFWA conference was a valuable experience for me in more than one way. Attending the presentations enhanced my view of possibilities within my field of interest, and to network and connect with professionals. I am very grateful for the support that made it possible for me and my peers to attend.”

*-Carolyn N.*

“I found the NEAFWA Conference to be a meaningful trip because it provided me with a chance to network with professionals and to learn about future career opportunities. I know have more knowledge of what I can use my degree for and how I can continue my education. I am thankful for the support I received in attending this event because it allowed me to have opportunities that I never would have been able to have without support. Lastly, I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped make the conference such a great experience.”

*~Rebecca C.*

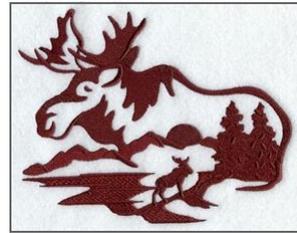
“Attending the NEAFWA wildlife conference was truly

an eye opening experience. It was great to talk to real biologists about the things they were doing in areas that I would like to get involved in. I talked with biologists about different opportunities for students to get involved in different. Coming away from this conference I feel I have a better understanding of the interesting of work I could do with my degree.”

*- Kiki B.*

“As a result of attending the conference I got an excellent update about all of the interesting work going on in the wildlife field. I enjoyed meeting new people and representing Unity College. I also really enjoyed attending the ME-TWS lunch meeting. Thank you for making this possible.”

*~Alyssa B.*



**Great Crested Flycatcher**



*Red-spotted Purple Butterfly (Limenitis arthemis)*



## MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS

### CONSERVATION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

*By Rodney Kelshaw, Chair*

The Maine Chapter of TWS for a long time has had an Education/Information & Public Statements/Resolutions (Policy) Committee. This committee employs methods of informing the public of basic concepts of wildlife management, of Chapter and The Society activities and interests. It receives proposed resolutions or public statements from members and prepares, submits and recommends action on such items to the Executive Board. Over the last several years the work of the committee has been focused on preparing and submitting public comment at State legislative hearings with the goal of educating legislative committee members on wildlife issues prior to their vote.

Today I want to inform you about a new TWS-wide initiative that hopes to strengthen TWS at all levels of the organization, from the ground up. This initiative is called the Conservation Affairs Network (CAN). As many of you may know, TWS engages in policy related issues relevant to wildlife professionals and conservation at the Parent Society level through the work of staff within the Government Affairs and Partnerships program. The CAN, through its defined structure, promotes increased collaboration and interaction among subunits on policy-related issues.

Based on the concept of collaboration and interconnectedness, the Conservation Affairs Network bridges the gap between Chapters, Sections, the Parent Society, and the membership by defining clear roles for members to engage in and transparent responsibilities for each level of the organization. The common element that ties everything together is the establishment of Conservation Affairs Committees (CAC) at all levels of the organization.

Society-wide the CAC is a new committee to many Chapters. Our Chapter plans to transform the Policy Committee into the CAC. Some of the positive changes that will occur are that the CAC has clear and transparent roles for every single committee member

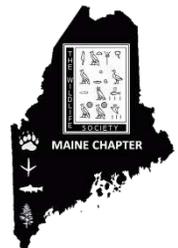
so that you as a volunteer know exactly what's being asked of you and how much work is actually in store. For example, each member of the CAC may be responsible for a single issue or priority such as Endangered Species, Wetlands Management, or the Farm Bill or private lands conservation. By clearly defining roles, the overall workload for each committee member is greatly reduced and the overall effectiveness of the committee is maximized. Every CAC is also connected to the larger network of subunits. Chapter CAC Chairs serve on the Section CAC. Section CAC Chairs communicate directly with the Parent Society and each other to share information and garner support and training on conservation issues.

If the Chapter votes to make this transition to the CAC the next step will be to reorganize the committee to be more aligned with other chapter CAC's yet still keep our autonomy for local issues. TWS National suggests several ways to accomplish this goal:

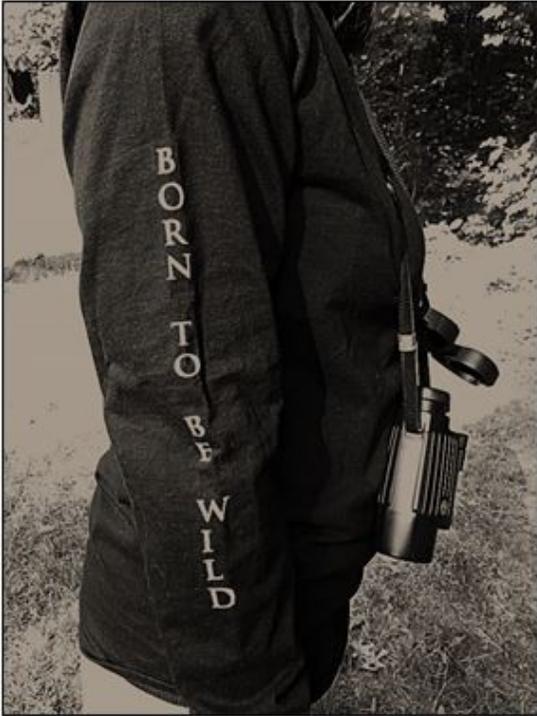
1. Structure our CAC to focus on 3 main policy priorities. What do you think the top 3 issues are for our state? Some examples might be the Farm Bill, endangered species management, deer management, wind energy and wildlife, and border issues.
2. Break our CAC up geographically so that each member only has to focus on a specific region of the state.
3. Think of our Chapter's biggest obstacles to developing a CAC and joining the Network.
4. What kinds of expertise might we want on our CAC?

Now that you're familiar with the Network and CAC please tell us if this is something you think could work for our Chapter and volunteer for the new committee.

[joomla.wildlife.org/maine](http://joomla.wildlife.org/maine)



## MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS



Are you a true nature's child? Were you **BORN TO BE WILD**?  
*Show your METWS member pride with a new-logo long-sleeve tee!*

Free METWS sticker included.

**\$20** - sizes S, M, L, XL

**To order contact Lauren Gilpatrick at [LGILPATRICK@hotmail.com](mailto:LGILPATRICK@hotmail.com)**

### NEW METWS LOGO & STICKERS

*The new TWS-approved logo depicts our state outline and four symbols. The symbols mirror what the hieroglyphics in the TWS logo read – beasts (mammals), birds, fish, and plants – but with a Maine twist – a bear track, turkey track, brook trout, and white pine. METWS MEMBER logo stickers will be available at the Spring Meeting!*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SELECT UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

Full listing of events and additional information at: <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/education/wildlifepark/event>

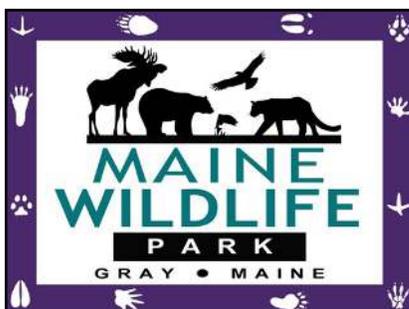


#### FIRE & ICE SHOW AUGUST 2—11:00 AM TO NOON

Get ready for some sizzlin' excitement with safe & scientific fun with fire & ice! Witness experiments like the Big Burp, Sizzling Scissors & famous Mad Science Shower! Live, interactive & compelling experiences that make learning a blast! A must-see for the kids! [www.madscience.org/maine](http://www.madscience.org/maine). Sponsored by Us & Company Computers & Gray Physical Therapy

#### ATTEAN MEMORIAL POW WOW AUGUST 9-10, 9:30 AM

Tribal representatives from Maine, New England & around the country will be at the park for two full days with native dancers, drummers, craft vendors, singers & traditional food booths. This year, don't miss the NEW activities, food, music & Grand Entry presented each day. An exciting opportunity to learn more about Native American culture & heritage. (All day, rain or shine).



#### Tom's Avian Taxidermy



#### AUGUST 2—11:00 AM

Taxidermy is a method of reproducing a life-like, 3-dimensional rendition of a mammal, bird or fish for permanent display. Come & see a variety of examples of this delicate art with local taxidermist Tom Berube representing the Maine Association of Taxidermists. Tom will demonstrate how to mount a loon, from start to finish. He plans to donate the finished mount and display to the wildlife park. [www.tomsavian.com](http://www.tomsavian.com)

#### CHAINSAW WILDLIFE ARTISTS AUGUST 16, 11:00 AM

Join Maine CHAINSAW CARVERS Ron Carlson, Tim Pickett, Andrew Logan & Dan Burns as they use chainsaws to create eagles, bears & more. Watch a block of wood become a work of art. A variety of carvings will be on exhibit & for sale. Bring your cameras & your earplugs!



#### “THE FINAL CHARGE” AUGUST 22-SEP 2

A massive, museum quality display showing two huge Bull Moose with locked antlers, created by taxidermist Mark Dufresne of Nature's Reflections Taxidermy in Gray. Most often exhibited at the LL Bean flagship store in Freeport, this amazing display is on loan to us for our visitors to view & photograph up close! [www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com)

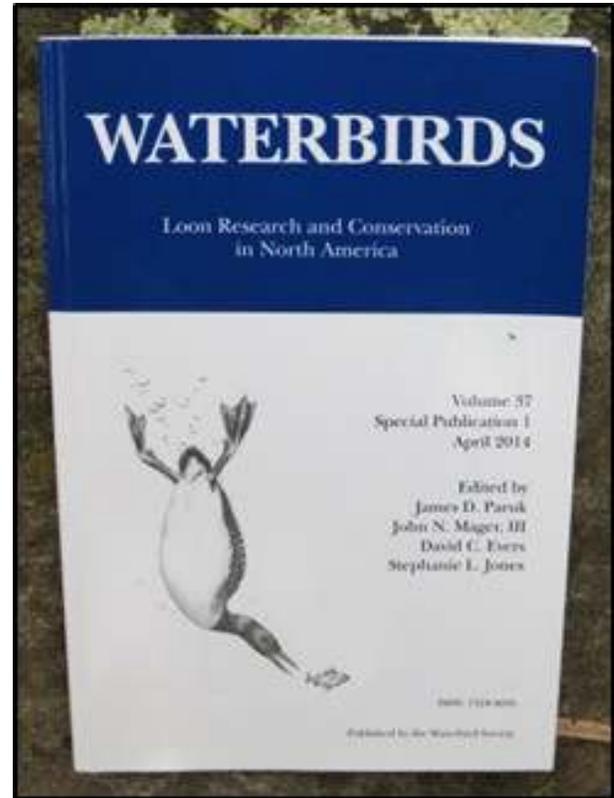
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WATERBIRDS JOURNAL PUBLISHES SPECIAL LOON ISSUE

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), in collaboration with the Waterbird Society, announces the release of a special issue of the journal *Waterbirds* that is dedicated to loon research and conservation in North America. Fifteen scientific papers are presented in this special issue under several broad headings: behavior; life history and population ecology; movements and migration; habitat and landscape requirements; and contaminants.

Research highlights presented in this special issue of *Waterbirds* include the first data on sex ratios in Common Loon chicks, the first adult survival estimates for Red-throated Loons, and first reports of mercury exposure in Yellow-billed Loons from Alaska and Canada. In addition, a new long-distance migration record for the Common Loon, a landscape assessment of Common Loons in Massachusetts, and oil concentrations in loons wintering in Barataria Bay, Louisiana (one of the areas hit hardest by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill) are documented.

The special loon issue will be available online at [www.bioone.org](http://www.bioone.org).



## AUDUBON LAUNCHES FISH LEAD FREE CAMPAIGN

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