THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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New NE TWS Newsletter Editor: Tammy Cloutier

Hello everyone!

I am excited to be the new NE TWS newsletter editor. I will briefly introduce myself in a moment, but first want to thank Sydney Spicer for all her hard work as the previous editor, as well as for her support and assistance as I settle into this role.

Born and raised in Maine, I am an Environmental Studies PhD candidate at Antioch University New England (AUNE) where my research focuses on the effects of human disturbance on an endangered species, the African painted dog (*Lycaon pictus*). I recently returned from my first field season in Zimbabwe, and although I did not see my elusive focal species in person, I did capture a few images of them on my camera traps!

I have been interested in wildlife, conservation, human-animal interactions, writing, and education for as long as I can remember. In addition to my graduate work, which allows me to engage in all of my interests (yay!), I am a peer writing consultant at AUNE and author of a children's book – *Painted Dog Pursuit*.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at tclout33@gmail.com with any questions, suggestions, or items you would like to see included in future issues. I am happy to be here and look forward to learning more about my fellow TWS members!



Featured Photographer: Jonathan Rice

Jonathan's job title may be an ornithologist for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, however, he sees himself as more than just a "bird nerd." He has a love for herpetology, and a growing interest and fascination for other taxa that he doesn't understand.

Jonathan is constantly surprised and amazed by insects, snails, and plants. Although he claims he is not a very good photographer due to taking his time to make a connection with the animal he is watching and subsequently missing his chance to photograph them, we beg to differ as the pictures he submitted are great!

Are you interested in being our next featured photographer, or know someone who might be? Please email Tammy at tclout33@gmail.com!



Solitary Sandpiper (Tringa solitaria)

NORTHEAST UPDATES

The Northeast Section is excited to announce that we officially have our own logo!

Congratulations to **Laken Ganoe**, a master's student at Penn State University, for submitting this winning entry!

We look forward to using this on letterhead, newsletters, and future apparel.



74TH ANNUAL NEAFWA CONFERENCE SUMMARY

By Emily Just

The 74th NEAFWA conference was held this past April in Burlington, Vermont, which feels like forever ago already! In fact, as I write this with temperatures close to 100 degrees outside, it is hard to imagine that we got stuck in an ice storm on the way to the conference! Although the weather didn't cooperate as well as hoped, the conference was a great success and had numerous educational workshops and speaker sessions. The Northeast Section sponsored two successful workshops, which we hope some of you were able to attend. Let us know if you did! The first workshop discussed designing effective human dimensions research tools and how best to utilize the data. And our second workshop ventured outside to check out the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for wildlife research.

We had our NE Section Executive Committee meeting on Sunday afternoon and I couldn't believe it was my last meeting as President already! The past year flew by, but I had a great time and am really excited about this upcoming year. We introduced our new board members, discussed the newly adopted changes in our bylaws, and got caught up on what's been going on in the state and student chapters. We love that more state chapter representatives joined us and look forward to incorporating state and student chapter leaders in more of our meetings! Following the meeting we headed to the Welcome to Vermont Reception where the beer and colleagues were located! I love the welcome receptions because everyone is so excited to start chatting and discussing their work and what's going on in their states. Plus, they usually always have good, local food and drink!

Monday started out with amazing Plenary sessions, including a Science Slam. I loved this concept as we got to hear amazing stories about research in a short timeframe from four biologists. It was a great way to learn about what's going on in a fun, enthusiastic manner. The Plenary also featured a high school student who spoke about her experience as a hunter and her thoughts on connecting people and nature.



Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa)

The Awards ceremony followed the Plenary, which offered an opportunity for so many wonderful biologists to be recognized for their hard work and dedication. I was very honored to present several awards to northeast Section members, including the P.F. English Award and our John Pearce Memorial Award. Learn more about our winners on the pages that follow.

Monday and Tuesday were filled with symposia, technical sessions, and posters. I always try to take notes on all the sessions I attend because it can become such a whirlwind and make it easy to forget what you've learned. I attended a lot of presentations regarding game management, habitat conservation, climate changes, and diseases. There were so many wonderful options that it was hard to choose.

Monday night we held our NE Section general meeting and reception where we introduced our new president, secretary, and president-elect. This is where I got to sit back and enjoy my new role as past president! Following our meeting was the dinner at the ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. I highly recommend visiting the Leahy Center if you didn't get to attend this conference and are in the Burlington area.

As a state employee, I can only attend 1, maybe 2, conferences a year and I always make sure I come to the NEAFWA conference. I learn so much about what's happening in the northeast and have met and become friends with so many incredible biologists. And of course, I come to interact with the NE Section of TWS. I hope you can join us next year in Groton, CT!

AWARDS

P. F. English Memorial Award:

The P.F. English Memorial Award is presented annually by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to the outstanding undergraduate senior student of wildlife biology or wildlife management within the region. Its purpose is to acknowledge and encourage students, and to perpetuate the name of the late P.F. English, an outstanding educator, sportsman, and inspiration to youth.

This year's award winner, **Danielle Bear**, meets all of these criteria.

As an undergraduate wildlife major at Pennsylvania State University, Danielle achieved a 3.61 grade point average. Active in the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society and within the Department, she impressed the faculty with her quiet, determined demeanor and enthusiasm and involvement, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Danielle came to Pennsylvania State University in 2015, following a move from California where she earned an Associate degree in Math and Science from Victor Valley College, and a 3.8 grade point average. While earning her degree in California, she served the United States in the U.S. Army National Guard as a Health Care Specialist, providing primary medical care, training, and support for 150 U.S. soldiers and civilians.

While embarking on her Bachelor's degree at Penn State, she excelled as a "nontraditional student" given the fact that she is also the mother of a 9-year old daughter, and commutes nearly 70 miles oneway to campus. Even with the challenge of maintaining a home, raising a daughter, and managing a 140 mile round trip commute, Danielle has consistently shown herself to be a top student.

Her capstone project in her Wildlife Population Dynamics class was the best among students in the



class that year. She has consistently been on the Dean's List and has earned perfect grades in all of her wildlife courses. Outside of the classroom, Danielle has worked as a research assistant on a PhD student's study of fence lizards, and she received a \$2,000 undergraduate research award on how environmental conditions influence populations of red-backed salamanders.

Danielle is an encouragement and inspiration to Penn State's faculty and to her peers. She has set high standards for herself, has proven to be an exemplary undergraduate, and is looking forward to entering the profession upon graduation.

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NORTHEAST UPDATES

AWARDS CONTINUED...

John Pearce Memorial Award

The John Pearce Memorial Award is reserved for outstanding members of our section who have made significant contributions to the wildlife profession.

This year's recipient, Dr. Scott Williams, showed exemplary evidence of such contributions through his work with the Wildlife Society, his research in wildlife biology and management, and his community outreach. He has served the Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society through numerous positions ranging from Treasurer to now President-Elect in addition to his work as a scientist and certified Wildlife Biologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

At this institution, Scott's research has spanned from white-tailed deer behavior and management to Lyme disease ecology. He gives back to his community by volunteering on multiple town commissions, lending them his expertise for environmental planning and administrative decisions. And as if that weren't enough, over the past decade, Scott has also encouraged the next generation of wildlife biologists as an adjunct professor and committee member for graduate students at the University of Connecticut.





Certificates of Recognition



The Northeast Section awards certificates of recognition to people who have made noteworthy contributions to knowledge about wildlife or wildlife management, furthered public understanding, or who have made available increased wildlife habitat. This year, we recognize two of our colleagues:

For tremendous contributions to our knowledge of White Nose Syndrome in cave bats, including more than 20 publications on the disease, achieved through collaborations with academic researchers, NGOs, and government agencies, with knowledge gleaned through field work that requires not only advanced technical skills but also taking great physical risks, the Section recognizes **Gregory G. Turner of the Pennsylvania Game Commission**.

For recognizing the relationship between outbreaks of West Nile Virus and sharp declines in ruffed grouse populations, following through with research that proved that relationship, and for her outreach efforts that have resulted in a fabulous rapport with Pennsylvania's grouse hunters, to the point of them understanding and supporting the need for the elimination of the late grouse season, the Section recognizes **Lisa M Williams of the Pennsylvania Game Commission**.



Best Student Presentation Awards



Each year at this conference, the Northeast Section judges the student presentations and selects a best graduate and best undergraduate student presentation. We would like to recognize last year's winners at this time.

The Best Graduate Student Presentation at the 2017 NEAFWA conference goes to **Daniel Ellingwood**, University of New Hampshire, for his presentation, "Mortality and Productivity in New Hampshire and Maine's Moose Population."

The Best Undergraduate Student Presentation at the 2017 NEAFWA conference goes to **Avery Owers**, West Virginia University, for her presentation, "Evaluating Population Genetics and Movement Patter's of West Virginia's Bobcats."

2018 Northeast Section Student Conclave

By Laken Ganoe

The forecast for April 13-15 called for a blustery late-winter weekend in Starksboro, VT, but not even the impending ice storm discouraged the 165 students from 15 Student Chapters across the Northeast Section from attending the 2018 Northeast Student Conclave. Students arrived at Vermont's Common Ground Center on Friday and unpacked



Eastern Red-spotted Newt (Notophthalmus viridescens)

their vans and cars to settle in for a weekend full of wildlife. After a warm supper and meeting and reuniting with friends from different states, all attendees crowded into the mess hall for the opening ceremonies. The weekend kicked off with a welcome by Dr. Valorie Titus - advisor for the hosting Green Mountain College Student Chapter – and a friendly introduction to the keynote speaker, Tom Decker. Tom is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and works for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the Northeast Region. Students learned what it is to be a "real-Vermonter," the customs of a town hall meeting, and some information about wildlife conservation in the state of Vermont where Tom previously worked for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. TWS President John McDonald made an appearance at the opening ceremonies, giving students some background on The Wildlife Society and some insight into the current political stances at the forefront of the concerns of The Society.

2018 Northeast Section Student Conclave Continued...

Excitement filled the mess hall early Saturday morning as students received their workshop schedules for the day. A total of 17 workshops were held over 9 hours including, Avian Necropsies, Radio Telemetry, Wildcrafting, Campfire Cooking, Non-invasive Sampling Techniques, Macroinvertebrate Sampling, and Rocket Netting to name a few. Workshop leaders represented four states and came from a variety of backgrounds and levels of experience, giving students a look at the broad spectrum that is wildlife biology. With the weather turning sour, attendees were given the opportunity to rearrange their sleeping areas and change into some warmer clothes before dinner. However inclement the weather, it could not dampen the student's building excitement for the evening's activities: Quiz Bowl.

The Quiz Bowl Competition began at 7:00 with 13 teams competing for the honor of Quiz Bowl Champions. Questions such as "What does CITES stand for?" and "Who wrote Game Management?" were answered with confidence, while clever (incorrect) answers were given for others, resulting in a chorus of laughs from the audience. After a challenging and entertaining few hours, the final match was set. The two schools, Delaware Valley and SUNY ESF, raced to be the first to buzz in and answer correctly. SUNY ESF was victorious in the end, winning the White Peacock as the new 2018 Northeast Quiz Bowl Champions. Although they were defeated in the final round, Delaware Valley still went home with some hardware - the Cock of the Keystone – for being the highest placing Pennsylvania team.



Photo courtesy of possibility-cp.com

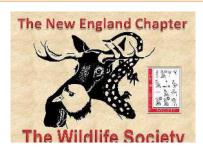
The final day of the weekend came early, and students joined together in the mess hall one last time for the final speaker. Spc. Rob Sterling, a game warden for the Vermont Game and Fish Department, shared stories from the force with his trusty canine companion, Crockett. After packing lunches for the road home, students said goodbye to friends - both new and old - before setting off for their own destinations with a pack full of new wildlife information, good memories, and itching to return for the 2019 Northeast Student Conclave.

Student Chapters represented: Green Mountain College (Host), California University of Pennsylvania, Delaware Valley University Framingham State College, Juniata College, Paul Smith's College, Penn State Dubois, Penn State University Park, Rutgers University, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY ESF, University of Delaware, University of Maine, University of Maryland, West Virginia University.

If your Student Chapter was unable to attend this year, come join us next year in Maine! Workshop leaders are always in short supply at Student Conclaves, so if you are interested in sharing your expertise with students, please contact the Student Affairs Committee to get on our list of available workshop leaders! As always, if you have any questions or recommendations to improve our student's experiences, please feel free to contact Laken Ganoe at lsg18@psu.edu

NORTHEAST UPDATES

RHODE ISLAND



2018 American Black Bear Survey

The URI Wildlife Genetics and Ecology Lab is continuing with their American black bear survey in Rhode Island. Volunteers throughout the state have been tasked with surveying sites across the state collecting hair samples for genetic testing. Surveys run from June through mid-September.

Parking Lot Plovers

A pair of piping plovers chose a most unlikely location to nest this summer: an isolated sprig of vegetation sprouting from a small crack in the pavement at Roger Wheeler State Beach. In coordination with USFWS, RIDEM protected the plovers and their nest by installing silt fencing to create a protected, walled corridor from the nest in the parking lot to the dunes with sand sprinkled onto the asphalt to encourage nestlings to migrate to the better habitat of the dunes. A combination of signage and volunteers helped protect the nest from pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Three chicks and their parents finally made the walk from the pavement nest to the beach a couple weeks after the nest was spotted.

Wild Turkey Brood Sightings

RIDEM is again asking for the public's participation in reporting sightings of wild turkey hens and hens with broods. The wild turkey population in Rhode Island is believed to be increasing and this citizen science effort will help with the State's research. Spring harvest reports indicate that there has been a 20% increase from 2017. RIDEM instituted a wild turkey restoration program that ran from 1980 – 1996 that aided in the establishment of new flocks seven Rhode Island towns. Wild turkey reports can be submitted online or submitted via phone at (401) 789-0281.

State Preserves an additional 101 acres in northwestern Rhode Island

An additional 101 acres in Glocester, RI that abuts the existing Durfee Hill Management Area is now included in the State's wildlife management area lands. The Britton Family sold the land to the State in May. The sale of this land contributes to over 5,200 acres of state-owned protected lands. The public is now able to access this land for a wide range of recreational opportunities including wildlife viewing, hiking, and hunting. The land provides a wide range habitats including upland oak hickory forest, coniferous uplands, a cold-water stream, a high terrace forested wetland complex, and old fields.

The Maine Chapter has been busy with networking opportunities!



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NORTHEAST UPDATES

PENNSYLVANIA



The PA TWS Chapter held its annual conference in March in State College, PA. The theme for this year was "Using Technology to Understand Ecology: Innovations that Enhance Wildlife Management." Overall attendance for the conference was 142 people (80 professionals, 55 students, and 7 nonmembers). Four wildlife workshops were held on Friday March 23rd covering various topics. Applications of UAS (drones) was led by Doug Miller, participants were enlightened on the many uses of drones in natural resource management. Another workshop led by Courtney Davis and David Miller took a group to monitor a vernal pool and educate participants on wetland ecosystems. "The Wildlife Society's Professional Certification Program—the how's and why's of wildlife biologist certification" workshop was lead by Cal DuBrock of Penn State University.

Participants learned about the qualification process and class requirements to become a certified biologist through The Wildlife Society. Cal guided students and professionals through the process and ethical standards as well as how to appropriately outline skills and experience to the certification board. Participants were encouraged to bring along their transcripts to get better insight into qualification standards and how to fit courses into a sample application. An additional workshop for young professionals on resume writing was provided.

Saturday's plenary session was centered around technological approaches to wildlife management. Plenary speakers were from a variety of agency and university affiliations including Wildlife Habitat Council, APEM, Inc., Willistown Conservation Trust, and Penn State University. Topics discussed ranged from large scale conservation projects to species specific management examples of small animals with telemetry to habitat characterization with drones. Three concurrent sessions were held in the afternoon focusing on a variety of topics. Twenty student and professional speakers gave presentations on topics ranging from monitoring bats with acoustic surveys to bobwhite quail restoration efforts. There was a large turnout for the poster session with 10 contributors.

The afternoon was capped off with the Executive Board business meeting, which was open to all members and well-attended. PA TWS welcomed past president Jane O. Rowan and president Cal DuBrock as our banquet speakers. Together they presented awards to the best student presenters (Danielle Williams, Penn State University and Taylor Braunagel, Clarion University) and the Kirkland lifetime achievement (Shane Hoachlander), welcomed new board members, and gave thanks to the outgoing executive board members. A special recognition award was presented to Wendy Vreeland who has been involved with our organization for over 20 years.

More details can be found at http://wildlife.org/pennsylvania-chapter/

In Memory

Longtime TWS member Tom Hardisky, 59, died on April 28, 2018 while working in his garden, an activity that gave him great satisfaction and joy. He was the Regional Wildlife Management Supervisor for the northeast region of the Game Commission from 2005-2008. Hardisky was a Certified Wildlife Biologist (1992), a member of TWS and a lifetime member, former board member, and officer of the PA Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Hardisky was also a lifetime member of the PA Trappers Association, which recognized him as Conservationist of the Year in 2000.

Hardisky was an avid trapper, hunter and angler, gardener, and photographer, and loved traveling and exploring remote areas. He enjoyed serving others and often volunteered his wildlife expertise to individuals and various community organizations.



American Woodcock (Scolopax minor)

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NORTHEAST UPDATES

PENNSYLVANIA CONTINUED...

SAVE THE DATES: September 21st—22nd Fall Field Days

On Friday, September 21st, we will have workshops in the evening at the Lancaster Conservancy Climber's Run Preserve. Workshops will continue Saturday, September 22nd at Millersville University at the Science Complex.

Workshop 1 - Wildlife Forensics -Dan Lynch

Workshop 2 - Mist Netting and Bird Banding - Emily Thomas

Workshop 3 - Wetland Delineation -Jane Rowan

Workshop 4 – Vegetation Monitoring for Wildlife -Emily Just

Workshop 5 - Hormone and Genetic Sampling of Vertebrates -Brent Horton

Workshop 6 - Wildlife Trapping Techniques -Ralph Wagner

Workshop 7 - Beginning with the R Program -Chris Stieha

Workshop 8 - Identification and Management of New Arthropod Invaders - John Wallace:

Workshop 9 - An Introduction to Bat Sampling Technology -Julie Zeyzus:

Workshop 10 - Fish Identification Workshop - Jane Rowan:

Friday Evening Display & Social:

Bat Acoustic Monitoring - Julie Zeyzus

Wildlife Thermal Survey Technique - Kyle Van Why

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Megan Linske



Megan received her B.S. from Nazareth College of Rochester in 2012. Her major was Environmental Science with minors in Chemistry, Biology, and English literature. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Megan worked as a teaching assistant and lab coordinator in both the Chemistry and Biology Departments, as student ambassador, and as a departmental peer mentor and tutor, while contemporaneously volunteering as a zookeeper at the Seneca Park Zoo. After graduating, Megan was accepted into the University of Connecticut's Natural Resources Department, where she received her master's in 2014 and her PhD in 2017. During her graduate career, Megan taught Environmental Science and Natural Resources Planning and Management as a graduate/teaching assistant and Introduction to Wildlife Management as an instructor. Megan has also worked at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station since 2012. She has worked as a Seasonal

Employee, Research Technician, and now as a Postdoctoral Research Scientist. Megan's expertise is in Lyme disease ecology and vector-host-habitat interactions. Her research investigates the dynamics at play in overly mature woodland habitats and how the lack of stratification causes reduction in wildlife diversity and abundance. The lack of diversity and woodland health leads to increased blacklegged tick and associated pathogen presence as well. Moving forward, Megan's goal is to research healthy woodland ecosystems to foster greater wildlife diversity and abundance, eventually resulting in reduced tick-borne disease prevalence.

Megan is a member of the Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society, a member of the Awards and Workshop Committees, and was recently appointed the position of Northeast Section Executive Secretary. Additionally, Megan was also recently accepted into the Wildlife Society's 2018 Leadership Institute.

STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES

SUNY Cobleskill's Student Chapter Holds 23rd Annual Fisheries and Wildlife Festival, and Plans Travel to National Meeting in Cleveland, OH

The SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) delivered the 23rd annual Fisheries and Wildlife Festival in Cobleskill, NY on Saturday, 28 April 2018. During this annual festival, local vendors, conservation groups, musicians, and student clubs from the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Science (FWES) at SUNY Cobleskill come together to celebrate natural resources with the local community. There is truly something for everyone at this unique event, which is almost entirely organized, planned, and delivered by undergraduate students in FWES. Youth participants can enjoy a fishing derby or duck race sponsored by the student chapters of the American Fisheries Society and Ducks Unlimited, respectively; there are diverse wildlife-related activities for children to enjoy; wildlife rehabilitators are on site with educational display animals including reptiles, mammals, and raptors for viewing; a variety of crafts and merchandise can be purchased from local vendors; raffle ticket items and a dunking booth help to generate money to support the student chapter of TWS; and foods ranging from baked goods, ice cream, and cotton candy to fried fish keep one and all satisfied throughout the day. Most importantly, the Fisheries and Wildlife Festival is an annual tradition that helps to bring the campus community and the community of Cobleskill, NY together to celebrate local natural resources. The annual Fisheries and Wildlife Festival takes place on the last Saturday of April so plan a trip to Cobleskill, NY for April 2019 to experience the fun and support our student chapter!



Photo: Student planners and volunteers at the 23rd Annual Fisheries and Wildlife Festival hosted by the SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES

SUNY Cobleskill Continued...



Photo: Youth fishing derby at the 23rd Annual Fisheries and Wildlife Festival hosted by the SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Off the heels of another successful Fisheries and Wildlife Festival, the student chapter of TWS has recently been planning travel to the 25th national meeting of TWS in Cleveland, OH. The SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of TWS was officially recognized in 1998 and since then the club has attended every national meeting except one (Raleigh, NC). Last year, 13 students travelled to Albuquerque, NM to attend the 24th national meeting and explore natural areas of the Southwest. This October, 9 students will travel to Cleveland, OH to participate in the national meeting. After a few days of presentations, workshops, QuizBowl, and networking, students will set off for a few days of exploring local natural resources before heading back to campus. Active and diverse student fundraising efforts help to offset the bulk of the travel costs associated with the national meeting trips.

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STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES



Photo: SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society attendees at the 24th national meeting in Albuquerque, NM.



Photo: SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society visiting Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge during their travels to the 24th national meeting in Albuquerque, NM.

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TWS NATIONAL UPDATES

TWS 25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE!

CLEVELAND, OHIO | OCTOBER 7-11, 2018

This year our conference travels to **Cleveland, Ohio, to celebrate our 25 years of educational conferences**. Each year our conference grows with more educational and networking sessions, and 2018 is no exception. We anticipate our biggest conference to date as members from across North America gather to celebrate our 25th Annual Conference.

Visit <u>twsconference.org</u> for more information on our 2018 conference. We will continue to add information on the conference as it becomes available, so keep checking in!

To become a **sponsor or contributor for The Wildlife Society's 25th Annual Conference**, contact Business Solutions and Development Manager, <u>Chuck Shively</u>, for opportunities.

PRESENTATION CALLS NOW CLOSED

Call for Abstracts (oral presentations & posters): Closed Apr 22, 2018

Call for Proposals: Closed Mar 21, 2018



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WHO'S WHO IN THE NORTHEAST?

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their Chapter.

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Black-throated Blue Warbler (Setophaga caerulescens)