THE MAINE CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

THE MAINE WILDLIFER

SUMMER 2016

METWS ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 2016 MAINE BAT WORKING GROUP INTERNATIONAL BAT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, APRIL 26-27

Summary by Laura Berube (METWS Secretary / Treasurer)

This year METWS conducted our 2016 Annual Business Meeting at the Maine Bat Working Group International Bat Research Symposium at the Schoodic Institute in Winter Harbor. For more information about the Annual Business Meeting, please see the meeting minutes emailed on June 13. The Maine Bat Working Group is a unit within METWS. At the Symposium, we had a good turnout of bat biologists, researchers, environmental consultants, and natural resource managers from industry, academia, conservation organizations, and state and federal agencies, all working together to leverage our resources to support bats. The goal was to facilitate collaboration, networking, and the exchange of ideas towards conserving bats in the northeastern corner of North America. We reached this goal through a series of interesting presentations ranging from habits of *Myotis* bats in Acadia National Park to the molecular characterization of bat guano for bat management.

We also had a great Round Table discussion on the historical context for Maine bat populations in which Cory Mosby (Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife [MDIFW]), Dave Yates (Biodiversity Research Institute), Trevor Peterson (Stantec Consulting), Bruce Connery (Acadia National Park), and Mark King (Maine Department of Environmental Protection) provided their expertise and helped answer questions

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from the audience. Although we don't have much pre-White Nose Syndrome (WNS) information on bat populations in Maine, we know through historical mist-netting data that we had much larger little brown bat and northern long-eared bat populations ("used to have to wade through these species to get to the hoary bats"). Although big brown bats are cave-dwellers like *Myotis*, they seem less susceptible to WNS, which is spread while hibernating. Big brown bat populations may be increasing, filling in the traditional niche of *Myotis* species.

Cory Mosby, MDIFW's Furbearer/Small Mammal Biologist, described their current and planned efforts for monitoring and research. The state has limited hibernacula counts and mist-netting survey data. The only acoustic data the state currently has is provided by environmental consultants. MDIFW is building a bat-monitoring program to obtain baseline data. Cory is working with a lifelong caver from the Presque Isle region to determine which caves in Maine have the best potential for use as hibernacula. If possible, maternity/colony counts will be conducted in these caves. Baseline acoustic data from driving transects will be collected mostly from volunteers driving two routes in each of MDIFW's 7 Regions. These surveys will target tree bats during maternity roosting. MDIFW will ask people if they have, or have ever had bat colonies on their property and, if so, will send them guano kits and or acoustic detectors. MDIFW may conduct site visits, also. They will use this information to identify previous and current colonies and possibly to track persistence/reproduction rates. MDIFW will use the data collected by Erik Blomberg's University of Maine "BatME" project (a citizen-based effort to record bats across the state using acoustic detectors) to help establish distribution information. Acadia National Park has been conducting bat research for a number of years; MDIFW will use their data to assess the use of talus rocks by *Myotis* species in Acadia and to locate potential hibernacula.

During a discussion of bat research needs in Maine, we talked about the need to find more hibernacula in the state. One way to do this would be through mist-netting for bats in the fall, tagging them, and tracking them to their winter hibernacula. Bruce Connery explained that they will be attempting to do this in Acadia National Park this year. There were also discussions that because big brown bats are easier to catch as there are more of them on the landscape, they could be tagged and followed to see if there are any other species using the same hibernacula. MDIFW discussed using the results from the 200 sites that were acoustically surveyed by the Maine Department of Transportation (MEDOT) last year to determine where in the state it would be beneficial to mist-net for *Myotis*.

A big thanks to the organizers of the Symposium: Erik "Eastern Red" Blomberg, Sarah "Tri-colored" Boyden with the MEDOT, Bruce "Silver-haired" Connery, Katelin "Small-footed" Craven with Tetra Tech, Inc., Mao "Little Brown" Lin with Tetra Tech, Inc., Cory "Big Brown" Mosby, and David "Long-eared" Yates and everyone else who lent a hand in making this gathering possible. I'd like to dub these folks the "Hoarys" since this term of endearment was conspicuously left out.

VERNAL POOL SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN
BY DALE KNAPP AND MAO LIN

Maine has some of the most well-crafted vernal pool regulations in New England, and now some of the same individuals responsible for developing our current regulations are proposing a new option to protect vernal pool habitat. Following the trend of landscape level habitat block conservation, the Vernal Pool Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) is intended to create a local framework to promote responsible development within designated growth zones coupled with adequate protection and conservation and to preserve larger intact habitat blocks that include diverse habitat types required for vernal pool species. The regulatory notice to begin implementing the SAMP was issued earlier this year. Public meetings were held and comments were submitted.

Developed by a broad and diverse team of regulatory representatives, municipal staff, and research scientists, the SAMP works under two major assumptions. First, some development is inevitable. Second, species that depend on vernal pools require a larger habitat envelope than the currently mandated 250-foot buffer.

Under current regulations, wetland habitats—while fluctuating somewhat—have a reliable regulatory boundary based on hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology. When planning a potential development, these regulatory lines and buffers can be placed on a map and direct impacts avoided. This established regulatory practice offers relatively predictable protection to our natural resources. This also works from a development perspective as vernal pools and other wetlands do not constitute prime developable real estate (i.e., it doesn't make sense to build your castle in a swamp). However, the biological reality is that vernal pool species require a significant upland area, dozens of acres, well beyond the current 250-foot buffer and those upland areas are often viewed as developable land (i.e., frogs can't see buffer lines).

The proposed SAMP tries to conserve these important habitats by allowing municipalities to determine which areas will be developed and which will be conserved through local zoning. Predictability is an important factor for economic growth.

Through a mechanism in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1980, comprehensive natural resource plans for natural resource protection and reasonable economic growth may be developed and implemented. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection set standards for allowing a town to consider development under the proposed SAMP. The municipality must apply to the Maine Board of Environmental Protection to have delegated authority to permit impacts to state regulated resources in designated growth areas. Additional requirements include having a comprehensive plan and land use ordinance, designated growth areas, the technical capacity to perform impact review, a third-party program performance review, and a clear fee structure. Although many Maine towns will not meet the criteria to utilize the SAMP or may not have the interest, those who do will be able to control the development and conservation destiny of their municipality at a local level. There is a long history of local control in Maine and, when exacted responsibly, the SAMP could be a useful tool to protect vernal pools.

On-site mitigation has presented challenges, but this method is being eclipsed by off-site mitigation as the preferred approach for investing mitigation fees. Maine's In Lieu Fee Program (ILFP) provides a precedent for this type of mechanism where impacts are compensated off-site at a location with an assumed higher value. ILF program payments go into a fund based on biophysical region and those dollars are slated to go to in-kind preservation. This is a shift from past practice, and with new benefits, new challenges are likely to arise. For example, when going through a mitigation decision tree, impact avoidance is an expectation. Would the SAMP mandate unnecessary resource impacts? Also, the SAMP is narrowly focused on vernal pools, but other regulations require avoidance. Would this difference create a conflict for development permitting down the road?

As the process unfolds there are likely to be early adopters of the SAMP to function as pioneers to establish a precedent and work out the kinks. To stay informed there are ways to track the process through updates from the Army Corps of Engineers. For more information, visit: http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/Article/742638/nae-2016-00007/

The ultimate result should be an innovative approach that allows municipalities to have a bigger say in what to do in their own backyards.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY KARA MOODY, CWB®

Happy summer, METWS members! As the new Chapter President, I would like to begin by saying that it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet some of you at our April meeting and to reconnect with those of you who I already know. I am very much looking forward to serving the Maine Chapter over the coming year and to collaborating with a remarkable group of fellow wildlife biologists and professionals. I have been a member of METWS for only a short while, as for many years I was working as a wildlife biologist in other parts of the country. When I returned to Maine in 2013, I was encouraged to become a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB®), which is what spurred me to become a member of the Maine Chapter. At the time, I was unfamiliar with the certification process and the requirements associated with obtaining the CWB® credentials. I am grateful for the inspiration to apply for the certification program and to join the Maine Chapter, as I have certainly benefited by immersing myself in a community of exceptional wildlife professionals in Maine.

For those of you who attended the METWS fall meeting last year, you may recall my presentation regarding the TWS certification process. However, I would like to provide an overview of the certification program again here and encourage METWS members to consider applying for the program to obtain these respected credentials. As many of you are aware, one of the primary goals of TWS is to support the development and advancement of wildlife professionals throughout their careers. Certification as a CWB® constitutes recognition by TWS that a biologist meets the minimum educational, experience, and ethical standards adopted by TWS for professional wildlife biologists. olding one of these certificates places you in a category distinct from other wildlife professionals due to the integrity of the organization and the high standards of the certification process.

There are several objectives associated with the certification program: (1) to guide biologists, agencies, courts, and the public in defining minimum standards of education and experience for professional wildlife biologists, and to encourage all practicing wildlife biologists to meet such standards; (2) to create and maintain public confidence in the advice and opinion of a CWB® who has pledged to uphold the Code of Ethics and the Standards for Professional Conduct of TWS and to act in the best interest of wildlife resources and the public; and (3) to assist the public in evaluating wildlife biologists by establishing a procedure for critical peer evaluation based upon defined minimum educational, experience, and ethical requirements.

The CWB® designation is granted to professional wildlife biologists with the educational background and demonstrated expertise in applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats. A CWB® must demonstrate this expertise through education and experience and must represent the profession as an ethical practitioner. The educational requirements for a CWB® are a B.S, a B.A., or a higher degree consisting of coursework in the following disciplines: biological sciences, physical sciences, humanities and social sciences, communications, and policy, law, and administration. Professional experience may be used to satisfy educational requirements where deficiencies exist, though there must be at least one college course already in that discipline. As for

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professional experience, a CWB® must have a minimum of five years of professional experience. The certification is valid for five years and may be renewed based on the specific program renewal requirements.

For individuals who have limited professional experience and are therefore unable to meet the requirements for a CWB®, the TWS certification program offers another option, which is designation as an Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB®). An AWB® designee is someone who has completed the specific academic requirements for the certification and is judged to be able to represent the profession as an ethical practitioner. The AWB® certification is granted for 10 years and cannot be renewed. After sufficient professional experience is acquired, an AWB® may go through the CWB® certification process.

Certification as a CWB® or AWB® is a benefit that is only available to TWS members. Non-members may apply for the certification program; however, if an application is approved for certification, the applicant must become a TWS member for the certification to be valid. There are fees associated with both the AWB® and CWB® certification program. These fees are significantly lower for members of TWS, which is yet another benefit of being a member of TWS! For more information on the program and associated fees, please visit the TWS certification page online at: http://wildlife.org/learn/professional-development-certification/certification-programs/ or contact certification@wildlife.org.

TWS also offers a program that is open to all wildlife professionals, which is the Professional Development Program. This program was developed to recognize individuals who commit themselves to life-long learning and enhanced professionalism. A minimum of 150 hours in various categories, such as organized activities directly related to wildlife biology, publications, and professional service, must be completed for certificate approval. Upon successful completion of the program, TWS issues a Professional Development Certificate.

TWS staff and the Certification Review Board oversee the certification programs. On July 1, 2016, TWS will be implementing enhancements to the CWB®/AWB® certification program process that will make the program more user-friendly, streamline review, and enhance benefits to TWS members. The improvements to the certification process will consist of new PDF form applications that will allow for clarity and simplicity when completing the application. Applications will now be submitted via email, which will streamline processing and review of applications. Please note that the current Microsoft Word certification application will continue to be accepted via mail until September 1, 2016. There will also be some minor adjustments to the program fee structure. All coursework and experience requirements for certification will remain the same. For more information on the program changes visit: http://wildlife.org/improvements-coming-to-tws-certification-program-process/.

Again, I encourage METWS members to consider these great programs offered by TWS that are designed to benefit wildlife professionals. Also, as the Chapter President and someone who has completed the CWB® certification program within the past couple of years, I am happy to provide any insight to METWS members regarding the certification process.

Enjoy the summer and hope to see you at the fall meeting!

MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS
www.wildlife.org/maine-chapter

The Wildlife Society here at UMaine is bigger than ever, breaking 50 dues-paying members this semester. Our members have spent the year exploring the Orono area and getting their hands dirty giving back to our wildlife and outdoor community. Here are a few highlights of the year:

This fall we took the first of our four annual trips to Hirundo Wildlife Refuge, where we hopped in canoes and cruised Pushaw Stream, searching for Hirundo's wood duck boxes to repair them and remove any old nests and eggs. Our second trip was especially exciting- four flying squirrels had taken up residence in one of the boxes!

Students working to key out an unknown aquatic invertebrate at our graduate student-run skills workshop.

Mid-way through the year, the graduate students of the Wildlife Department led a skills workshop for our chapter. We spent a full Saturday learning all sorts of skills that will be useful to us as future wildlife biologists, from tying a canoe to a car, to radio telemetry, to otolith extraction, to tricks with Excel. The workshop was very popular, and we may do it again next year.

For ten of our members, the highlight of the year was a trip to the Northeast Student Conclave, this year hosted by Juniata College in Pennsylvania. We loaded up ten students and hit the road for a weekend of workshops, networking, and fun. For some students it was a first time at conclave, and older members were lucky enough to see some familiar faces again from previous events. The crew learned about topics including rocket netting, GIS, skull identification, and northeastern bats, and even got to try things out for ourselves. Our Quiz Bowl team placed fourth.

A survival skills workshop at Conclave

As of May 13, the UMaine Chapter's membership has scattered far and wide. Students are studying bats in Georgia, goshawks in Idaho, flycatchers in New Mexico, and shorebirds right here in Maine, just to start the list. At the same time, our quiz bowl team will be hard at work studying and preparing for our trip to the National Conference this fall.

Our Chapter President holding a tricolored bat while working in Georgia this summer

MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS
www.wildlife.org/maine-chapter

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The membership of the Awards Committee has seen a few changes. Stephanie Martin stepped down after many years of excellent service to the committee. Thank you Stephanie, we will miss you! And we gained two new members, Linda Welch and Adam Vashon – welcome! Beth Swartz and Jerry Longcore continue to serve – thank you!

Two awards were made this year. The Award of Meritorious Service will be presented to Dr. MaryEllen Wickett at the Fall 2016 meeting. MaryEllen is being recognized for her longtime service to the Maine Chapter, and for her excellent field and database management work with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. From shorebirds to invertebrates, amphibians to bats, MaryEllen's field expertise and experience has informed and guided her development of a multitude of databases that are used by biologists and policy makers across the state. Do you know what SWH, PRISM/ISS, DWA, IWWH, and ICENSUS are? Ask next time to see her, and extend your congratulations to Dr. MaryEllen Wickett!

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H Camp and Learning Centers are the recipients of the 2016 Award of Recognition. The three Centers are Tanglewood, located in Lincolnville, Blueberry Cove, located in Tenants Harbor, and Bryant Pond, located in Bryant Pond. Their award was presented at the annual meeting of the Maine 4-H Foundation, held at UMaine in May 2016, and accepted by Ryder Scott, Statewide Director. All three Centers have served youth since they were established in the 1930's and 40's, and have been part of the UMaine 4-H program for a collective 53 years. They focus on providing children and youth with affordable, outdoor experiences that instill a sense of wonder, knowledge of ecological systems, and a commitment to a sustainable future. In 2015 over 9,000 young people attended day, residential, and adventure trip programs at the 4-H Centers through outdoor classroom and summer camp programs. Congratulations!

Presentation of the 2016 Award of Recognition. Pictured from left to right: Ryder Scott, Director, UMaine 4-H Centers; Cathy Elliott, Chair, MCTWS Awards Committee; Jon Prichard, Program Administrator, UMaine Cooperative Extension.

A Student Support Fund award was made to the UMaine Student Chapter TWS to attend the Wildlife Student Conclave in Petersburg, PA in April. Ten undergraduates were planning to participate.

Unfortunately we did not receive any nominations for our student awards. If you know of a deserving undergraduate or graduate student, please consider a nomination for next year. And nominations for all of our awards are welcome at any time. Please see the website for award descriptions, criteria, and nomination forms. Nominations are due January 15 each year, but are welcome at any time. And if you want to join the Awards Committee, please contact Cathy Elliott at cathy.elliott@maine.edu.

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www.wildlife.org/maine-chapter

PRESIDENT-ELECT: KATELIN CRAVEN

Katelin Craven is a wildlife biologist and bat specialist for Tetra Tech. She grew up in Austin, Texas, spending lots of time outside hiking, biking, rock climbing, and exploring. She then studied environmental science at Colorado College and worked a few years in wildlife positions, including at the National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center and managing natural resources for F.E. Warren Air Force Base, before pursuing a graduate degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Northern Colorado. Bats were her primary focus and she continued to work with them after moving to Maine with her husband, Tim, and labradoodle, Denali, to Bangor. She has enjoyed getting involved with the community by joining the board of the Penobscot Valley Audubon Chapter and the Bangor Land Trust board as well as chairing their programs committee. She worked with Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on several projects including the NA Bat Program before going to work for Tetra Tech's Portland, ME office. She is very excited to be the new President Elect for the Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society and is looking forward to serving this great community of wildlife biologists.

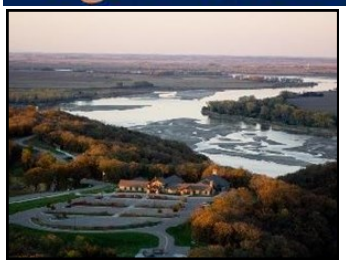
PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR: JUSTIN SWEITZER

Mr. Sweitzer is a wildlife biologist and wetland scientist with over 10 years of experience encompassing many aspects of environmental consulting. His work experience has been focused on conducting rare, threatened, and endangered species surveys throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic states. He also has experience performing wetland delineations and functional assessments, and is familiar with the state and Federal permitting processes. Justin recently received certification as a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) through the Society of Wetland Scientist. He is also recognized as an Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB®) by The Wildlife Society. In his free time he enjoys wildlife tracking, hunting, fishing, and hiking in the woods of western Maine.

As the new Program Committee Chair for the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Justin is looking forward to coordinating with wildlife professionals in the state of Maine and throughout the Northeast to organize meetings and programs, and provide members with opportunities to interact with and learn from other wildlife professionals. Through the involvement of others, he hopes to establish additional continuing education opportunities, as well as social functions throughout the year.

Justin would love to hear your ideas for upcoming programs and meetings. Please submit suggestions to jsweitzer@normandeau.com.

MEETINGS



OFWIM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2-7

PONCA STATE PARK

PONCA, NEBRASKA

http://www.ofwim.org

Founded in 1993, OFWIM is an international, professional organization dedicated to managing and conserving natural resources through technology and information exchange. OFWIM's membership includes representatives from numerous state, federal, and non-profit fish and wildlife agencies/organizations that work with natural resource data. The annual OFWIM conference is a unique opportunity to learn about new technologies such as mobile data collection, cloud-based solutions, and web-mapping. It is a great way to connect with your colleagues in the "digital trenches" to share tools and expertise, form partnerships, or just vent to someone else who understands TechSpeak!

Ponca State Park is in the picturesque Missouri River bluffs of northeastern Nebraska, the eastern gateway to the 59-mile section of the Missouri National Recreational River. The park is popular for its forest hills, scenic vistas, and great wildlife watching. Lodging will be in the park's mini-lodges that feature four bedrooms, two full baths, a fully-equipped kitchen, great room with fireplace, big-screen TV, wireless internet, and patio with gas grill. The conference registration includes two dinners and OFWIM offers travel grants.

The Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society recently donated $250 to The Wildlife Society's Student Travel Grant Fund, which is used to aid students presenting at the TWS annual conference.

MEETINGS

TWS' 23RD Annual Conference

Posted on November 2, 2015

Save the Date!

Raleigh, NC
October 15-19, 2016

North Carolina will be hosting The Wildlife Society's 23rd Annual Conference at the Raleigh Convention Center next fall. We hope you will join us there for more than 500 educational sessions, 3 plenary sessions, over 40 networking opportunities, and much more!

Full registration and conference program details will be available May 15, 2016.

To learn about our **2016 exhibitor, sponsor and contributor opportunities**, contact our Development Manager, Chuck Shively, at chuck.shively@wildlife.org.

Would you like to present at the 2016 TWS conference? Click here to learn more.

Registration and additional information will be posted on our conference website as it becomes available, www.twsconference.org.

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