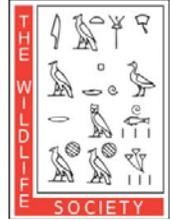




# The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter



## Newsletter—Fall 2013

### President's Message

Greetings Fellow Wildlifers,

It has been a very happening Fall, with many things coming to fruition, both in human projects and in the rearing of a new cohort of wildlife for the year. That is great and we should remember to enjoy the passing of the seasons and the beauty of life. We also have some challenges and some opportunities that we must now engage in.

One big challenge that our Pennsylvania Chapter has been engaging is the proposed Endangered Species Coordination Act, both in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Senate. Despite strong opposition, the draft legislation has been voted out of Committee for consideration on the full floor of the House. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we each contact our legislator and inform them of our concerns with this bill. Excellent testimony has already been provided, so it should be easy for us to find particular issues with the bill that resonate with us, and bring them up personally with our elected representatives. Time is short, so act quickly.

The other challenge is the proposed listing of the Northern Myotis bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as Endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Much data exists to support this listing, and the period for public comment on the listing has been extended, so again let your views be known.

### What's Inside

2014 National Conference	3
Call for Grants and Awards	4
Executive Board News	6
Student Scholarships	7
Proposed Listing of Northern Bat	9
Occupancy Modeling Workshop	10
Student Chapter News	11

The big apparent opportunity for us as a community is of course the hosting of the 2014 National Conference of The Wildlife Society. There is information elsewhere in this newsletter on how to become involved, but the main thing that I am encouraging you to do is plan to attend. Businesses, this is an incredible opportunity to showcase your services. Agencies and individuals, the annual national conference is the best networking event out there to make connections and update your program on the state of the art in wildlife management and science.

Now, I encourage each person to take the opportunity of the Christmas holiday season to spend time with friends and family and reconnect with those things most important in your lives.

Merlin Benner  
PA TWS President

*President's Message continued....*

On a side note, I was able to add a species to my life list during my travels to Texas, the Caracara!



*Letter opposing HB1576 and SB 1047*

Dear Representative Causer,

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society (PA-TWS) has a core mission to represent and serve the community of wildlife professionals in the Commonwealth. Our Board serves our devoted network of members who are professionals that work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and habitats in Pennsylvania. **We strongly oppose both the Pennsylvania House and Senate versions of The Endangered Species Coordination Act (HB 1576 and SB 1047) because we feel they are in conflict with the responsible management of Pennsylvania's wildlife and habitats.**

To view the entire letter sent to Representative Causer by PATWS please see our website at: [http://www.wildlife.org/pa/action\\_items](http://www.wildlife.org/pa/action_items)

**We are on Facebook—LIKE US!**

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society now has a Facebook page. Connect with us. Share with us. To find us on Facebook search:  
"PA Chapter -The Wildlife Society"



This Newsletter is produced on a roughly quarterly basis for members of the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

**Editor: David Walter**

Send items of interest, comments, announcements, questions, or corrections to David at: [wdwalter@psu.edu](mailto:wdwalter@psu.edu).

Subject— "newsletter"

## 2014 National Conference In Pittsburgh!



Members of the Pennsylvania Chapter have started planning for the TWS 2014 Conference in Pittsburgh. To see firsthand what is needed for a successful conference, nine members from the PATWS Board and the Arrangements Committee traveled to Milwaukee for the TWS 2013 Conference. Travel grants from our chapter covered the costs for six of us who are members of the Arrangements Committee.

While in Milwaukee, we made sure to attend important events like the plenary, awards banquet, student-professional mixer, quiz bowl, and closing reception. A few of us went on field trips. Those of us on the Arrangements Committee introduced ourselves to our cohorts in Milwaukee and in some cases shadowed them to learn more about the conference planning process. We also checked out the brown bag lunch film festival, Zumba with the president, the photo contest awards, and other fun opportunities at the conference. We came home with a better idea of our duties and some great ideas for next year's conference.

We will need many volunteers to help with the conference, and we are hoping for a big turnout of our fellow members in the Northeast. We promise many opportunities for learning and networking, so mark your calendars for October 25-30, 2014 and come see us in Pittsburgh.



Members in Milwaukee (from left to right): David Walter, Melissa Benner, Merlin Benner, Tammy Colt, Jeannine Fleegle, Jennifer Dzimiel, Virginia Tilden, Emily Thomas, Tom Keller.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR AWARDS AND GRANTS

### *Professional Development Grant*

The Pennsylvania State Chapter of The Wildlife Society will award one, \$1000 professional development grant annually to a non-student member of PATWS to attend a conference or professional development program.

The Professional Development Grant is intended to provide an opportunity for wildlife professionals to continue their education throughout their career. Those applicants gaining credits to maintain their TWS wildlife biologist certification will be given preference. The grant can be used for registration, travel, lodging, food, supplies, or fees associated with attending a conference or training program.

#### Minimum Eligibility

All applicants must be a non-student member of PATWS and must have maintained that level of membership for at least the most recent two years. Those applicants gaining credits to maintain their TWS wildlife biologist certification will be given preference. An individual can receive this grant once per five years.

Recipients of the grant must attend the indicated conference or program within 18 months of receiving the grant or forfeit the grant money. Recipients must write a summary of their experience for an edition of the PATWS chapter newsletter.

#### Applicants must submit the following materials:

- Resume or CV
- Essay: Explain your grant request. The name, date, and location of the conference or professional development program must be provided, and an agenda included if available. Please note if you will receive TWS certification continuing education credits for attending. Essay should be no more than 500 words.

**Email all materials in one PDF by February 15, 2014 to: [PAChapterTWS@gmail.com](mailto:PAChapterTWS@gmail.com).**

You must include "Professional Development Grant" in the subject line of the email.

All submissions must include a phone number (with area code) for the winner to be notified. Finalists may be interviewed by telephone. The recipient will be notified by March 1.

See our website for additional information: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/awards>



*Grants and Awards cont...*

*Kirkland Lifetime Achievement Award*

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wildlife Society is seeking nominations from the membership for its Kirkland Lifetime Achievement Award

The Kirkland Award is named in honor of Gordon Kirkland and given biennially by the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society (PATWS) to a professional in the wildlife or ecology disciplines in mid-career to recognize outstanding achievement towards issues related to Pennsylvania wildlife. While career accomplishments are obviously the key, no definitive criteria have been established for selecting a recipient if multiple nominations are received.

PATWS members nominating a particular individual should provide the Board a brief but descriptive letter documenting the nominee's accomplishments and dedication to wildlife ecology and conservation, with specific reference to Pennsylvania wildlife issues. Nominees will be evaluated based on the strength of support letters received and information provided there-in.

**The suggested nomination criteria are:**

(1) Academic and/or professional achievement. This can include--but is not limited to--academic or professional research; academic or professional involvement in habitat and/or species management programs, committees or other conservation entities; involvement in wildlife student success (graduate students advised, encouragement of student participation in meetings, etc.)

(2) Sharing of information and promotion of wildlife/habitat conservation through publications in scientific journals, popular magazines, and organizational newsletters; presentations

at professional meetings, speaking to various civic groups and schools; development of educational programs, brochures, participation in local conservation activities, and learning kits.

(3) Development and/or promotion of cooperative relationships with other state and/or federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, sportsmen's groups, universities and colleges, private citizen's groups.

(4) Involvement in Wildlife Society activities, particularly at the Pennsylvania Chapter level. Involvement can include current or past service on the PATWS Board; assisting in coordination of Chapter annual meeting, workshops, plenary sessions; service on various committees established by the PATWS Board or Chapter President.

The preceding criteria are presented as possible factors for consideration of nominees. However, not all criteria need to be met if a particular nominee has an outstanding history in one or two of the areas and garners outstanding letters of support.

**Email all materials in one PDF by February 15, 2014 to: [tcolt@pa.gov](mailto:tcolt@pa.gov)**

You must include "Kirkland Lifetime Achievement Award" in the subject line of the email.

All submissions must include a phone number (with area code) for the winner to be notified. Finalists may be interviewed by telephone.

Being the host chapter for the 2014 TWS national conference in Pittsburgh, we will be announcing the Kirkland Award recipient in October at the award ceremony, just another reason to register and see who among your colleagues will receive PATWS's highest professional award!

See our website for additional information: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/awards>

## Executive Board News

### **\*\*PA TWS Seeking Board Member Nominations\*\***

PA TWS is currently taking nominations for Executive Board positions. Position terms of office will begin at our annual business meeting in March 2014:

**-Vice President— a progressive 3–year stint**

**-Northeast Section Representative—1 yr**

**-Membership Coordinator—2 yrs**

**-At-Large Members (2 positions)—2 yrs**

If you would like to nominate someone, please be sure to discuss it with them first, also you may nominate yourself. Nominees shall submit a short biography for inclusion on the ballot to be distributed to the membership in early 2014. All Board members MUST be members in good standing of BOTH the PA TWS Chapter AND the National organization. Nominations should be submitted to Samara Trusso at: [satrusso@pa.gov](mailto:satrusso@pa.gov)

**Nomination Deadline: February 1, 2014**

Brief position descriptions are as follows:

- Vice-President (3-year term): serves one year in a supportive role to the President, with primary duties of overseeing facility arrangements for the annual meeting and handling the duties of the President in the President's absence. In year two, the VP becomes the President. The President's main duties are to supervise the officers, appoint committee chairs, represent the chapter, and oversee the planning of the annual meeting. Finally in

year three, the position shifts to Past-President, and is primarily responsible for annual meeting awards.

- Northeast Section Rep.(1-year term): represents and serves as liaison to the Northeast Section TWS for the chapter. Moderates a technical paper session at the annual meeting.
- Membership Coordinator (2-year term): maintains membership rolls for the chapter, chairs the membership committee, and distributes information to the membership. Also assists the Treasurer during registration at the annual meeting.
- At-Large Board Members (2-year term): provide leadership to the chapter and serve the chapter as directed by the President. Assist the Treasurer with fundraising for the annual meeting, and also assist at the annual meeting as needed.

The strength of our organization is the diverse interests of its members and the leadership provided by the Board. We hope you will consider running for office, or nominating a friend or colleague, so that we can continue to keep our chapter active and influential at the regional and national level.

—Board member duties can also be found in the PA TWS by-laws available on our website at: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/bylaws>



## Student Scholarship Opportunities

### The Frank Felbaum Scholarship

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society established the Frank Felbaum Scholarship more than a decade ago thanks to the generosity of Frank Felbaum, long-time director of Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Program and tireless conservationist. The scholarship is a one-time \$500.00 award intended to assist outstanding students who are pursuing a career in the wildlife field.

The scholarship is available to any undergraduate student currently enrolled in a wildlife ecology or related natural resources program at a Pennsylvania college or university, or a Pennsylvania resident currently enrolled in such a program at a college or university outside Pennsylvania. The recipient should have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.2 and have demonstrated an interest and commitment to wildlife through volunteer and/or work experience and extracurricular activities, including membership in conservation/ecology clubs. The scholarship is awarded only once per recipient.

Applications must include the following items to be considered:

—**Letter of Recommendation:** from a professor, advisor, or someone who can attest to your ability and interest in wildlife/ecology.

—**Transcript:** your most recent transcript (it need not be official) to document program enrollment. Indicate cumulative GPA, if not included on transcript.

—**Essay:** addressing the subject/title: *"Why I Would Like to Pursue a Career in Wildlife Ecology."*

Applicants are strongly encouraged to have a professor or advisor review and edit their application for content and grammar before submitting it. Applications will be judged on the information provided **and** writing quality. **If no applications are judged to be of suitable quality, no scholarship will be awarded.** All submissions must include a phone number (with area code) and e-mail (if available) in order for the winner to be notified.

Finalists may be interviewed by telephone. The recipient will be notified by March 1, 2014.

All application materials must be sent as a PDF **by February 15, 2014** to: [PAChapterTWS@gmail.com](mailto:PAChapterTWS@gmail.com).

If someone you know (including a son or daughter) might qualify for the Felbaum Scholarship, encourage them to apply. Feel free to forward this information to colleagues at your school as well as other colleges or universities. This information can also be found on our website:

<http://www.wildlife.org/pa/awards>



*Scholarships cont...*

### **Northeast Section of TWS Field Course Scholarship**

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be awarding one, \$750 scholarship to an undergraduate student to attend the Northeast Section of TWS Summer Field Course in May 2014: *Field Techniques and Current Topics in Wildlife Biology*. The course is intended to provide students with practical, hands-on training in the tools and techniques of field biology and allow them to apply those skills in a variety of exercises. Students will be instructed by biologists from across the region.

To be eligible for this award you must be an undergraduate student at a Pennsylvania university or college, and must register to attend the Summer Field Course May 18-31, 2014. Applicants will be evaluated based on involvement in The Wildlife Society (through student chapters, attending TWS conferences, or related activities that can be documented), academic achievements (with emphasis placed on wildlife-related course work), and potential benefits from attending the camp. Priority will be given to applicants from schools with approved student chapters. If suitable applications are not received from the four student chapters, applications from all other schools will be evaluated.

Recipients of the award must attend the field course in May 2014 or forfeit the scholarship money. The recipient will be notified by March 1, 2014 and also are required to write a summary of their experience at the field course for the PATWS chapter newsletter.

Applications must include the following items to be considered:

—**Resume:** including education, major, GPA, involvement in TWS, and any related experiences.

—**Transcript:** Official or unofficial.

—**Essay:** limited to **500 words**, answering the question “How will this course benefit you?” Include how this course will fill any gaps you have in your education and how it will help you in achieving your goals in the wildlife profession.

—**TWS information (if applicable):** Does your school have a student chapter of The Wildlife Society? Are you a member? If so, describe your involvement in the chapter. Also, provide contact information for the student chapter faculty advisor so that we may confirm this information. You will not be penalized if your school does not have a student chapter, but students that participate in TWS activities will rank higher.

All application materials must be sent as a PDF **by February 15, 2014** to: [PAChapterTWS@gmail.com](mailto:PAChapterTWS@gmail.com).

—*Find more information on the Field Course, including a syllabus and registration, by visiting the Northeast Section TWS website at: <http://www.wildlife.org/NE/>, on Facebook under “Northeast Section TWS Field Course”, or contact John McDonald at: [twsmdonald@gmail.com](mailto:twsmdonald@gmail.com)*



## Proposed listing of the northern long-eared bat

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act**—As white-nose syndrome (WNS) continues to take its toll on bats throughout the east and Midwest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced a proposal to list the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as a federally endangered species. This forest-dwelling species, also known as the northern *Myotis* or northern bat, was proposed for listing on October 2, 2013 throughout the species' range. The listing proposal comes in response to a 2010 petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list the northern long-eared bat and the eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*) under the Endangered Species Act. A 60-day public comment period on the proposal was extended for an additional 30 days, ending January 2, 2014. Concurrently with the northern long-eared bat proposal, the USFWS determined that the eastern small-footed bat does not warrant listing, citing lower susceptibility of eastern small-footed bats to WNS than other *Myotis* species.

White-nose syndrome was identified as the primary threat to northern long-eared bats. The northern long-eared bat is a "cave bat" that hibernates in caves and mines where the fungus that causes WNS is found. Much of the species' range, which includes the eastern and north-central United States, including all of Pennsylvania, and all Canadian provinces, has been affected by WNS. The disease is expected to spread throughout the bat's range as WNS continues to spread across the continent. Northern long-eared bat populations have been particularly hard hit in WNS affected areas, with declines of up to 99 percent. Other threats of lesser magnitude include wind energy development, habitat destruction or disturbance to hibernacula and summer habitat, climate change, and contaminants such as pesticides and insecticides. Were it not for WNS, these other threats would not pose significant effects to the species. However, they may have cumulative effects when combined with the population declines caused by WNS.

The USFWS determined that critical habitat for the northern long-eared bat was not able to be determined at the time of the proposal, but they will work to identify areas of critical habitat within 12 months. A final decision on listing will be made within 12 months of the listing proposal. In addition to increased legal protections under the Endangered Species Act, listing increases the priority of the species for conservation planning, grants, and recovery opportunities. A recovery plan will also be developed for the northern long-eared bat should it be added to the list of federally endangered species

Nathan Zalik  
PA Game Commission

## Save the Date

### Occupancy Modeling Workshop

March 2014 (TBA)  
Penn State University  
University Park, PA  
(See next page)

### 70th Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

April 13-15, 2014 H  
Holiday Inn By The Bay  
Portland, ME

### Annual PA TWS Executive Board Meeting

March 2014 (TBA)  
(immediately following the workshop)  
Penn State University  
University Park, PA

### Northeast Student Field Course

May 18-May 31, 2014  
Kehoe Conservation  
Camp Castleton, VT

### The Wildlife Society 20th Annual Conference

October 25-30, 2014  
David Lawrence Convention  
Center Pittsburgh, PA

## Occupancy Modeling Workshop and PATWS Board Meeting

PATWS is sponsoring an *Occupancy Modeling Workshop* in place of our annual state chapter conference as we prepare to host the national conference in Pittsburgh in 2014. However, we will still be holding our **annual executive board meeting** from 4-5 p.m. immediately following the work-shop. Workshop participants should plan to attend. TWS members not attending the workshop should plan to join us for the annual board meeting even if they are not attending the workshop

Participants would need to bring their own computers and would need to install freeware PRESENCE that is available from the USGS:

<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/software/presence.shtml>

### Registration fees:

Regular Member—\$100  
Student Member—\$75  
Regular Non-member—\$125  
Student Non-member—\$100

**Instructor:** Duane Diefenbach, USGS, Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

### Tentative course outline:

1. **Lecture**—Intro to occupancy modeling - separating detection probability from presence/absence
2. **Lab**—simple model of presence/absence
3. **Lecture**—using covariates to explain occupancy and detection probability
4. **Lab**—modeling occupancy and detection using covariates
5. **Lecture**—study designs and multiple season occupancy models

6. **Lab**—estimating colonization and extinction rates

7. **Lecture**—two species interaction models

8. **Lab**—two species interaction models

9. **Mapping occupancy using GIS** (note: this topic is optional depending on ArcGIS availability on laptops)

The workshop will take place at Pennsylvania State University in March 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m and space is limited to 30 participants. More information on a date and registering will be posted to our website (<http://www.wildlife.org/pa/>) as soon as it's available.

Course provides hours towards the Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB®) and the Professional Development Certificate by The Wildlife Society.



**Soar above the competition!**

Being a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB®) means you have:

- Increased job potential
- Increased credibility
- Recognized training & expertise
- An unsurpassed network of expert colleagues

**APPLY TODAY!**

See program and application at:  
[wildlife.org/certification](http://wildlife.org/certification)  
or contact  
[shannon@wildlife.org](mailto:shannon@wildlife.org)

## Student Chapter News

*Editor's note: The newsletter is reviving the Student Chapter News section with news from Pennsylvania's four student chapters: Delaware Valley College, Penn State University, Clarion University, and California University of Pennsylvania.*

### **\*\*Delaware Valley College \*\***

The Delaware Valley student chapter traveled to Elk County, PA and surrounding counties on several occasions to observe the reintroduced elk populations during rut. While there, the elk technician taught us about radio telemetry and even hid several collars for us to find using our newly acquired skills.

On October 19, we went to Hawk Mountain for the day to catch a glimpse of the migration.

Our advisor, Professor Reg Hoyt, presented three educational lectures to the college which were sponsored by our chapter. The first was about Allegheny Woodrats and Black-footed ferrets, the next about House Bill 1576, and the last about Yellowstone.

A few of our members participated in the citizen science project PARS - Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey.

We recently did a t-shirt fundraiser for The Heritage Conservancy, a local not-for-profit conservation organization.

The first week of December we attended a chronic wasting disease workshop with the Game Commission.

*Avery Corondi  
Student Chapter President*

### **\*\*Penn State University\*\***

The Penn State student chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy fall semester. They visited Benezette to see elk and they hosted an FFA career development workshop related to wildlife.

In October, members attended the TWS conference in Milwaukee and participated in the quiz bowl but did not place.

In November, members continued bluebird box monitoring and trail maintenance at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center and had a presence at Penn State's Ag Live Tail gate.

The Penn State chapter has also hosted various speakers throughout the year from faculty, to former and current members, to professionals in the field.

The student chapter at PSU will also be hosting the Northeast Student Conclave from 28-30 March at Seven Mountain Scout Camp. There will be a student-professional Mixer on 29 March from 5:30-7:30 at the campgrounds. Professional from all areas of the natural resource profession are encouraged to attend free of charge. Interested individuals or organizations should contact Sara Mueller at [sjm5467@psu.edu](mailto:sjm5467@psu.edu). Details about the conference can be found at: <http://sites.psu.edu/neconclave2014/>

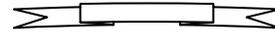
*Sara Mueller  
Student Chapter President*

## **Pennsylvania TWS Objectives**

1. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend.
2. To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
3. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.
5. To serve the specialized needs of Pennsylvania in wildlife resource management.

## **—Who's Who on the Board—**

2013 Executive Board Members  
Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society



*President*.....Merlin Benner  
*Vice-President*.....Christina Voorhees  
*Past President*.....Tammy Colt  
*Secretary*.....Samara Trusso  
*Treasurer*.....Virginia Tilden  
*Northeast Section Representative*.....Emily Thomas  
*Website Manager*.....Jennifer Dzimiel  
*Newsletter Editor*.....David Walter  
*Membership Coordinator*.....Wendy Vreeland  
*At-Large Members*.... Mario Giazzon  
Emily Just  
Clayton Lutz  
Samantha Pedder

## **Pennsylvania State University TWS Student Chapter to host Northeast Student Conclave!**

### **Student-Professional Mixer**

Professionals from all areas of natural resources are encouraged to attend free of charge. Interested individuals or organizations should contact president Sara Mueller at: [sjm5467@psu.edu](mailto:sjm5467@psu.edu).

Details about the conference can be found at:

<http://sites.psu.edu/neconclave2014/>

Don't miss out on your chance to influence the next generation of professionals in our field!



Logo by Sara Mueller



# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

## 2014 Membership Application

### Pennsylvania Chapter

- Check One:  Renewal  New Member  Student Member  Lifetime Member  Dues Paid through National Headquarters
- Annual Dues: \$10.00  
Student Dues: \$6.00  
Life Membership: \$200.00

The following information is  new, updated, or corrected  
 unchanged

Name:  Dr.  Mrs.  Miss  
 Mr.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Office: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **PA-TWS**  
(Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society)

Mail to: Virginia Tilden, Treasurer  
Fort Indiantown Gap  
ENV Division, Bldg 11-19  
Annville, PA 17003

2013-12-16