

# CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education  
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Photo by Mark Gocke

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## A Message from the President

Bill Vodehnal – Nebraska

March Madness means different things to different people, but in my mind it is still alive and thriving in Nebraska during April. No, I'm not thinking bouncing basketballs, but the rite of spring and what a welcome site it is to us in the Midwest. The absent sounds of birds during the winter are gone and the air is alive with spring sounds. Greater prairie-chickens and sharp-tailed grouse started visiting breeding grounds in late February and are in full breeding season and behavior today. Sandhill cranes reported by the thousands along the Platte River valley in March while snow geese are packed like sardines in the remnants of wetlands left by last year's drought. The air is alive with breeding ducks and Canada geese. The first glimpse after a long aerial journey of long-billed curlews occurred the first week of April. Spring is here and brings a natural smile to the face.



These pleasant images will soon wane as spring transcends to summer and more importantly as the changes occur on our natural landscapes over the next months or years. Severe drought is predicted once again for the Great Plains and is taking its toll on the agricultural community, wildlife, and people's attitudes. Recent April showers and blizzards brought much needed relief to the Great Plains, but insufficient to meet the needs to replenish soil moisture. High corn prices have caused thousands of acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to go back into production and it doesn't stop there as new sod is being broken as well. In my 31 years as a biologist in the Nebraska Sandhills, I thought I would never see the day when the sandy soils of this fragile ecosystem farmed again, but CRP is back into crop production and new center pivots are venturing towards previously unbroken lands.

Wind energy development is picking up momentum in Nebraska and will soon mimic the footprint it has on the landscape like Kansas, Wyoming, and other surrounding states. Wetlands are even more threatened by drainage across the Dakotas to put more land into production. Oil and gas exploration in North Dakota, Wyoming, and beyond are having tremendous ecological effects on the landscape and many states in the Midwest are feeling the effects of those exploration efforts.

As we all know, the species that depend on these landscapes are somewhat resilient and yet some will ultimately disappear. It seems like a gloomy picture I've just painted and yet it is the reality of our times and the challenge we must face. It is how we face this challenge that is important. Stephen Jay Gould once said "We cannot win this battle to save species and environments without forging an emotional bond between ourselves and nature as well-for we will not fight to save what we do not love." We all love the sounds of wild things which are why we chose this profession and are willing to fight for the resource. We need to continue the passion and diligence to conserve our native landscapes for future generations to enjoy.

Our summer newsletter will provide more concerning candidates for the various CMPS board seats that will be vacated and the summer meeting in Cedar City, Utah. Keep on doing the great things you do for wildlife and may you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Bill

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## Council Report

### Gary C. White, Central Mountain and Plains Section Representative

TWS Council met March 24–25 at the start of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, Virginia. As usual, the agenda was full, and with a few issues that were difficult and kept Council member's brains on overload.

#### New Staff at Headquarters

Two new staff hires are already hard at work. Dr. Ken Williams took the reins as Executive Director starting back on March 4. Ken's enthusiasm and flow of ideas is infectious – he is providing a real inspiration to staff and Council. Ken has already identified major issues that he will be dedicating time to in the coming months. Council will be revising the TWS [Strategic Plan](#) at a retreat prior to the annual conference in Milwaukee, so Ken's arrival and chance to get his feet on the ground prior to this effort is perfect timing.

Upon taking the position with TWS, Ken retired as Co-Director of the USGS Science and Decisions Center and Chief of the Cooperative Research Units. Previous positions included Executive Director of the North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Leader of the Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Vermont, Chief of the Office of Migratory Bird Management at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and several science and management positions at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. Over the years Ken has been involved in research and application of adaptive management, biological modeling, vertebrate mapping, waterfowl management, habitat conservation, population monitoring, scientific method, and dynamic optimization in natural resources management. In recent years his focus has been on the integration of science into natural resources conservation and management for the U.S. Department of the Interior.



Some thoughts from Dr. Williams:

"I share with all of you a concern for the uncertain and potentially difficult times we are facing, as Congress and the Administration establish national priorities and struggles to limit growth of the federal budget. Recent negotiations on the fiscal cliff, the sequestration, and ongoing negotiations on the looming crisis as the FY2013 Continuing Resolution expires, all suggest the potential for near-term reductions in support for natural resources conservation. Under these circumstances it is more important than ever for natural resources organizations in general, and The Wildlife Society in particular, to continue to share information and make the case for science-based conservation. We're in this together, for the future of our environment, our society, and future generations, and for my part I promise to work as hard as I can for our wildlife heritage."



Katie Edwards joined The Wildlife Society in February 2013 as the new Professional Development Coordinator. She works with TWS' chapters, student chapters, sections, and working groups. So you chapter officers will be hearing from Katie as she keeps contacts up to date and confirms all chapter officers are parent society members. She also manages the Certification and Professional Development programs for wildlife biologist and professionals. Katie received her B.S. in Biology from the University of Virginia, M.S. in Wildlife Science from Mississippi State University, and her Ph.D. in Forest Resources from Mississippi State University. She is also the current newsletter editor and webmaster for the Southeastern Section of TWS.

## Council Report

continued

### Drupal Websites Released for Subunits

The long migration from Joomla to Drupal for our subunit websites is over! After many years of unreliable service and outdated versions, we're "retiring" Joomla as our content management system of choice. So staff have spent considerable time setting up new Drupal sites for every subunit that was already using Joomla. TWS web producer, Jeremiah Patterson, sent an email to all subunit officers in mid-February announcing the change and providing instructions. If you are a web master and didn't receive that email, [you can view it now](#).

If your chapter is currently using Joomla, you'll want to make sure you are actively migrating to the new Drupal site, as TWS will eventually shut down all Joomla websites. I have migrated the CMPS and Colorado web sites to Drupal, so now have some hands-on experience if you need assistance.

### Fiscal Issues

Although Council has spent hours discussing budget issues, the TWS budget still remains in the red. The deficit in 2012 was \$99,485. Council is not optimistic that the situation will be much better in 2013 because of the sequestration. That is, in the past, federal agencies have been supportive of TWS with donations to fund activities. Further, because of travel restrictions, expected attendance at the annual meeting in Milwaukee may be lower than originally planned, affecting profit. The annual meeting is one of the main fund raisers for TWS, so returns will suffer.

### Member Database System

Council approved the purchase of a new Association Management System – a fancy phrase for a new database system to manage membership. Obviously with the current financial crisis, we would have preferred to have postponed this purchase. However, the current system, iMIS, is inadequate. There were three occurrences where the TWS website and iMIS database went down for extended periods of time, including the entire week of December 9 when the website and database were both down. These outages had a large impact since this is our busiest time of the year for renewals. The reasons for these outages involved both Joomla and iMIS, with both of these systems needing replacement. In particular, the iMIS software is no longer supported by the developers. So, TWS is forced to purchase a new Association Management System.

There will be some significant improvements with a new Association Management System. For starters, the new system will allow a more informative member portal into the TWS web site. For example, have you ever wondered why you have to log into the site each and every time to access TWS journals that you subscribe to? The new system should eventually allow members that subscribe to TWS journals to go directly to journal content – no more going in circles trying to figure out how to see an article. Keep your fingers crossed.

To help fund the new Association Management System, the theme of the 2013 Investors Campaign is to fund this non-budgeted expenditure. In addition, many of the computers in the TWS office are >4 years old, and software is out of date. So, the 2013 Investors Campaign will be to upgrade software and hardware for TWS. Think about buying a new computer for TWS! Or maybe just a new hard drive! Stay tuned.

### JWM, WSB Notifications

Another technology hitch has been members not receiving notification of new issues of the Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs, and the Wildlife Society Bulletin for which they have electronic subscriptions. Lisa Moore and Jeremiah Patterson are working on this issue – if you don't start receiving notifications of new issues for the journals you subscribe to, let me know.

### Milwaukee Conference

Plan on attending the TWS annual meeting in Milwaukee – details are at <http://wildlifesociety.org/>. The organizers are planning another great TWS conference, and Milwaukee in October has a lot to offer. As you all know, the leading value of attending the conference is the hall chit-chat, so plan to attend, maintain your contacts, and develop new ones.

## Chapter Updates

### Colorado

Ryan Monello— Chapter President

The Colorado Chapter held its annual meeting in Colorado Springs on February 6-8 and it was attended by more than 170 members. Our plenary session focused on the effects of climate change on alpine areas, wildfire in coniferous forests, and drought on the plains. We also had two full workshops (Synoptic Modeling and nuisance animal techniques) and great participation by students, which necessitated concurrent sessions on our final day of the conference. The success of this conference has allowed us to increase the number of research and travel grants for the second year in a row, as well as support the TWS Leadership Institute. More than ten awards or scholarships were presented at the meeting. The Douglas L. Gilbert for Outstanding Achievement in Wildlife Sciences was given to Ken Wilson, the Jim Olterman Scholarship was given to Karelia Brown, and the Chapter Service Award was given to Gary White (we were really surprised he hadn't been given this one yet!).

### Kansas

Matt Smith— Chapter President

The chapter once again held our annual meeting in conjunction with the Kansas Natural Resource Conference in Wichita at the end of January. The theme for the conference was "Under Attack, Invasive Species in Kansas" with over 300 participants attending. The Kansas Chapter sponsors travel grants for students presenting at this event and awards the best student paper and poster. President Brad Simpson's term came to a close but will continue to serve the Chapter as Past-President. Matt Smith is the new Chapter President and John Silovsky was elected as President-Elect.

Since the conference the Chapter has provided written testimony on a bill in the Kansas legislature which would have severely limited the state's ability to manage state listed threatened and endangered species. The bill received little support and is currently dead, at least for now. The Chapter also provided comments on the Lesser Prairie-Chicken proposed rule.

The conservation community lost an invaluable member recently with the passing of Dr. Robert Robel. The Chapter has plans to establish a scholarship in his honor.

2013 marks the 40th anniversary of KCTWS. The Chapter moved at our annual meeting to hold a celebration for the charter members of the society. Plans for this event are in the works and will be held in fall near Manhattan Kansas.

### Nebraska

Teresa Frink— Chapter President

The annual Nebraska Chapter of the Wildlife Society meeting was held on 14 March 2013 in Chadron, NE with 85 members (39 students, 46 professionals) in attendance. We were pleased to welcome four new board members including Eric Zach (President-Elect), Caroline Hinkelmann (Secretary), Kent Fricke (At-Large Member), and Shaun Dunn (At-Large Member). Dr. Scott Hygnstrom, professor and extension wildlife damage specialist for the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was presented with the Career Professional Award. Dr. Hygnstrom also served as the banquet speaker on Thursday evening, sharing his experiences with, "Human Wildlife Conflicts in Southern Africa." On Friday, the Student-Professional Workshop was held at Chadron State Park. The focus of this workshop was the impacts of the 2012 wildfire impacts in Chadron State Park and surrounding areas. The attendees engaged in a wide range of discussions led by local professionals.

The NETWS would also like to recognize Dr. Chuck Butterfield, who after 14 years of



Annual TWS-Nebraska Chapter meeting, Chadron, NE.

## Chapter Updates

continued

service at Chadron State College, recently accepted a position as a senior consultant with a private environmental/engineering consulting firm based in Jackson, WY. Chuck was an active member of the NETWS chapter and was instrumental in forming the Chadron State College (CSC) Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and, along with colleagues from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, began the Range-land Wildlife Management Program at CSC. Thank you Chuck for your dedication to the wildlife resources in Nebraska, as well as for your service in educating our youth and student/career professionals.

### North Dakota

Todd Frerichs— Chapter President

The North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society held its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary annual conference in Mandan, North Dakota on February 13-15, 2013 with the theme, “A Short Look Back and a Long Look Forward.” Approximately 300 professionals and students attended this year’s conference.

It all began in the spring of 1963 when, amidst the rapid and unsustainable development of North Dakota’s natural resources, 43 wildlife biologists and natural resource specialists established the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS). Its mission was to provide a forum for members to discuss ecological issues, actively pursue conservation efforts, and provide scientific information on the sustainable use of natural resources.

Since then, the North Dakota Chapter has grown to approximately 400 members representing at least 27 entities, including state and federal agencies, consultants, non-governmental organizations, and academia. The Chapter typically focuses on major natural resource issues, such as agricultural and energy policy, and relies on the seven principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Management to determine which issues to target.

The Chapter has a long history of injecting itself into natural resource issues in the state and nation. The Chapter has been a voice for conservation on many issues, some of which became very controversial such as irrigation, wetland drainage, and energy development. Since 1989, the Chapter has employed a lobbyist for the biannual State legislative Sessions. The

lobbyist coordinates through the legislative committee, which includes agency representation and interested members. The Chapter provides testimony on major issues affecting wildlife resources in the State and looks for proactive solutions to natural resource issues. In addition the Chapter sponsors a legislative social where legislators and Chapter members socialize and discuss issues in a non-official setting.

Through the years, experts associated with the Chapter have presented well over a 1,000 scientific papers and had access to panel discussions, research posters, nationally known keynote speakers, and symposia. For the 50th anniversary conference, the Chapter focused on the future of wildlife management in the State, including the likely problems and opportunities. Speakers explored issues related to climate change, the North American Model of Wildlife Management, media, private and political views of the future of wildlife management, role of social media, and promotion of women and students roles in the future.

To see highlights from the 50th annual conference, go to the spring 2013 newsletter on the Chapters web page. You can also find Chapter position statements and learn more about the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society at:

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/NorthDakota/>

### South Dakota

Silka Kempema— Chapter President

The South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society held its annual meeting 25-27 February 2013 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. The theme of this year’s special session was wildlife health and touched on a variety of health issues including tuberculosis, plague, Chytrid fungus, lead exposure and rodenticides. Dr. Dean Biggins was the invited banquet speaker for 2013 and spoke to the group on the role of *Yersinia pestis* as an invasive predator. New Board members were elected during our annual chapter meeting: Mark Norton as President-elect, Troy Grovenburg as Secretary/Treasurer, and Casey Mehls as Board Member. Our most recent sponsorships include Bald Eagle Awareness Days and travel support for members of the South Dakota State University student chapter to attend the annual conference of The Wildlife Society.

## Chapter Updates

continued

### Utah

Randy Larsen— Chapter President

The Utah Chapter held its Annual Meeting at Bryce Canyon, UT, from March 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. The conference, titled “Basic Biology, Modern Technology: Moving Management Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” featured three plenary speakers, technical and poster sessions, field trips, a meet & greet ice-breaker, photo contest, silent auction, raffle, awards dinner, and our second ever Utah Quiz Bowl. Teams of all ages and professional affiliations participated in this fun celebration of knowledge. Chris Wood was elected president elect with Covy Jones accepting responsibilities as a board member. We handed out several awards including an Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, Conservation Achievement Award, and Certificates of Appreciation and feedback concerning the conference was positive. Our website has been updated thanks to Avery Cook (webmaster). Newsletters and announcements are now posted on the website [www.utwss.org](http://www.utwss.org).

### Wyoming

Nichole Cudworth— Chapter Secretary

The Wyoming Chapter has had a busy year. We implemented the first year of our fellowship program, with overwhelmingly positive feedback. During the 4-month fellowship, Clareesa Zook, our fellow, was able to work with a number of agencies and gain experience with a number of wildlife careers throughout the state. She even helped trap a bald eagle and a grizzly bear! The Chapter is currently reviewing applications for 2013. We held our annual Chapter meeting this past November in Laramie, with substantial contributions and input from the Student Chapter. The success of the meeting couldn't have been accomplished without them. During the two and a half-day meeting, we incorporated a number of activities geared toward student-professional interactions, including a luncheon, panel discussion, and a hugely popular quiz bowl, where we all found out how much we really know – and how much we've forgotten! In anticipation of budget shortfalls, the Chapter also provided a \$1000 donation to support the 2013 Leadership Institute; the skills and techniques taught in this program are invaluable to young professionals in the wildlife field. Finally, the Board is moving forward with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Wyoming Chapter Science Committee and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation in order to allow the Chapter to increase its ability

to advocate for wildlife and habitat issues in the state. We are also currently organizing an ad hoc committee in response to a request from the Governor's Sage-Grouse Implementation Team to review and provide feedback on winter sage-grouse use in the state. Overall, the Wyoming Chapter has been very productive in working toward our objectives of increasing student interaction and participation and providing the scientific voice for wildlife and the habitats on which they depend. Tune in next year for more news from the Cowboy State.



Clareesa Zook and Past-President Bryan Bedrosian prepare to release a bald eagle that was affixed with a GPS transmitter as part of an ongoing project conducted by Craighead Beringia South.

## Student Chapter Updates

### Chadron State College

Jason Clark— Chapter President

The Chadron State College Wildlife Club has been very active this spring semester. In February, we held our 4<sup>th</sup> annual ice fishing tournament at Box Butte Reservoir. We had a great turnout of 32 anglers participating in the tournament. Later in February, we assisted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission with a bighorn sheep capture at Fort Robinson State Park. The bighorns were netted from a helicopter and flown to a field lab. We assisted by carrying the bighorns from their drop off point to the field lab, and monitored temperature during processing. In March, our club attended the annual Nebraska Chapter of TWS meeting which was held in Chadron, NE. Immediately following the student-professional workshop, we traveled to Laramie, WY to participate in the Western Region Student Conclave. During our field trip, we hiked through the mountains looking for signs of extinct mammals and the occasional mule deer shed. Plans for the rest of the semester include a photo contest, camping trip, turkey hunt, and a youth fishing event for local cub scouts.



Bighorn sheep capture, Fort Robinson State Park, NE.

### Colorado State University

Colin Wait— Chapter President

The Colorado State University student chapter of the Wildlife Society has had a great past year with many opportunities and events for students to get involved in and gain invaluable experience. We began the 2012/2013 academic year by hosting a cookout on campus in junction with the Society of Conservation Biology and the American Fisheries Society.

In October 2012, we had 10 students attend the national meeting of the Wildlife Society in Portland, Oregon. These students attended lectures, field trips, and social events, which increased their knowledge on current research in the field alongside developing important contacts for future careers. The Wildlife Society also hosted a camping trip at McGregor Ranch in Estes Park, Colorado, in order for students to experience elk bugling. This past year, we had a great turn-out and the students were able to see and hear a number of elk.

We also held our annual fundraising banquet in October at CB & Potts. There we had games, a silent auction, a raffle and great food. This fundraiser allowed networking between students, wildlife professionals, and faculty, while simultaneously raising money for the events our chapter hosts. Throughout the year, we also raise funds by selling coffee in the mornings in the Natural Resources building. Members of our club volunteer to work shifts during the week and set up daily. These two events in conjunction with funding from our department at CSU and funds from the Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society provide us essential funding to put on the numerous field trips and events that we host for students.

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## Student Chapter Updates

continued

Throughout the year, we continue to have speakers discuss wildlife research, management, graduate school, and future career paths at our meetings. These speakers include personnel from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as graduate students and professors. We also host birding trips throughout the spring with an employee from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

In February 2013, we had six members represent CSU at the Colorado State meeting held in Colorado Springs. Three of these members also volunteered to help run the event. In February, the club also put on an ice fishing trip to give inexperienced members a way to have fun and try their hands at catching fish.

This past March, 10 students attended the annual Western State Student Conclave hosted by the University of Wyoming in Larimer. At Conclave, CSU placed third in the Wild-cache competition, which included testing knowledge and skills regarding waterfowl wings, ages of ungulates, telemetry, and vegetation sampling. In Wyoming, we also had two students submit photos into a photography competition. Our secretary placed in every category of the photography competition.



## Kansas State University

Allie Bays—Chapter Secretary

The Kansas State University Chapter had an eventful winter and will be having an even more eventful spring. In January our club participated in the Kansas Natural Resource Conference held in Wichita. This year's theme was invasive species in Kansas in which we attended several intriguing lectures. We also co hosted a raffle with the student chapter at Emporia State University. This was a huge success and we hope to do it again next year.

This spring, we have a wide variety of activities planned including: mist netting, GIS seminar, and a float trip. In April, we will be touring the Milford Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism fish hatchery and wildlife rehabilitation center at Milford Nature Center. We will also be assisting Fort Riley in their annual herpetofauna count this coming May and will finish off the year with a weekend camping and fishing extravaganza.

Aside from our many activities we have had the honor of welcoming a number of experts to speak with our group. Dan Mulhern who will be speaking history of black-footed ferrets reintroduction in Kansas at our annual Banquet held this year on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Alumni Center at Kansas State University. New to our banquet this year, will be the awarding of the first Dr. Robert Robel Scholarship for Outstanding Wildlife Students in which one qualified member will receive an accommodation and be recognized.

## Student Chapter Updates

**continued**

### University of Nebraska— Lincoln

Kyle Schumacher— Chapter Treasurer

The UNL Wildlife Club has been volunteering around the community lately. Many of our members have been helping out with elementary education nights put on by the local natural resources district, instructing hunter education classes, and bringing our box of furs, skulls, and other interesting wild animal objects to other youth events in the area.

We have also been traveling recently to meetings. The days leading up to our spring break we traveled to Chadron, Nebraska for the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual meeting. Here we got to network with professionals and other students from across the state and get an up-close look at the aftermath of the 2012 fire season. From there, we headed to Laramie, Wyoming for the 2013 Western Student Conclave. Our members competed with schools from across the western US in photography contests, the quiz bowl, wildlife behavior skits, and a geocaching competition. Also, members got to do photography around Laramie and learn how to perform necropsies on various wildlife species. The UNL Wildlife Club is proud to announce that Lincoln will host the 2014 Western/CMPS Student Conclave!

As our semester wraps up, our chapter is busy planning for our 2013 Awards Banquet on April, 13<sup>th</sup>. Here we will honor various student alumni and professionals for their outstanding achievements in the conservation field and celebrate another successful year for the UNL Wildlife Club.

### Western State Colorado University

Dr. Patrick Magee— Chapter Advisor

Greetings, Wildlifers, from the Western State Colorado University (WSCU) Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society!

The first weekend of February a group of TWS students and our advisor, Dr. Pat Magee took a hunter's education course from Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Danny Zadra, Brandon Diamond, Nick Gallowich, and J Wenum with Russ Japuntich from the Bureau of Land Management Gunnison offices. After two full days of classroom education, the group took a Western van to Black Canyon Wing and Clays for a day of guided pheasant hunting. Thank you to CPW for sponsoring the trip and providing the shotguns and ammunition.

We had six students and our advisor attend this year's annual CCTWS conference in Colorado Springs. This year's conference was excellent and provided a great look at the future of wildlife and land management and conservation in the future of a changing climate and growing human population. Dan Piquette, a junior, participated in the oral presentations and presented his undergraduate Thornton research on anthropogenic noise disturbances and their effects on local Gunnison Sage-grouse populations. Kristin Barker, a December 2012 graduate, presented her poster on her research of red fox home-range and movements in the Gunnison Basin. Karélia Brown was awarded the 2012 Jim Oltzman Memorial Scholarship. Dan Piquette, Kristin Barker, Eric Kater, and Trevor Francke volunteered throughout the conference. Our chapter is grateful to the CCTWS for providing funding to assist with our travel. We acknowledge WSCU for supporting our travel as well.



Hunter's education course, Gunnison, CO.

## Student Chapter Updates

continued



Pictured left to right: Pat Magee, Eric Kater, and Katie Johnson, guided pheasant hunt, Delta, CO.

Also in February, we combined forces with our Biology Club (BBB) to put on the annual Biology Bonanza. The Biology Bonanza is a celebration of Charles Darwin's birthday and a community outreach program for elementary and middle school aged children. This year many of our activities focused on the wildlife of the Gunnison Basin. Activities included wildlife bingo (featuring local plant and animal species), macroinvertebrates of the Gunnison Basin (focusing on the worldwide connection of healthy water and intact stream communities), jello cells (a messy concoction of jello (cytoplasm) and candies (organelles)), and radio telemetry with a toy hedgehog fitted with a radio collar which was hidden on campus then located by our participants.

We welcomed our new CCTWS liaison, Christina Santana (RMBO, NRCS, and CPW) to our March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and all club members had a chance to introduce themselves and make another excellent professional connection. Thank you, Christina, for stepping up and dedicating your time and resources to our chapter.

We have rejuvenated our Monday and Thursday coffee and bake sales with a focus on bird-friendly coffee. We hope to educate the students of WSCU on the importance of buying coffee farmed in a sustainable manner. The forests of South and Central America are the winter migration home of many of our summer resident birds, and selling shade-grown coffee is beneficial not just for our summer avian residents, but also to the year-long resident species, including the humans who call the rainforest home. After a busy couple of weeks we rewarded ourselves with a movie night. We watched *The Big Year*, a film about competitive birding. Many of our TWS members are currently taking Dr. Magee's Ornithology class or are budding birders, so the movie connected well on both an academic and personal level. Club members provided pop, candy, and popcorn, and a good time was had by all.

Our student chapter will be heavily involved with the Gunnison Sage-grouse Festival on April 13<sup>th</sup> held at Western State Colorado University. Our members will be assisting Ellen Petreck of the NPS with the Kids Zone running educational and fun bird-related activities. Other club members will be at the face painting booth painting animals on visitors to the festival. Yet another contingent will be assisting the Black Canyon Audubon Society with a campus birding walk geared toward introducing the public to the myriad species that can be found in our backyard here in the Gunnison basin. This year's festival promises to be a fun, interactive event with information on the recent changes to the Gunnison Sage-grouse's endangered listing, a presentation from a raptor rehabilitation center, and 5k, 10k, and a 1500 m race with proceeds benefitting habitat restoration and trail maintenance in Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat. If you find yourself free during that weekend, plan a trip to the Gunnison Sage-grouse festival to support our student chapter and the Gunnison Sage-grouse.

We will finish the semester up with a presentation from Theresa Childers of the National Park Service. We will also watch a documentary film, *Highway Wilding*, from the Banff Film Festival, focusing on human-wildlife conflicts and innovative methods for reducing wildlife mortality along highways. We will hold election of next year's officers at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, and will hold a year-end BBQ-potluck at our final meeting of the year on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Section Business

### Proposed Bylaws Revision

A subcommittee of the CMPS Board convened to review our current bylaws in an effort to keep them updated and relevant to the current standards of our section. The following changes were suggested and approved by the Board prior to Bismarck, ND meeting 2012. Both Articles V and IX received considerable discussion at Bismarck meeting with resolution of Article IX, but not Article V.

For your convenience, I have provided only the excerpts that included suggested changes. The entire Bylaws can be found on our section website.

Currently our bylaws state:

### ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS AND OFFICERS

Section 2. BALLOTING – Ballots shall be counted by the Nominations and Elections Committee. *Only those ballots received by the Committee prior to the close of the Old Business session at the Annual Business Meeting shall be counted.* For ballot counting purposes, the President shall appoint a replacement for any member of the Nominations and Elections Committee who has been nominated for office. The new Section officers shall be announced and assume office at the close of the New Business session of the Annual Business Meeting.

### ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

#### Section 1. AMENDMENTS

CLAUSE A – VOTING. The Bylaws may be altered or amended by a majority vote of the members voting at the *Annual Business Meeting of the Section, a Special Meeting, or by mail ballot* any time of the year provided the details of such alterations or amendments have been submitted to all members via the newsletter at least 30 days prior to such meeting or vote.

The Board proposes the following changes:

### ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS AND OFFICERS

Section 2. BALLOTING – Ballots shall be counted by the Nominations and Elections Committee. *Ballots shall be provided to membership via electronic on-line voting methods or paper copy ballots. All ballots must be received via electronic voting or faxed/mail paper copy 14 days prior to the start of the Annual Meeting\**. For ballot counting purposes, the President shall appoint a replacement for any member of the Nominations and Elections Committee who has been nominated for office. The new Section officers shall be announced and assume office at the close of the New Business session of the Annual Business Meeting.

*\*Comment: The particular closing date for voting was purposefully left open to allow for consideration by Board Members from year to year.*

### ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

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## Central Mountain Plains Section Directory

### April 2013

#### Colorado

*State Chapter*

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April 2013

Continued

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## Save the Date

### Call for CMPS Candidates 2013 Elections

The Board of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS is seeking candidates to run for office in the 2013 Elections. New officers will assume office during the August meeting of the section in Cedar City, Utah. President-Elect will be elected and serve a one year term followed by 2-year term as President and 2 At-Large positions will be elected to serve a 2-year term. Please contact Bill Vodehnal via email ([bill.vodehnal@nebraska.gov](mailto:bill.vodehnal@nebraska.gov)) or cell phone (402-760-3097) with your desires for candidacy.

### CMPS Annual Meeting

CMPS is happy to announce that the 2013 summer meeting will be held in Cedar City, UT –Festival City USA! We'll hold our meeting August 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, and we can't wait to see you there!

Cedar City is beautifully situated in close proximity to several National Parks with miles of hiking trails, several lakes, and the Shakespearean Festival right outside their doors. While Salt Lake City and Las Vegas airports are several hours away (with a gorgeous drive to Cedar City), Cedar City has its own regional airport, with another larger regional airport in St. George, only 45 minutes away. Please visit this link to find more information on Cedar City.

[Click here to learn about Cedar City](#)



### Paper and Poster Submissions Instructions

We are currently inviting paper and poster submissions for CMPS 2013. Submissions should be sent to Dr. Mike Conover, [mike.conover@usu.edu](mailto:mike.conover@usu.edu), by July 1, 2013. We invite submission of contributed papers and posters on topics of wildlife science, management, conservation, education, or policy. Presentations will not be published, so we encourage reports from the author's most recent scientific investigations and management experiences. All contributed papers (oral presentations) will be scheduled for 20 minutes, which includes 15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions.

If you don't feel comfortable presenting orally, consider presentation of your work as posters, as posters provide an opportunity for authors to participate in more detailed communication with attendees. Posters are displayed for the duration of the meeting and authors are requested to attend their posters during scheduled breaks.

Abstracts must be under 300 words, and should include: a statement of objectives, brief description of methods, principal results, and conclusions. Include scientific names in the abstract but not in the paper/poster title. Do not abbreviate place names (e.g. state or country) in the paper/poster title. Do not include paper/poster title or author information in the abstract. Additionally, within the email or cover letter, please provide your contact information, as well as all co-author information.

While all topics that fit into the above categories will be appropriate for our conference, this year we are focusing on 3 major issues: Human-Wildlife Conflict Management, Refuge and Riparian Ecology and Management, and Energy Development and Wildlife Management.

**Deadline: July 1, 2013**

### TWS National Annual Conference

Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 5-10, 2013



Opinions expressed in the CMPS Newsletter are those of the authors. Articles, events, or other text may be submitted via email to:  
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