

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

President's Message, Let's JAM! — Bill Dunn

Greetings All! I hope this newsletter finds you having a pleasant, yet productive summer. My wife, Katie, and I just returned from visiting our daughter in Ft. Worth, TX. Besides having some great family time, the visit as well as the drive over and back gave me a chance to gain a renewed appreciation for three things that makes me glad I live on this side of the state line: dry heat, clear skies, and topography! Add in the onset of the monsoons and New Mexico really sets itself apart as a special place.

But what also puts this state on a pedestal is the incredible diversity of nature found here. One fun fact I discovered when I helped prepare the State Wildlife Action Plan a few years ago is that New Mexico, based on number of ecoregions, is the most biologically diverse inland state and is more diverse than all but a few coastal states. That makes our mission of wildlife conservation all the more important.

When you think about it, there are precious few of us to do a pretty big job here in New Mexico. And that job can get pretty lonely when you get caught up in a hot controversy... which in this business can happen about every other week. That is why it is so important that we stay connected. No venue gives us a better opportunity to do that than our **Joint Annual Meeting** with AZ-TWS and AZ/NM AFS where we renew friendships, gain new knowledge, and present the Quiz Bowl trophy to New Mexico State University. (Oops, I might have gotten ahead of myself on that last point. I guess I just threw down the gauntlet for Ivana Mali at Eastern and Dan Shaw at Bosque School!).

This year NM-TWS will host JAM on 7-9 February 2019 in Albuquerque at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel. For this event, I first ask all of you to invite your colleagues, whether TWS/AFS members or not, to join us. It's always good to see new faces and perhaps gain some new members. Then I ask you to lend a hand in making this a special JAM. We have lots and lots of opportunities to volunteer. You don't have to exhaust yourself in the effort; just partake in a small task. Every contribution helps. Below are those who have volunteered to be leaders in various categories. For categories that say OPEN, you may take that as a heavenly sign that you should place your name there. No pressure though... If you have any questions about JAM, feel free to e-mail, text, or call me.

Until next time, keep fighting the good fight!

-Bill Dunn

Bill@BigPictureConservation.com ; 505-720-2534

Arrangements Coordinator: Bill Dunn **Student Volunteers:** OPEN **Wildlife Presentations:** Casey Hendricks
Announcements: OPEN **Fisheries Presentations:** OPEN **Quiz Bowl:** OPEN **Facility:** Bryan Dykstra
Student Presentations: Jimmy Cain **Photo Contest:** Ron Kellermueller **Program Coordinator:** OPEN
Registration: OPEN **Layout and Printing:** OPEN **AV Equipment:** OPEN **Plenary:** Kathy Granillo, Marikay Ramsey
Silent Auction: OPEN (but Kathy Granillo will help)



Southwest Section Tracks

By Fidel Hernandez, Southwest Section Representative

It's amazing what rain can do for the spirit. Like most things, we usually don't notice its presence when it's plentiful, but we sure notice its absence when it's lacking. This spring and beginning of summer has been particularly dry for us in southern Texas. Year-to-date rainfall has been less than 4 inches, which is only about 45% of normal. Temperatures during the past 2 weeks have consistently reached in the 100s. The landscape is arid and parched, with few hopes for rain. Until today... As I write this newsletter, a few sprinkles have started to fall. A heavy rainstorm is not in the forecast, but a few grey clouds are strolling in from the far horizon and bringing sounds of thunder along with it. The temperature has dropped into the 80s, and the sparse raindrops that have begun to fall have filled the air with that familiar earthy smell of petrichor (the pleasant scent produced when rain falls on dry soil). Oh how that smell uplifts the spirit.

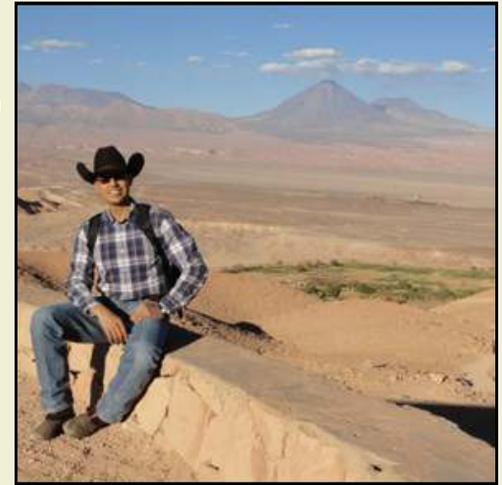


Figure 1. Rain in semiarid environments has been documented to stimulate breeding behavior in the avifauna (Photograph courtesy of Tim E. Fulbright).

I have often wondered if animals living in hot, arid environments also feel a similar uplift in mood with rain. A few years ago, I began investigating the topic, and it appears that many do. As early as the 1800s, naturalists have commented how rain in the Australian outback stimulated courtship behavior in desert birds, with some species actually courting during rain. The same breeding phenomenon has been observed in other arid landscapes across the globe including South America, Africa, and even the American Southwest.

I must admit that I'm tempted to leave this desk and head outdoors to experience whatever rain comes and take the opportunity to observe if the avifauna breaks out into a chorus. But, not only do I run the chance of scaring the rain away, I also risk not completing this report in time. So, on that note, following is a brief update on the latest TWS happenings.

TWS Administration, Finance, and General Operations

Membership. TWS continues to steadily narrow the gap between current membership and the society's goal of 10,000 members. The year-to-date paid member count is 9,911 members, which represents a 4.9% increase compared to last year (April 2017). If members enrolled in the Give Back Program are included (613 members), then the total member count increases to 10,532 members. TWS is continually trying to improve member experience, and automatic renewal is one such improvement in services. Many TWS members—4,489 members or 44% of total membership to be exact—are taking advantage of the Automatic Renewal option. Be sure to make use of this convenient service when renewing your membership to avoid membership lapses.

Finance and Business Relations. The Wildlife Society also continues to make steady gains on providing a sound financial footing for the Society. Part of the TWS strategy for financial security involves a mixture of sound accounting practices, conservative investments, and strong partnerships. Below is a brief summary of some of the major activities happening in this arena through March 2018.

- Net assets have increased considerably (+32%) from last year, increasing from \$1.7 million (January 2017) to \$2.2 million (January 2018).

Southwest Section Tracks, continued

- Net operational income through March is \$286,000. The goal for TWS is to conclude the fiscal year (June 30) with an annual, net-operational income of \$94,000. TWS appears on target to achieve this goal; however, expenses remain for the last few weeks of the fiscal year, and this will ultimately determine whether TWS achieves this goal. So, stay tuned.
- Net income from organizations and businesses is \$378,000, which is about \$111,000 less than the TWS target goal. This decrease reflects the anticipated decrease in partnership income arising from partners completing financial agreements and deciding whether to sign-up for future multi-year sponsorships.
- TWS was able to book 2 advertisers, 30 exhibitors, and 12 Sponsors for the 2018 Annual Conference. TWS has commitments from another 3 advertisers, 5 Exhibitors, and 11 Sponsors.
- TWS also received \$10,000 in conference contributions and \$19,600 in verbal commitments for a total of \$30,150.

Government Affairs. The Program of Government Affairs and Partnerships is lead by Director Keith Norris. Director Norris and his team are responsible for overseeing TWS' policy activities, providing support to TWS Chapters and Sections on conservation policy issues, strategically expanding TWS' engagement with other organizations, and providing direction to the Society professional development and certification programs. Below is a brief summary of key TWS Government Affairs activities since the last update.

- Engaged members and chapter/section boards at the conferences of the Alaska Chapter, Northwest Section, and Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.
- Met with AFWA staff to discuss future collaboration and communication opportunities to strengthen the relationship between our organizations.
- Met with Secretary of the Interior Zinke, BLM Acting Director, and other DOI officials in an invited stakeholder meeting to discuss a BLM report outlining new plans for managing wild horses and burros.
- Submitted testimony to the Interior and Agriculture Appropriations subcommittees in support of federal programs that further conservation and wildlife science.
- Participated in a State and Tribal Wildlife Grants fly-in to advocate for adequate funding for the program in FY19.

1st Annual Conference of Wildlife Management and Ecology in Mexico.

The first annual conference of wildlife management and ecology in Mexico is being organized. The conference will convene in San Luis Potosi, Mexico on 13–16 November 2018 and is being organized by long-time TWS members, Dr. Luis Tarango (Colegio de Postgraduados, San Luis Potosí, México) and Dr. Raul Valdez (New Mexico State University), along with a conference committee comprised of Mexican wildlife professionals. Estimated attendance is 350–450 participants and will be comprised of students, professors, researchers, biologists, landowners, and federal agency personnel. It is anticipated that about 20 Mexican universities will be in attendance. This national conference will be the first of its kind in Mexico and is devoted to Mexican wildlife. It is planned to convene annually with subsequent annual conferences being held in different cities of Mexico.



Figure 2. Building partnerships is an important part of TWS Government Affairs Program. Here, Keith Norris (TWS Director of Government Affairs & Partnerships) and Jim Miller (TWS Past President and Aldo Leopold Award Winner) take Davia Palmeri (AFWA) and Robert Schoepe (Arizona) on a mentored pheasant hunt as part of the 100th Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow workshop (Photograph courtesy of Keith Norris).

The goal of the conference is to form an established venue whereby Mexican wildlife professionals can learn, network, and engage professionally. As many of you know, there has been a perennial need in México for wildlife biologists to engage in the exchange of current wildlife-science knowledge not only of México but also North America.

Southwest Section Tracks, continued

Presently, there are no effective means for Mexican professionals to become aware of the vast wildlife conservation efforts in North America or to engage with North American wildlife biologists. Drs. Tarango, Valdez, and the organizing committee wish to address these needs by 1) bringing together wildlife professionals in Mexico, 2) providing a venue for information exchange, professional development, and networking opportunities for Mexican wildlife biologists with peers and North American counterparts, and 3) increasing TWS presence and engagement in Mexico. Along with other Mexican organizations and government agencies, TWS has provided financial support for this conference. The call for abstracts and conference information may be found at the following website (<http://conferenciafaunasilvestre.com/>).

Mark your calendars for the 25th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society being held 7–11 October 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. The welcome reception will be a networking event at Cleveland’s iconic Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The theme for the Conference is Recognizing and Sustaining Conservation Success, and only two weeks remain to save \$50 on conference registration. Early registration closes on 30 June 2018. If you are interested in attending this year’s conference, be sure to visit the conference website at <http://wildlife.org/2018-call-for-abstracts-is-now-open/>

**1ST NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION**

AMPHIBIANS / REPTILES / BIRDS / MAMMALS
THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY

Meeting of professionals, managers,
students and general public interested in
the management and conservation of wildlife

**November
13-16, 2018**

San Luis Potosí, Mexico
Convention Center

Postgraduate and
Research Unit
Autonomous
University of
San Luis Potosí

INFORMATION:
<http://www.conferenciafaunasilvestre.com>
informacion@conferenciafaunasilvestre.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Luis Antonio Tarango Arámula Ph. D. - President
(Postgraduate College, Campus S.L.P.)

Raul Valdez Ph. D. - Vice President
(New Mexico State University)
César Posadas Leal Ph. D. - Secretary
(Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí)

CP SLP FCF CEMEX



Well, that is all for now.

The rain didn’t come after all. Only a few rain drops fell before the sky cleared and clouds dissipated. On the bright side, I was able to complete this report on time. Plus, there appears to be rain in the forecast. I just may get my chance to be out in the rain and hearing a singing chorus.

Until next time,
Fidel



Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*)
Photograph by Tim E. Fulbright

North American Bat Surveys on National Forests and Grasslands in the Southwest

By Brian Dykstra , Wildlife Program Leader, USFS Southwestern Region

The North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) is a continent-wide effort to monitor bats at local to range-wide scales. Its purpose is to collect and provide reliable data to inform effective conservation decisions and promote the long-term viability of bats across the continent. The program is international in scope and involves several state and federal agencies and non-governmental partners.

The Southwestern Region of the Forest Service is implementing the NABat program for the first time on national forests in Arizona and New Mexico and national grasslands in New Mexico and Oklahoma in 2018. Biologists on these units are deploying bat acoustic recorders at stationary points scattered across 25 NABat survey cells. To accomplish this year's surveys, we purchased 22 SM4BAT full spectrum bat recorders and accessories from Wildlife Acoustics in the fall of 2017. Wildlife Acoustics provided training on how to set up and use the units in mid-May 2018, just prior to the beginning of our surveys.

Surveys in many of the cells are complete and over 60,000 acoustic files have been collected so far. When all of the cells have been surveyed, the acoustic data will be analyzed and the results shared with the U. S. Geological Survey, the coordinating agency for the NABat program. The Forest Service has funded BCI to analyze the data. The data will be used to verify the range and estimate abundance of detected bat species. NABat cells surveyed in 2018 will be surveyed again in 2019 and subsequent years to establish trends and assess changes in bat distribution and abundance. In the face of white-nose syndrome, the deadly disease that has killed millions of bats, continued collection of this data will be crucial to monitoring the health of bat populations across the Southwest.



Setting up a Wildlife Acoustics bat acoustic recorder.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

By Ginny Seamster

Recovering America's Wildlife Act now has bills that have been introduced to the House (introduced last December) and Senate (introduced July 17th, 2018). This Act was introduced in 2016 as well. If passed, the act would provide \$1.3 billion in federal funding to support implementation of all the State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), which are currently supported through State Wildlife Grant funds. These SWAPs are blueprints for the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and their habitats, as developed and identified by each of the state wildlife agencies in the United States. The additional support for SWAP-implementation would come from revenues from energy and mineral development on federal lands. States would be required to provide matching funds at a rate of 25% and, in addition to wildlife conservation, restoration, and recovery program support, could use the funding for law enforcement activities related to SGCN, as well as wildlife conservation education and wildlife-associated recreation projects.

Recovering Americas Wildlife Act, continued

The full text of the bill introduced to the House can be found here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4647/text>. The Senate bill has been modified to require that the funds would have to be reauthorized annually, rather than providing for dedicated funding. If you wish to contact your local representative to encourage them to support these bills, please visit the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife website (<http://www.ournatureusa.com/>) – they have a form you can use to contact New Mexico's members of Congress. The parent society has provided further information on the Act here: <http://wildlife.org/policy/recovering-americas-wildlife-act/>.

New Mexico could receive up to \$27 million in additional funds if this Act were to be passed. While finding matching funds will be a challenge- this Act represents an excellent opportunity to dramatically expand the amount of funding available to support non-game wildlife conservation in New Mexico.

What Wildlifers Are Reading In TWS Journals, The Top 20 Most Downloaded Papers In 2017.

By Nancy Sasavage, TWS Director of Publications and Communications

TWS' three premier wildlife journals — The Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs and the Wildlife Society Bulletin — support our mission to achieve a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations through the dissemination of science-based wildlife conservation and management. With online access now included as a membership benefit, TWS members are increasingly engaging with the latest research findings in wildlife science. In case you missed any of these, here's a list of the most downloaded papers in 2017:

1. Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital
2. Polar bear attacks on humans: Implications of a changing climate
3. Determining kill rates of ungulate calves by brown bears using neck-mounted cameras
4. Effects of control on the dynamics of an adjacent protected wolf population in interior Alaska
5. Predicting eagle fatalities at wind facilities
6. How publishing in open access journals threatens science and what we can do about it
7. Clarifying historical range to aid recovery of the Mexican wolf
8. Bat mortality due to wind turbines in Canada
9. Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions
10. Inefficiency of evolutionarily relevant selection in ungulate trophy hunting
11. Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse
12. The role of domestic cats in the admission of injured wildlife at rehabilitation and rescue centers
13. Consumption of intentional food subsidies by a hunted carnivore
14. How open access is crucial to the future of science
15. Predators, predator removal, and sage-grouse: A review
16. Annual elk calf survival in a multiple carnivore system
17. Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control
18. Manipulations of black bear and coyote affect caribou calf survival
19. Winter diet and hunting success of Canada lynx in Colorado
20. Overpasses and underpasses: Effectiveness of crossing structures for migratory ungulates



Log into Your Membership to read these papers by going to the "Publications" tab. We want to thank these authors for choosing to publish with TWS. Next time you are ready to submit a paper, we hope you will choose a TWS journal as your publication outlet! Here's just a few reasons why you should: universal author guidelines; rapid, rigorous peer review; discounted page charges for members; and open access option available.

Brian K. Lang, In Memorium

By Ginny Seamster

Many of you, especially in New Mexico, knew Brian K. Lang, former aquatic invertebrate biologist with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. This tribute to Brian's memory, and encouragement to support the scholarship and aquatic habitat protection fund started by some of the many people who knew and respected Brian, is based on information provided at the Brian K. Lang Aquatic Memorial Fund's "gofundme" site: <https://www.gofundme.com/briankeithlang>. Please consider giving a donation in honor of Brian's memory and to support the studies of future biologists and protect and conserve the parts of New Mexico that Brian held dear. I personally will always remember Brian for his humor, his willingness to help others, and his exceedingly caring heart.

Brian K. Lang was an American Biologist, born January 29, 1958 in Indiana, USA. Brian died tragically, along with his neighbor, Christopher Holland, on March 1, 2017. He died while trying to rescue his dog from an irrigation ditch at high water near his home along the Old Route 66, just north of Bernalillo, New Mexico.

Brian had a distinguished career in mammalogy and invertebrate biology. He was notable among his peers for his scientific ethic, field data collection, and writing skills. Brian began his interest in science at New Albany High School, New Albany, Indiana from 1972 – 1976. Brian then entered Ball State University in 1976 and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, with Minors in Natural Resources and Chemistry. From 1980 – 1983, Brian worked on his Masters of Science Degree in Wildlife Management at Frostburg State University in Maryland.

Brian spent much of the next 30 years working to conserve snails and other invertebrates in North America's arid mountain west. For his love of nature, especially unique and undiscovered diminutive creatures, his colleagues, family, and friends want to continue to support his unfinished and very important work. We hope to use any funds raised to provide scholarships for future researchers and protect and conserve some of the waters dear to Brian's heart, soul, and works.



NEW MEXICO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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

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.

NM-TWS Website: <http://wildlife.org/NM/>

Follow us on Twitter: @NewMexicoTWS

NM TWS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-New-Mexico-Chapter/122478411098284>



Membership Form

<i>First name</i>				
<i>Last name</i>				
<i>Organization</i>				
<i>Address</i>				
<i>City</i>		<i>State</i>		<i>ZIP</i>
<i>Telephone (day)</i>		<i>Fax</i>		
<i>Email</i>				

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 Brian Dykstra at: twsnewmexico@gmail.com*