Happy Fall!

Summer is always a busy time for field work and other fine weather-dependent pursuits…therefore we’ve decided to combine our summer and fall editions of the 2016 NM TWS newsletter.

Many members of the New Mexico Chapter board have been very busy helping with planning for the 2017 Annual Meeting coming up in September of 2017. The field trips committee has identified two field trips in the Albuquerque area, specifically to the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and Sandia Crest by way of the Tramway. Fundraising is underway – we have a long way to go but very much appreciate all the efforts and contacts made to date. If you have contact information for any non-profit, corporation, local business, or agency that might be interested in sponsoring the conference or attending the conference as an exhibitor, please let me know (virginia.seamster@state.nm.us)! And the Parent Society has identified a logo for the conference (sporting a running bobcat and setting sun/montane scene), so networking activities have been getting underway and marketing will be ramping up now that the 2016 conference in Raleigh has passed. Big kudos are due to the North Carolina TWS chapter for all their efforts on behalf of the annual meeting in Raleigh. The conference had excellent attendance (~1,850 professionals and students!) and a great selection of workshops, technical sessions, and other educational activities.

Planning for the 2017 Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) with Arizona is underway and the AZ/NM AFS Chapter is doing a great job of pulling things together. The dates will be February 9th-11th at the Marriot in Farmington, NM. The AZ/NM AFS chapter is cooking up all kinds of special events to help celebrate their 50th anniversary. There will even be a 5K race for those of you who like to go for a run or nice jog. PLEASE consider submitting a nomination for the NM TWS Wildlife Professional Award or the Outstanding Student Award, or an application for the Biodiversity Scholarship or the Student Travel Award (more details provided in the newsletter). Registration for the JAM will open in late November (November 21st, 2016) and abstracts submitted in response to the first call for papers are due December 16th, 2016.

At New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, things have been busy with revising the State Wildlife Action Plan, reviewing proposals for and identifying new Share with Wildlife projects, and a myriad of field activities on the part of our biologists. The Department also hosted their annual Expo in August at the Albuquerque Shooting Range and attended the State Fair in September.

If there is anything related to the conservation and management of our state’s wildlife that you would like to share with the membership in one of our newsletters, please email our newsletter editor Ron Kellermueller (ronald.kellermueller@state.nm.us), we want to hear from you! Here’s to a great autumn – talk to you again soon.

Ginny
Summer is upon us, and time is slowing down. The spring semesters have concluded, and the days are lengthening. I doubt there will be anyone who does not feel summer’s tug for some get-away time. I know I will. But, before we venture off to our summer retreat, I want to provide you with a brief update on TWS happenings.

Publications
There have been quite a few changes in the publications of The Wildlife Society (TWS). Some have occurred recently, within the past year. Others are being implemented this year or will be in the near future. One of these changes is that the number of issues for The Wildlife Professional has increased from 4 to 6. This increase in the number of issues is due in part to the efforts of Nancy Sasavage, the Director of Publications and Communications for TWS, and her staff in reducing costs and increasing efficiency. Be sure to see the upcoming May-June Issue, which will focus on State Wildlife Action Plans.

There also has been a few changes regarding editors of TWS scientific publications. As most of you know by now, Dr. Paul Krausman and Dr. David Haukos have begun their terms as Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Society Bulletin, respectively. One of the things that has confused authors over the years is that they usually have doubts regarding which journal their study is most suited for. Fortunately, both editors have developed guidelines to clarify this issue. You can find their advice and guidelines for deciding where to submit your article in the Journal of Wildlife Management (Volume 80: 189-191) and the Wildlife Society Bulletin (Volume 40: 5-6). In addition, Drs. Krausman and Haukos have developed uniform author guidelines for both journals to facilitate the submission process!

A possible change that will be arising in the future is the topic of open access. Some funding agencies now require that publications arising from their funded research be open access. As such, TWS is having numerous conversations with Wiley Publishing on issues such as Open Access, Open Data, and Impact Factors. Currently, TWS journals have an open access option for authors for an additional charge, but more changes may be happening over the next several years as the publishing landscape changes with open access mandates.

General Operations
Trends in TWS membership continue to increase. Membership increased to 8,989 by April 2016. Part of this success is due to stronger renewal rates and membership growth because of the launching of an “Automatic Renewal” option in the online forms. As of April, approximately 35% of new members have chosen Automatic Renewal. This new feature will minimize membership lapses and make life easier for both current and new members.

Another membership improvement that is in-progress is the development of a TWS Network Online Directory. It is currently in its testing phase, but this feature soon will be available to members. In a recent TWS Membership Survey, networking was listed as one of the most important benefits of TWS. This in-progress Network Online Directory will provide TWS members this valuable opportunity.
Southwest Section Tracks, continued

And, lastly, for those of you engaged in digital Content and Social Media, you’d be happy to know that TWS now has a social media audience of more than 100,000 people. During the recent Council meeting held in early March, TWS only had an audience of 92,500. Thus, the TWS audience has increased by 8.6% in just the last two months! Be sure to follow TWS happenings through its social media outlets.

Upcoming Annual Conference

In closing, I’d like to remind you that the 23rd Annual Conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina during October 15–19, 2016. This year’s conference will feature 4 Plenary/Keynote Sessions and more than 40 networking opportunities and 600 educational sessions. There also will be 4 field trips that highlight the natural beauty and natural history of the state. Here is a brief window into the Plenary/Keynote sessions:

- **Plenary 1**: Expanding Partnerships Vital to the Future of Wildlife
- **Plenary 2**: The Past, the Present and the Future of Invasive Species Control in North America: Achieving Success through Innovation
- **Plenary 3**: Is Sustainable Use of Wildlife Sustainable?
- **Keynote 1**: Public-Private Partnerships for Conservation

Attendance to annual conference has been increasing in recent years. Correspondingly, TWS has continued to increase the services and value of the conference to members. TWS has expanded the capacity for concurrent sessions from 10 to 12 for this year’s conference and will have a daily plenary or keynote session to kick off each morning. In addition, TWS has accepted 12 workshops, 25 symposia (5 more than last year), and three panel discussions. It is anticipated that the total number of paper and poster submissions is only second to Hawaii in the past ten years! To find out more about the conference, please visit the conference website at http://www.twsconference.org/.

Well, that is it for now. Enjoy your summer. Be sure to take some time off to refresh and renew, whether at the beach or on the mountains.

Dunes Sagebrush Lizard

Photo by M. Watson
Wild turkey is a popular game species in New Mexico, as well as throughout the United States. They provide for a challenging hunt, as they have excellent eye sight and are very wary, but the excitement of calling in a tom or hearing the first gobble of the morning will make memories to last a lifetime.

Wild turkey numbers dwindled in the U.S. during the early 20th century due to over-hunting and forest clearing. Through the establishment of wildlife hunting regulations, habitat management, and trap and transplant efforts, turkey populations have increased substantially and the species is now thriving.

There are six subspecies of wild turkey, and New Mexico is home to three these: Merriam’s, Rio Grande, and Gould’s. The Merriam’s turkey is the most abundant subspecies, and can be found in most mountain ranges in the state. Rio Grande turkeys are found in several of New Mexico’s river valleys. Both these subspecies have fairly stable population numbers. The Gould’s turkey is much rarer, and is of particular conservation interest to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF). The majority of the Gould’s turkey range is in Mexico, but the range does extend into southern Arizona and New Mexico.

The Gould’s turkey can be distinguished from other subspecies by its large size (it’s the largest subspecies in North America), and the white tips on its tail feathers and tail rump coverts. In New Mexico, the Gould’s turkey is found in southern Hidalgo County, and occupies major canyons and adjacent foothill areas in the Peloncillo, Animas, and San Luis mountains, as well as along the drainages leading into the middle Animas Valley. Preferred habitat types for this species are pine-oak forested canyons into adjacent pinyon-juniper grassland slopes, and cottonwood-sycamore riparian habitats.

Gould’s turkeys were first documented in New Mexico in 1892, after which there were limited records of sightings up until the 1980s. Because of lack of information on the subspecies and limited habitat range, the Gould’s turkey was listed as State Threatened under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act in 1975. In 1982, researchers at New Mexico State University (NMSU) began to gather information on population status, document life history requirements, and assess habitat use. Based on the research from NMSU, population estimates of Gould’s turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains ranged from 12–75 birds in the 1980s and 1990s. Because the Animas and San Luis Mountains are mostly on private property, much less is known about the status of Gould’s turkeys in these areas. In the late 1990s, NMDGF contracted a researcher to survey these mountain ranges, and he estimated the population to be 50–100 birds.

Following these research efforts, NMDGF began annual spring surveys in the Peloncillo Mountains to monitor population trends and gain a minimum population estimate. Starting in 2006, along nine routes, surveyors documented roost use, number of birds encountered, and categorized birds according to age and sex. Numbers of Gould’s turkeys detected during the survey has increased from 18 in 2006 to 95 in 2016.
Gould’s Wild Turkey in New Mexico, continued

One effort that helped increase the number of Gould’s turkeys in New Mexico, was an agreement with Arizona Department of Game and Fish to trade 40 pronghorn from New Mexico for 60 turkeys from Arizona. Transplants provide wildlife managers the opportunity to boost population numbers and to promote and enhance genetic diversity. Between February 2014 and February 2016, the 60 Gould’s turkeys were transplanted from southeastern Arizona to the Peloncillo Mountains. Twenty-seven radio-backpacks were deployed on transplanted turkeys in 2015 and 2016. The data collected from the turkeys with transmitters are providing information on dispersal, mortality rates, potential mortality causes, and allows NMDGF to evaluate the efficacy of various management strategies. As of August 2016, 15 of the radio-marked turkeys were still alive. A few of the marked birds have made long distance movements, some greater than 15 miles. Most of the transplanted turkeys have remained relatively close to the release sites, and have been observed with groups of resident birds. Through population monitoring efforts, habitat improvement, and population augmentation, the NMDGF has been able to justify a limited hunt of Gould’s turkey in the state. Two enhancement tags are offered annually, one as a raffle and one as an auction. Proceeds generated from the sale of these licenses are used to fund habitat improvement projects and research efforts for Gould’s turkeys.

One such project funded by the Gould’s turkey hunting license sale, in collaboration with funds from National Wild Turkey Federation and U.S. Forest Service, involved reducing fuel loads around known turkey roost sites. This project lowered the risk of habitat loss through wildfire events and provided improved access to roost trees for the turkeys. Other important areas have been identified in the Peloncillo Mountains for future habitat improvement projects.

As a state listed species, NMDGF is tasked with creating a recovery plan for Gould’s turkeys. In June, two meetings were held in southwestern New Mexico to inform the public that the department would begin recovery planning for the Gould’s turkey. In the coming months, NMDGF will work with interested parties on an Advisory Committee to create a Gould’s Turkey Recovery Plan. Through identification and implementation of a recovery strategy, via collaboration with federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and the public. Our goal is to down list Gould’s turkey off the state threatened list. Though Gould’s turkey habitat and range will always be limited in the state, NMDGF is striving for stable populations in these habitat areas.

Left: Gould’s Turkey Roost Site.
Alamogordo, New Mexico: On May 11th, 2016, New Mexico Game and Fish Warden Corey Smith, received a tip from our Operation Game Thief hotline that a man was seen shooting and killing a mule deer with a pistol, east of Alamogordo, NM on May 4th. The shooter then reportedly loaded the deer into a truck toolbox and left the area. After some investigation, Officer Smith determined the owner of the offending vehicle and made contact with the person along with Officer Marcelino Peralta the next day. Shortly after contact, the suspect confessed to the crime. It seems this person was turkey hunting with a group and saw the buck out of his driver-side window. That's when ethics went along with the view – “out the window” – and the person exited the vehicle and shot the deer in the neck with his .40 caliber handgun. The suspect also confessed to dragging the deer to his truck and loading it alone, and later taking it to his residence for processing. The carcass, with the hole in the neck, was found at the residence and Officer Smith recovered the bullet from the body cavity. The deer and the handgun were seized and charges were filed on May 17th for the unlawful killing of a mule deer out of season and unlawful possession of the mule deer. Officer Smith will be advocating for the pistol to be forfeited as well.

Raton, New Mexico: A Colfax County magistrate judge fined two Raton men more than $7,000 and sentenced one man to 60 days in jail for “egregious” crimes against wildlife.

Judge Warren Walton convicted Michael A. Malcom, 29, of Raton on 13 charges including criminal trespass, illegal trapping and unlawful possession of deer and other wildlife parts following a bench trial on Aug. 31, according to court records. Walton characterized Malcom’s crimes as “egregious” and sentenced him to 60 days in jail and fined him $6,500 and $689 in court costs.

State Department of Game and Fish officers discovered Malcom trespassing on the Vermejo Park Ranch last December. He was suspected of illegal trapping. Malcolm could not produce a valid trapping license but did produce a deer license and under questioning admitted he killed a deer but had failed to validate the license. A warrant was obtained to search his residence where officers found the deer and other game parts. Several traps were also seized as evidence during the search. Malcom has appealed his conviction with the District Court in Raton.

In another case Pat Garrett, 47, of Raton was fined $500 plus $173 in court costs and 182 days probation by Judge Walton after Garrett pleaded no contest July 27 to unlawful possession of an elk head, according to court records. Garrett, a hunting guide, had a client that had recently wounded a bull elk, but they couldn’t find the animal. About a month later, Garrett found the dead bull and took the head to his house so he could send it to the hunter. Officers observed the head while at Garrett’s house on an unrelated matter and questioned Garrett, who could show no license or other legal proof for having the head. All wildlife parts, except shed antlers, must have legal documentation to be possessed.

“This is a good lesson for everyone to remember,” said Officer Clint Henson, who worked on the cases. It is unlawful to pick up heads or other wildlife parts you find in the field. Contact your local game warden and he or she will conduct an investigation and then decide on their best use.
Since January 2016 to today’s date (9/18/16) there have been 89 line-of-duty deaths in the United States. This is a decrease of 6% for the same time period last year. There have been 40 Officers killed by gunfire this year which is a 54% increase from the same time period last year. The NMDGF Honor Guard team has been extremely busy within the last month assisting other agencies in the state regarding NM Officers and line of duty deaths. On Friday August 12th, Hatch Police Officer Jose Chavez was feloniously killed in the line of duty. The NMDGF Honor Guard team assisted Las Cruces Police Department’s Honor Guard by attending the funeral procession and lining the walkway for the casket at the Pan Am center.

Our part of the ceremony was small, but it was nonetheless, a great honor to assist with the service of a true hero. Exactly three weeks later Officer Clint Corvinus, with the Alamogordo Police Department, was also feloniously killed on September 2nd 2016. The NMDGF Honor Guard team also assisted with Officer Corvinus but took on a much bigger role. Starting on Monday September 4th, members of the NMDGF Honor Guard traveled to Alamogordo to stand guard over the body of Officer Corvinus. There was a member from our Honor Guard team standing guard every day from Monday through Saturday until Officer Corvinus was laid to rest. Officers took 15-30 minute shifts at a time standing guard. The Alamogordo Police Department is not a large enough agency to take on such a task completely on their own. When an Officer dies in the line of duty, there is a constant presence of another officer by the slain Officer’s side until he or she is laid to rest.
This means for the entire week, while both Officer Chaves and Officer Corvinus were being prepared to be laid to rest, an Officer was by their side twenty four hours a day. During our mission with Officer Corvinus, the Honor Guard team assisted for six days at the funeral home and memorial service. Honor Guard members assisting with both funerals were: Sergeant Matt Anthony, Sergeant Benjamin Byrd, Sergeant Kyle Jackson, Sergeant Jason Kline, Sergeant Derek Theobald, Corporal Curtis Coburn, Officer Eric Nelson and Officer Adam Wright. While the circumstances are tragic when being called to assist on such a mission, it is with great honor that our Officers serve those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice—blessed are the peace keepers.
Officer Ken Griffith Receives Life Savings Recognition Award

Officer Ken Griffith’s efforts from a rescue last August were submitted to the North American Wildlife Officer Enforcement Association for the Life Savings Recognition Award. Officer Griffith received the award in Vermont at the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association annual conference.

In the morning of August 14, 2015, New Mexico Game and Fish Officer Kenneth Griffith was patrolling west of the Las Cruces city limits. Officer Griffith observed a vintage single engine 1951 T-28 Navy plane departing the Las Cruces International Airport. Shortly after departure, Officer Griffith noticed a trailing edge of black smoke coming from the aircraft. The plane also appeared to be having difficulty gaining altitude. Officer Griffith was aware there was a problem and monitored the craft as it began to lose altitude and barely dodge powerlines on its attempt to return to the airport. Just after the plane cleared the powerlines, Officer Griffith lost sight of the aircraft but saw a plume of dirt and smoke rise into the air. Officer Griffith rushed to the scene while notifying dispatch and requesting emergency medical services.

At the crash site, Griffith found the pilot, who was unconscious and had severe facial lacerations, and an alert passenger. Officer Griffith tried to slide open the cockpit glass with the emergency escape handle but it had become inoperable from the crash. With aviation fuel soaking the ground and the engine smoking profusely, Officer Griffith ran back to his vehicle and returned to the smoldering plane with a sledgehammer, shovel and axe. Officer Griffith and a couple of civilians, broke the cockpit glass and extracted the pilot and passenger from the wreckage. The pilot was airlifted from the scene and the passenger was transported by ground to the hospital. The pilot, unfortunately, died a few days later because of injuries suffered in the crash. The passenger recovered and is doing well.
Silver City, New Mexico: Officers from the Silver City Supervisory District executed a search warrant on a vehicle on July 24th. Officers discovered an unlawful deer during this encounter. Evidence and information attained from the July 24th warrant gave officers reason to seek an additional warrant that was later executed at a residence on July 25th. There officers found and seized an illegal turkey, another deer, a sawed off shotgun and a human skull. The shotgun and skull were turned over to New Mexico State Police for further investigation. An arrest warrant has been issued on the alleged poacher, as he was not present at the scene during the search warrant events.

Photo at right: Officer Justin Winters and Corporal Adan Jacquez during the first search warrant.

Share With Wildlife Program Updates
By Ginny Seamster

The Share with Wildlife Program at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish put out its call for project information for FY17 projects in early May. Thirty-five proposals were received and reviewed. Titles of the new projects for FY17 will be posted on the Share with Wildlife website soon. It was hard to narrow the field as the program received many excellent proposals. In the end, ten projects were selected for funding. These include two focused on herpetofauna, three on birds, one on fish, two on wildlife rehabilitation (and education), and two on education. Due to the program’s dependence on State Wildlife Grant money to match the state funds that are donated to the program, the plan of releasing a Request for Proposals for a larger Share with Wildlife project has been delayed until the New Mexico State Wildlife Action Plan can be approved by the State Game Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This must happen before the Department can receive a new allocation of State Wildlife Grant funds. The Request for Proposals will likely be released sometime early 2017. The next call for smaller (<$50,000) Share with Wildlife projects will be released in late spring/early summer 2017. Additional information is available via the program’s website (http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/share-with-wildlife/). This includes interim reports for FY16 projects and final reports for FY15 projects. Any questions should be directed to the Share with Wildlife program coordinator, Ginny Seamster (virginia.seamster@state.nm.us). Thanks to Mark Watson with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for the hummingbird photo!
Despite it being September, summer is still lingering in southern Texas. However, with each passing day, there are glimpses of an approaching change of season. Mornings are becoming a bit cooler, and days are becoming a bit shorter. The sun also seems to be losing a bit of its intensity. Autumn cannot be too far away...

Like most organizations, activity at TWS slows down a bit during summer. However, there are always things happening somewhere within TWS. Below is a short update on TWS operations and a synopsis of some of the primary activities.

General Operations

Finance. The Wildlife Society operates on a July-June fiscal year, and the beginning month (July) of the new fiscal year indicated a strong start both in terms of operations and investments. Overall financial activities for July showed positive income that was primarily driven by conference receipts, strong investment gains, publications receipts, and relatively low expenses. Thus, TWS has started the year ahead of expectations in revenues, expenses, and investments that should provide some security against fluctuations as the fiscal year unfolds.

Membership. In my summer update, I reported that TWS membership was at 8,989 members in April 2016. The current membership is 9,317 members as of August 2016. Thus, TWS membership continues to grow. One new feature of member services that TWS has been working on is the development of a TWS Network Online Directory. TWS has been engaged in having members update their profiles in order to provide the most effective possible directory. To date, 2,632 members have updated their profiles, and TWS believes that a launch will be possible once this number has increased to 5,000 members. So, if you have not done so already, please remember to update your member profile if necessary. Another improvement of member services is that TWS has begun work on a new layout for the member portal that will feature a design and navigation that is similar to the TWS website in order to provide a more consistent member experience. The anticipated launch date for the redesigned member portal is November 1.

Membership Audit of Organizational-Unit Officers. As you may know, one requirement to hold office at the state, section, and national level is membership with the parent society. TWS recently conducted an audit of membership among organizational-unit officers. This audit found that 257 organization-unit officers (about 15% of the total) currently are not members of the parent society. Additionally, the holders of 159 current positions have not been reported to headquarters resulting in TWS being unaware as to the membership status of these individuals. TWS has reached out to organization-unit officers in an attempt to update membership status of current organization-unit officers. If you currently hold office and have forgotten to renew your membership to the parent society, please do so to assist TWS in updating their membership.

TWS Council

Elections. In case you missed the results of the recent TWS election, here are the newly elected officers and representatives. New Council members include Darren Miller as TWS Vice-president, and John Moriarty as the North Central Section Representative. Cynthia Perrine and Harriet Allen were elected to continue their representation of the Western Section and Northwestern Section, respectively.
Southwest Section Tracks — Fall, continued

**TWS Conservation Engagement.** TWS CEO Ken Williams travels extensively throughout the year building relationships and collaborations with other conservation organizations to promote partnerships and advance the TWS mission. Below is a brief overview of some of the discussions occurring during summer.

- **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).** Dr. Williams was invited to join and co-chair an AFWA President’s Task Force to work on a series of adaptive challenges to the long-term success of fish and wildlife conservation in North America. Some of the issues that will be addressed: recruitment and retention of hunters, linking resource science and management, and evaluation and strengthening the relationships of state and federal agencies.

- **North American Ornithological Congress (NAOC).** Dr. Williams attended the NAOC in Washington DC. While there, he conferred with Umberto Berlanga, the Conservation Director for CONABIO in Mexico. Director Berlanga expressed interest in working with TWS to establish a TWS presence in Mexico and discussions will ensue on the next steps to make such presence a reality.

- **National Wildlife Federation (NWF).** Dr. Williams met with the Senior Scientist, Doug Inkley, and other staff at NWF to ensure a smooth transition and continuation of TWS interactions when Senior Scientist Inkley retires this autumn. Issues discussed included collaboration at the chapter and national level, the possibility of joint positioning on some conservation issues, and the prospect of partnering with them to sponsor TWS annual meetings.

- **Society of Range Management (SRM).** Dr. Williams and TWS Director Keith Norris met with the executive leadership of SRM in Washington DC. SRM is interested in pursuing a cooperative relationship with TWS, building on previous discussions at an executives meeting with TWS, SRM, American Fisheries Society, Society for Conservation Biology, and others. TWS proposed an agreement focusing on some common issues facing the two societies and follow up discussions will occur after the TWS Raleigh conference this October 2016.

**Position Announcement.** As you may have heard by now, CEO Ken Williams will be retiring in July 2017. The Executive Committee has been involved in succession planning in anticipation of Dr. Williams’ retirement next year. A position announcement has been created and distributed through several mediums. The last date to apply is 28 October 2016. If you know anyone who is interested or would be an ideal candidate, please pass along this career opportunity to him/her. A full position description can be found at: http://wfscjobs.tamu.edu/jobs/executive-director-chief-executive-officer-maryland/.

**Publications**

In the past, membership to TWS did not include access to TWS journals. Journal access involved a fee in addition to membership costs. However, in July 2016, TWS announced a policy change whereby membership to TWS included free web access to all TWS journals beginning in January 2017. Members have been notified through email and the e-Wildlifer. This policy change also has been announced to the public at large via the TWS website.

**Upcoming Annual Conference**

The 23rd Annual Conference is less than a month away. It will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina during October 15–19, 2016. This year’s conference will feature 4 Plenary/Keynote Sessions as follows:

- **Plenary 1:** Expanding Partnerships Vital to the Future of Wildlife
- **Plenary 2:** The Past, the Present and the Future of Invasive Species Control in North America: Achieving Success through Innovation
- **Plenary 3:** Is Sustainable Use of Wildlife Sustainable?
- **Keynote 1:** Public-Private Partnerships for Conservation

Attendance to annual conference has been increasing in recent years. As of August 2016, registration was at 1,230 attendees, putting TWS on pace for about 1,600 attendees if the current trend continues.

To find out more about the conference, please visit the conference website at http://www.twsconference.org/.

Until next time...
Save The Date!

Arizona / New Mexico Chapter
of the American Fisheries Society

presents
The 50th Joint Annual Meeting of the
Arizona-New Mexico Chapters of the
American Fisheries Society and
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FEBRUARY 9-11, 2017
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Plenary Session:
Celebrating 50 Years of Fish and Wildlife Management in Arizona and New Mexico

Plenary and Panel Session | Workshops | Paper and Poster Presentations
Call For Papers and Online Registration available Nov 21
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Swainson's Hawk Nestlings
Biodiversity Scholarship

Description:
The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society Biodiversity Scholarship program was established through an endowment from the proceeds of the 1990 Biodiversity Symposium, which was sponsored by the Chapter and several other natural resource agencies and organizations. Applicants for the Biodiversity Scholarship should work with wildlife, which includes all fauna and habitat components, excluding fisheries-related studies. The Chapter considers applications for two scholarships annually, which may be awarded to undergraduate or graduate students. Applicants should be currently enrolled in a natural resource-oriented higher education program in the State of New Mexico, with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.2 for undergraduates, and 3.5 for graduate students. Scholarships will be awarded at the Joint Annual Meeting of the New Mexico and Arizona Chapters of The Wildlife Society and Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Farmington, New Mexico on February 10th, 2017. Applications are due no later than December 15th, 2016.

Application Format:
The application package should be addressed to the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society Board and must include a cover letter and current resume. The cover letter should be no longer than one page, and the resume no longer than two pages. Please use standard one inch margins and size 12 font. The application package should contain the following information:

1) Applicants should briefly state their academic and professional goals and include details on past and anticipated future contributions to the conservation of biodiversity in New Mexico and elsewhere.

2) Applications should contain detailed information on educational experience including: field of study; institution where currently enrolled and, if applicable, those previously attended; expected date of completion; completed relevant coursework; and cumulative grade point average. Additional information on honors, awards, and/or scholarships received is also appropriate.

3) Applications should include information on professional experience, whether paid or volunteer, including employers, locations, time periods, and brief descriptions of work responsibilities.

4) Applicants should provide information on relevant leadership experience, either through academic or professional experiences or through related extracurricular activities.

5) Applicants must provide a brief statement of financial need, including personal indebtedness related to education, current scholarships, grants or assistantships, and whether the applicant has previously received the NMTWS Biodiversity Scholarship.
Biodiversity Scholarship

6) Applications must include current contact information for at least one professional reference and one academic reference. The academic reference should be able to verify the information contained in the application package if necessary. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that reference contact information is up to date; scholarship reviewers must be able to communicate with references.

Award Criteria:
The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society Board reviews applications and determines awardees through a ranked review process based on the following criteria:

1) Current cumulative grade point average and related educational experience and/or achievements receive the greatest weighted consideration during the review process.
2) Contribution(s) to the field, especially current and anticipated future contributions to the conservation of biodiversity in New Mexico, receive secondary weighted consideration.
3) Demonstrated leadership through professional and/or academic experiences is also given consideration during the review process. This component can also include strength of professional and academic references.
4) Demonstrated financial need is considered as a final determinative factor to distinguish among applicants who may otherwise receive equal rankings during the review process.

Application Submittals:
Applications for the NMTWS Biodiversity Scholarship should be submitted electronically to:

Ginny Seamster
New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society
virginia.seamster@state.nm.us

Please write NMTWS Biodiversity Scholarship in the subject line and include the submittal package as one email attachment (pdf is preferred) using the following naming format:

Applicant Name_NMTWS_BioScholarship_Year

Example: GinnySeamster_NMTWS_BioScholarship_2016
Outstanding Student Award

**Call for Nominations:**
The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society is soliciting nominations for the Outstanding Student Award. This award will be presented February 10th, 2017 at the Joint Annual Meeting of the New Mexico and Arizona Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Farmington, New Mexico. Please submit nominations electronically by December 15th, 2016 to Ginny Seamster, virginia.seamster@state.nm.us.

**Outstanding Student Award**

**Description:**
The Outstanding Student Award is given annually to a student who, while attending college or university in New Mexico, made a significant contribution to wildlife science, management, or conservation within the state. Any undergraduate or graduate student may be nominated for this award, but students pursuing a degree in wildlife or a wildlife-related field will be given preference. The Outstanding Student Award may be given to students for a single, exemplary act, or for a more long-term demonstration of outstanding performance. Students are eligible for one year following graduation from a New Mexico institute of higher education.

**Nomination Format and Evaluation Criteria:**
The nomination should be a brief (no more than 1 page) but persuasive summary of the contributions made by the student that are deserving of the Outstanding Student Award. Nominations must also contain a short curriculum vitae (CV) from the student (no more than 2 pages); evidence of academic performance, including grade point average, should be included. Selection of award recipients is based on one or more of the following criteria: contributions in the classroom, significant undergraduate or graduate research, extracurricular projects that contribute to wildlife conservation efforts in New Mexico, involvement with a student chapter or the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and overall academic performance.

**Award Decisions**
Members of the board of the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society review nominations prior to the Joint Annual Meeting, and present the award at this meeting. Additional information on awardees may be requested from nominators prior to the award presentation at the Joint Annual Meeting.
Wildlife Professional Award

Call for Nominations:
The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society is soliciting nominations for the *Wildlife Professional Award*. This award will be presented in early February, 2017 at the Joint Annual Meeting of the New Mexico and Arizona Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Please submit nominations by December 15th, 2016 electronically to Ginny Seamster at virginia.seamster@state.nm.us.

Wildlife Professional Award

Description:
The *Wildlife Professional Award* is bestowed annually upon a wildlife professional for outstanding contributions to their field within the state of New Mexico. Awardees may be practitioners in research, education, management, conservation, law enforcement or legislation, but must have demonstrated excellence in their field related to wildlife in the state of New Mexico. The award is based on the significance of contributions made to the field, and may include contributions made over an entire career or over a shorter period of time. Awardees should be currently employed or recently retired wildlife professionals in one of the above-stated fields.

Nomination Format and Evaluation Criteria:
The nomination should be a brief (no more than 1 page), but persuasive narrative describing why the nominee is deserving of the *Wildlife Professional Award*. Nominations should address the specific significance of the contribution(s) to wildlife management or wildlife biology in the state of New Mexico for which the individual is being nominated. These contributions may include pioneering or innovative wildlife research or management strategies, performance exceeding normal job requirements, or exemplary leadership within the array of wildlife-related professions described above. Contributions may also include efforts leading to increased public awareness of a specific wildlife-related issue, or demonstrated excellence in surmounting obstacles in pursuit of improved management and/or conservation. Nominations should also include contact information for the nominee, as well as a synopsis of their educational and professional background.

Award Decisions
Members of the board of the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society review nominations prior to the Joint Annual Meeting, and present the award at this meeting. Additional information on awardees may be requested from nominators prior to the award presentation at the Joint Annual Meeting.
Student Travel Award Application

Description:
The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society considers applications for Student Travel Awards on an as-needed basis, but accepts applications absolutely no later than 30 days prior to the event for which funding is requested. The Student Travel Award is intended to help support travel to meetings or conferences of The Wildlife Society by individual presenting students. The New Mexico Chapter reserves a minimum of $500.00 annually for this award, or sufficient funds to cover two student member registrations for the Annual Conference; applicants may request up to $500.00. Additional funding requests will be considered by the New Mexico Chapter Board when necessary. Students are only eligible for one travel award per calendar year and must be current members of the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society when applying.

Application Format and Award Criteria:
The application should be a brief but descriptive narrative addressed to the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society Board that includes information on several specifics:

1) Applications should include details on the meeting or conference for which the travel award will be used, where this meeting will take place and over what time period. A copy of an acceptance letter or email for a contributed poster or oral presentation from the program committee should be included.

2) Applications should include detailed information on financial need including how specifically the funds will be used. These specifics should include conference or meeting registration costs, travel expenses, lodging expenses and/or meal costs in a per diem format.

3) Applications should include detailed information on other funding sources intended to be used by the applicant to cover costs. This information ensures that should the application be awarded, it will actually be used to support a student presentation.

4) Applications should include information on the scientific merit or importance of the accepted presentation. Additionally, applications should include details on importance of the presentation to the applicants’ career goals as future wildlife professionals or as continuing wildlife students.

Application Submittals:
Ginny Seamster
New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society
virginia.seamster@state.nm.us
We’re on the Web!
Check out our new website that was created last year. http://wildlife.org/nm

NM-TWS is an active affiliate of The Wildlife Society that is dedicated to promoting sound management and conservation of New Mexico’s wildlife resources.

Membership is open to all professionals, students, and laypersons interested in wildlife research, management, education, and administration.

Our chapter works to maintain communication among wildlife professionals; encourages communication between those professionals and the general public; supports continuing education through grants, workshops, and regional meetings; encourages student involvement in the wildlife profession; and actively participates in shaping management and conservation policy through letters, public statements, and resolutions.

### Membership Form

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Please join or update your membership today!

Thank You!

Please complete the membership form and mail it with your $8 dues to:

The Wildlife Society
New Mexico Chapter
P.O. Box 35936
Albuquerque, NM 87176-3593

For updates to your mailing or email address please contact Dan Collins, dan_collins@fws.gov